



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
315 Lexington Avenue ♦ New York ♦ N.Y. 10016 ♦ (212) 699-7210 ♦ FAX (212) 699-9073

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ILEANA NÚÑEZ MORDOCHE, DEPUTY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.  
THIRD COMMITTEE. ITEM 67 b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING  
ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.  
NEW YORK, 25 OCTOBER 2006.**

Mr. Chairman:

When the First Meeting of the Human Rights Council began, it seemed as if a new era for cooperation on human rights matters had arrived, after long negotiations in which some purported to make the Council a court of their own, to judge others and put it at the service of their geopolitical interests.

During the last few days we have come to hear again high-flown sentences and statements with forged, incomplete and manipulated information, with long lists of allegedly troublesome countries.

Those are who already sentenced the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action to ostracism, according to which, the dialogue on human rights would be based upon the guiding principles of objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity, as well as the universality of human rights in full harmony with the diversity of cultures and political, economic and social systems.

Meanwhile, they will look away, or worse yet, they will become accomplices to and keep quiet about the flagrant and mass human rights violations that their allies commit every day by virtue of their self-granted right to intervene that they already codified for themselves. At the right moment, my delegation will elaborate on this issue to explain some truths to those who lack both the dignity and authority to criticize or judge our societies.

Mr. Chairman:

If we really want to talk about cooperation on human rights matters, it is necessary to change the unjust international order we are suffering, where neoliberal globalization has condemned 80% of the world population to exclusion from the planet's resources.

Nowadays, in the eyes of the powerful, to set out to achieving social justice through the sovereign control of our natural resources and full exercise of the right to self-determination is an unforgivable sin. It questions the most sacred axiom of those living in total opulence: what matters is to obtain profits for the great capital.

It does not matter if the irrational consumption pattern of the rich societies, built on the foundations of the plundered riches of the countries of the South degrades our



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environment, overexploits the food resources of our seas and if the green house effect brings about increasingly worse natural disasters.

Those who demand that the offices of the High Commissioner to monitor human rights be opened in developing countries exclusively, are the same who deny the Right to Development to the citizens of the Third World and made fail the Doha round for development at the World Trade Organization negotiations.

It is the same group of countries that close the markets to developing countries and deny access to new technologies. Those who control the international financial institutions insist that the onerous external debt continue to be paid and encourage social expenditure cuts, only to remain unmoved at the sight of 852 million people in developing countries without access to food, 1.1 billion people all over the world living under absolute poverty, and 876 million illiterate adults and over 115 million children without access to schools who cannot enjoy the right to education.

And on top of all that, they want to lecture us on good governance and the rule of law.

Trying to change the states of things is considered unacceptable. Anyone who dares to follow the path of true social justice will be condemned, stigmatized and defamed. Coup d' états will be masterminded, second-rate politicians will be hired to run as democrats, brutal and coercive unilateral measures will be implemented, and when anything else works, terrorism will be used.

Mr. Chairman:

The triumph of the 1 January 1959 Revolution laid the foundations for the full enjoyment of all human rights for Cuban women and men, without gender, color of the skin or social class discrimination whatsoever.

In more than 60 years of US neocolonial domination, with two foreign occupations included, the "democracy" they brought us only translated into corruption and negligence towards the ills of the starved, illiterate and poor vast majorities, and the imposition of brutal dictatorships which intended to silence with blood the just popular demands.

The Cuban people's sovereign decisions has been subject to one of the most intense campaigns of aggressions promoted and financed by successive US administrations, after perpetuating for more than four decades the criminal policy of economic, commercial and financial blockade.

The reason for such aggressiveness is obvious: the Cuban example is dangerous. As much as the Cuban Revolution is defamed, they have not been able to prove any extrajudicial execution or missing people. Never in a Cuban jail a prisoner has been subject to humiliation or has been brought to his knees, seized with panic, before a dog



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trained to kill. Cuba cooperate with sister nations: it sends doctors to far-off areas, helps to teach literacy in communities and grants scholarships to youths of any social condition, without demanding anything in return.

The measures implanted by the Bush Administration, sketched in the report of the so-called "Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba", are an addition to the obtuse insistence to put an end to my country's independence. We are talking about a massive 450-page program, aimed at achieving a diametrically opposed objective to what its name expresses. Thus, it is aimed at bringing the Cubans' freedom and independence to an end, destroying the society that Cubans have chosen for themselves and undermining all their rights.

Mr. Chairman:

The strengthening of international cooperation in human rights matters will not be fully achieved unless if the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality and non selectivity do not become their pillars.

The initiatives that Cuba promotes in the Third Committee's works are aimed at vindicating the international order proclaimed by article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as indispensable, so as all human rights can become a reality for all, without distinctions or discriminations.

The future work of the Human Rights Council will only make sense if double standards, politicization and blackmails are done away with in order to adopt the so-called resolutions by countries.

The promotion and protection of all human rights are only possible in a different world.

Thank you.