



MEMORANDUM OF THE DELEGATION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by Mrs. Ileana Núñez Mordoche, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba at the general debate on the priority theme: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. New York, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2009.**

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, allow me to wish you and the rest of the Bureau success in the work

employment, education, health, politics, culture, science, among other fields of the Cuban society.

- Women represent the 46.23% of workers in the economic sector. We are the 70% of the labor force in the health sector and the 63.80% of the comprehensive general medical doctors, among other indicators. There are 266 female deputies in our Parliament, which represents the 43.32%, being, in this regard, one of the highest percentages worldwide and the highest in our region.
- Cuba was the first country to sign and the second to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). With a strong commitment to women, we welcome the thirtieth anniversary of the Commission created under the adoption of such Convention.
- The Family Code, in force since 1975, is in a process of review and adoption. This instrument provides the obligations inside the family and the responsibility of parents

towards their children.

- The new Law of Maternity Leave, in force since August 2003, extended the leave

...bring to the attention of this important Commission to an issue of special

concern to the Cuban people: the arbitrary denial of visas by the U.S. Government to two Cuban women, Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva, a question we have reiterated in numerous fora and occasions.

