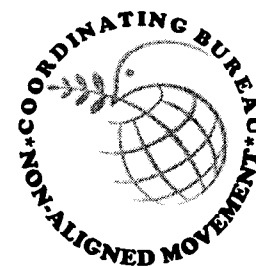


**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA,
H.E. MR. ABELARDO MORENO.**

Agenda item 3 a) i): Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS;

**Commission on the Status of Women
(53rd session)
2 March 2009**

Allow me to congratulate you and the rest of the Bureau on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the strong commitment of our Movement to advance the status of women, promote their development and full participation, eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as ensure their effective access to health, education and justice services, among other important directives. These guidelines are shown in the major documents guiding the work of our Movement.

In this respect, I aim to highlight the significant contribution we made to support the achievement of these objectives, with the excellent outcomes of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the Advancement of Women, held in Guatemala last January, few weeks ago.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank once again Guatemala for its special efforts in organizing this meeting and for the hospitality and affection with which its people and authorities welcomed the delegations coming there from all over the world to discuss there, at length and in a fraternal frame of mind, a subject which is extremely important for the agenda of our Movement and the United Nations in general.

During this important meeting attended by the majority of the Madam Ministers and Leaders of national mechanisms on the advancement of women of our countries, we particularly reviewed the Advancement of Women towards the Millennium Development Goals. This issue was specially significant and topical. The developing countries face enormous challenges set out for the carrying out of these Objectives within an especially complicated international situation, one in which serious crises are battering our countries in the economic, financial, food, energy and climatic spheres and which aggravate the injustices and inequities characterizing the ruling international order.

We were honored by the presence in the meeting of the Assistant Secretary-General Mrs. Rachel Mayanja, whose contribution was highly valuable to this event, including for her message on behalf of the Secretary-General.

I also wish to highlight we received an important message from the President of the UN General Assembly, Father Miguel D'Escoto, where he reflected upon the importance of our meeting and of the discussion on this subject in the current situation.

This meeting was also held during a time of grief and loss for the Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular for those in Gaza who were the victims of Israel's massive military aggression which was condemned by the Movement.

Our Movement managed to adopt the advanced Guatemala Declaration and Program of Action, through which important working directions for the Movement were agreed upon, on topics essential to the well-being of our countries and, in particular, for the advancement of women's legal and social condition; some of these are: the promotion of equality between genders and the empowerment of women; the eradication of poverty and hunger; universal primary education; the reduction of infant mortality; improvements to maternal health; the battle against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; the guarantee of environmental sustainability; and the promotion of international cooperation for development.

In this document we also agreed to reaffirm the guiding principles of the Movement, the implementation of which is essential for the advancement of women. We consider this outcome will contribute to the review of the Beijing Platform for Action + 15, as well as the review of the MDGs in 2015 and the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In this meeting we ensured the continuity of NAM ministerial events on a prioritized subject on the international agenda, gender equality, whose first meeting took place in May of 2005 at the initiative of Malaysia which was President of the Movement at that time.

We reiterate now our acknowledgement of the work carried out by the NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women established as a result of an agreement at the First Ministerial Meeting, and we also thank the government of Malaysia for its support. We likewise underline the invitation to consider establishing regional programmes and representations, and in this regard we take note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Guatemala to host a regional representation of the Institute.

The ministerial meeting was also an excellent framework to debate the proposed topic and the advancement of the status of women in general. In this regard, we also seized the opportunity to analyze, in four Working Tables, how much longer we had ahead to meet the Development Goals established in the Millennium Summit. For example, despite the current commitment to fight HIV-AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, we realized women are 40 percent of the adults infected with AIDS worldwide.

In the Guatemala Declaration and Programme of Action we recognised the persistent obstacles and challenges faced by women and girls in achieving gender equality and equity, improvement in their living conditions and their empowerment, demanded serious actions. Our Movement agreed a comprehensive group of actions in this concern.

In this context, we underlined in Guatemala that the current food, energy and financial crises demand more efforts in enhancing international cooperation, prioritization of women and girls, and mobilization of resources to address these challenges, especially as they affect women in the enjoyment of all their human rights, particularly the right to development, towards the advancement of women and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Almost 14 years have gone by since the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted. Nevertheless, we cannot state that effective and full compliance with all the commitments taken on in its 12 spheres of essential concern has been achieved.

The non-aligned countries bring a unique and diverse heritage of ideologies, religions, cultures, levels of development and historical experiences. Our diversity is the source of strength and creativity. With our unity and solidarity, in defense of mutual aims and interests, we are addressing threats and challenges to meet the commitments of Beijing.

Mr. Chairman,

The Second Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the Advancement of Women constituted a new milestone in the struggle of non-aligned countries for a better world, for a world with the right to justice, to development and to well-being for all the women and men on the globe. In 2010, we will meet again in Doha, Qatar, at the ministerial level to continue moving ahead this way.

Thank you.

