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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 42

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

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

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

In its resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to the request of the Secretary-General for information on the matter.



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## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.
2. Pursuant to that request, in a note verbale dated 22 July 2021, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide information on the implementation of the resolution. A reminder note verbale was sent on 1 October 2021.
3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations that had been received as at 22 October 2021. Replies received after that date will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

## II. Replies received from Governments

### Albania

[Original: English]  
[27 September 2021]

The Republic of Albania, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implements General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and does not have or apply any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the said resolution.

### Algeria

[Original: Arabic]  
[28 September 2021]

By its near-unanimous adoption of resolution [75/289](#) on the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, the General Assembly has reaffirmed, for the twenty-ninth time in succession, the justness of and the international community’s support for that cause.

Algeria reaffirms its solidarity with Cuba and its people, who have been resisting, for more than half a century, the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America, and considers the embargo imposed against Cuba to be in violation of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Algeria once again totally rejects the imposition of unilateral extraterritorial laws and decisions and all unilateral and coercive measures, which hinder the realization of human rights and prevent peoples from achieving prosperity. It also takes this opportunity to reaffirm the urgent need for the full and unconditional lifting of the embargo that has been imposed by the United States against Cuba since 1960 and which, aside from the considerable harm and suffering that it has caused to the people of Cuba, constitutes a major obstacle to the achievement of the Cuban people’s economic and social development goals.

In view of the deteriorating situation at the regional and international levels, the demand to end the blockade of Cuba takes on a particular urgency, given the implications it has for establishing security and stability in the region. In that connection, Algeria wishes to draw attention to the principled position adopted at the eighteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Baku in October 2019, calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. Algeria also draws attention to the positions adopted at the conference of the ministers for foreign affairs of the Movement, held in July 2021, calling for an unconditional end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

## **Andorra**

[Original: French]  
[30 September 2021]

Andorra has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution [75/289](#). The Government of the Principality of Andorra has always voted in favour of resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America on Cuba and reaffirms its commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

## **Angola**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The Republic of Angola maintains excellent diplomatic, economic and commercial relations with the Republic of Cuba, which is an example of cooperation between two nations that respect each other because of the historic ties that unite them.

Angola has systematically voted in favour of lifting the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America on the Republic of Cuba, considering it unjust and retrograde and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Angola supports the normalization of bilateral relations between the two States in the interests of their respective peoples.

At a time when all countries are facing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the continuation of the blockade is even more frightening and a flagrant violation of human rights. Angola is once again calling for the lifting of the blockade and for the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba.

## **Antigua and Barbuda**

[Original: English]  
[18 October 2021]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda expresses its concern about the continued economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, despite the overwhelming support by Member States for General Assembly resolution 75/289, previous resolutions against the embargo and relevant international treaties.

Further, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 75/289, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the aforementioned resolution, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

## Argentina

[Original: Spanish]  
[21 September 2021]

The Government of the Argentine Republic has fully implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolution 75/289 and previous Assembly resolutions concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Act No. 24.871, enacted on 5 September 1997, establishes the legislative framework governing the scope of application of foreign legislation within Argentina. Article 1 of that Act provides that foreign legislation which, by imposing an economic embargo or restricting investment in a given country, purports to have extraterritorial legal effects in order to bring about a change of government in a country or to affect its right to self-determination shall be absolutely inapplicable and devoid of legal effects. The United States embargo against Cuba is regulated by federal legislation, in particular the Torricelli Act (Cuban Democracy Act) of October 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act (Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act) of March 1996.

In addition, Argentina is fully committed to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism. Within that framework, since 1995, Argentina has supported the General Assembly resolutions concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. It has also voiced opposition to the blockade at every opportunity, both in regional forums and in other international organizations.

In line with this position, Argentina supported the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the forty-fourth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 12 November 2020. Paragraph 250 reaffirms the call upon the Government of the United States to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba and expresses concern about the extension of the extraterritorial nature of the embargo, including the full implementation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.

In addition to previous statements by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Argentina supported the adoption of the Special Declaration on the necessity to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo of the United States of America against Cuba, within the framework of the VI Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Mexico City on 18 September 2021.

## Armenia

[Original: English]  
[10 August 2021]

Armenia's national legislation does not contain any laws or regulations of the type referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), which can have a devastating effect on the economic and social development of Cuba.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has, on a number of occasions, expressed its opposition to the policy of economic blockades and closed borders, itself being subject to a continuing blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

## Australia

[Original: English]  
[19 October 2021]

The Government of Australia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Since 1996, the Government of Australia has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo on Cuba. Australia has no sanctions or measures against Cuba that restrict trade or investment.

## Azerbaijan

[Original: English]  
[31 August 2021]

The Republic of Azerbaijan firmly upholds the norms and principles of international law in its foreign policy.

The Republic of Azerbaijan enjoys friendly diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba. Azerbaijan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, trade or financial relations between Azerbaijan and Cuba. Azerbaijan will continue to take appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with Cuba.

## Bahamas

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas enjoys normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

The Bahamas has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the Republic of Cuba.

The Bahamas recalls and affirms the position of regional and inter-regional bodies, such as the Caribbean Community, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

The Bahamas remains hopeful for a process towards normal bilateral relations between the Governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba.

## **Bahrain**

[Original: Arabic]

[13 August 2021]

The Kingdom of Bahrain, in keeping with its commitment to the principles and purposes set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, has consistently supported the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, and reaffirms its support for resolution [75/289](#), adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021.

## **Bangladesh**

[Original: English]

[29 September 2021]

The Government of Bangladesh has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Bangladesh has consistently supported previous resolutions on this item in the Assembly and also voted in favour of the aforementioned resolution.

## **Barbados**

[Original: English]

[7 September 2021]

The Government of Barbados remains fully committed to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and freedom of international trade and navigation for all Member States. The Government of Barbados has not promulgated any legislation or measure that would infringe on the sovereignty of any State or its lawful national interests.

The Government of Barbados notes that the commercial, economic and financial embargo against Cuba imposed since decades by the United States of America is contrary to those principles and norms and is counterproductive in trade relations.

The Government of Barbados has consistently advocated in various international forums the ending of the embargo and its resultant inhumane consequences. Barbados has voted in favour of the resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba since the first one was introduced in the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in 1991.

The Government of Barbados acknowledges with deep appreciation that, in spite of the blockade, Cuba has provided invaluable support to the national health service of Barbados, including by sending, under a contract agreement, medical personnel to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The support rendered by Cuba to Barbados has been mirrored by support to countries across the entire Caribbean region.

The Government of Barbados reiterates its strong support for the most recent resolution on the issue, resolution [75/289](#), adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021, and reaffirms its full implementation at the national level, since Barbados has no laws that restrict freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba in any way. The Government of Barbados considers that free and unfettered relations with Cuba and all countries, including the United States of America, would be greatly

helped by ending the embargo. Whatever political or ideological differences that may exist between the United States and Cuba do not, cannot and should not justify the actions that result in such great, grave and disproportionate consequences for the Cuban people. The Government of Barbados calls for effective dialogue and constructive engagement between the two relevant parties aimed at lifting the decades-long economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

## **Belarus**

[Original: Russian]  
[28 September 2021]

Belarus regards the imposition of any unilateral coercive measures on sovereign States Members of the United Nations as unacceptable and counterproductive.

The decades-long commercial, financial and economic embargo against Cuba by the United States of America is a clear example of such unilateral action. The embargo is an obstacle to social and economic transformation, damages the Cuban economy and diminishes the country's ability to expand trade and inter-bank cooperation and to consolidate the private sector. In general terms, it prevents Havana from participating fully in international financial and economic life.

The position of Belarus regarding the complete elimination of the embargo against Cuba remains unchanged. We strongly support the inalienable right of each State to determine its own development path. Any unilateral attempts by certain States to change the domestic political systems of other States using military, political, economic or other forms of pressure are absolutely unacceptable. We regret the lack of any appreciable progress in addressing this situation.

Belarus reaffirms its support for resolution [75/289](#) and all previous General Assembly resolutions on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

## **Belize**

[Original: English]  
[9 September 2021]

Belize reaffirms its absolute commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including, in particular, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs, and freedom of international trade and navigation. In strict observance of the Charter and international law, Belize has consistently supported the resolutions denouncing the embargo against Cuba. Belize rejects the extraterritorial application of laws and measures. The ongoing attempt to isolate Cuba in disregard of the annually adopted resolutions that enjoy the overwhelming support of States Members of the United Nations is a flagrant affront to multilateralism and the political will of the international community.

Belize and Cuba maintain a constructive and mutually beneficial partnership that has yielded concrete benefits for all our peoples. Our policy of engagement is further enhanced through regional cooperation between the Caribbean Community and Cuba.

## Benin

[Original: French]  
[3 October 2021]

On 23 June 2021, Benin took an active part in the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”. This stance proves that Benin remained faithful to the principles and values to which it is committed, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and to international law.

Benin has always supported General Assembly resolutions on lifting the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, given the conviction of the people of Benin that dialogue is by far the best way to settle disputes and restore trust between States.

The Government of Benin, which has neither promulgated nor applied any law or regulation of the kind referred to in resolution [75/289](#), has consistently called for the unilateral measures imposed against Cuba to be lifted forthwith, to enable that country to pursue its socioeconomic development and participate fully in international trade.

Consequently, the Government of Benin has consistently worked towards the end of the blockade and the repeal of extraterritorial laws whose effects harm not only the Cuban people but also trade relations between Cuba and third countries.

Benin regrets the recent turn in relations between the Governments of Cuba and the United States of America, marked by a certain tightening of the embargo, despite the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

This pandemic, which is ravaging the world, could justify some relaxation of the embargo to allow the Cuban population to address its consequences.

Benin calls for specific measures to be taken with a view to fully and definitively lifting the blockade and normalizing relations between the United States of America and Cuba.

Benin will continue to advocate constructive dialogue so that Cuba and the United States can normalize relations once and for all, for the happiness and prosperity of their two peoples.

## Bhutan

[Original: English]  
[20 September 2021]

The Royal Government of Bhutan has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and has consistently supported similar resolutions in the General Assembly and voted in their favour.

## Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 September 2021]

Bolivia is a pacifist State that promotes a culture of peace and the right to peace, as well as cooperation among the peoples of the region and the world, in order to

foster mutual understanding, equitable development and the promotion of interculturalism, with full respect for the sovereignty of States.

It is precisely for these reasons that Bolivia strongly condemns and rejects the application of any policy of interference or interventionism and any unilateral coercive measure that violates the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States. And that is the fundamental reason why Bolivia has supported and will continue to consistently support General Assembly resolutions and all multilateral efforts that seek to end the unjust and illegal blockade against Cuba.

On 23 June 2021, the General Assembly adopted resolution [75/289](#) on the “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, succeeding resolutions [47/19](#), [48/16](#), [49/9](#), [50/10](#), [51/17](#), [52/10](#), [53/4](#), [54/21](#), [55/20](#), [56/9](#), [57/11](#), [58/7](#), [59/11](#), [60/12](#), [61/11](#), [62/3](#), [63/7](#), [64/6](#), [65/6](#), [66/6](#), [67/4](#), [68/8](#), [69/5](#), [70/5](#), [71/5](#), [72/4](#), [73/8](#) and [74/7](#), which after almost 30 years remain ineffective given the persistence of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba for more than 60 years.

Despite repeated calls by the General Assembly to all States to abstain from promulgating and applying laws and measures contrary to the purposes and principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and the call to respect the sovereignty of States, non-intervention, non-interference and the freedom of trade and international navigation, Cuba is still under a blockade that is in violation of international law and illegitimate, which also violates its inalienable right to development.

#### *Position of Bolivia*

In the framework of the relations of friendship and fraternity that unite Bolivia and Cuba, and in the light of the negative effects caused by the United States blockade that was intensified immorally during the world health crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, at the end of July 2021 Bolivia sent 2.5 tons of disposable syringes, 1 ton of biosecurity supplies and 16.5 tons of food to Cuba.<sup>1</sup>

In August 2021 the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights stated<sup>2</sup> that the effects of these measures plunge entire populations into poverty because they hinder access to essential services such as electricity, housing, water, gas and fuel, as well as medicines and food.

The Special Rapporteur issued a public statement<sup>3</sup> in which she called on the United States to lift the economic and financial embargo on Cuba, as it was obstructing the humanitarian response aimed at helping the country’s health system to combat the COVID-19 pandemic; and to withdraw measures aimed at establishing trade barriers, tariffs, quotas and any measures that prevented the purchase of medicine, medical equipment, food and other essential goods. This call went unheard by the United States. In view of the attitude of the United States to the pandemic, Bolivia rejects and condemns in the strongest terms the continued application and intensification, despite the health emergency, of these unilateral measures, which not

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.presidencia.gob.bo/index.php/prensa/noticias/1618-avion-cargado-de-solidaridad-boliviana-llega-a-la-habana>.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27373&LangID=E>.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25848&LangID=E>.

only violate the right of the people of Cuba to health and life, but also demonstrate a clear lack of humanity and respect for human rights.

Bolivia will continue to express its consistent support by voting in favour of the resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” in the General Assembly, and calls on all States to join it in the knowledge that human rights are inalienable, imprescriptible and non-negotiable, and that their exercise is not subject to political criteria, much less to unilateral whims.

In the light of the above, the Plurinational State of Bolivia unhesitatingly, firmly and unequivocally states that the economic, commercial and financial blockade that the United States maintains against Cuba must be ended unconditionally and immediately, and urges the United States to comply with the resolutions of the General Assembly, the most democratic organ of our Organization.

*Compliance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 75/289*

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has not applied and will not apply in the future measures or legislation contrary to international law that would violate or restrict the freedom of trade and navigation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/289. The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia rejects and condemns the fact that other States engage in this illegal and arbitrary practice, which violates human rights based on criteria of exceptionality that constantly undermine multilateralism and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

*Compliance with paragraph 4 of resolution 75/289*

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 75/289, to continue to report to the General Assembly on compliance therewith, as well as on the impact and negative effects of the application of the policies and practices of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba put in place by the Government of the United States, since such unilateral acts not only violate the sovereignty of Cuba but also constitute a threat to the sovereignty of the rest of the international community.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

[Original: English]

[13 August 2021]

Bosnia and Herzegovina, guided by purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, supported General Assembly resolution 75/289 on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in resolution 75/289 and is ready to develop cooperation with Cuba, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

## Botswana

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

Botswana has not promulgated, applied or enforced any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), in conformity with our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

This is further buttressed by our vote on the above-mentioned resolution. Botswana is opposed to the continued application of such extraterritorial measures and supports the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, which has negative consequences for the people of Cuba.

## Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]  
[24 September 2021]

Brunei Darussalam has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures that are contrary to the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). This is in line with its consistent and principled opposition to the use of unilateral sanctions, in view of their adverse effects on the economic and social development of the affected Member State. As unilateral sanctions are in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Brunei Darussalam will continue to reaffirm its support for the General Assembly resolutions calling for the immediate end to the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba.

## Burkina Faso

[Original: French]  
[29 September 2021]

The Government of Burkina Faso maintains normal diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba. Burkina Faso has always voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

Once again, Burkina Faso totally rejects all forms of unilateral coercive measures, which have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and the well-being and prosperity of the peoples concerned. Consequently, in accordance with the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, Burkina Faso has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of resolution [75/289](#), adopted on 23 June 2021.

The Government of Burkina Faso takes this opportunity to reaffirm the urgent need for the complete lifting of the blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba, which constitutes a major obstacle to achieving the objectives of economic and social development and promoting the values of peaceful cooperation.

Burkina Faso, which believes in the virtues of dialogue and negotiation, urges the two parties to continue working towards a peaceful settlement of the dispute, in accordance with Article 33 of the Charter.

## Burundi

[Original: French]  
[30 September 2021]

The position of the Government of Burundi has always been to oppose the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which is inconsistent with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States. Burundi has never applied this embargo and does not intend to apply it in the future.

## Cabo Verde

[Original: English]  
[24 September 2021]

The Republic of Cabo Verde, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the national Constitution and in conformity with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which promotes solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among countries and nations, has never promulgated or applied any law or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) entitled: “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by United States of America against Cuba”, adopted on 23 June 2021.

## Cambodia

[Original: English]  
[31 August 2021]

The Royal Government of Cambodia would like to reiterate its firm position in continuous support of the General Assembly resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which was adopted last year.

In conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Royal Government of Cambodia has not imposed, nor does it intend to impose, any laws, regulations or measures that are inconsistent with the resolution. Furthermore, Cambodia has strongly rejected the imposition of unilateral economic, commercial and financial measures on Cuba. Such unilateral coercive measures not only restrict the efforts of Cuba to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but they also hamper the economic and social development of the Cuban people, in particular the capacity of Cuba to respond effectively to save lives amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Royal Government of Cambodia once again reiterates its call for specific actions to put an immediate end to such measures in accordance with the principles of multilateralism and mutual respect. The Royal Government of Cambodia calls for full respect for and implementation of the provisions of the above General Assembly resolution.

## Cameroon

[Original: French]  
[10 October 2021]

Cameroon is committed to respecting the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of trade, which are enshrined in many international legal instruments.

In the implementation of resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021, as well as previous resolutions on the matter, and in accordance with the above-mentioned principles, Cameroon has never adopted legislative or other measures with a view to strengthening or expanding the blockade imposed on Cuba.

Cameroon has always voted in favour of lifting the blockade and maintains excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with Cuba.

## **Canada**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Government of Canada confirms its support of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Canadian law states that no Canadian corporation shall, in respect of trade or commerce between Canada and Cuba, comply with any extraterritorial measure of the kind referred to in the resolution. Canada considers the extraterritorial application of unilateral Cuba-related measures to be contrary to international law. Canada is deeply disappointed with the decision by the United States to implement Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act, commonly known as the Helms-Burton Act. The embargo has a negative impact on the living conditions of the Cuban people, as well as on Canadians conducting legitimate trade with and investment in Cuba.

## **Central African Republic**

[Original: French]  
[20 October 2021]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba has caused serious harm to the Government and people of Cuba on all levels. The resolution against that embargo has always been adopted by an overwhelming majority of Member States.

The normalization of diplomatic relations between these two countries on 17 December 2014 did not bring about any change. The Central African Republic currently believes that the embargo is contrary to international law and the principles governing the Charter of the United Nations.

Consequently, the Government of the Central African Republic will always support the Cuban Government in its efforts to have the embargo lifted completely.

## **Chad**

[Original: French]  
[7 October 2021]

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of the Republic of Chad reaffirms its support for resolution [75/289](#) on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021. The blockade is clearly still in place, seriously penalizing the Cuban people and undermining the country’s economic development.

While reiterating the calls from Member States and international organizations, including the African Union, for the complete lifting of the embargo, the Government

of Chad, referring also to paragraph 30 of resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, calls on States to avoid adopting or applying unilateral economic, financial or commercial measures that are inconsistent with international law or the Charter and impede the full realization of economic and social development, especially in developing countries.

The Government of the Republic of Chad urges the Governments of the United States and Cuba to renew talks with a view to rekindling the process embarked upon some years ago, to ensure development that will mutually benefit the people of the two countries and the world as a whole.

## **Chile**

[Original: Spanish]  
[4 August 2021]

Chile has not adopted any measures aimed at restricting normal trade and economic relations between Chile and Cuba. Chile supports the full and free exercise of the right to trade and to establish business relations in the international arena, with no restrictions other than those placed on activities considered illegal under Chilean law and those imposed by the international community in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

## **China**

[Original: English]  
[1 September 2021]

For 29 consecutive years, the General Assembly has adopted, by an overwhelming majority, resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States and urging all countries to comply with the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and to repeal or nullify any laws and measures whose extraterritorial effects encroach upon the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities and individuals within their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Regrettably, over the years, there has been no effective implementation of the resolutions and the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba has not yet been lifted. Not only is this contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, it has also caused immense economic and financial losses for Cuba, has hindered efforts by the Cuban people to eradicate poverty, to promote their economic and social development and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has impaired the right to survival and the right to development of the Cuban people, and has also disrupted the normal economic, commercial and financial relations between Cuba and other countries. This is the root cause of the current shortage of anti-epidemic and civilian resources in Cuba.

