



La Solidaridad
es la ternura de los pueblos

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**UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Mr. Mark Garten
Geneve / Switzerland**

BERLIN, August 29, 2008

Exelency,

during 15 years of cooperation with our cuban partners, Cuba Sí has been accumulating a broad knowledge of the economic, political, social and cultural situation in the country. It revealed us a continuous process in both, the cuban state and civil society, towards the defense and development of the fundamental human rights in all their integrity:

1 – participative democracy: in all phases of the implementation of the common projects, the local producers, peasants and farm workers, are consulted and may participate in the discussions and decisions about the plans and measures to be realized within the project;

2 – security of alimentation: the first aim of all efforts in milk production is to grant the alimentation with fresh milk for all cuban children up to the age of 7, for the elder people and for hospital patients. At the same time, all projects include the self-alimentation of the producers; theirs families, and the rural communities; additionally, the exceeding products of vegetables and meat are commercialized at the local peasant markets. By that way, besides of all difficulties and needs at the national food market, Cuba has achieved that nobody in the whole country is to be starving;

3 – ambiental protection: the integral projects include mandatory measures relating bio-compatibility, such as the protection of soil and water against contamination by chemical fertilizants, pesticides or herbicides. Reforestation, the installation of bio-gas generators, the use of thermal and photovoltaic solar energy are also substancial elements of these projects.

4 – education and re-capacitation: a special interest of our cuban partners at all the projects is the support of local schools in the villages, reparation of the buildings, modernization of the didactic equipments, integration between the process of education and the reality of working and living in the rural communities. At the other side, the peasants and farm-workers at the projects are constantly educated and informed on the special knowledge and habilities that are necessary for the successful handling of the project's technologies.

5 – gender-mainstreaming: a main part of the labour in the cuban agriculture is fulfilled by female workers. They have a large number of responsibilities, not only in the field work, but also in all charges of administration, management and direction. The equity of women in all social spheres in Cuba is granted and practised in terms which are unbeknown in any other latin-american country, not even in many so-called developed countries.



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As in many other sections of the Cuban economy and daily life, also the agriculture is damaged by the effects of the extraterritorial US-embargo-legislation. Our international cooperation is obstructed by the financial blockade which has created complications of the money-transfer between the world and Cuba; there are difficulties getting spare parts or implements for certain technologies, caused by the commercial blockade, among others...

Based on this experience in the cooperation with our Cuban partners,

we urge the UN Human Rights Council to take note of the success of Cuba in the mentioned areas, to recognize the efforts of the country in favour of the fundamental human rights, and to refuse the attempts of the US administration and diplomacy to accuse and to condemn Cuba for supposed violations of these rights.

Yours sincerely,

The Coordination Council of Cuba Sí

P.S.:

Cuba Sí, 1991 founded in Berlin/Germany, is a working team imbedded in the party Die Linke. The German Unification Treaty had established that international obligations of former German Democratic Republic (G.D.R.) with third countries should be renegotiated with the respective counterparts, and resolved in accordance to the mutual interests. Between the G.D.R. and Cuba existed a valid commercial contract about the annual interchange of 20,000 metric tons of milk powder, produced in the east German agriculture, against the same quantity of nutritive yeast, sub-product of the Cuban sugar industry. Nevertheless, the Federal Government of the meanwhile united Germany decided to cancel that contract without consulting the Cuban part. This decision led not only to severe difficulties in the Cuban social programme that was granting half a liter of milk for every child up to the age of 13 years, but also to the ruin of several milk producing cooperatives in the east-German agriculture.

Thus, Cuba Sí started a solidarity campaign called "Milk for the Children of Cuba", to achieve milk powder that would compensate the cancelled imports from East Germany. At that time the E.U. market had accumulated a huge quantity of unmerchantable milk powder. The efforts of Cuba Sí to get a contingent of that milk powder at a reduced price were unsuccessful. Therefore Cuba Sí had to buy milk powder at world market prices in other countries, such as Canada or Argentina.

Out of that reason, among the supporters of Cuba Sí rose the idea to directly support the modernisation of Cuban milk production. The Cuban partners of the project accorded immediately, for they had just been working at the same alternative.

That was the beginning of the partnership between Cuba Sí and ACPA (Cuban Association of Animal Production) in 1993: a project of sustainable milk production, based on the own natural resources of the Cuban agriculture.

The financial donations for the campaign "Milk for the Children of Cuba", grew up to a level that allowed the support of integral agricultural, cultural, and social projects in the provinces of Havana-country, Guantánamo, Sancti Spiritus and Pinar del Río. Each of these projects is funded with 100.000 \$ p.a., and directed by Cuban scientists and milk production specialists.

