



**PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION TO THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE
ORGANIZATION.**

New York, 19 February 2019

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Cuba is pleased to see you presiding over this meeting and extends its support to your good performance in the successful conduct of these meetings.

It also appreciates the hard work of the Secretariat in preparing the documentation and all the necessary details to hold the meetings of this important Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

The Cuban delegation endorses the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM.

Our delegation also appreciates the presentation of the Secretary-General's reports and supports the work of the Special Committee on the Charter and its agenda. In this regard, we are pleased to have worked together with the Chair of the Committee and the Member States to actively contribute to the promotion and fulfillment of the mandate of General Assembly resolution 3349 (XXIX), which gave rise to this Committee.

The relevance of this mandate and of the work carried out is confirmed in an international context in which some countries are recurrently attempting to reinterpret the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations in order to promote interventionist and interfering political agendas, to the detriment of the integrity and sovereignty of developing countries.

Such is the case of the alleged humanitarian aid that, through intimidation, pressure and force, the United States has proposed to introduce into the territory of Venezuela, and which is just a disguised military aggression against that sovereign nation.

The Magna Carta of this prestigious Organization is ignored by senior U.S. officials who remind on a daily basis, with arrogance and audacity, that with regard to Venezuela "all options are on the table, including the military one".

On top of all this, they also exert brutal pressure against a large number of governments to force their support for the arbitrary call for new presidential elections in Venezuela, while promoting the recognition of a usurper who barely has 97,000 votes as a parliamentarian, as opposed to the more than 6 million Venezuelans who last May elected Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros. A usurper who, moreover, shamelessly declared his willingness to demand a military intervention by the United States under the pretext of receiving such "humanitarian aid," and has described the sovereign and dignified rejection of this maneuver as "a crime against humanity".

Cuba calls for international mobilization in defense of peace in Venezuela and in the region, based on the principles of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace adopted in 2014, signed by the Heads of State and Government of CELAC. The sovereignty and dignity of Latin America and the Caribbean and of the peoples of the South are decided today in Venezuela. The survival of the norms of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations is also decided. In this context, the promotion of respect for the Charter of the United Nations is vital.

Mr. Chairman,

We are therefore pleased to participate in the meetings of this Special Committee, an appropriate forum for negotiating any amendments to the Charter of the United Nations, including those resulting from the current process of reform of the Organization, as well as for exchanging best practices in their proper implementation. This Committee is the framework for proposing recommendations to promote the implementation of all the provisions contained in the Charter and makes it possible to ensure that all Member States and bodies of the United Nations act in accordance with its principles and purposes.

Consequently, the Special Committee on the Charter, in keeping with its mandate to strengthen the role of the Organization, should remain open to inclusive and transparent discussion of any proposed resolution, decision or action by United Nations bodies when such proposals have implications for the fulfillment and implementation of its Charter.

It is also very important to ensure the preservation and strengthening of the leading role of the General Assembly as the principal policymaking, deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation highlights as a positive element of the Committee's work the Briefing held last year under agenda item "Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII" and appreciates the updated information provided by the representative of the Department of Political Affairs on the document entitled "Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations". These exchanges make it easier for the members of the Committee to have the opportunity to exchange on this matter. Such practices are very useful and contribute to improving the transparency and credibility of the Organization's work.

Mr. Chairman,

The efforts made by the Committee have become apparent, as well as the expressed willingness of many member States to move forward. We are contributing with valuable and constructive proposals that deserve to be discussed and approved for their contributions to strengthening the work of the Organization. Such is the case with the proposals from Belarus, Ghana, Libya and Russia, which are on the table for consideration.

Taking into account that each year we see the intention to disregard, reinterpret and selectively apply the provisions of the Charter, as is appropriate to the political agendas of some, in clear disrespect for the principles of international law, it is the debates of this Committee that we need in order to preserve and fulfill the purposes of this Organization and of the norms of its Charter. For this reason, its annual sessions and the items to be dealt with in its agenda continue to be particularly relevant.

In previous sessions of this body, Cuba submitted a proposal under the item "Maintenance of international peace and security". In that regard, we have updated this working document, which we are presenting to you today. We urge all delegations to transmit it to their respective capitals so that we can discuss their comments and suggestions in a transparent manner in the forthcoming session of the Committee. Cuba is open to incorporating the necessary adjustments to facilitate consensus.

We also note with satisfaction the holding last year of a thematic debate for the exchange of information on practices in the use of Negotiation and Research as a means of peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly including those contained in Article 33, at the proposal of NAM in previous sessions. We consider this to be of unquestionable value in the current international situation, characterized by serious threats to international peace and security.

In that regard, we encourage delegations to continue contributing with their experiences this year in order to hold a frank discussion on

another important means of peaceful settlement of international disputes and conflicts: mediation.

The contributions and materials gathered during this process provide a valuable documentary basis, the publication of which on the Committee's website will be very useful and will contribute to the most efficient and effective use of those peaceful means among member States.

All these actions demonstrate the remarkable role of this Committee in the Organization, despite continued attempts by some countries to obstruct its work. In that sense, the Cuban delegation opposes any attempt to biennialize its work or reduce its agenda.

In this respect, we hope that during this meeting the constructive spirit of all Member States will prevail in order to express their opinions and to move forward in our work.

Finally, the Cuban delegation thanks the Chairman of the Committee for his leadership of our work, while renewing its full support.

Thank you very much