

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION,  
Ms. LYDIA GONZALEZ NAVARRO.**

**AGENDA ITEMS 68 AND 69: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION; RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION.**

**Third Committee, 8 November 2007**

Racial discrimination, based on scientifically wrong ideas developed in ignorance, continues to be one of the cruelest instances of exploitation throughout the centuries, which worsens and perpetuates itself along with the widening between the rich and the poor, as a consequence of the neoliberal globalization.

In its general report, the Special Rapporteur highlights the concerning regression in the fight against racism and xenophobia, characterized by the strengthening of racist and xenophobic violence, concreted in acts of physical violence and murders of persons belonging to ethnic, cultural and religious communities. No less alarming is the capacity to implement racist and xenophobic platforms of political parties, through government alliances. On the other hand, there is a decrease in the political will of the industrialized countries' governments to combat racism and discrimination.

In today's world, there is an attempt to legitimize discriminatory migration policies and laws, while at the same time antiterrorist laws facilitating space for arbitrariness and the exercise of public authority on discriminatory, racist and xenophobic bases are adopted, and there continues to be a wrongful use of information technologies – including the Internet – to disseminate ideas based on racial superiority and hatred.

Convinced that democracy, human rights and real freedoms cannot coexist with racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, Cuba calls again for the immediate realization of the goals and actions agreed

Discrimination and other Related Forms of Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa. The commitments made there remain the basis of international cooperation in the fight against racism.

Our main challenge is to achieve that such agreements really materialize, while at the same time new initiatives shall be promoted with the aim of resolving particularly important questions which solutions remains outstanding from Durban. We are confident that during the review process of the Durban conference we will be able to address such questions.

Mr. Chairman,

Having endured centuries of colonialism, as well as foreign occupation and neocolonial domination, Cuba feels in its own flesh the cause other peoples, which continue to be denied their right to self-determination.

The exercise of the self-determination of the peoples of the world, mainly those from the South, is faced with a huge challenge today. The hegemonic power continues to refuse to respect the peoples' right and to abandon its arrogated unilateral right to attack militarily and preemptively any country of the planet.

For over five decades, Cuba has endured serious actions against its people's enjoyment of the right to self-determination, all of which have had the complicity or responsibility of the hegemonic power, which has harbored in its territory terrorist organizations whose target has been my country. It still harbors today without punishment the notorious terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, mastermind of the bombing of a Cuban de Aviaci3n airliner in October 1976, and who is also responsible of other numerous crimes and terrorist acts against Cuban and other countries' citizens, even Americans.

Against the international community's overwhelming rejection to the hostile policy against Cuba, it continues to plan and to implement new and desperate measures to destroy the political, economic and social system chosen by the Cuban people.

The Cuban people know the high price of the right to self-determination. The Cuban women and men shall do all the necessary to protect itself through peaceful international cooperation

and instead of having to recur to the sacred right to armed self-defense against those who try to attack them.

The exercise of the peoples' right to self-determination is a precondition for the realization of all human rights, therefore as long as foreign domination and occupation persist, there will not be any sense speaking of respect for such rights. In that regard, Cuba demands the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine and the Syrian Golan, as well as the full respect for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to establish their own independent and sovereign State. Likewise, Cuba endorses the Puerto Rican people's right to self-determination and hopes that it can integrate the community of nations free from the colonial scourge.

Mr. Chairman,

The Cuban people have pledged to defend their right to self-determination until the bitter end. Cuba shall not only defend itself but shall overcome. They have the talent, dignity and courage of an educated people who support their Revolution, exercise power, and are resolved to continue to enhance their independence, liberty, democracy, equity and social justice, selfless solidarity and cooperation with other people, recognizing that a better world is possible.