China has always advocated respect for the right of countries to choose their own social system and path of development independently, and has opposed the imposition by military, political, economic or any other means of unilateral coercive measures on other countries. China has always strictly abided by and implemented the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. China and Cuba maintain sound economic and trade relations and conduct personnel exchanges, and the mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation between the two countries in various areas continues to grow. This is in line with the aspirations of the people of both countries and is also conducive to the economic and social development of Cuba.

In the context of multipolarization, economic globalization, cultural diversity and greater democracy in international relations, communication and cooperation between countries on an equal footing represent a surging trend of the times. Equal dialogue and friendly consultation are the best way to resolve differences. At present, Cuba is at a critical moment in its fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and in its efforts to improve people's livelihoods. China calls upon the United States to lift its embargo against Cuba fully and as soon as possible, and to develop normal inter-State relations with Cuba in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the basic norms governing international relations. This is in line with the shared interests of the United States and Cuba and of the people of those two countries, and will be beneficial to peace and stability throughout the region.

## Comoros

[Original: English]  
[14 October 2021]

The Government of the Union of the Comoros reaffirms its commitment to its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. For that reason, it has not promulgated or applied any laws or regulations with extraterritorial effects which could affect the sovereignty of other States.

The Government of the Union of the Comoros fully supports General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", and calls for the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba for the benefit of the countries and people who expect to develop relations in all those sectors.

## Congo

[Original: French]  
[7 October 2021]

The Republic of the Congo has always maintained excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with the sister Republic of Cuba.

That is why the Republic of the Congo has always denounced this embargo, which it considers unjust, unfair and inappropriate, because it violates the Charter of the United Nations and is contrary to the norms of international law.

Every year, the Republic of the Congo votes in favour of lifting the embargo in the General Assembly, because the Government of the Republic of the Congo is opposed to all unilateral sanctions that undermine the consolidation of peaceful coexistence and solidarity among the peoples of the world.

The Republic of the Congo believes that this embargo violates the economic and commercial relations between the two countries and subjects the brotherly people of the Republic of Cuba to unnecessary suffering, violating the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference and the right of peoples to self-determination, which are the foundations of the Charter.

Thus, the Republic of the Congo considers that this embargo is an unacceptable means of exerting pressure on a sovereign State. It is baseless and out of touch with the profound changes that have taken place on the international scene, where interdependence and solidarity must lie at the heart of the concerns of the peoples of the planet for them to collectively confront the multiple challenges facing all humanity.

The Republic of the Congo will continue to give its unwavering support to the brotherly people of Cuba in order to put an end to this situation, which has become intolerable for peace, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Cuba and the United States.

Consequently, the Republic of the Congo will continue to demand the immediate and unconditional lifting of this embargo.

## **Costa Rica**

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 September 2021]

In connection with General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), Costa Rica reaffirms its position of strict respect for and compliance with the principles of international law and all the norms set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

In that vein, in line with its absolute commitment to multilateralism and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter, in particular those related to the sovereign equality of States, the self-determination of peoples and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, Costa Rica, consistent in its words and deeds, both at the regional and international levels, stresses the necessity to lift the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America, because it believes that after so many decades, the people of Cuba continue to be the worst affected.

Once again, the Costa Rican authorities confirm that they have neither promulgated nor applied any national law, policy or measure with extraterritorial effects that could have an impact on the sovereignty of other States or freedom of trade and navigation.

Costa Rica reiterates once again its opposition to the current unilateral policy imposed on Cuba through the Helms-Burton Act, which poses a real obstacle to international trade, and to Titles III and IV of the Act. The 243 measures still in force have an undeniably negative impact on the living conditions of the Cuban people, especially as regards their difficulty in facing the current situation with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and also have an impact on persons from third countries who conduct legitimate trade and investment business with Cuba.

Similarly, Costa Rica has reiterated that any type of political, economic or military sanction imposed on States must be based on a decision or recommendation made by the Security Council or the General Assembly.

For their part, Costa Rica and Cuba have continued to strengthen their ties of friendship and cooperation at the bilateral level since diplomatic relations were restored on 18 March 2009.

As indicated in previous reports, cooperation between the two countries has been developed under the framework agreement on cooperation and through bilateral agreements in specific areas of mutual interest, such as foreign trade, culture, sport, education, technical and scientific exchange, health and the environment.

Confronted by the severe global health and economic crisis related to COVID-19, which affects us all equally, Costa Rica, as a peace-loving country, calls for reflection and an end to all unilateral policies that run counter to human well-being, especially of the most vulnerable, by jeopardizing a basic human right, in this case, the right to health.

## Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]  
[23 September 2021]

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States and freedom of trade and navigation, which form the fundamental principles of international law.

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has never promulgated or applied any law or measure of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and it has no intention of doing so.

True to the ideals of peace and dialogue in relations between States, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire reaffirms its readiness to work with the entire international community to find appropriate solutions to this issue and encourages the parties concerned to focus more on negotiation and dialogue in order to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the dispute.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]  
[6 December 2021]

### Introduction

The blockade is a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of all Cubans. In a merciless act of cruelty, in this period the United States has applied measures designed to harm the most sensitive sectors of Cuban society and create desperation among the people, with surgical precision.

This report covers the period from January to July 2021, which marks the beginning of President Joseph Biden's Administration in the United States.

During this period, the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba has remained a cornerstone of the policy of the United States towards the island, and has been intensified opportunistically and to unprecedented levels against the backdrop of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Disregarding its own electoral promises, the Democratic Administration has left intact the more than 240 additional unilateral coercive measures applied against Cuba by former President Donald Trump.

The intensification of the policy and the economic strangulation of Cuba in the midst of the pandemic have been accompanied by an increase in aggression on the political, media and communication fronts, and an unprecedented rise in disinformation campaigns, copiously financed with federal funds from the United States budget, some of which are publicly declared and amount to tens of millions of dollars a year. In addition, the campaigns are supported by undisclosed sources of funding.

With these actions, in clear violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the Government of the United States is trying to fabricate a political opposition, even if doing so creates disorder and instability, fragments the constitutional order and social consensus, fuels irregular migration and affects the tranquillity and security of Cubans' lives.

The Government of the United States has sought to use the hard economic and social circumstances caused by the pandemic to its advantage, as well as resorting to

lies, slander, manipulation of data and the widest variety of forms of unconventional warfare, all with the aim of forcing a political change in Cuba.

The situation is aggravated by the maintenance of Cuba on the unilateral and illegitimate lists, published by the State Department of the United States, of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism and nations that do not “cooperate fully” with United States counter-terrorism efforts, reinforcing the dissuasive and intimidating impact of the blockade and its extraterritorial component.

In the period under review, the relentless prosecution by the United States Government of financial transactions involving Cuba has affected practically every sector of the economy. The siege has resulted in terminations and breaches of contracts, loss of relationships with financial entities that have traditionally worked with Cuban entities, debts, and delays in the shipment and receipt of funds and goods, among other difficulties.

The stated purpose of the blockade and the political, legal and administrative framework that sustains it qualify it as an act of genocide under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Government of the United States has described the blockade against Cuba as “the most comprehensive regime of United States sanctions on any country”.<sup>4</sup> The unquestionable reality is that the blockade is the most comprehensive, complex and prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures ever imposed against any country.

The blockade is the main impediment to the development of Cuba. It hampers the implementation of the 2030 national plan for economic and social development and every effort of the Cuban Government to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At current prices, the losses accumulated in six decades of application of the policy amount to \$150,410.8 million. Taking into account the depreciation of the dollar against the price of gold on the international market, the blockade has caused quantifiable losses of more than \$1,326,432 million.

In the first seven months of 2021 alone, the blockade caused Cuba losses of approximately \$2,557.5 million. This represents an average impact of more than \$365 million a month, and more than \$12 million a day.

The reasons for the decrease in the amount of the losses caused by the blockade between January and July 2021 relative to the losses recorded in the previous period include the total closure of borders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which completely shut down tourism in this period, and the financial tensions that Cuba faced as a result of the need to allocate substantial unforeseen additional resources to combat the pandemic, a situation that led to a significant contraction in the country’s foreign trade during the period under review.

However, the cumulative impact of the blockade and its consequences, which have caused shortages in the country, cannot be overlooked. Scarcity, and difficulties in obtaining the food, medicines and supplies required to develop economic and productive processes, are often impossible to quantify, but they have an undeniable impact on the daily lives of the Cuban people.

The limitations Cuba faces in acquiring foreign currency to import and invest are also incalculable, and constitute enormous obstacles to any national initiative to meet the accumulated needs of the population.

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<sup>4</sup> *Source:* United States Government Accountability Office, “Economic sanctions: agencies face competing priorities in enforcing the US embargo on Cuba”, Washington, D.C., 2017.

Three decades since the first General Assembly resolution against the blockade, the Government of the United States persists in ignoring the Assembly's many pronouncements calling for it to put an unconditional end to its unilateral and criminal policy of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

It is neither legal nor ethical for the Government of a powerful nation to subject a small nation to a relentless economic war in order to impose upon it an alien political system. It is unacceptable to deprive an entire people of the right to peace, development, well-being and human progress.

