



CUBAN DELEGATION

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JUAN ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ PALACIOS,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DARFUR

(Check against delivery)

GENEVA, 12 DECEMBER 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Cuba is one of the 34 members of the Human Rights Council that supported and cosponsored the request to convene a Special Session to consider the "Human Rights Situation in Darfur". We have done exactly the same on the three previous occasions this Council has held special sessions to consider the dramatic situation in Palestine, Lebanon and Beit Hanoun, which, amazingly, did not receive the enthusiastic support of any Member of the Western Group.

We have acted with integrity and a strict commitment to the basic principles of the new Council, contained in Resolution 60/251 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which provides that the work of this body shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, through constructive dialogue and a cooperative approach, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights.

The convening of this special session is in itself a categorical denial to the hypercritics of this Council, those who bet on its failure because they want to be free to cover up their misdeeds throughout the world. It should be recalled, by the way, that this Council has not remained silent about the situation in Darfur given that, on 28 November, just a few days ago, it adopted its first resolution on this question, presented by the African group.

Mr. Chairman,

The grave human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur, Sudan, as recognized in Resolution 2/115 of this Council, is indeed a matter of concern to the international community. It is a complex and delicate situation with deep roots in the colonial past, in the artificial divisions created in Africa by ancient metropolis, in the structural poverty caused by centuries of exploitation and plundering, and in current economic and geostrategic interests of the great superpower.

In addition to these elements, there is a persistent campaign of discredit and exaggeration orchestrated against the Government of Sudan with the clear aim of encouraging the hegemonic pretensions of the West.

Cuba can attest to the tireless efforts of the Government of Sudan to face this crisis, and of its permanent commitment to cooperate with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.

Recently, a group of Ambassadors and diplomats from different countries, including Cuba, had the opportunity to visit Darfur and gain first-hand knowledge of the situation on the ground, as many experts and non-governmental organizations working in Sudan have done. The Sudanese Government has provided abundant information and recently honored us with the visit of Dr. Farah Mustafa, Deputy Governor of the State of South Darfur. We have been informed that severe measures have been adopted against those guilty of human rights violations and our support was requested to promote the full implementation of the Darfur Agreement, which should be signed by all the parties involved.

Mr. Chairman,

The complex situation in Darfur can never be solved with external impositions from New York or Geneva. The measures adopted by this Council, will only be effective if they fully involve and are accepted by the Government of Sudan. The viewpoint of the African group and the measures it proposes to consider this issue, are equally shared by Cuba.

Cuba hopes that the debates and results of this special session of the Human Rights Council will take a different path from the one taken so far in the United Nations. The solution to the situation in Darfur requires a long-term strategy for development and cooperation, doing away with inflammatory language and pretensions of imposing sanctions and unnecessary condemnation.

Thank you very much.