



PERMANENT AUSSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO TIM UNITED NATIONS
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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ORLANDO REQUEIJO GUAL,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT
THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 13TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. NEW YORK, 21 APRIL 2005.**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to commend you on your work as Chair of this Commission. Likewise, we wish you success in this final stage of your Chairmanship.

My delegation reiterates its support to the positions expressed by the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a sad reality in our planet nowadays: more than 1. 2 billion people -one out of 5 in all the world- survive under less than 1 dollar daily, 815 million human beings starve, 854 million adults continue being illiterate; 2. 4 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation and 968 million do not have access to running water sources. We remind these figures to try to sensitize those who can act to overcome this dramatic reality.

I would like to make emphasis on some aspects which shall constitute a guide for the implementation of the policies adopted within the framework of this meeting:

- We do not accept the idea that governments are the only ones responsible for the solution of problems related to water access, sanitation, and human settlements. We do not accept either that the Associations are the magical solutions to problems. The private sector may contribute to find certain 'solutions, but it should be in correspondence with national development plans and priorities, considering the necessities and characteristics of each country or region. In this sense, we should set aside the idea of limiting the role of the State only to create the legal framework for the, private sector to act, and balanced, effective and transparent participation of all the sectors of society in the solutions to these problems shall be promoted.

We shall settle the developing world's claim to UN Agencies, to the other relevant international Agencies, and especially to donor countries, in order to search for more adequate solutions ensuring the fulfillment of the established commitments.

- We shall particularly consider the general situation of developing countries, especially Africans, the less developed, land-locked countries, Small Island Developing States, taking into account in the latter ones the scarcity of water resources, their vulnerability to natural disasters and their limited capacity in sanitation, treatment of residual waters and national capacities.
- South-South Cooperation shall be developed at different levels, within the context of current international conditions, characterized by the increase of economic and social inequity.
- The decentralization process in the comprehensive management of water resources and the improvement of human settlement conditions shall be implemented according to national policies and their corresponding plans of action, making sure they guarantee efficient and transparent management in the use of the assigned resources.
- Women shall play a key role, particularly in the implementation of policies.
- The effective development and administration of water resources and the efficient and equitable supply of running water are vital for the eradication of poverty, the protection of the ecosystem and sustained growth. A comprehensive, balanced and multi-sectoral approach can be more effective by jointly managing running water and sanitation with the administration of water resources. Despite the common aspects and challenges faced by the countries, no policy instrument is equally applicable to all.
- The Commission on Sustainable Development shall continue to be the body within the United Nations System, which is responsible for sustainable development.

Mr. President,

It is imperative to continue erecting development as the best contribution to peace and sustainability of human life.

Thank you very much.