



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
315 Lexington Avenue • New York • N.Y. 10017 • (212) 689-7215 • FAX (212) 689-9073

**STATEMENT BY Mr. YURI GALA LOPEZ, CUBAN DELEGATE TO THE THIRD
COMMITTEE. AGENDA ITEMS 65 a), b) AND 66: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-
UP OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND ITS ACTION PLAN; RIGHT OF
PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
NEW YORK, 6 NOVEMBER 2006.**

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of the fact that science has proven that the human race is one and indivisible, nowadays races, ethnic groups, nations and entire communities are still discriminated against, as addressed in the most recent general report by Mr. Doudou Diene, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. My delegations would like to join South Africa's statement on this issue on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Democracy, human rights and real freedoms cannot coexist with racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. Racial discrimination is one of the cruelest manifestations of exploitation through the centuries, which worsens and perpetuates along with the increasing gap between the rich and the poor, as a consequence of a globalization sustained by neo-liberal patterns.

With the rise to power of right-wing parties in many developed countries, based on xenophobic and anti-immigrant ideas and agendas, and after the tragic events of 11 September 2001, this trend has increased. In consequence, civilizations and religions such as the Islamic are being subject to discredit and demonizing campaigns masterminded from the main power hubs of the North, with a clear ideological basement and motivations of imperialist conquest and domination.

In his general report, the Special Rapporteur has stressed the existence of ominous trends in contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, mentioning from the attempts of intellectual legitimization of these; the practice of different forms of racism, discrimination and xenophobia at country entry points to the aggravation of manifestations of racism in sports, mainly in football, whereas there is a decrease of several developed countries governments' political will to fight racism and discrimination.

Likewise, there is a proliferation of migratory policies and laws, and the adoption of counterterrorist laws facilitating ample space for arbitrariness and the exercise of public authority on discriminatory, racist and xenophobic basis; and the misuse of information technology continues – including internet – to disseminate ideas based on racial superiority and hatred.



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
218 East 42nd Avenue • New York • N.Y. 10016 • (212) 689-7215 • FAX (212) 689-9072

The consequences of mentalities sustained on the supposed superiority of one race over another, are clearly seen currently in the US, where organizations of neo-fascist persuasion thrive. This country, which erected its heritage with the sacrifice and sweat of millions of immigrant workers, is now building up a shameful wall against them on its southern border.

In view of this reality, Cuba renews its demand for the immediate realization of the goals and actions agreed upon at the Third World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa. The commitments that were taken there continue to be the basis of international cooperation in the fight against racism. We should not waste a minute in the implementation of the proposals contained in the Durban Declaration and Program of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Besides the existence of Non-Self-Governing Territories and the foreign occupation of nations, there are other not less reprehensible forms of violations to the exercise of the right to self-determination, such as the policies of domination and control applied on developing countries and the theories that advocate for an alleged "right to humanitarian intervention".

The exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination is a precondition for the realization of all human rights; hence while foreign domination and occupation persist there are no reasons to talk about respect for these rights. To this purpose, Cuba demands the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, including Palestine and the Syrian Golan, as well as full respect for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to establish its own independent and sovereign State. Likewise, Cuba supports the right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and hopes that it can join the community of nations free from the colonial scourge.

The US Naval Base in Guantánamo, now gloomy famous for the tortures committed there, is a deep wound to our homeland's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, therefore the Cuban people will continue demanding the devolution of that part of our territory which was illegally usurped.

Mr. Chairman,

Far from decreasing, the mercenary activities are on the increase, have acquired new and dangerous forms that threaten the observance of human rights and the full exercise of the peoples' right to self-determination.

Cuba, with the co-sponsorship of other countries, will submit again a resolution text wherein follow-up to the monitoring of this question is given, baring in mind that the



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
315 Lexington Avenue • New York • N.Y. 10016 • (212) 686-7215 • FAX (212) 686-5873

mercenaries continue to carry out actions in many parts of the world and that these take new forms, manifestations and modalities, including activities by certain private international security companies.

Mr. Chairman,

The exercise of the peoples' self-determination, mainly the peoples of the South, is facing huge challenges. A hegemonic power claims the unilateral right to attack militarily and preemptively any country of the planet.

Cuba knows that world power very well, which in the course of almost five decades has committed grave actions against the full enjoyment of the Cuban people's right to self-determination, using to this purpose from a mercenary invasion, the threat of a nuclear aggression, the design of numerous plans to assassinate its main leaders, to the impunity granted to organizations such as the Cuban-American Foundation, which has implemented terrorist actions against my country, while they also harbor with impunity in US territory the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who is the mastermind behind the downing of a Cuban airliner in October 1976, which claimed 73 innocent civilian lives and the author of numerous crimes and terrorist acts against Cuban and other countries' citizens, including American ones. Precisely, in the recently concluded 14th Summit of the NAM, support was given to the extradition claim for this case made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Government of the United States.

But this superpower also continues to impose its genocide blockade on us, which was reinforced with the implementation of new measures included in the recent update of the annexationist Plan drafted by the Bush Administration, which desperately seeks to destroy the political, economic and social system supported by the Cuban people, without ruling out the military option, against the overwhelming rejection of the international community to this hostile policy.

The Cuban people has vowed to defend until the last drop of its blood its right to self-determination, which was conquered after a hard-fought struggle for more than 100 years. Cuba will not only defend itself, but it will win the battle, either in the sphere of ideas or in resistance war against the aggressor, with the talent, dignity and courage of a cultivated people who support its Revolution, exercise power, and is determined to continue to deepen its independence, liberty, democracy, equity and social justice, selfless solidarity and cooperation with other peoples, aware that a better world is possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.