

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. FELIPE PÉREZ ROQUE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NEW YORK, 19 SEPTEMBER 2005

Mr. President:

Actually, we do not have a single reason to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. The chaotic, unequal and insecure world in which we are now living is not precisely tribute to those who gathered on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco to found the United Nations Organization.

Since the celebration of the Millennium Summit, back in 2000, until today more children have died of preventable diseases than all of the victims of the II World War put together.

The aggression against Iraq was launched not only despite but also against the opinion of the international community. That happened just two and half years after having solemnly proclaimed at the Millennium Summit that: "We are determined to establish just and lasting peace throughout the world, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter." The General Assembly could not even meet to discuss it. The Security Council was ignored and then bore witness to the humiliation of docilely accepting a war of prey that had previously been objected to by most of its members.

There is a clear explanation to this state of things: which is that the order enshrined in the Charter pertained to a bipolar world and to a balance of power not existing today. **"We, the peoples"** — as the Charter says — endure a unipolar world, in which the only superpower imposes its designs and selfish interests on the United Nations and the international community.

Therefore, trying to get the United Nations to function in conformity with the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter is make-believe. It is not possible. And it will not be so as long as Third World countries, the majority, fail to come together and fight shoulder to shoulder for our rights.

If the US Government adhered to Resolution 1373, adopted on 28 September 2001 by the Security Council, and to the international conventions on terrorism, it would extradite terrorist Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela and release the five young Cuban anti-terrorist fighters, who have been subjected to cruel and unjust imprisonment for seven years.

If the US Government allowed the United Nations to act in accordance with the Charter, the Iraqi people would not have been invaded to be deprived of its oil, the Palestinian people would exercise its sovereignty over the territory that belongs to them and Cuba would not continue to be blockaded. Nor would there be a billion illiterate people or 900 million starving human beings in the world.

This explains the failure of last week's Summit, which was convened to assess compliance with the modest commitments entered into as part of the Millennium Development Goals and ended up paling against what should have been a serious and resolute debate to address the major problems currently endured by humankind. It was a complete farce. It was of no interest to the powerful. Its selfish and hegemonic interests run counter to the aspiration of a more just and better world for all.

The scandalous pressures and blackmails on the member countries, after the US Ambassador brandished the stick and attempted to impose 750 amendments, will go down in history as the most eloquent evidence that a new world and a new United Nations Organization must be built, with respect for and recognition of the right to peace, sovereignty and development for all, without genocidal wars or blockades or injustices. The final negotiations, from which most UN member States were excluded, and the adopted outcome document, which overlooks vital issues for our peoples, rightfully attest to what we are saying.

While we wait for the moment in which that new world and the new United Nations Organization become possible, "**we, the peoples,**" will continue to fight and conquer with our resilience, once again, the rights currently denied to us.

The powerful are just talking about interventions and pre-emptive wars, about imposing draconian conditions, about the most efficient ways to control the UN, while attempting to legitimize concepts such as the so-called "responsibility to protect," which could be used one day to justify aggressions against our countries.

Let us spell it out: there is currently no right to peace for the small.

We Cubans understand so very well and rely on the solidarity of our peoples and on our united voices and our guns, which have never been used but to defend just causes. Our brothers and sisters in Africa can attest to it.

We are not pessimistic. We are revolutionaries. We do not surrender or become complacent. And we say so today, more convinced than ever before: "**we, the peoples,**" shall overcome.

Thank you very much.