## **1. Continuity and tightening of the blockade policy**

### **1.1 The economic, commercial and financial blockade laws remain in force**

The laws and regulations that support the blockade remain in force, and are enforced by United States government agencies, including the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Commerce. The main laws and administrative provisions that underpin the blockade policy are:

- The Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917 provided, in its section 5 (b), that the President could impose economic sanctions in time of war or any other national emergency, and prohibited trading with the enemy or with allies of the enemy during hostilities. In 1977, through the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the powers of the President to impose new sanctions with reference to national emergencies were restricted. However, the Trading with the Enemy Act continued to apply to Cuba, and successive United States presidents have extended its application. Under the Act, the oldest of its kind, the Cuban Assets Control Regulations were adopted in 1963. Cuba is the only country for which the Act remains in force. In September 2021, President Biden renewed the measures against Cuba under the terms of the Act.
- Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the United States President was authorized to establish and maintain a total "embargo" upon trade with Cuba, and the granting of any aid to the Government of Cuba was prohibited. In addition, United States government funds earmarked for international aid and provided to international agencies could not be used for programmes involving Cuba. No assistance or benefit mentioned in the Act or any other Act could be granted to Cuba, until such time as the President determined that Cuba had taken action to return to United States citizens and entities no less than 50 per cent of the value of the properties nationalized by the Government of Cuba following the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, or to provide equitable compensation for such properties.
- In Proclamation 3447, issued on 3 February 1962, President John F. Kennedy decreed a total "embargo" on trade between the United States and Cuba, pursuant to section 620 (a) of the Foreign Assistance Act.
- Under the Cuban Assets Control Regulations of 1963, issued by the Department of the Treasury and established pursuant to the Trading with the Enemy Act, all Cuban assets in the United States were frozen, all financial and commercial transactions were prohibited unless they were approved by a licence, Cuban exports to the United States were prohibited, and any natural or legal person of the United States or a third country was prohibited from conducting transactions in United States dollars with Cuba, among other provisions.
- Section 2401 (b) (1), "National security controls", "Policy toward individual countries", of the Export Administration Act of 1979 established the Commerce Control List, on which the United States President keeps a number of countries

on which special export controls may be imposed for reasons of national security. Cuba is included on that list.

- In the Export Administration Regulations of 1979, the grounds for general controls over export items and goods were established in accordance with the sanctions imposed by the Government of the United States. Under the Regulations, a general policy of denying exports and re-exports to Cuba was established.
- In the Cuban Democracy Act (Torricelli Act) of 1992, the subsidiaries of United States companies in third countries were prohibited from trading in goods with Cuba or with Cuban nationals. Third-country vessels that had visited a Cuban port were banned from entering United States territory within 180 days without a licence from the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.
- In the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996, or Helms-Burton Act, the provisions of the blockade were codified and its extraterritorial scope was expanded through the imposition of penalties on directors of foreign companies conducting transactions involving United States property nationalized in Cuba and through the possibility that claims could be filed in United States courts. The powers of the President of the United States to lift the blockade were also limited. On 2 May 2019, for the first time since the adoption of the Act, the Government of the United States announced that the filing of claims would be allowed in United States courts under the Act.
- Section 211 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999 prohibited United States courts from recognizing the rights of Cuban companies to trademarks associated with nationalized property.
- In the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, the export of agricultural products to Cuba was authorized, on condition that payment was made in cash and in advance, and without United States financing. Travel to Cuba by United States persons for tourist activities was prohibited, with tourist activity defined as any activity involving travel to, from or within Cuba that was not explicitly authorized under Title 31, section 515.560, of the Code of Federal Regulations. When the Act was passed, travel was limited to the 12 categories authorized.

## **1.2 Principal blockade actions taken between January and July 2021**

In the period from January to July 2021, the United States Government maintained intact its policy of tightening the blockade, a policy it had adopted between 2017 and January 2021. The provisions concerning travel to Cuba, remittances and mechanisms for financial persecution remained unchanged, as did their damaging impact on the Cuban economy and the lives of Cubans.

The maintenance of Cuba on the unilateral and illegitimate lists, published by the State Department of the United States, of countries that sponsor terrorism and nations that do not “cooperate fully” with United States counter-terrorism efforts reinforced the dissuasive and intimidating impact of the blockade and its extraterritorial component.

The continued full application of the Helms-Burton Act, including the authorization to file lawsuits in United States courts under its Title III, further expanded the scheme designed to obstruct the economic, commercial and financial relations between Cuba and third countries.

The main blockade actions taken during the period under review include:

- On 1 January 2021, the State Department added the Cuban bank Banco Financiero Internacional to the List of Entities and Subentities Associated with Cuba. The measure took effect on 8 January 2021.
- On 11 January 2021, the State Department announced the addition of Cuba to the list of State sponsors of terrorism, an action that entails significant additional economic harm to Cuba.
- On 14 January 2021, Cuba was placed on the list of foreign adversaries maintained by the Department of Commerce pursuant to Executive Order 13873, signed by President Trump. As a result, the Export Administration Regulations were amended to prohibit certain transactions that posed an undue or unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States in the area of information and communications technology.
- On 18 February 2021, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury of the United States announced an out-of-court settlement with the digital financial services company BitPay, based in Atlanta, Georgia. The agreement required the company to pay a fine of \$507,375. The move was prompted by more than 2,000 alleged violations of various sanctions programmes, including those imposed on Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Crimea.
- On 24 February 2021, President Biden issued a notice extending by one year the state of national emergency with respect to Cuba, declared by President William Clinton on 1 March 1996.
- On 14 May 2021, the Secretary of State of the United States notified Congress of the certification of Cuba as a country that does not “cooperate fully” with United States counter-terrorism efforts, pursuant to section 40A (a) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637. This unjustified, fraudulent action reaffirmed the addition of Cuba, on 13 May 2020, to the list of such countries. The measure took effect on 25 May 2021, following its publication in the Federal Register.
- On 7 September 2021, President Biden signed a memorandum to the Secretaries of State and the Treasury extending for one year the application of the economic measures imposed against Cuba pursuant to the legal framework established in the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917.

### **1.3 Application of the Helms-Burton Act: actions brought**

The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996, also known as the Helms-Burton Act, which entered into force in 1996, codifies the blockade against Cuba and strengthens its extraterritorial reach. In addition to seeking the imposition, in Cuba, of a Government directly subordinated to the interests of Washington, D.C., the Act is intended to internationalize the blockade through coercive measures designed to hamper and interrupt third countries' trade and investment relations with Cuba.

Under Title III of the Act, former owners of property that was nationalized in Cuba, including Cuban citizens who ultimately became United States citizens, can bring actions in United States courts against those who have any contact with such property; such contact is described as “trafficking” in the Act. The term applies, according to the Act itself, to anyone who transfers, distributes, dispenses, brokers or otherwise disposes of confiscated property; who purchases, receives, acquires or otherwise obtains control of such property; who improves, invests in or begins, after the date of enactment of the Act, to manage, lease, possess, use or hold an interest in such property; who enters into a commercial arrangement using or otherwise

benefiting from such property; or who causes, directs, participates in or profits from trafficking as described above by another person, or otherwise engages in trafficking through another person, without the authorization of any United States national who holds a claim to the property.

With the aim of strangling the Cuban economy and increasing shortages among the population, the Helms-Burton Act has emerged as a mechanism for the Government of the United States to exert brutal and illegal pressure not only against Cuba but also against the Governments and companies of third countries. Its purposes are illegitimate and violate the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

The possibility of bringing an action against the alleged beneficiaries of “trafficking” was regularly suspended every six months from 1996 by all Presidents of the United States by virtue of an exception, contained in the Act, under which they were granted that power. On 17 April 2019, President Trump’s Administration announced that, as of 2 May that year, it would activate that possibility by allowing the courts to take cognizance of actions brought. The decision has not been reversed by President Biden’s Administration.

For the first time in 23 years, on 2 May 2019, legal proceedings were initiated under the Act. As at 31 July 2021, a total of 39 actions had been brought, of which 5 had been withdrawn and 34 were pending. The policy has affected not only United States and third-country companies that have done or are doing business with Cuba, but also Cuban companies.

The following is a list of the actions brought in United States courts during the period from January to July 2021:

- On 4 January 2021, actions were brought against the United States companies BBC Chartering and DSV Air and Sea. In both cases, the plaintiff purported to have been the owner of the land and facilities of Puerto Carúpano, in the province of Las Tunas, that were used by the defendants to ship equipment for use in the La Herradura wind farm project.
- On 17 February 2021, an action was brought against the Danish shipping company A.P. Moller-Maersk Group and its United States subsidiaries Maersk and Maersk Agency. The plaintiffs allege that they own a 70-year concession over the shipping company Marítima Mariel, and that they own the sugar company Compañía Azucarera Mariel and the surrounding land. On this basis, the plaintiffs contend that the defendants “trafficked” in the confiscated properties. On 30 July 2021, the same plaintiffs filed a claim against the French shipping company CMA CGM Group and its United States subsidiary on the same grounds.
- On 1 March 2021, an action was brought against Trafigura Trading (United States), Trafigura Trading (Singapore) and the Trafigura Group (Singapore). The plaintiff purports to be the heir and representative of shareholders of the companies that owned the Matahambre mines, the Santa Lucía port terminal in the province of Pinar del Río and other properties. The plaintiff asserts that the defendants are investing in, and carrying out mining operations using, the confiscated properties.
- On 5 March 2021, an action was brought against the agricultural and livestock company Empresa Agropecuaria Nuevitás, the food exporting company Empresa Cubana Exportadora de Alimentos y Productos Varios, the tourism company Empresa Extrahotelera Palmares, the forest company Empresa Forestal Integral de Camagüey, the agricultural business group Grupo Empresarial Agrícola, the agroforestry business group Grupo Empresarial Agroforestal, the travel business group Grupo Empresarial Viajes Cuba and the travel agency group Grupo

Internacional de Turoperadores y Agencias de Viajes Havanatur, all of which are Cuban companies, and the Panamanian tourism company Havanatur. The plaintiff alleges that the defendants are using and continuing to profit from the properties, including a cattle ranch and associated lands, that were confiscated from it, while producing and marketing charcoal from the *dichrostachys cinerea* that naturally grows on the land.

## **2. The blockade violates the rights of the Cuban people**

### **2.1 Social impact**

The health sector continues to be one of the hardest hit by the blockade. In the first seven months of 2021 alone, the policy has caused losses of \$113,498,300.

The worst damage is the result of not being able to acquire medical technology that originates in the United States or contains a proportion of United States components greater than 10 per cent. Medicines, equipment, medical devices, reagents and other supplies used in medical care have to be obtained on distant markets and often through intermediaries, entailing a significant increase in prices. The extraterritorial nature of the blockade makes it difficult to purchase spare parts and to maintain and replace equipment for medical care and research.

The system of unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States against Cuba violates the right to life and health of all Cubans. As a result of the policy, the Cuban people have faced shortages of medicines and medical equipment, including oxygen supplies and pulmonary ventilators, personal protection equipment, spare parts, fuel, electricity and other resources essential to sustain the Cuban health system.

