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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Note verbale dated 5 July 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the recent meeting of the Cuban United Nations Association, held in Havana, Cuba, on 31 May 2019.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba hereby transmits the following documents adopted at the above-mentioned meeting:

- Declaration of solidarity of the Cuban United Nations Association on the question of the Malvinas (see annex I)
- Contribution of the Cuban United Nations Association to the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization in solidarity with Puerto Rico (see annex II)
- Declaration of the Cuban United Nations Association in solidarity with the Palestinian people (see annex III)

The Permanent Mission of Cuba kindly requests the Secretary-General to publish and distribute to Member States and observer States the present note verbale and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63.



Annex I to the note verbale dated 5 July 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Declaration of solidarity of the Cuban United Nations Association on the question of the Malvinas

31 May 2019

The Cuban United Nations Association, a Cuban civil society organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, cognizant of and upholding the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and committed to the causes of peoples, takes into account the full validity of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and reaffirms its solidarity with the fraternal people of Argentina in its just sovereignty claim over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

On 16 December 2019, 54 years will have passed since the adoption by the General Assembly in 1965 of resolution 2065 (XX), an element of fundamental importance for the peaceful settlement of existing disputes. The resolution clearly stipulates that the question of the Malvinas Islands is a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that the dispute persists and must be resolved peacefully through negotiations between the two States, taking into account the provisions and the fundamental objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

The Cuban United Nations Association, conveying the sentiments of Cuban civil society, reiterates its support for the Special Declaration on the Question of the Malvinas Islands, adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, which expresses strong regional support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as the interest in a peaceful and negotiated solution to the dispute, which will help to strengthen the climate of peace in Latin America and the Caribbean in accordance with the tenets of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

Havana, 31 May 2019

**Annex II to the note verbale dated 5 July 2019 from the
Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

[Original: Spanish]

**Contribution of the Cuban United Nations Association to the
Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on
Decolonization in solidarity with Puerto Rico**

31 May 2019

The Cuban United Nations Association, a Cuban non-profit non-governmental organization founded on 30 May 1947 in accordance with the principles and purposes of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, with which it is affiliated, has had special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1999. It attends the Annual Conference of the United Nations Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, has observer status in respect of various conventions and brings together 135 Cuban civil society member organizations and associations that cooperate and work together to defend firmly the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and support the just causes of peoples.

On the basis of these principles we once again express our solidarity with the Puerto Rican people, join the international call for the independence of Puerto Rico and denounce the colonial situation imposed by the United States of America since the last century.

Year after year, the United Nations Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples calls on the Government of the United States to assume its responsibility and expedite a process that would allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and the Special Committee's resolutions and decisions on Puerto Rico.

However, Puerto Rico continues to lack a government of its own, deprived of both freedom and the right to make decisions concerning its own territory, as decreed in the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms established by international law on the use of the right to self-determination. That prerogative has been undermined since the establishment of the so-called Commonwealth, a concept that masks the colonial exploitation to which the Puerto Rican people are still being subjected.

Many examples, including the measures taken by Governments and the financial oversight board, illustrate the implications of this status. Those measures aggravate the plight of the population, which continues to be afflicted by the devastation wrought by last year's natural disasters. The situation is compounded by the violation of basic human rights, including access to education, health services and housing. Schools and institutions of higher education continue to close; unemployment is soaring and labour rights are violated; homes are being lost and the efficient policies needed to restore the damaged housing stock are non-existent; while social insecurity persists. These and other needs continue to plague Puerto Ricans, despite the calls for the United States to provide the adequate attention and support to which the population is entitled.

In the interest of helping to fulfil the aims and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and to express solidarity and support for this just cause and once again denounce the human rights violations that systematically affect peoples in this situation, Cuban civil society, through the Cuban United Nations Association, demands that the Government of the United States comply with the decisions of the Special Committee on Decolonization in order to allow the people of Puerto Rico to exercise self-determination regarding its future, as an independent and sovereign nation, as set out in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**Annex III to the note verbale dated 5 July 2019 from the
Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

[Original: Spanish]

**Declaration of the Cuban United Nations Association in solidarity
with the Palestinian people**

31 May 2019

The Cuban United Nations Association, as an association that promotes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, representing the Cuban civil society of which it is composed, with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, reiterates its support for the Palestinian cause and rejects the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by the State of Israel against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), in which the Council condemns the construction by Israel of colonial settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in violation of international law, has been violated once more, with the escalation of violence by the Israeli army, which carried out attacks in the Gaza Strip recently, injuring many and killing some 50 people during the 48-hour operation.

In addition to this escalation of violence in the area, Palestinian camps have been dismantled as a result of demolition orders, attacks and mass killings, mainly targeting young people participating in the peaceful March of Return to Gaza in defence of their inalienable right of return to their land and holy sites. Many Palestinians have been killed and thousands more injured in the space of a year since the march for their human rights began.

This alarming scenario of military actions against the Palestinian people is compounded by the increase in settler violence and the forced eviction of Palestinian families from their homes in Jerusalem. In addition, the unemployment rate in the Palestinian territories has reached 54 per cent, while 68 per cent of the population faces food insecurity and more than half are affected by poverty.

These actions, encouraged by the Governments of the United States and Israel, hinder the attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have powerful repercussions that seriously endanger stability in the Middle East region and international peace and security, ignoring as they do the agreements reached for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

We reiterate the international community's call for the Security Council to uphold its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations in relation to international peace and security by taking concrete measures to compel Israel to put an end to its aggressive and colonizing policies against the Palestinian people and to hold that Government accountable for the systematic crimes and violations it has committed against Palestine.

The Cuban United Nations Association reaffirms its support for the Palestinian cause and urges the parties to the conflict to make every effort to resume and pursue a credible peace process that ensures a comprehensive, just and lasting solution based on the creation of two States, within the internationally recognized pre-1967 borders, taking into account the Arab Peace Initiative, which would allow for the recognition of agreements that guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people to its land, through the creation of a Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.