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OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS THE ONLY FORUM TO DEBATE ABOLISHING 1962 RESOLUTION ON CUBA, SAYS SECRETARY GENERAL INSULZA

Port of Spain. The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, said Friday that the upcoming OAS General Assembly is the appropriate forum to debate abolishing the 1962 decision to suspend Cuba's membership from the hemispheric institution.

According to Insulza, the text in the resolution contains historical references –such as mentioning “the Sino-Soviet bloc of countries”- currently outdated.

Insulza explained that repealing the decision taken at the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Punta del Este, Uruguay would not mean automatically Cuba's readmission to the institution. The full reintegration of Cuba to the hemispheric institution is a decision for Cuba itself and all OAS Member States to make. That possibility should be debated in an independent process, separated from an eventual abolition of the 1962 resolution, he said.

OAS Secretary General Insulza said that any “debate about Cuba's reintegration to the OAS should be preceded by the abolition of the resolution.” “It is an obsolete resolution. Naturally, there could be some other obstacles, other difficulties, but the 1962 resolution is not a valid tool to face those difficulties. In my opinion, the OAS should eliminate that resolution, which is a Cold War residue.”

“Cuba's return to the OAS is a Cuban decision that must be debated among all Member States considering all texts and resolutions issued by the OAS in recent years. If Cuba is not to be in the OAS, it should be because of currently valid reasons, not because of past reasons.”

Insulza stressed that the decision is for the OAS and its Member States to make. Therefore, the General Assembly is the institution that should debate and eventually decide on the matter. The next OAS General Assembly will take place June 1-3 in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
