LUANDA DECLARATION

The participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, held in Luanda, on the 11th and 12th of September 2010 at the Hotel Convenções de Talatona.

In the year of the 50th anniversary of the independence of Angola, the III African Regional Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, was held in Luanda, on the 11th and 12th of September 2010 at the Hotel Convenções de Talatona.

Inspired in the common values of independence, humanism, justice and solidarity, the participants, representing Friendship and Solidarity Organizations with Cuba, expressed their total support to the friendship, the solidarity and the support that the Government and People of Cuba, under the able revolutionary leadership of Commander Fidel Castro, have granted to African countries in their struggles for independence, self determination and the destruction of the fascist apartheid regime. This international support of the Cuban people towards the liberation of the African People can be over emphasized.

The participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, have congratulated the Cuban People for their example of determination and unity, that have allowed them to attain many successes over the past fifty years, among which we can highlight the eradication of illiteracy, as well as in the framework of culture, education, health and sports; Cuba selflessly shares these successes with other peoples, to whom it fearlessly sends its best sons and daughters to continue to extend their solidarity and military support.

Despite the difficult conditions imposed by the inextricable and unprecedented economic embargo, Cuba has not given in on its principles of international solidarity, to continue this unequal struggle.

The participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, on behalf of a large and eclectic solidarity movement for solidarity with Cuba, have joined their voices to those of the international community, to unconditionally end the economic embargo against Cuba. The participants firmly stated that this is important in the face of the global economic crisis, that threatens the survival of the Solidarity Movement, to participate in its struggle to demand that the Cuban Government and People be free to cooperate economically with other countries for mutual benefits.

Cuba has been a shining example of unconditional solidarity to many parts of the world, and the African countries should be no exception, since they can indirectly or indirectly suffer suffering, death, calamities, as well as other forms of inhuman deeds.

Cuba has rightly imprisoned its name in the annals of the history of freedom, friendship and solidarity.

The participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, call upon President Barack Obama, Nobel Peace Laureate, to end all hostile acts against the Government and the People of Cuba, to unconditionally release the five Cuban prisoners from American jails, and return Guantánamo base to the rightful owner – the Cuban People – and respect their sovereignty and self-determination, so that they can freely accomplish their dreams and contributions to the solidarity and life based on their own values.

They equally call upon other peoples of the world and to all Peace Nobel Laureates, to join forces with Africans in the large solidarity movement with the People of Cuba.

The participants urge the Governments of African countries and the African Union, to commit themselves to the great solidarity movement with the people of Cuba, by imposing the strict compliance to the UN Charter and other norms of international law.

The participants exhort the American administration to end the its logistic and financial support to the terrorist groups and organizations based in their territory and send to court the known terrorist Luis Posada Carriles.

The participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba urge all the peace and freedom loving forces to claim to President Barack Obama, to do his best to avoid a nuclear war, whose consequences would be catastrophic for the future of the human race.

Participants also express their concern about the intention to install other military bases in Cuba, outside the Caribbean, and in particular in Caribbean, in an attempt to endanger their sovereignty by the US military presence. For this suffice the freedom and the right to self-determination of the People of Latin America and subject them to the dictate of the super power.

The participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba condemn the manipu- lation of information about the Cuban reality, using the powerful broadcasting means at their disposal and demonizing the efforts of the Cuban authorities, trying to negatively influ- ence the international opinion in order to discourage international cooperation and the aid to development.

The participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba reiterate their commit- ment to at all means at their disposal to continue to spread the reality and the achievements of the People of Cuba.

They defend the right to the full independence, sovereignty and the self determination of all People, including the People of Cuba.

They also reiterate their readiness to continue working towards the strengthening and the enlargement of the Solidarity Movement with Cuba, in each country and region, to promote the truth, maintaining the unity and close cooperation as a fundamental means for their action.

The participants to the III Africa Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, respectively salute the migrants who have sought asylum and resist at Dr. Antonio Aguinalho Neto, the revolutionary historical leader of Angola and Africa and the forerunner for the struggle of independence, full sovereignty and self determination of the People of Africa, whose death anniversary was commemorated on the September 10th.

The III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, in commemoration of the 4º Convenção de Talatona, of December will be celebrated on the 30º of December. This Institute has been contributing for the strengthening the friendship and the solidarity with its fellow African institutions and peoples.

Finally, the participants to the III African Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, proactively thank the President of the Angola League of Friendship and Solidarity with the People with the Association for Angola and Cuba Friendship, for the hospitality and the excellent organization, that have allowed the success of this event.

