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**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

**Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year**

**Letter dated 3 June 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement dated 1 June 2020 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ana Silvia **Rodríguez Abascal**  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
and Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 3 June 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires  
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of  
Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla**

**Havana, 1 June 2020**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its strongest condemnation of the slanderous act of including the Republic of Cuba on the United States Department of State list of countries that allegedly do not cooperate fully with United States efforts against terrorism. The list was made public on 13 May 2020, and was strongly rejected by President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez.

The list is unilateral and arbitrary, and it has no basis, authority or international backing whatsoever. As is well known, it only serves the purposes of defaming and coercing countries that refuse to comply with the will of the United States Government in its sovereign decisions.

The main argument used by the United States Government was the presence in Cuba of members of the peace delegation of the Colombian Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN).

As is widely known, the peace delegation of the Colombian ELN is in Cuba because, owing to Ecuador's sudden refusal to continue to provide the venue for the dialogue and at the request of the Government of Colombia and ELN, the peace process was moved to Havana in May 2018.

The peace dialogue had begun on 7 February 2017 in Quito. Cuba, together with Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Venezuela and Norway, has acted as a guarantor of the peace process, at the request of the parties.

Mr. Iván Duque Márquez became the President of Colombia on 7 August 2018, and since then, from 8 August 2018 until January 2019, representatives of his Government have held several exchanges with Cuba and the ELN peace delegation for the purpose of continuing the dialogues that had begun during the mandate of President Santos, a process in which our country has acted with due discretion and in rigorous compliance with its role as a guarantor.

Following the attack on the Bogotá Police Cadet School on 17 January 2019, the President of the Republic of Cuba and the Minister for Foreign Affairs immediately expressed their condolences to the Government and people of Colombia, in particular to the families of the victims of the attack, and reiterated our country's firm position of rejecting and condemning all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations.

The Government of Colombia then took political and legal action against the ELN peace delegation that was in Cuba and broke off the peace dialogue. In addition, it decided to disregard the protocol governing a breakdown in the dialogue, in clear abandonment and in breach of the commitments made by Colombia together with six other signatory nations.

The protocol governing a breakdown in the dialogue had been signed in the context of the peace negotiations by the Government of Colombia, ELN and the guarantor countries on 5 April 2016. It provides for the safe return of the guerrilla delegation to Colombia in the event of a breakdown in the dialogue.

The Government of Cuba maintained and still maintains today that the correct action, according to the agreed documents, is to apply the protocol. That position, which is widely supported by the international community and by sectors committed to the pursuit of a negotiated solution to the Colombian armed conflict, is a universal practice that has been recognized and repeatedly upheld as in keeping with international law and the commitments made by the guarantor and host country of the dialogues. It is on account of the non-application of the protocol that the members of the ELN peace delegation are still in the country.

The Government of Colombia has engaged in a series of hostile actions against Cuba, including public statements, threats and summonses, with the ungrateful and politically motivated manipulation of our indisputable contribution to peace in Colombia. Those actions have included a change from the historic position of Colombia in support of the resolution adopted each year by the United Nations General Assembly demanding an end to the United States economic, commercial and financial blockade that is causing damage and suffering to the Cuban people. That action made a significant change to the consistent and invariable position of all Governments of Colombia since 1992.

On the same day that the United States announced the inclusion of Cuba on the list of countries that allegedly do not fully cooperate with United States efforts against terrorism, the High Commissioner for Peace of the Government of Colombia, Mr. Miguel Ceballos Arevalo, publicly stated that the decision of the State Department to include the island was an “endorsement” of the position of the Government of Colombia and its “insistent request” that Cuba hand over the members of the ELN peace delegation.

Those statements by Mr. Ceballos have been criticized in Colombia by broad sectors committed to peace, and several Colombian politicians have demanded an explanation from the Government concerning those statements and the reason for ignoring the protocol governing a breakdown in the dialogue.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly rejects the statements made by the Colombian senior official.

What emerges from the comments of the High Commissioner for Peace is that the conduct of the Government of Colombia has supported and provided arguments that serve aims of the United States that are aggressive and prejudicial to our Nation and that it has given an “endorsement” to the disgraceful actions taken by the United States against a nation of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The accusation made by the United States is based on the presence of ELN representatives in our country, which is nothing more than a flimsy and dishonest pretext, devoid of meaning and supported by the ungrateful attitude of the Government of Colombia, if any credit is due to the statements of Mr. Ceballos.

In any case, despite that alleged assistance from the Government of Colombia, the accusation of the United States is totally unfounded. There is concrete evidence, some of it very recent, of our bilateral collaboration with the United States in the fight against terrorism and in joint law enforcement efforts, in actions of particular interest to that State, which means that the assessment announced by the State Department is a deliberate act of distortion of the truth.

It should be recalled that Cuba is a country that has been the victim of numerous terrorist acts that were organized, financed and executed from the territory of the United States, by groups and individuals who have enjoyed government tolerance and protection in that country. Those are facts that are in the public domain. Cuba has also in the past been a victim of State terrorism perpetrated directly by the United States Government, which has sometimes acted in collusion with organized crime in that

country. Owing to actions of that kind, 3,478 Cubans have died, and another 2,099 suffer or have suffered some kind of disability.

On 30 April 2020 our Embassy in the United States was the target of a terrorist attack. Since then, the United States Government has maintained a complicit silence, without condemning or even rejecting the act, and it has refrained from taking any action against individuals or terrorist groups based in United States territory that incite violence against Cuba and its institutions.

As a result, following the terrorist attack against our diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C., threats have been made to the integrity of Cuban diplomats and to our embassies in the United States, as well as in Mexico, Costa Rica, Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Cyprus, Austria and Angola, all of which have been reported to the respective Governments.

The attitude of manifest complicity of the United States Government carries the danger of being considered an endorsement of terrorism. It is consistent with the strengthened policy of aggression and incitement to violence against Cuba, which has even spread to countries where Cuban health personnel are working in bilateral cooperation programmes.

Our nation's commitment to vigorous action and condemnation of terrorism is enshrined in the Constitution. It is absolute and categorical against any of its forms and manifestations, and in particular State terrorism, and is supported by appropriate legislation. There is every reason to doubt that the United States Government can make such a categorical statement about its position on terrorism.

Cuba has invariably maintained its support for peace in Colombia and has worked in its capacity as a guarantor in the implementation of the Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), despite the fact that the Government of Colombia has not guaranteed the protection of that Agreement and has not ensured strict compliance with it.

As it has been stated through diplomatic channels, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requests the Government of Colombia to state its position on the status of guarantors in the Colombian peace process, particularly that of Cuba.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would also like to know what the Government's position is on the implementation of and compliance with the Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs urges the Government of Colombia to state its official position on the reasons for the inclusion of Cuba on the list drawn up by the United States Department of State and to clarify the role and position of its officials in previous exchanges with the United States on that matter.

As a country that has been a victim of terrorism, Cuba deplores any manifestation of political manipulation or opportunism when dealing with such a sensitive issue.

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