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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Federation of Cuban Women (FCW), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[9 February 2010]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The Federation of Cuban Women (FCW), NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC Special category since 1997, that was founded in 1960 and gathers more than 4 million women; raises its voice to draw the attention of the Council on three important subjects: the military *coup d'etat* that took place in Honduras, the peace in the Latin American region and the terrible situation that faces our sisters and brothers from Haiti after the heart rendering earthquake that severely struck Port Prince.

The military coup that took place in Honduras

The Federation of Cuban Women rejects the return to fascist methods in the Latin American region like the Coup d'etat that took place in Honduras against legitimately elected President Manuel Zelaya and denounces the violence against the resistance movement, especially against its women. This coup took place in clear violation of all the principles of the Human Rights Charter and it meant an act against the sovereignty, independence, the most elementary principles of democracy and against Honduras's right to decide upon its destiny. The violence acts, carried out by the army under the orders of the usurping government, should not be forgotten. The Honduran people have demonstrated a strong capacity of resistance and bravely continue fighting in the streets for the returning of the constitutional order to the country. The world has witnessed the active participation of the Honduran women in the resistance. The FCW pronounces itself against this military coup and against any other attempt of coup that could be perpetrated either in the region or in any other place of the world.

Peace in the Latin American Region.

We strongly reject the recent measures of implanting 7 military bases in the Colombian territory. This it is a valuable people that have undergone continuously the horrors of wars, unavoidable conflicts and displacements. The President of Colombia, with total impunity and in agreement with the Government of Barack Obama, has subscribed agreements that mean a threat to the peace in the region and constitute a risk for all our people. The military bases in Colombia and the presence of the Fourth Fleet of the United States in the region, threaten the peace in all our countries. That campaign of militarization looks for restraining the development of the revolutionary processes that are being carried out in countries of the area. The FCW will continue struggling untiringly in favor of peace, the free determination and the sovereignty of the peoples and against the militarization and all kind of violence it may cause, aware that it always particularly impact on women and children.

On the terrible situation that our brothers and sisters from Haiti face after the heart rendering earthquake that severely struck to Port Prince.

The Haitian people, victim of five centuries of the sacking of other powers, is the poorest of the region. This natural catastrophe increased its already high percentage of poverty. Due to the collapsing of the buildings, even the most stable like the public ones, thousands of people have perished, among them a high number of women, girls and boys.

Our organization sincerely laments the death of outstanding Haitian women, leaders of women's organizations that have fought per years in favor of the advancement and the rights of the women in this country and in the region. Their examples will remain in the memory of those who work in favor of peace, unity, and wellbeing and against Capitalism, war and militarization, and all kind of violence, discrimination and injustice. In addition, we are sincerely sorry for the physical disappearance of people from other countries that

were working in Haiti, as part of international organisms and institutions and diplomatic missions of other states present there.

Haiti requires now of the will, the efforts and the aid of all the institutions, governments and worthy people of the planet. International solidarity must prevail over narrow monopolists, national and even personal interests. Today, more than ever, this country needs material aid of all type to reconstruct a country at the moment devastated. What Haiti does not need, and it is unacceptable according to the norms and principles of the international law, is the shameful sophisticated armed intervention that the US government has established, taking advantage of the chaos that reigns in this country, to show the hegemonic attitude that characterizes it. Armaments will not heal and feed the Haitian population. We alert on the future violations of human rights of all types of which the Haitian people could be victim of, especially its women, if the country keeps being militarily occupied.

The FCW recognizes the gratuitous cooperation in the health field and other spheres that Cuba offers to that nation. It is indeed a member of our organization who is the chief of the Cuban medical mission in that country.

The world, and especially Haiti, knows about the economic limitations Cuba faces, as a result of a genocide blockade, imposed to our country by United States, a policy that lasts already for half a century. However, Cuba shares what it has with its sisters and brothers; it does not give remains. The sisters and brothers from Haiti know they will keep on counting with the unconditional support of the Cuban people and especially with the solidarity of its women.
