



Embassy of the Republic of Cuba

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. PEDRO L. PEDROSO,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CUBA TO UNEP AND UN-HABITAT AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA,
NAIROBI CHAPTER, AT THE GENERAL COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA ON 27
JANUARY 2006.**

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT,
Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP,
Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Dear colleagues,

Last year, when assuming the chairmanship of the G77 and China, I stated that your decision was not only a privilege, but a challenge to translate that confidence in new gains for the collective interest of the G77. Today, when we conclude this period of work, I believe that with your permanent cooperation and support we did everything possible and in our hands to make that true.

The year 2005 was particularly heavy in regard to the workload of the Group. In figures, the General Council held six meetings, while the working groups for UNEP and HABITAT matters held a total of sixteen meetings.

The celebration of the 23rd and 20th Sessions of the Governing Councils of UNEP and UN-HABITAT, both in Nairobi, not only demanded a lot of preparations in anticipation of those very important meetings, but also made necessary for the Group to display an effective coordination mechanism for it to be able to keep its voice and presence in the various negotiating instances, and more important to safeguard the interests and objectives of the Group.

Of particular importance to our Group was the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan on Capacity Building and Technology Support, the adoption of the program of work and budget of both UNEP and UN-HABITAT, the passage of resolutions like the one on natural disasters link to the tsunami catastrophe and other natural events and the one on the Habitat program managers, just to mention a few where the G77 and China played an important and decisive role in the outcomes achieved and in keeping our interests.

Moreover, the Second South Summit held in Qatar and the five year review of the millennium development goals undertaken by the high level segment of the General Assembly last year, also provided new opportunities for the Nairobi Chapter to get involved in the more wider discussion on development issues and the UN reform.

In that regard, the Group was able to develop substantive and detail contributions for our colleagues in New York in respect to the elaboration of the Doha's Plan of Action, which recognized the importance of the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan, as well as on the Secretary General's reform proposals contained in its report on "Larger Freedom".

In addition, the celebration of the 7th COP of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Desertification and Drought, in September last year, and in which participated a high number of delegations from developing countries, also provided useful support to Cuba as Chair in representing our Group.

In all these meetings, and others where the Chair was able to represent the Group, the Nairobi Chapter consistently played a pro-active role in promoting the common goals and interests of the Group.

Distinguished colleagues,

During the year 2005, the Chair also devoted great importance to develop a systematic exchange of views with the Secretariats of both UNEP and UN-HABITAT in respect to matters of importance or concern of the Group. I appreciate the positive will I always found in the two organizations and their respective Chief Executive whenever it was necessary that we address issues of interests for our Group.

In this context, I would like to mention that the restitution of the office facilities within the U.N. complex to our Group, which I hope will be maintained, contributed to improve the effectiveness of the G77 coordination, particularly during large meetings held in the United Nations Office in Nairobi. I extend my appreciation to the Director General of UNON, Dr. Klaus Topfer, and to Mrs. Beverly Miller, Secretary of the Governing Bodies of UNEP, for their understanding of the need of this facilities.

Distinguished colleagues,

In closing, I would have to say that the amount of work done and the achievements made during last year, would have not been possible without the involvement and full support extended to me by each of you and your respective delegations. In particular, I wish to thank and acknowledge the support and readiness I always found in H.E. Ambassador Agnes Kalibala and Mrs. Bernarditas, coordinators of the Habitat and UNEP working groups, respectively, as well as that of my colleagues the High Commissioner of Nigeria and the Ambassador of Indonesia. I also want to extend my appreciation to the Latin America and Caribbean Group for the confidence and the support given all along my chairmanship.

Last but not least, allow me to thank the cooperation and support received from the Secretariat, in particular to Mrs. Beverly Miller and Wanjiru Mbugu, who diligently served as the G77 liaison persons.

I thank you all and wish you a very successful year 2006.