The shortages not only have an impact on the country's ability to cope with COVID-19, but also result in a constant struggle for the timely acquisition of such medicines as insulin, antibiotics, painkillers, drugs used to control blood pressure and antihistamines, which are essential for the treatment of chronic diseases.

All the above adversely affects the quality of the services provided to the Cuban people, as it leads to delays, waiting lists for specialized medical care and longer hospital stays, and has other negative results.

The following are some examples of the damage caused by the blockade to the care provided by the Cuban health system to vulnerable groups:

- Negative impact on patients with cardiovascular diseases<sup>5</sup>

In the reporting period, the restrictions of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States had an impact on the shortage of such medicines as anticoagulants, furosemide, nitroglycerine and medication for high blood pressure, which are essential for cardiovascular diseases.

Direct negative impact on the care of patients with such diseases:

- It is estimated that some 158,800 Cuban patients suffered harm owing to the lack of access to technology for transcatheter aortic valve implantation. That technique allows patients with severe valve stenosis to avoid complex surgeries and long hospital stays and to have a better quality of life by means of only a minor surgical procedure.

Aortic stenosis is a degenerative disease that affects between 4 and 7 per cent of people over 65 years of age. Of these patients, approximately 30 per cent cannot undergo an operation owing to contraindications resulting

<sup>5</sup> In 2020, cardiovascular diseases constituted the leading cause of death in Cuba, with a rate of 267.3 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (Ministry of Health of Cuba, Statistical Yearbook, 2020).

from comorbidities. Considering that Cubans have a high life expectancy and 20 per cent of them are over 80 years of age, many patients cared for by the Cuban health system need access to transcatheter aortic valves.

Cuba cannot procure such devices because they are sold by United States companies, such as Edwards Lifesciences (Edwards Sapien valve) and Medtronic (CoreValve valve).

- Some 375 patients were harmed by the inability to acquire permanent pacemakers and the lack of access to supplies, parts and/or components of equipment from the United States needed for procedures related to cardiac arrhythmias.
- For the same reason, approximately 200 patients were unable to have cardiovascular surgery owing to a shortage of such disposable items as haemochron tubes, drains of various types and mammary clips for myocardial revascularization.
- Negative impact on paediatric patients
  - Dozens of Cuban children are diagnosed every year with retinopathy of prematurity and can face blindness if they are not properly treated. The treatment of these patients is limited by the fact that Cuba is unable to acquire the IQ 577 Laser System from the United States company IRIDEX Corporation to treat retinal disorders and glaucoma.
  - Cuban children suffering from infantile spinal muscular atrophy could aspire to a better quality and length of life if Cuba had access to the drug Nusinersen, produced only by the United States multinational company Biogen. The drug has been shown to be effective in keeping more than half the children with this deadly disease alive.
  - During the reporting period, eight Cuban children with different types of cancer were unable to receive the chemotherapy treatment most appropriate for their disease and had to resort to second-line protocols owing to difficulties in procuring such drugs as Actinomycin D, Ifosfamide and Procarbazine.
  - Cuban children with cardiovascular conditions cannot use biological heart implant materials, such as biological heart valves, made in the United States. As a result, mechanical valves must be used, requiring treatment with anticoagulants and exposing patients to the risk of greater complications.
  - Newborn and low birthweight infants have to undergo complicated surgeries because essential devices, such as very low-profile catheters, sold by United States companies such as Numed, Boston Scientific and Cook Medical, are not available.
- Negative impact on the care of pregnant women
  - The research and care activities of cytogenetics laboratories throughout the country have been affected by obstacles to the acquisition of the following equipment and reagents of vital importance for the prevention and detection of chromosomal diseases:
    - Amniomax complete culture medium: used for the culture of human cells of prenatal origin, which enables chromosomal studies to be performed on pregnant women over 37 years of age or those with abnormalities detected by ultrasound. The cost of these reagents for Cuba has tripled owing to the need to acquire them through third countries.

- Demecolcine complete culture medium: used to culture prenatal and postnatal human cells. This reagent ensures that patients, including pregnant women and patients with suspected clinical genetic syndromes, can receive a chromosomal diagnosis.

Between January and July 2021, the medical product import and export company Empresa Importadora y Exportadora de Productos Médicos (MediCuba) contacted 65 United States companies to inquire about the possibility of importing medicines, equipment, devices and other supplies necessary for the care of the Cuban people in the national health system. Of these, 56 did not respond to the Cuban requests and 3 responded negatively.

As a result, it was not possible to acquire the medicines and equipment that these companies sell, which would have significantly benefited the Cuban health system. In particular, requests were sent for horizontal spin centrifuges,<sup>6</sup> equipment required in the laboratories of the network of health institutions; Pemetrexed, a chemotherapy drug used to treat non-small cell lung cancer and pleural mesothelioma (a type of cancer that affects the lining of the lungs), was also requested. One company refused to supply several medical devices necessary for the treatment of acute hypoxemic respiratory failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome and septic shock.

Drugs and medical equipment that could not be procured during the reporting period also include the following:

- The drug Nivolumab, used for the treatment of, inter alia, metastatic melanoma, lung cancer and Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- The Oncotype DX breast cancer test. The Oncotype DX genomic test analyses the activity of a group of genes that could influence the behaviour and treatment of the disease.
- The Oncotype DX colon cancer test. This test helps in individual prognoses of the risk of recurrence in stages II and III of this type of cancer, as well as in determining which type of chemotherapy is suitable for the patient.
- Multipurpose mechanical ventilators for newborns and infants, as well as multipurpose cardiac monitors (including blood pressure monitoring, among other options).
- Golimumab (Simponi), the most recently approved biological medical product for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, conditions in which the immune system attacks the joints, causing pain, stiffness and limited movement.
- Human leucocyte antigen typing kits, essential for determining the compatibility of a kidney transplant candidate with potential donors.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused a multidimensional worldwide crisis, and with the additional burden of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States, the Cuban Government has faced enormous obstacles in obtaining the basic resources essential to ensure the functioning of the national health system.

President Biden's Administration ordered a review of the impact of unilateral coercive measures that limit the ability of States to deal with the pandemic. Cuba was excluded from this exercise and, unlike other countries, no modifications to the

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<sup>6</sup> The horizontal spin centrifuge is a medical device that processes a sample to accelerate the decantation or sedimentation of its components or phases (usually a solid and a liquid), depending on their density.

existing measures were announced. Consequently, the United States plans to ignore the harm caused by the blockade, made worse by the effects of COVID-19.

In reagents, medical equipment, personal protection equipment, consumable items and medicines alone, in 2020 the country invested some \$102 million not provided for in the economic plan. In the first half of 2021, this investment amounted to \$82 million, amid difficulties in accessing suppliers and in banking operations, high prices and other negative effects of the United States blockade.

In total, from the onset of the pandemic through mid-2021, Cuba has invested an estimated additional \$184 million, over and above the allocations in the annual plan, to combat COVID-19. This figure includes expenditure not only for medicines, but also for food, hygiene, cleaning, electricity, water and other resources necessary to support patient care, both in quarantine centres and in the country's hospitals.

The intimidating effect of potential legal action resulting from Cuban financial transactions abroad has been the main impediment to the entry of medical supplies into the country, as it has hampered commercial relations with various partners and regular suppliers. This has led to significant additional expenses, multiple shortages and a lack of supplies in the national health system.

One example of this was seen in March 2021, when negotiations surrounding a shipment of a container of disposable syringes to Cuba were cancelled because, as the British bank HSBC informed the supplier, it could not make payments to the island.

Further, in June 2021, the multinational company Merck, based in Germany, cancelled several contracts with Cuban clients. This affected imports to Cuba of raw materials essential for the production of drugs included in the basic pharmacopoeia and hindered the work of the laboratories of the Centre for State Control of Medicines, Equipment and Medical Devices, which are directly involved in the evaluation of candidate vaccines against COVID-19.

Other examples of the impact of the blockade on the efforts made by Cuba to combat the pandemic are listed below:

- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been necessary to urgently acquire reagents, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) kits and other materials, not only for the diagnosis of the disease, but also for research into and the production of candidate vaccines and Cuban vaccines. This, together with the refusal by traditional suppliers to provide parts and other raw materials to Cuba as a result of the tightening of the blockade, has forced Cuban companies to obtain these products through intermediaries, with a significant increase in costs. The Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, which produces the Cuban COVID-19 Abdala vaccine, has reported damages amounting to \$580,461,061.
- The Immunoassay Centre incurred losses of \$4,554.50 owing to having to make purchases of raw materials at higher prices in other countries, which was necessary because of the lack of access to the United States market. Prices were approximately 60 per cent higher on those markets.
- For the Finlay Vaccine Institute, the producer of the Cuban COVID-19 Soberana 02 and Soberana Plus vaccines, the inability to count on access to supplies with a proportion of United States components higher than 10 per cent has caused problems in 32 operations, 15 of which were related to the purchase of inputs, 7 to reagents, 2 to spare parts, 2 to filtration materials and 6 to equipment from United States manufacturers. Most of these supplies had to be purchased through third parties, which resulted in significant increases in unit prices and shipping costs.

- If these transactions had been carried out directly through United States companies, the Institute would have saved approximately \$484,691.94 in terms of the unit prices of the products and \$10,376.91 on shipping costs. In the particular case of filtration supplies and reagents, acquired through intermediaries because of the prohibition of direct purchases from the manufacturer, the company suffered losses of \$442,185.23.

Despite the severe limitations described above, both the national health system and the Cuban scientific community have demonstrated their strength and potential in the struggle against COVID-19. The fact that Cuba has managed to develop five candidate vaccines against the disease is proof of that. The Medical Equipment and Devices Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Cuba authorized the emergency use of three of them (Abdala, Soberana 02 and Soberana Plus), making them the first vaccines against COVID-19 developed in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In addition, Cuba became the first country in the world to carry out a mass vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in the paediatric population aged from 2 to 18 years; as a result of the campaign, some 2 million children and adolescents have received a second dose of Soberana 02.

