



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2019
English
Original: Russian

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 39

**Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial
embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba**

**Letter dated 19 November 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo against the Republic of Cuba (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the current session of the General Assembly under agenda item 39.

(Signed) D. Polyanskiy



Annex to the letter dated 19 November 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement from the State Duma to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls on the United Nations General Assembly and the international community to influence the United States of America to end the economic, financial and commercial embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of United Nations Member States have repeatedly supported resolutions calling on the United States to lift sanctions against an independent State, the United States continues to impose sanctions on the Republic of Cuba and is constantly tightening its sanctions measures. In September 2019, the President of the United States, Mr. D. Trump, signed a decree authorizing another extension of the embargo. In addition, the United States is constantly creating new obstacles to trade and investment for United States companies in Cuba and other foreign companies, and it continues to impose restrictions on tourist travel to Cuba and on the ability of Cubans living in the United States to send remittances to their homeland.

In 2019 alone, Washington has introduced a significant number of new sanctions measures. In May, President Trump implemented Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, which provoked an extremely negative reaction not only in Cuba, but also in the European Union. In June, the United States banned group trips by its citizens to Cuba for educational purposes. This was followed by sanctions against the leadership of the State, Cuban diplomats and health workers. In October, regulations for the export and re-export of aircraft and telecommunications equipment were tightened. The United States has suspended flights by its airlines to all airports in Cuba, except the one in Havana. It is therefore all the more urgent for the international community to support the Republic of Cuba.

In the context of the globalization of economic relations, the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against the Republic of Cuba is a major obstacle to the successful development of the Cuban economy. The extraterritorial sanctions measures imposed by the United States significantly hinder the ability of Cuba to develop relations not only with the United States, but also with other countries.

The sanctions policy directly obstructs various sectors of the Cuban State, in particular energy, transport, health care, education, food security, and cultural and sport development. In response to the new sanctions restrictions, in 2019 the Cuban authorities had to impose strict controls on essential goods in order to ensure their fair distribution.

Representatives of the United States authorities claim that the United States of America will always fight for the freedom of the Cuban people as part of their common fight for human rights in the modern world. However, protecting citizens' rights in this way is seriously detrimental to the situation of Cubans and clearly constitutes a cynical infringement of the rights and interests of the entire population.

Such actions by Washington cannot but be rejected by those nations whose historical memory preserves the horrors of war and blockade, and by all those who truly uphold human rights.

The economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed on Cuba is detrimental to its socioeconomic development and directly incompatible with the universally accepted principles and norms of international law.

Despite external pressures, Cuba is pursuing its own path of development, defending its sovereignty, fighting for independence and showing the world how to protect national interests. Cuba has repeatedly demonstrated its readiness for dialogue and cooperation, but only on the basis of equality and mutual respect. This choice of the Cuban people deserves full respect and support.

The State Duma condemns the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has been in place for almost 60 years. State Duma deputies call on the international community to take systematic measures to influence the United States to end the economic, financial and commercial embargo against a sovereign State.

I. I. Melnikov
Deputy Chair of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow
5 November 2019
