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**Promotion and protection of all human rights,
civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Federation of Cuban Women (FCW), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[9 February 2010]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The Federation of Cuban Mujeres (FCW), in representation of more than 4 million members, joins the progressive forces worldwide to fight for the total implementation and full enjoyment of all human rights at international level, objective very distant to be achieved, considering the present world order. Our organization has worked during almost 50 years for the advancement of the Cuban women, endorsed by the political will of the revolutionary government. We have struggled, in addition, in favor of the construction of a more human, rational and equitable future, defending untiringly the just causes of the women of the world.

We, Cuban women have fought together with the progressive forces to collapse the present world order, in which Capitalism, and especially the empire of the USA, tries to stop the advancement of women and continues devastating, in a genocide way, the natural wealths to satiate their uncontrollable mercantilist and consumerist cravings. If we continue with the present world order, that respects neither the human beings nor the mother earth that generously provides us home and food, the moment will arrive at which it will be unnecessary to debate on human rights, because we, human beings, will not exist.

A convincing sample of the imperial, egoistic and hypocritical spirit of the powerful countries, constituted the controversial Summit on Climatic Change (COP 15) in which it was a shame not to agree on a consensus to approve a binding final document in favor of the survival of the human beings.

The predator, grotesque and brutal Imperialism headed by the United States, is responsible for the present world-wide economic crisis and the consequences it has caused for the economies of the world, negatively impacting especially on women, the childhood and the elderly of the planet. It has taking the life of million of human beings as a result of the expansion wars that it has historically developed with the objective of profiting and in flagrant violation of the rights of sovereignty, independence and self-determination of the peoples. Through multiple ways of social exclusion it victimizes women by their role in the family and in the society.

The successive administrations of the USA have been, for instance, the ones that in an uninterrupted way and for almost 50 years, have imposed a brutal economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba affecting all the society and specially its women. It is the US government the one that without respecting its own laws and paying no attention to the increasing demands of the international community, maintains five Cuban antiterrorist fighters in prison and violates all their human rights and especially those of Olga Salanueva and Adriana Perez, spouses of two of them, by not allowing them to visit their husbands, with repeated refusals of visas.

Today, more than ever, humanity is aware about the capitalist system and the arrogance of the United States, its maneuvers, lies and monopolisation of the information to which the increasing resistance of the progressive forces that fight untiringly for the right to survival and the full enjoyment of the human rights at world-wide level oppose.

Cuban women will keep on working to preserve the advances of our socialist system achieved thanks to the promotion, protection, integrality and interdependence of all the human rights we enjoy as part of our heroic people. Our achievements in the spheres of health, education, culture, sciences and social security are irrefutable and recognized world-wide; as well as our respect for the life of the persons and our acts of solidarity and disinterested cooperation in support to the full enjoyment, by the whole humanity and not for just a part of it, of all the human rights.

We, Cuban women, aware of our challenges, recognize ourselves as participants and beneficiaries of these advances. Today we represent 43.32% of the members of the parliament, distant of the indicators of the Latin American region in such sense, where women make up the 22% according to the recent document of ECLAC of October 2009:

“Unite to End Violence Against Women”. We are 40% of the members of the State Council; our life expectancy at birth is of 80 years; however the State of the World’s Population 2009 shows it is of 77 years for Latin America and the Caribbean Region. The statistics at the end of 2008 show that women in Cuba represent 67.8% of all graduated in the universities, 65.7% of the professional and technical labor force of the country, 39.1% of the leaders at all levels, 73.7% of the attorneys and 71.3% of the judges. The 55, 5% of the Cuban doctors are women. Their work impacts on the achievements reached regarding infant mortality. From the 169 municipalities of the country, 21 completed 2009 with zero infant mortality rate, impacting positively in the 4.8 per thousand live births with which our country finished last year, being this indicator the lowest in America, inferior to some developed countries of the region like United States and Canada. Moreover, Cubans have a coherent family planning programme, which guarantees the free, conscious and responsible exercise of the decision of the couples to have descendants.

The FCW will continue struggling and supporting the fight of all our sisters organizations, in favor of a more equitable life for all, in which human beings are the center of the attention. We call all men and women of this planet to fight in favor of a new world order, more equitable and rational, a new world without poverty, trafficking of women and children and without violence, where the enjoyment of all human rights becomes a reality.