At the end of 2021, 91.6 per cent of eligible Cubans were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

However, the pandemic has also highlighted the importance of solidarity and international cooperation in dealing with global problems, which is why, in line with its commitment to solidarity and internationalism, Cuba has supported the fight against COVID-19 in more than 40 countries and territories that have requested assistance, deploying some 5,000 health workers in 57 brigades of the Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors Specialized in Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics. They joined the more than 28,000 Cuban health workers who had been working in 59 countries before the pandemic began.

At the same time, the country has received more than 500 donations of medical supplies sent by friendly Governments and solidarity organizations and associations of Cubans abroad to support its national health system; donations for which the Cuban people are deeply grateful. On more than a few occasions, these shipments were hindered and/or delayed as a result of the blockade's restrictions. Such is the case of several donations and fundraising campaigns promoted by the solidarity organization "Cubans in UK", aimed at supporting COVID-19 vaccination in Cuba with shipments of syringes and other supplies. During 2021, these initiatives were disrupted or blocked on multiple virtual platforms, most notably Crowdfunder UK, Eventbrite, PayPal and GoFundMe.

### **Negative impact on persons with disabilities**

The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba remains the main obstacle to progress towards the true and effective social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the country because it causes shortages and hampers the import of materials, equipment and other supplies essential to improve their quality of life.

The following are some examples of the worst damage caused by the blockade to these vulnerable groups:

- Domestic wheelchair production has been significantly limited by difficulties in procuring raw materials and parts, including spare parts, on the United States market. Often, these products must be obtained through intermediaries, which leads to a significant increase in costs.

- Blind people and people with limited vision in Cuba cannot benefit from the Job Access with Speech (JAWS) screen reader, which allows visually impaired people to interact with computers. This is because Cuba cannot purchase and use this software owing to its development by the United States company Henter-Joyce.
- The National Cochlear Implant Programme,<sup>7</sup> which mainly benefits children with severe or profound hearing loss, has faced obstacles related to deliveries of accessories for these medical devices. In particular, the international courier DHL refused, on two occasions, to send a donation to Cuba from the supplier Cochlear Europe, consisting of batteries and other components for cochlear implants. On the first occasion, DHL did not provide reasons, but, on the second, it indicated that the refusal was related to the blockade.

On 30 June 2021, the United States blocked the international card of a foreign visitor to Cuba, who had travelled with her daughter to Havana to begin medical treatment, when she attempted to make an online payment from the country. This is another regrettable example of the application of the blockade.

The food and agriculture sector is the foundation of food security and sovereignty, two goals that are among the priorities of the Cuban Government and that are directly linked to the implementation of the Food Sovereignty and Nutrition Education Plan and the achievement of the goals agreed in the 2030 Agenda.

Despite the considerable resources and efforts allocated by Cuba to this sector, the negative effects of the blockade in this area are significant, totalling an estimated \$369,589,550 between January and July 2021.

Many of those losses would have been avoided if Cuban companies had had access to the United States market. To mention just one example, the Spanish-Cuban joint venture Bravo incurred an additional expense of approximately \$525,200, owing to higher freight and transportation costs, because it could not purchase meat directly on the United States market.

Such direct access to the United States market would be highly advantageous, in the light of the prices and proximity of that market, and taking into account the fact that that country's industries are capable of supplying Cuban entities with many of the materials, including raw materials, and much of the equipment needed to modernize their production lines.

In addition, the lack of fuel for agricultural and pre-industrial processes, as a result of the measures against companies, ships and shipping companies that transport fuel to Cuba, caused an economic loss in the period of \$5,181,480.

The education, sport and culture sectors are among the socially important sectors that have traditionally been affected by the blockade restrictions. During the reporting period, the main losses in those areas were related to additional freight costs for the transport of products purchased on distant markets, obstacles to the receipt of payment for professional services provided abroad and difficulties in accessing external financing.

The Cuban Government allocates considerable financial, material and human resources each year to the education sector, which accounted for 24 per cent of the State budget in 2021. The field suffers because orders cannot be placed on the United States market or on other markets in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are dominated by United States companies. This makes it difficult to obtain the basic

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<sup>7</sup> In Cuba, since 1998 there has been a National Cochlear Implant Programme that has benefited more than 500 people, most of them children with severe or profound hearing loss.

study materials, furniture and equipment necessary for higher quality teaching in the education sector.

Between January and July 2021, the damage caused by the blockade in the sector amounted to approximately \$30,032,550.

The following are specific examples of the main damage caused to the education sector during the reporting period:

- Special education requires a wide range of resources for the comprehensive care of students, meaning that shortages have a negative impact on their full inclusion in society. In particular, the need to acquire specialized equipment on distant markets, with the consequent increase in costs, has made it impossible to purchase accessories such as electric wheelchairs for children with physical-motor disabilities who, owing to their underlying pathologies, cannot use a conventional wheelchair.
- In July 2021, the international trade department of the British company Gecko Arts and Media, a regular supplier of school materials for Cuban bodies in the field of special education, decided to withdraw guarantees for trade with Cuba, due to the restrictions imposed under the blockade. As a result, any shipment to the island would have to be paid for in advance. The company gave a quotation for two shipments to the island, but has not yet been able to find a bank willing to accept payment from Cuba.
- In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, higher education used remote platforms as an option to hold and participate in scientific events and conferences. The blockade prevents Cuba from using several of the main videoconferencing services, such as Cisco WebEx, Skype and Zoom. As a result, in April 2021, the University of Computer Sciences was unable to participate in the virtual regional meeting of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation, because the event was held using the Zoom platform. For the same reasons, in the reporting period, professors and specialists have found it impossible to participate in numerous virtual events.

The Cuban Government, through the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation, has, for more than 60 years, maintained its determination to ensure that exercise and sport remain a right and duty of the people. However, the sports sector has also suffered because of the effects of the blockade, which between January and July 2021 caused losses of approximately \$2,827,515.

During the reporting period, thousands of dollars earned by Cuban athletes, teams and sports officials for their participation in international events were withheld. This was the result of merciless financial persecution and the pressures brought to bear on banks by the United States Government. The sports sector suffered the following negative effects of the blockade:

- One Cuban athlete had a \$28,000 prize, won on the Beach Volleyball World Tour,<sup>8</sup> frozen.
- Two Cuban sports officials were not able to collect \$9,282 and \$8,680, respectively, for their services at different international events.

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<sup>8</sup> The athlete, together with his partner, represented Cuba in the following events (among others): the Rio 2016 Olympic Games (quarter-finals, fifth place), the World Championships (round of 16 in 2017), the Pan American Games (third place in 2015). They won the bronze medal in the Chinese city of Qinzhou, the venue for the twenty-first round of the Beach Volleyball World Tour (2017).

- A Cuban sports federation was not able to collect prizes won, amounting to a total of \$7,000.

In addition, hulls for canoe and kayak competitions, which were purchased and paid for in 2020, have yet to arrive, since the shipping company informed the manufacturer, Plastex, that it would not bring the products to Cuba. To date, no other company has been found that will carry out the transfer.

Another factor that repeatedly affects participation by Cuban athletes in international events is the refusal or delay on the part of the United States in granting the corresponding visas.

The culture sector continues to face considerable negative effects caused by the United States blockade against Cuba, reflected in losses of \$19,155,000 in the period from January to July 2021.

The blockade limits the artistic and intellectual development of young Cubans. In the absence of restrictions on the entry, exhibition and sale of Cuban works in the United States, and obstacles to ties with the United States artistic community, Cuban artists would enjoy access to a large and dynamic market and, at the same time, contribute to fostering cultural ties between Cuba and the United States.

The blockade and the hostile policy of the United States towards Cuba make it difficult for Cuban musicians to obtain the visas required for tours and concerts in the United States. It also prevents them from registering for and participating in events held in the United States, as well as signing contracts and receiving payment for performances in that country without the need for intermediaries, whose fees absorb part of the income that the artists would otherwise receive.

Meanwhile, with clear intent and as part of its campaign of subversion, which is financed with federal funds, the United States Government supports attempts to legitimize all kinds of pseudo-cultural products or activities that are intended to discredit the values of the rich culture of the Cuban nation and its creators. This has a negative impact on sales of Cuban art in all cultural circles, especially in the United States.

The main adverse effects on the culture sector during the reporting period were as follows:

- The contracts concluded, in relation to performances, by the music recording and publishing company Empresa de Grabaciones y Ediciones Musicales with United States clients cannot contain payment clauses, because that could harm the artists and the companies that represent them. This means that payments have to be made through third parties, which makes transactions more expensive and reduces the revenue received by the Cuban party. Sales to third countries are also more difficult as a result of the dissuasive and intimidating effect of the coercive measures imposed by the United States, in particular the application of sanctions and fines. These obstacles caused foregone income for the company amounting to \$206,330.
- Imports of raw materials, equipment and inputs by the Cuban Cultural Property Fund had to be sourced from Asian and European markets because of the ban on purchases from the United States market, resulting in losses of \$780,171.19.
- The fact that fees for performances abroad cannot be collected directly in United States dollars has resulted in a financial cost of \$24,295. This is due to the fact that transfers to Cuba require foreign associates to use payment gateways and financial intermediaries, both of which charge a commission for their services.

- Currently, cinematographic works whose credits do not contain a reference to the technology developed by the United States company Dolby have very little chance of gaining a share of the international film market. Cuba cannot use Dolby technology, forcing Cuban creators to partner with foreign co-producers to acquire the corresponding licences. In the reporting period, such licences alone caused losses totalling \$100,000.

## 2.2 Impact on economic development

From 2020 to September 2021, the Cuban economy lost 13 per cent of its gross domestic product as a result of the combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world economic crisis and the unprecedented tightening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States. This has had devastating effects on all areas of the economy, with a direct impact on the lives of the population.

The country currently finds itself in a gradual process of economic recovery, aimed at regaining the levels of activity lost in the last two years and increasing supply to the population. The Cuban Government has advocated and worked for the diversification of the production matrix and greater market participation by State and non-State enterprises.

As shown in the present report, the blockade is the main obstacle to the economic and social development of Cuba, the implementation of the national plan for economic and social development and, consequently, the 2030 Agenda, including its Sustainable Development Goals.

