

Esteemed Speakers,

The National Assembly of the Peoples Power of Cuba reiterates to the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments its firm commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, which provide the basis of multilateralism and guide the conduct of States in international relations.

Democratization of international relations as a culture of peace requires both the recognition and respect by all States of the right of all peoples to choose the economic, political and social system they deem fit, as well as the full realization of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

The global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it imperative and urgent to preserve and promote multilateralism; strengthen the central role of the United Nations and foster international cooperation and solidarity to address global challenges and threats.

Cuban parliamentarians particularly denounce one of these threats. In the midst of the pandemic and despite the international call, the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed for over six decades by the United States has been stepped up. This genocidal blockade not only violates the human rights of Cubans, including their legitimate right to development, but also severs and represents an insult to the sovereign right of all countries to hold relations with Cuba without the fear of being unilaterally punished in violation of international law.

The spread of COVID-19 throughout the world clearly spells out the imperative to strengthen international cooperation and provide humanitarian assistance.

Cuban parliamentarians reaffirm the need for a truly strong and proactive United Nations, with a transparent and duly democratized Security Council and a revitalized General Assembly to accompany the States in the sovereign construction of each nation's future with no interference.

The members of the National Assembly of Cuba reject the attempts to reinstate a unipolar order, as well as United States total disregard for its international commitments in attacking multilateral agencies.

Cuban parliamentarians support the implementation of bilateral and multilateral programs to provide assistance to millions of persons all over the world with resources and technical support.

Cuba, faithful to its humanist commitment and solidarity has provided assistance to 43 nations in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean in the midst of this pandemic through its medical collaboration, despite the difficulties imposed by the stepping up of the blockade by the United States and its campaign to discredit such a humanitarian endeavor.

International humanitarian assistance must be provided in full observance of the guiding principles stated in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182

of 1991. It should not be used to try to justify actions in violation of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The National Assembly of the Peoples Power of Cuba ratifies its commitment to continue working with parliamentarians all over the world in establishing a democratic and fair international order in response to the call for peace, security, stability, development and social justice made by peoples all over the world and fully contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Likewise, we demand that developed countries provide the necessary assistance to strengthen scientific and technological capacities in order to move towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Cuban parliamentarians also advocate for international cooperation as a means to address global problems such as climate change, terrorism, and migrations which are a threat to peace. With that spirit, we condemn all violations of the UN Charter and International Law, including the threat of use of force against sovereign States, interventions, the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, and actions aimed at bringing about a change of regime, all of which threatens the maintenance of international peace and security.

The National Assembly of the Peoples Power consistently supports the firm and strong position of the Government of Cuba in rejecting and condemning all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. We have ratified 18 international counter-terrorism conventions to which Cuba is fully committed and we collaborate with UN mechanisms to combat this scourge.

Likewise, we express our concern regarding the practice of certain governments, like the US Government, of including in their speeches messages of hate and discrimination against nations whose political systems are not of their liking. Consequently, they promote and encourage extremist and unscrupulous individuals to commit terrorist acts against innocent persons. The Cuban people have been a victim for decades of multiple terrorist acts organized, financed and implemented from US territory.

On behalf of Cuban parliamentarians I denounce the terrorist attack perpetrated against the Cuban Embassy in Washington last April 30, the direct result of a permanent incitement to violence both by US politicians, high officials of the State Department, and the US Embassy in Havana, as well as by anti-Cuban extremist groups who have made a living out of this type of attacks.

The COVID-19 pandemic clearly spells out the need to pay equal attention to the health and sanitary problems of migrants. The National Assembly approved the legislative framework to address the challenge of international migration. Cuba is fully committed to a safe, orderly and regular migration and highly values the adoption of the Global Compact, while considering essential to change the current situation of inequality, inequity and poverty in order to

provide a lasting solution to the migration issue that affects developing countries.

Our Parliament is also concerned with the health of refugees and welcomes the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees. The pursuit of lasting solutions for the high number of refugees requires a more active involvement by the international community, particularly by the developed countries. In the COVID-19 context, all refugees and asylum-seekers in Cuba have been protected by the State.

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We, the parliamentarians around the world, ratify that the observance of the principles of the United Nations Charter and International Law is the foundation for a world order based on solidarity and cooperation.

Likewise, Cuban parliamentarians ratify the principles of our foreign policy enshrined in our Constitution. The Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, adopted by a peoples referendum on February 24, 2019 and promulgated by the National Assembly of the Peoples Power on April 10, 2019, states in subparagraph o) Article 16 that Cuba “promotes multilateralism and multipolarity in international relations, as alternatives to domination and political, financial and military hegemony or any other manifestation that threatens peace, independence and the sovereignty of peoples.”

Thank you