



IIIº ENCONTRO AFRICANO DE
SOLIDARIEDADE COM CUBA



III AFRICAN MEETING OF SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA

LUANDA DECLARATION

In the year of the 50th anniversary of the independence of 17 African countries and of the 35th 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 gratitude for 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 development and well being 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 education, science, 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 inexplicable and unprecedented economic embargo, Cuba has not given in on its principles of international solidarity, to continue this unmatched example to the world.

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 further cited that this is important in the face of the global economic crisis that as affected the entire human race. The participants reiterate their commitment 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 thus cannot be associated or confused with those who directly or indirectly spread suffering, death, calamities, as well as other forms of inhuman deeds.

Cuba has rightfully imprinted 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 Mister 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 Guantanamo base to the rightful owner – the Cuban People – and respect their sovereignty and self-determination, so that they can freely accomplish their dreams of justice, freedom, friendship and solidarity and live based on their own values.

They equally call upon other people 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 Chart and other norms of international law.

The participants exhort the american administration to end 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 Central America and the Caribbean, in an attempt to endanger their sovereignty by the USA military presence. For this suffocate 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 manipulation 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 influence 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 commitment to use 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, respectfully salute the memory of the late President Dr. Antonio Agostinho 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 salutes the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People that will be celebrated on the 30th 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 profusely thank the Angolan authorities, the Angolan League of Friendship and Solidarity with the People and 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

What was achieved at UN anti-poverty summit?

By Xinhua writers Wang
Xiangjiang, Ran Wei

UNITED NATIONS, — World leaders Wednesday are wrapping up a three-day summit here by sending out to the world a clear but simple message: anti-poverty goals are achievable, but only with redoubled efforts.

A 28-page draft outcome document that is set to be adopted by the leaders spells out actions to spur implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the next five years.

The MDGs are a set of eight anti-poverty goals that world leaders have agreed to achieve, including halving extreme poverty, improving child and maternal health, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and halting the spread of HIV/AIDS.

WIDE CONSENSUS

The document, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals," acknowledged that despite many setbacks, the world is making headway in implementing the MDGs, in particular possibly realizing goal one — cutting extreme poverty by half, on time.

The leaders welcome the progress, but also express 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 significant challenge," they say. "We are also deeply concerned about the alarming global levels of maternal and child mortality."

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

"We are convinced that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved, including in the poorest countries, with renewed commitment, effective implementation, and intensified collective action by all member states and other relevant stakeholders at both domestic and international levels."

CONSENSUS VS. DIFFERENCES

The document was agreed by the world body's 192 member states one week before the convening of the high-level MDG summit — a clear evidence that wide consensus was already in place.

The states may share the ultimate goal of accomplishing the MDGs, but that does not prevent them from bargaining over the text for a month be-



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addresses the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit at the UN headquarters in New York, on Sept. 20, 2010. (Xinhua)

fore finally giving their back-

ing.

One of the barriers was a reference to the rights of people living "under foreign occupation," supported by the developing countries but opposed by the United States and its Western allies.

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 financing mechanisms," which is still controversial among states, the leaders acknowledge 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 reforming the "unfair" international economic and political order which benefits the rich and ignores the poor.

On the other hand, the chancellor of economic powerhouse Germany, Angela Merkel, urged that "the primary responsibility for development lies with the governments of the developing countries. "Apparently 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 continues to strive to achieve the target 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 actions 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 increase official development assistance (ODA) by \$50 billion. Presently, there is a shortfall of about \$20 billion. Rich countries also promised to double aid to Africa by \$25 billion. But, the funding gap is over \$16 billion.

ARE THEY ACHIEVABLE?

UN reports showed that the MDGs have been set back by the financial and economic crisis. Donors are cutting back assistance due to a tight budget while progress in some developing countries has been reversed.

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 — globally and statistically," Hong Pingfan, chief of the global economic monitoring center of the UN Department of Economic 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 — cutting extreme poverty by half, seemingly to be within reach, at least for now, there is no guarantee that every country would realize it, in particular some African countries, he said.

"I'm 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 lessened greatly." (Xinhua)