Turning the costs of the blockade into an increase in the country's payment capacity would provide an additional, substantial and sustained source of financing that would invigorate the investment programmes linked to the strategic sectors defined in the national plan, whose six strategic pillars are tied to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, establishing the necessary conditions for the gradual achievement of sustained annual growth in gross domestic product.

In March 2021, at the final session of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board, the funding proposal for the Coastal Resilience to Climate Change in Cuba through Ecosystem Based Adaptation ("Mi Costa") project was adopted after a majority vote and the sole objection of the United States, for political reasons. Financing in the amount of \$23,927,294, which will be matched by the Cuban Government, will be provided by the Green Fund for the first eight years of the project. This total will enable the implementation of an ecosystem-based adaptation approach to coastal protection, benefiting 1.3 million people in 24 municipalities and seven coastal localities in the Provinces of Artemisa, Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Granma, Las Tunas, Mayabeque and Pinar del Río.

The objection of the United States representative to a project to strengthen the national system of adaptation to climate change of a small island developing State like Cuba is unheard of, considering that the current United States Government has declared a strong interest in issues related to climate change.

In the first seven months of 2021, the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt and, once again, Cuban biotechnology and the Cuban pharmaceutical industry have shown themselves to be cornerstones of national sovereignty. The BioCubaFarma business group produces high-technology medicines, equipment and services to improve human health, generate exportable goods and services and produce food through advanced technology, making biotechnology and pharmaceuticals a significant and high-impact sector for the people and the economy.

The sector is not immune to the harm caused by the United States blockade against Cuba and, every year, the research, development, production and marketing of its products are affected by significant economic losses. Between January and July 2021, the harm caused in the area amounted to some \$102,943,600, mainly as lost export revenues, losses owing to the geographic relocation of trade and monetary losses.

The blockade is depriving the people of the United States of, *inter alia*, the benefits of biotechnological and pharmaceutical products developed in Cuba. The case of such globally prestigious Cuban medicines as Heberprot-P,<sup>9</sup> Gavac<sup>10</sup> and Proctokinasa,<sup>11</sup> which cannot be exported to the United States owing to the restrictions of the blockade, is particularly notorious. It is estimated that in the reporting period the ban on sales of these products on the United States market led to losses of \$97,382,500 for the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, in respect of lost income from exports of goods and services.

Between January and July 2021, owing to the contagiousness of COVID-19, Cuba kept its borders closed to international travel for tourism purposes, and only a few humanitarian and commercial trips were allowed. Therefore, for that period, it is impossible to determine the losses caused to the tourism sector by the restrictions imposed on the entry of cruise ships and travel by United States citizens to Cuba.

Nevertheless, during the reporting period, losses caused by the blockade in the amount of \$11,873,112 were reported in this sector, mainly in relation to monetary and financial damages and losses owing to the geographical relocation of trade.

The main damages included the following:

- The ban on doing business with United States maritime and air freight companies forced Cuban companies to work with financially disadvantageous freight options that resulted in losses of \$782,350.
- The Cubatur travel agency calculates that it suffered monetary and financial damages in the amount of \$28,510, owing to charges for banking services and exchange rate fluctuations. The Cubanacán travel agency and the company Caracol estimate their losses resulting from such charges at \$94,089 and \$125,324, respectively.
- Access to many websites recognized as world leaders in the promotion and distribution of tourism products is blocked for Cuba as a result of the sanctions imposed by the United States. In particular, Cuban travel agencies cannot use the Galileo, Sabre and Worldspan global distribution systems (the main global distribution systems in North America). Likewise, a large number of Cuban hotels have been removed from sites such as Booking.com, Expedia and Trivago. This greatly limits access to and the visibility of tourism products for retail agencies in other countries, which operate with Galileo and Sabre. It also limits the options for selling to end customers.
- It is impossible for Cuban entities in the tourism sector to have access to online advertising campaigns. For example, campaigns on the Facebook platform have to be paid for and no Cuban company has Visa or MasterCard cards with which to make such payments, owing to the blockade.

In the non-State sector, the restrictions imposed through the blockade significantly undermine the activities of numerous Cuban entrepreneurs, business

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<sup>9</sup> The only drug of its kind in the world for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers.

<sup>10</sup> Vaccine developed to control tick-borne diseases in cattle.

<sup>11</sup> Medication for the treatment of acute haemorrhoids.

owners and members of cooperatives. The policy greatly affects their day-to-day operations and significantly limits their chances of thriving.

Travel restrictions for United States citizens have been maintained, and that will continue to limit the flow of visitors to the island, taking into account the fact that, since 15 November 2021, the number of international flights and visitor arrivals, including tourists, has gradually increased.

The restrictions have led to a significant reduction in the demand for goods and services from the non-State sector in recent years. At the same time, the suspension of Cuban consular services in the United States and United States consular services in Cuba has limited the ability of Cuban entrepreneurs to travel to the United States and directly acquire the supplies they need for their businesses.

Cuban entrepreneurs have had their bank accounts in the United States closed, making their financial transactions more difficult and expensive. The coercive measures against financial institutions in recent years have resulted in several e-payment and e-commerce platforms, such as PayPal and Airbnb, refusing to provide services to these individuals.

Between January and July 2021, the economic harm caused by the blockade to the information and communications technology sector in Cuba, including telecommunications, is estimated at \$37,520,578.

The main damage was tied to limitations or bans on supplying technologies and equipment produced under licence or using United States components. This makes it necessary to buy on other, much more distant markets; leads to monetary and financial losses caused by exchange rate fluctuations and the refusal of banks to carry out transactions with Cuba; has effects on output and services owing to the higher cost of repairing equipment, since such repairs cannot be arranged directly with suppliers and manufacturers in the United States; and hampers access to computer tools, which are essential for training and the production of domestic software.

The blockade is the main obstacle to a better flow of information and to wider access to the Internet and information and communications technologies among Cubans. By making connectivity in the country difficult and expensive, imposing conditions on access to platforms and technologies and using cyberspace to try to subvert the Cuban political and legal system, the policy is adversely affecting the development of communications in Cuba.

The main limitations in the sector are as follows:

- Companies producing equipment with United States components, or companies with a strong presence in the United States market, continually face a range of restrictions on business with Cuba. This has led to an increase in costs and has complicated logistics for the telecommunications company Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba (ETECSA), resulting in increased costs of \$26,611,000.
- Since direct interconnections with international operators are prohibited in the United States, where the main interconnection nodes are located, ETECSA is forced to extend the international network with nodes in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Jamaica and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), which entails expenses totalling \$8,145,800.
- For Cuban software developers, who are for the most part young, the blockade means that it is impossible to offer products and applications created for the Android operating system through the Google Play store. To register as a developer on that platform and offer an application to users, a small fee must be paid, which is impossible since transactions with United States banks cannot be

carried out from Cuba. Even if the payment were made, Cuban developers would not be able to receive the income generated by each download of their application from the Google Play Store, because that requires having an account with a virtual payment processor that can complete the transaction (such as PayPal). That is not possible given the restrictions of the blockade.

- The sector was also affected by the restrictions imposed on access from Cuba to such digital platforms as Cisco Webex, Interprefy and Zoom, preventing Cuban representatives from participating on an equal footing in numerous international events held remotely.

In the period under review, the damage caused by the blockade to Cuban industry amounted to \$13,864,000. This is mainly associated with foregone income from exports of goods and services, the geographical relocation of trade (including increased prices, freight and insurance, and inventory), fluctuations in exchange rates and the impact of the technological blockade.

This is illustrated most clearly by the following:

- The light industry import-export company Empresa Comercializadora Importadora-Exportadora de la Industria Ligera suffered losses of around \$246,484.90 because of the refusal by London-based NatWest Bank (despite the contractual agreement) and Caixaben and MetroBank (used by the client) to transfer money to Cuba owing to financial persecution by the United States.
- The ban on the use of the United States dollar as the currency of payment forces Cuban businesses to use the euro and other currencies for their international transactions. The currency exchange fees and commissions that banks charge for these operations lead to additional costs. For this reason alone, the recycling business group Grupo Empresarial de Reciclaje and the chemical industry business group Grupo Empresarial de la Industria Química reported losses of \$1,113,829.73 and \$2,222,190.49, respectively.
- The Cuban company Acinox Comercial, which has a strong presence in the metallurgical market, cannot do business with United States transnational companies, nor can it directly purchase, in the United States, the raw materials, spare parts and metals required for its business, resulting in an estimated 15 per cent increase in costs because it has to purchase those products in Asia or Europe. In the reporting period, products worth \$20,147,095.62 were imported, and it is estimated that \$3,022,064.34 would have been saved if they had been purchased on the United States market.
- In 2021, the commercial company BK Import/Export<sup>12</sup> requested a quotation from the German company MasterFlex Group for the purchase of water hoses for use in a fruit juice processing plant in Cuba. In response, the German company reported that its subsidiary in the United States is responsible for managing all the company's operations in Central America and that, taking into account United States law, the subsidiary could not supply any products to a Cuban entity.

Because of the blockade, the construction sector continues to face serious difficulties in acquiring more efficient and lightweight building technologies that consume fewer basic materials and less energy. Between January and July 2021, losses in this area are reported to be \$22,793,000.

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<sup>12</sup> This company imports and exports goods and services, as well as raw materials, equipment and other inputs, supporting the manufacturing and projects of companies in the metallurgical industry and their opening-up to the foreign market.

Other negative effects felt in the construction industry during the reporting period included the following:

- The Directorate General of Housing reported a loss of \$17,500,000 owing to the lack of access to more efficient materials and technologies. Had that amount been saved, the National Housing Programme would have progressed more quickly and efficiently.
- The Ministry of Construction of Cuba reported \$3,700,000 in foregone export revenue, mainly as a result of two things:
  - First Caribbean International Bank’s refusal to make a transfer to Cuba from its Cayman Islands client Tri-Island, owing to fears concerning the financial persecution by the United States of banks attempting to work with Cuba.
  - The production of clinker for export was significantly undermined by fluctuations in the supply of petroleum coke fuel, because of the sanctions applied in recent years against companies that supply fuel to Cuba.
- Owing to the intimidating effect of the blockade, the construction business group Grupo Empresarial de la Construcción reported losses of \$1.3 million, because it was impossible to sign international economic partnership contracts with foreign companies.

