



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ABELARDO MORENO, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING TO COMMEMORATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

New York, 22 September 2011

Mr. President,

Ten years ago, the Third World Conference against Racism, held in Durban, South Africa, was a milestone in the struggle for equal rights for all human beings, as it critically assessed slavery and colonialism, identified the root causes and origin of racism, condemned their contemporary manifestations, and adopted a platform for action against these practices.

Its Declaration and Programme of Action constitute the most momentous international agreement against racism and racial discrimination in the history of our Organization. By calling for the eradication of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Durban paid off a debt to the millions of historical victims of those abominable practices.

However, there is still a need to recognize slavery and transatlantic slave trade as crimes against humanity, and to agree that the descendants of the victims of those criminal practices: colonialism, and the genocidal compensation they deserve, as a pending historic measure of justice.

The Durban Programme of Action, on the contrary, remains a distant dream, with greater incidence and impunity in the industrialized world.

In Europe and North America, violent acts of racism are on the rise, and theories promoting race and culture superiority and neo-Fascism proliferate and are institutionalized with great electoral successes of nationalist and

There, the discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities become more intense, and clearly discriminatory immigration policies and laws, which deprive children of healthcare and education services, promulgate counter-terrorist laws that give free rein to arbitrariness, and the exercise of public

Internet is ever more used to disseminate ideas based on superiority and racial and religious hatred. Freedom of expression cannot mean freedom to encourage hatred, discrimination and violence. That is illegal and punishable.

Palestine remains subjugated to a cruel and illegal occupation. We reiterate our solidarity and support to the Palestinian people and the full exercise of their right to self-determination.

The increase in racism and racial discrimination is related to the widening gap between rich and poor nations, as a result of neoliberal globalization and centuries of slavery, colonization and domination.

It is imperative to establish a new international economic order based on equality, solidarity and social justice to face these root causes of racism.

The Cuban Revolution, since its inception, set the struggle for economic and political transformations, enabled the eradication of injustices like institutionalized racism and discrimination.

Cuba's contribution against racism and discrimination has gone beyond our borders. Over 350 thousand Cubans fought together with their African brothers and sisters to eradicate Apartheid and colonialism, and more than 2 thousand died in African soil.

Cuba, since 1960, for 50 years in an unjust and cruel blockade, has shared in pain and suffering with the most vulnerable and underprivileged groups like Afro-descendants and natives.

It reiterates the firm will of Cuba to cooperating with the efforts to eradicate the onerous scourges of racism, racial discrimination, institutionalized intolerance. If genuine international cooperation is not achieved, the efforts of many developing countries to meet the objectives of UN will have been in vain.

Thank you