



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AMBASSADOR RODRIGO MALMIERCA DIAZ, ON AGENDA ITEM 100: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. New York, 11 October 2006.

Mr. President:

The Cuban delegation ratifies its strongest condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever and against whomsoever committed and wherever they occur, regardless their motivations, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved.

My country has never allowed and will never allow its national territory to be used to carry out, plan or finance terrorist acts against any other State, without exception.

Likewise, Cuba strongly rejects the use of counterterrorism as a pretext to justify the intervention in the internal affairs and the aggression and damage to the national sovereignty of the States.

We also reject the manipulation by some States of the immanent right to self-defense to justify the carrying out of State terrorism acts and try to legitimize the aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other States.

Terrorism is a phenomenon that has to be countered by the entire international community, in an atmosphere of close cooperation and based on respect for the UN Charter and International Law.

Therefore, we are pleased that the General Assembly, by virtue of the regulatory authority vested in it, and reaffirming its key role in questions related to international peace and security, adopted last 8 September the Global Counterterrorism Strategy as the major instrument that shall guide, from now on, our actions against this scourge, which has claimed so many innocent lives through history.

We hope it will be fulfilled by all, for it will be impossible to eradicate terrorism if some terrorist acts are condemned while others are silenced, tolerated or justified.

Mr. President:

My delegation deems important to continue the efforts to finish the Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism, with a view to close off some legal gaps that exist in the instruments adopted by the United Nations in the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. For this, it is necessary to count on the flexibility and cooperation of all and not only some delegations.

A General Convention on international terrorism should contain a clear and precise definition of the crime of terrorism, including all forms that this phenomenon adopts, which foresees the material and mental elements that make up this crime, and which entails responsibility both for natural and legal persons.

The activities of a State's armed forces that are not regulated by Humanitarian International Law should not be excluded from the scope of application of the future Comprehensive Convention, since such exclusion could serve to justify the actions by some States aimed at destabilizing others.

A Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism has to guarantee a clear distinction between terrorism and the peoples' legitimate struggle for their independence and in defense of their right to self-determination.

Mr. President:

My delegation also wishes to express its concern for the risk that the link between terrorism and mass-destruction weapons entails, and it fully supports all the legitimate international efforts to avoid the acquisition by some terrorists of such weapons and their delivery systems.

Cuba considers that the only guarantee that mass-destruction weapons do not fall into the terrorists' hands is by prohibition and total elimination of this kind of weapons, which very existence is a threat to international peace and security.

Mr. President:

Since 1959, the Cuban people has been the victim of countless terrorist actions which have caused death or physical damage to thousands of persons and have brought about huge economic loss to the country.

It is extensively known that such terrorist acts are planned, financed and executed from US territory, where many confessed terrorists who for over four decades have acted and still act unpunished against my country live and walk free.

We wish to recall that according to the Security Council resolutions on the issue, including resolution 1373 (2001), those who commit acts of this kind are as terrorists as those who protect them and allow them to act and finance terrorist acts from their territory.

Mr. President:

Last 6 October marked the 30th anniversary of the hideous terrorist act against a Cuban airliner in which 73 people died.

One of the persons responsible for the mid-air bombing of the Cuban airliner, Orlando Bosch, not only walks freely the streets of Miami, but also makes frequent television appearances and statements to the press, in which he prides himself on his numerous terrorist acts against Cuba entirely without remorse.

Another responsible for this crime is the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles. The United States refuses to comply with its international obligation to judge him or extradite him to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, where he is required by the justice. In spite of the fact that the US Government itself acknowledges him as a dangerous terrorist, Posada Carriles is detained in Texas under the simple charge of illegal immigrant. On top of that, just a few days ago a federal judge recommended releasing him, and the Attorney General decided not to submit the countless evidence that the US Government has, and which prove that Posada Carriles is a notorious terrorist.

However, those who threaten the entire world in the name of a hypocrite campaign against terrorism and protect Luis Posada Carriles, Orlando Bosch and other convicted and confessed terrorists in their own territory, are the same who keep hostage in maximum-security prisons five Cuban youths who are true counterterrorism fighters. With high altruism and courage, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero y René González, were only trying to get information about the Miami-based terrorist groups in order to prevent their violent acts and save lives of Cuban and US citizens.

Cuba will not stop fighting until Posada Carriles, Orlando Busch and other terrorist like them are condemned for their crimes. Cuba will continue supporting the legitimate claim by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to extradite Posada Carriles. Cuba will carry on denouncing the cruel abduction in isolated US jails of the Five Heroes of counterterrorism. Our people will not give up its battle to have them return to the freedom and dignity of the Homeland.

I can assure you, Mr. President, the Cuba will carry on providing, in full abidance by international law, all its cooperation with the genuine efforts of the international community against the scourge of terrorism.

Thank you very much.