



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. RICARDO ALARCON DE QUESADA, SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 16, 2005.

Mr. President:

We were summoned in order to review "the progress made in complying with the commitments articulated in the Millennium Declaration" and those "derived from the major UN Conferences and Summits". This aim, however, has been completely distorted.

Eight objectives and 18 goals had been set, most for the year 2015. They were indeed modest. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, making primary education accessible to everyone, encouraging gender equality and the empowerment of women, reducing infant mortality, improving the health of mothers, combating HIV/AIDS and other transmittable diseases, guaranteeing environmental sustainability and developing Global Partnership for Development.

Very little has been done to reach these goals. In many of these areas, there has been an outright setback.

That was what we needed to discuss here, today, to undertake resolute and urgent actions which would allow us to move forward. That was our obligation in this Summit.

But we are bearing witness to an unforgivable sham. The objective of this meeting was held hostage through tortuous manipulation. Those who fancy themselves the world's owners do not even want to remember those promises and the hypocritical fanfare that came with them.

What is worse, they seek to impose alleged reforms in the UN which only intend to subjugate the organization completely and transform it into an instrument of their global dictatorship.

They would have war and hegemony become norms that the whole world should abide by unquestioningly. Along the way, with the help of submissive coryphaei, they tear the

Charter to shreds, seek to reduce the Secretariat to a tool for their designs and insult the Assembly and the world that it, and only it, represents.

In the name of what? A might whose limits their ignorance keeps them from seeing? A phony war on terrorism which massacres entire populations and takes thousands of young Americans to their death? A policy that, all the while, hypocritically protects a convicted and confessed terrorist like Luis Posada Carriles and, in violation of US law itself, keeps five innocent people in prison, punishing them because they *did* combat terrorism?

Greed, selfishness and irrationality will visit catastrophe upon ourselves, and those who refuse to accept the possibility of a different world, born of solidarity and justice, will not be spared.

A world without hunger or poverty, which offers everyone a healthy life, education and dignity, a world free of oppression and discrimination, without wars or genocidal blockades, where the exploitation of the weakest has been done away with.

The powerful can pretend not to believe this, but poor nations have the right to development and will continue to fight for it.

They will continue to strive for it beyond these walls, outside of this hall. In spite of the blockade, the harassment and threats, the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas looms large as an example of solidarity among peoples, returning hope to many, working towards true integration and development and ushering in a better world that all of us will know how to attain. The Alternative, a new dawn, spreads to the world from the South.