



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
15 November 2023

Original: English

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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 38

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

#### **Letter dated 31 October 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to attach herewith the final declaration of the nineteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted on 27 October 2023 (see annex).

In this regard, I should be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38.

(Signed) Gerardo **Peñalver Portal**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Spanish]

### **Declaration of the nineteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the Blockade**

The civil society organizations, movements, networks and social actors participating in the nineteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the blockade, with the presence and support of non-governmental organizations that cooperate in promoting the development of our country, guided by the theme “The multidimensional blockade applied by the United States against Cuba: the main obstacle to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”, after in-depth exchanges, based on our lived realities and experiences, regarding the harmful impact of the illegal, immoral and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade on the country’s efforts to meet the objectives and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3 and 5:

1. Reiterate that the blockade contravenes the various United Nations resolutions related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and violates the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023, unanimously adopted by Member States.

2. Denounce that the blockade applied by successive United States administrations against Cuba violates the decision, taken by the Heads of State and Government when adopting the 2030 Agenda, to “leave no one behind”. Its criminal implementation has a devastating effect on the entire Cuban population, particularly on families, children, women, older persons and other vulnerable groups. The blockade undermines the activities conducted and efforts made by the Government of Cuba, with the support of civil society, to achieve sustainable development in the country, and jeopardizes the partnerships and other initiatives promoted by the national authorities in order to attain a sustainable nation.

3. Reiterate that the blockade is the main obstacle to the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2030, and therefore to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals. It substantially curtails the right to development of Cuba and violates the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which recognize the right to development as a human right.

4. Denounce that the damages caused to the Cuban nation during more than six decades of the application of this illegal and cruel policy amount to \$159,084.3 million and that the loss of these resources has stripped the country of substantial resources for its economic and social development. The blockade significantly limits the efforts of Cuban civil society organizations to contribute to the development and sustainability of the national economy and to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Denounce that the blockade undermines the cooperation of Cuba with the entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international non-governmental organizations and other actors interested in the economic and social development of our country. We reiterate the appreciation and gratitude of Cuban civil society organizations to these actors for their contribution to the implementation of

the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. We are pleased to be, in many cases, your cooperation partners.

6. Reject and condemn the massive, systematic and flagrant violations of the human rights of the Cuban population as a result of the blockade, including the right to food and health promoted by Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3 of the 2030 Agenda. We denounce that the blockade slows down the implementation of public policies aimed at achieving gender equality and that, owing to its significant effect on people's daily lives, it constitutes an institutionalized and illegal form of direct and indirect violence against Cuban women.

7. Reaffirm that the blockade qualifies as an act of genocide under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and that it is an act of war under the 1905 London Convention.

8. Condemn the policy of maximum pressure and suffocation rigorously applied by the Biden Administration to our country. This policy, inherited from the Trump Administration, has a devastating effect on all areas of Cuban society. We urge President Biden to listen to the growing call of the people of the United States and the international community for the lifting of the blockade, and to take steps, in accordance with his presidential prerogatives, to relax the implementation of that criminal policy.

9. Demand that President Biden remove Cuba from the unilateral, illegal, unfounded and immoral list of State sponsors of terrorism, an instrument that lacks moral and legal justification. The inclusion of our country in this abomination of a legal instrument reinforces the criminal blockade and significantly affects the lives of Cubans.

10. Denounce that the blockade violates the civil and political rights of the Cuban people, as its essential objective is to change the economic, political and social system chosen by Cubans in full exercise of our right to self-determination. We reject all actions aimed at undermining the decision of the Cuban people to build a socialist, prosperous, sustainable, independent and sovereign homeland.

11. Reaffirm our gratitude to the international solidarity movements that support Cuban civil society organizations and the entire nation in their just demand for the lifting of the blockade and for the removal of Cuba from the illegitimate and illegal list of State sponsors of terrorism. We invite the promoters and defenders of international law, of international humanitarian law and of all human rights for all to continue to support us in this battle to defend the basic human right of the Cuban people: our right to life.

12. We support the initiative of friends in solidarity to convene an international tribunal against the blockade on 16 and 17 November 2023, at the headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels. We are confident that the tribunal will duly demonstrate the illegality of this criminal policy of extraterritorial scope, which has a negative impact on natural and legal persons and the sovereignty of third States, particularly European States.

13. Support the submission, on 1 and 2 November 2023, at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, of the draft resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", and request the States Members of the Organization to support it, as an unequivocal demonstration of commitment to justice and international law.

Havana, 27 October 2023