Luanda, Republic of Angola, on the 12th of September 2010

THE PARTICIPANTS

By Xinhua writers Wang Xiangqiang, Ran Wei

UNITED NATIONS, — World leaders Wednesday are wrapping up a three-day surn- 

mit here by sending out to the world a clear but simple mes- 

sage: anti-poverty goals are achievable, but only with re- 

doubled efforts.

A 28-page draft outcome document that is set to be 

adopted by the leaders spells out actions to spur implemen- 

tation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the 

next five years.

The MDGs are a set of eight anti-poverty goals that world lead- 

ers have agreed to achieve, including halving extreme pov- 

erty, improving child and maternal health, achieving univer- 

sial primary education, promoting gender equality and halting 

the spread of HIV/AIDS.

WIDE CONSENSUS

The document, entitled “Keeping the promise: united action to achieve the Millennium De- 

development Goals,” acknowledged that despite many set- 

backs, the world is making headway in implementing the 

MDGs, in particular possibly realizing goal one – cutting extreme poverty by half, on time.

The leaders welcomes the progress, but also expresses deep concern that it “falls far short of what is needed.”

“We are deeply concerned... that the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger surpasses one billion and that inequalities between and within countries remains a sig- 

nificant issue,” they say. “We are also deeply concerned about the alarming global lev- 

els of maternal and child mor- 

tality.”

Despite the difficulties, the heads of state and government state that they are committed “to making every effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015.”

They equally acknowledged that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved, includ- 

ing in the poorest countries, with renewed commitment, ef- 

forts and improvements, and in-

tensified collective action by all member states and other re- 

levant stakeholders at both do- 

mestic and international levels.

EQUITY VS. DIFFERENCES

The document was agreed by the UN.

African countries, he said.

The final text urges actions “to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of peoples living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.”

On so-called “innovative fi- 

nancing mechanisms,” which is still controversial among states, the leaders acknowledged its “positive” role “on a voluntary basis.”

A gap between the rich and the poor was all the more clear at the summit. Some leaders in the developing world called for reforms of the “unfair” interna- 

tional economic and financial order which benefits the rich and ignores the poor.

On the other hand, the chan- 

cellor of economic powerhouse 

Germany, Angela Merkel said that “the primary re- 

sponsibility for development lies with the governments of the de- 

veloping countries.”

Appar- 

ently speaking out for the rich, Merkel said aid cannot substitute for domestic resources and “cannot continue indefinitely.”

Merkel did not mention how the fourth-largest economic power plans to fulfill unhonoured aid pledges, only saying that “Germany contin- 

ues to strive to achieve the tar- 

get of 0.7 percent of ODA as a percentage of GNI,” as required by the UN.

UN data showed that total aid by donors current stands at 0.31 percent of GNI.

As some analysts pointed out, the summit, which is full of past promises and pledges, did not produce concrete ac- 

tions to accelerate the MDGs.

They also noted that developed countries generally reiterated commitments that have lagged behind for years.

Donor countries at the Gleneagles Group of Eight Summit and the UN World Summit in 2005 pledged to in- 

crease official development as- 

sistance (ODA) by $50 billion. Presently, there is a shortfall of about $20 billion.

Rich coun- 

tries also promised to double aid to Africa by $25 billion. But, the funding gap is over $16 bil- 

lion.

ARE THEY ACHIEV- 

ABLE?

UN reports showed that the MDGs have been set back by the financial and economic cri- 

sis. Donors are cutting back assistance due to a tight budget while progress in some devel- 

oping countries has been re- 

vered.

One cannot help wondering whether the anti-poverty goals will really come true in 2015, given that the results so far can only be best described as “mixed,” with only five years left.

“The goals can be evaluated from two perspectives — glo- 
ally and statistically,” Hong Pinglian, chief of the global eco- 

nomic monitoring center of the UN Department of Econo- 

mic and Social Affairs, told Xinhua.

“Globally, most of the goals would be achievable except for goals 4 and 5 — reducing child and maternal mortality, due to a significant lack of progress so far,” he said.

But, even with goal 1 — cut- 

ting extreme poverty by half, seemingly to be within reach, at least for now, there is no guar- 

antee that every country would realize it, in particular some African countries, he said.

“I am against evaluating the results by using pure statistics,” he said.

“Suppose when 2015 arrives and poverty is only reduced by 49 percent, can we say it is a failure? No. I would say it is very successful, because the poverty severity the other 51 percent would have been less- 

ened greatly,” (Xinhua)