



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS 315
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**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA,
AMBASSADOR RODRIGO MALMIERCA DIAZ. Item 65: Report of the
Human Rights Council. New York, 5 November 2007**

Mr. President,

The creation of the Human Rights Council was brought about by the pressing need to put an end to the deep discredit which the Commission on Human Rights was plunged in, as a consequence of political manipulation, hypocrisy and double standards imposed on its works by the United States and its western accomplices.

Long before the disappearance of the Commission on Human Rights, Cuba always upheld and still upholds the importance of the multilateral system of promotion and protection of human rights, founded on the basis of the observance of the principle of sovereign equality of the States and other principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, which currently are utterly conflicting with the Washington's hegemonic and selfish interests.

Out of respect for multilateralism, Cuba voted for resolution 60/251 on the creation of the Human Rights Council, despite having serious reservations for its content and other omissions, an indication of the dangerous current unipolar order.

Later on, during the negotiations for the creation of the Human Rights Council – after Cuba's election as founding member of the Council with the endorsement of the vast majority of countries of the South – and in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, Cuba continued to work in a constructive spirit and full transparency to achieve a final outcome that reflected the just aspiration of the Third World countries to achieve a true international system of promotion and protection of human rights, which would be only committed to justice, transparency and the truth.

Fulfilling the mandate given by the Heads of State or Government at the 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, Cuba submitted several proposals of the Movement on different aspects of the negotiation and worked painstakingly to avoid prevent the characteristics of the new organ from bringing about manipulation to the issue of human rights as a pretext to pursue political ends.

Along with other peoples of the South, Cuba upheld that the Council's agenda be balanced and put economic, social and cultural rights in the same level of civil and political rights, as well as the realization of the right to development, the consideration of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories in its agenda, the fight against racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, technical assistance for developing countries and the modalities of

the Universal Review Mechanism and the Code of Conduct for the representatives of the special procedures.

Notwithstanding its shortcomings and deficiencies, Cuba considers that the final outcome of the negotiations was favorable to the Third World countries and we hope that the new universal review mechanism will not become a politicized instrument, to which we give, for the moment, the benefit of doubt.

Mr. President,

Having a fully operative subordinate organ that is capable to fulfill the mandate it was given by the General Assembly, without manipulations or double standards, is an urgent need and an attainable goal.

The United States, which along with its allies has become the most incisive critic of the Council, is against such objective. Washington does not want a Council that is credible and has authority. It yearns for the old Commission which allowed it to hide, being a cloak of silence, its abhorrent crimes such as those of Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib and to adopt selective resolutions against countries of the South based on its geopolitical interests in an almost automatic manner.

In the last few months we have borne witness to the dilatory maneuvers to prevent the adoption of the report of the Human Rights Council contained in document A/62/53 which includes results obtained through an entire year of work of that organ in its various regular and special sessions.

We have been warning about, and we are denouncing today the serious consequences that an attempt to modify or alter the delicate international consensus achieved in June this year would bring about, after the adoption of resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 establishing the institutional creation of the Council and the new Code of Conduct for those responsible for the mandates of special procedures on human rights matters.

Let us not be fooled. Those who try to impose their patterns of democracy, freedom and human rights, are not building a legitimate and credible Council in which dialogue and mutual respect prevail, on the contrary, they only purport to frustrate a new phase in the promotion and protection of all human rights for all peoples that is not only for the rich and privileged.

Mr. President,

Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the Council, the special thematic procedures and their mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review. We will further work to renew international cooperation and a genuine dialogue on human rights matters. Cuba reiterates that it will continue to work to avoid the imposition by force and the blackmail of mechanisms that convey the spiral of confrontation that put paid to the extinct Commission on Human Rights to the Council.

Cuba will further continue to uphold its project of social justices and dignity for all Cubans. That is why the disappearance of the spurious anti-Cuban mandate imposed by the former Commission on Human Rights by the United States is a homage to the long resistance and the tireless fight of the Cuban people for their independence and is one less pretext for the continuation of the policy of hostility, genocidal blockade and aggressions against the Cuban people.

Cuba reaffirms that is will keep its vertical denunciation of any attack to the international system and the interests of the peoples of the South, as required, in defense of truth and justice, the Right to sovereignty, self-determination, peace, development, real and participative democracy. A better world is possible.

Thank you.