In the period from January to July 2021, losses caused by the blockade in the transportation sector amounted to \$31,278,520.

Some examples of the negative impact of the policy in the reporting period are described below:

- The airline Cubana de Aviación reported foregone revenues of \$7,062,498.78 owing to the non-renewal of a cargo aircraft leasing contract. This led to the suspension of planned cargo operations to Cancún, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Mexico City, as well as a considerable reduction in the number of flights to Panama.
- Difficulties remain in the transport of non-commercial cargo sent directly by family or friends in the United States to people in Cuba. Currently, a large proportion of this cargo arrives in Cuba through third countries, which leads to increases in the cost of transportation and significant delays, harming the Cubans who receive the shipments.
- The restrictions imposed by the Torricelli Act make it difficult to obtain quotations for shipping operations and result in higher fees for Cuban port operations. Moreover, a significant proportion of ships sailing from Asia, Europe and South America make trans-shipments in Caribbean ports, which leads to delays owing to longer voyages. Because of the volume of containers involved, it is estimated that, were it not for the blockade, \$6,000,000 could be saved purely in terms of freight costs, the bunker adjustment factor and the need for fewer warehouses.

In the energy and mining sector, losses during the reporting period are estimated at \$136,063,043. An uninterrupted electricity supply has posed enormous problems for Cuba, owing to the tense situation imposed by the blockade. The economic siege has exacerbated limitations in the areas of finance and access to the loans needed to repair the country’s thermoelectric power stations and acquire necessary technologies.

In addition to the above, the measures adopted during President Trump’s Administration in 2019 to prevent the entry of fuel into Cuba remain fully applicable. This causes major problems for the country, because fuel shortages affect all

production processes and economic sectors, especially in the area of the supplies needed to maintain the national power grid, as well as various essential services, such as electricity, cooking food and public transportation.

The United States Government persecutes and intimidates companies that ship fuel to Cuba. As a result, the availability of foreign suppliers has diminished and those that have maintained contracts with Cuba have increased their prices considerably owing to its country risk. This is a form of unconventional warfare applied in what is supposed to be peacetime against the entire population of a country against which the United States has not formally declared war.

The following are examples of the losses caused in the reporting period:

- The petroleum products association Unión Cuba Petróleo reported \$17,391,640 in foregone revenues from exports of goods and services. Since 2019, shipowners and operators of vessels that transported fuel to Cuba have been included in the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List of the Office of Foreign Assets Control. A Cuban fuel import and export company was also included on the list, which led all its suppliers to refuse to do business with it.
- Although the United States is the world's largest producer and exporter of sulfuric acid, Cuba has to acquire the chemical through Canadian ports. As a result, it is estimated that freight costs increased by approximately 20 per cent, equivalent to a loss of \$5,041,000.
- The company Moa Nickel reported a negative impact of \$953,300 owing to freight costs. The company imports liquefied petroleum gas and has also seen its portfolio of suppliers limited as a result of the persecution of companies that trade with Cuba.

Table 1  
**Summary of the quantified losses by sector (January–July 2021)**

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Reported losses (in United States dollars)</i>
Health	113 498 300
Education	30 032 550
Sport	2 827 515
Culture	19 155 000
Biotechnological and pharmaceutical industry	102 943 600
Tourism	11 873 112
Information and communications technology sector, including telecommunications	37 520 578
Industry	13 864 800
Construction	22 793 000
Transport	31 278 520
Energy and mines	136 063 043
External sector	923 829 755.13
Banking and financial sector	167 800 000

### 2.3 Unquantifiable human losses

Any description of the effects of the blockade must take into account the terrible human harm caused by the policy, aimed at undermining the determination of Cubans,

obstructing their system of development and leading them into discontent. This human damage, although real and significant, cannot be quantified.

The blockade seeks to undermine a social project that from its very beginning was set up to benefit the most disadvantaged, through material deprivation as a means to provoke social unrest.

Cubans inside and outside the country suffer the devastating consequences of the blockade. Several generations have been born and have lived under the siege of this criminal policy, brought to bear in a cruel way with the intention of harming the most important economic and social sectors.

This is evidenced by the infamous memo from the then Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs of the United States Department of State, Lester Mallory, who on 6 April 1960 noted:

The majority of Cubans support Castro [...]. The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship. [...] Every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba [...], a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of Government.

Since then, the strategy of the United States towards Cuba has consisted of causing hardship and thus encouraging chaos, a sense of impotence, nonconformity and the dissatisfaction of Cubans with their living conditions, while hampering their legitimate aspirations to prosperity and development.

The United States Government cannot present itself as a benefactor of the Cuban people, when it condemns them to suffering, desperation and shortages of essential and basic necessities, as seen in the long lines that Cubans have had to bear on a daily basis in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The narrative of the United States Government, which attempts to hold the Cuban Government responsible for the effects of its criminal blockade against the island, is hypocritical.

The psychological impact of the blockade and the anxiety it causes among the population far exceeds any figure. The anguish of a Cuban whose access to basic medicines is hampered by a United States entity refusing to send the supplies necessary for their manufacture, or that of a mother when she learns that her child, sick with cancer, cannot be given the most advanced cytostatic drug, cannot be expressed numerically. It is impossible to measure the despair at not being able to receive donations and essential purchases for sectors with a high social impact, because transportation companies have a United States corporate shareholder and fear being subjected to punitive measures.

There is no way to quantify the feelings of helplessness of engineers who cannot obtain the software they need for their work, or of students who cannot open web pages of academic interest.

Nor can one measure the frustration of Cuban scientists, academics, artists and other professionals, who often see their chances of development, of exchanging with their counterparts in other countries, of participating in international events and of presenting the fruits of their labours, cut short.

The damage caused to Cuban families and to ties with Cubans living abroad is immeasurable. The United States is responsible for blocking remittances and for complicated consular procedures that are accessible only in third countries, which

causes frustration and anguish, hinders family reunification and builds walls where hundreds of thousands of voices around the world advocate the construction of bridges of love.

### **3. Impact on the external sector of the Cuban economy**

#### **3.1 Impact on foreign trade**

The impact of the blockade on Cuban foreign trade in the period from January to July 2021 amounts to \$923,829,755.13. The persecution of Cuban financial transactions, accompanied by an unprecedented campaign of intimidation against banks that operate with Cuba, has significantly harmed the country's external economic activity.

As in previous years, the greatest losses, \$361,370,800, have been in foregone income from exports of goods and services. This amount does not reflect the impact of the blockade on tourism in the country, on account of the almost total halt to worldwide travel as a result of COVID-19.

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, the ban on access to the United States market has led to significant losses for the Cuban economy in the area of imports. Under that heading, it is estimated that the losses from January to July 2021 were \$256,233,656.30. That figure is 48.6 per cent higher than the figure for the period from April 2019 to March 2020, despite the period being shorter (only seven months).

The ban on the use of the United States dollar in international transactions forces Cuban companies to use other currencies. This has led to additional expenses, owing to exchange rate fluctuations, of an estimated \$161,562,899.38.

The coercive economic measures that were applied to reinforce the blockade against Cuba during President Trump's Administration are fully in force today, and have a dissuasive and intimidating effect on foreign companies and entrepreneurs seeking to establish commercial ties with Cuban entities. This, together with the increasingly widespread refusal by banks to process transactions related to Cuba, generated losses amounting to \$89,402,781.

The inability to export to the United States because of the blockade restrictions and prohibitions has resulted in losses to the Cuban agricultural sector of \$112,481,130. The Cuban entities worst affected by the export ban are the cigar manufacturers Habanos and Internacional Cubana de Tabacos, which have reported millions of dollars in lost income because Cuban tobacco products cannot be offered for sale on the United States market, one of the largest in the world.<sup>13</sup>

The sugar company Cubazucar could have exported products worth an estimated \$33,349,768 to the United States between January and July 2021, taking into account the 95,850 tons that Cuba managed to put on the world market in the period.

The ban on exports to the United States forces other Cuban companies with exportable brands and products, such as Cubita and Caracolillo coffee, Caney and Varadero rums, and charcoal, to look for customers in more distant markets, such as Europe, which makes the entire marketing process more expensive.

Excess freight and insurance costs resulting from the geographical relocation of trade to more distant regions continue to have a major impact on the Cuban economy. In that respect, losses in the reporting period are estimated at \$43,548,077. In

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<sup>13</sup> The premium cigar market is estimated at around 435 million units, of which approximately 290 million are sold in the United States, making it the world's largest premium cigar market (accounting for 66 per cent of the total world market).

addition, the need to resort to commercial intermediaries, with the resulting increase in the price of goods, caused losses estimated at \$5,843,500.

Table 1 shows the effects of the blockade on Cuban foreign trade between January and July 2021.

Table 2  
**Effects of the blockade on Cuban foreign trade (January to July 2021)**

<i>Impact</i>	<i>USD</i>
No access to the United States market	256 233 656.30
Use of intermediaries/increase in the cost of goods	5 843 500.00
Increase in freight and insurance costs	43 548 077.45
Income foregone from exports	361 370 800.00
Country risk/increase in the cost of credit	5 868 041.00
Ban on the use of the United States dollar	161 562 899.38
Other effects <sup>a</sup>	89 402 781.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>923 829 755.13</b>

<sup>a</sup> Additional costs related to transactions through third-country banks, bank fees, payment methods, payments withheld, breach of contracts and disputes, among others.

### 3.2 Impact on the banking and financial sector

The period from January to July 2021 was marked by the ruthless persecution of Cuban transactions with third countries. The monetary and financial losses in the reporting period amounted to \$167.8 million.

Losses continue to be incurred as the result of the restrictions on the use of the United States dollar in commercial and financial transactions with foreign associates, as well as the refusal of foreign banks to serve Cuba. The situation has worsened in recent years owing to the imposition of coercive measures by the Office of Foreign Assets Control on United States and third-country entities for alleged violations of the blockade.

The inclusion of Cuba in January 2021 on the list of State sponsors of terrorism, unilaterally issued by the United States Department of State, reinforced the consequences of the blockade by making it more difficult for the country to engage in international trade, carry out financial transactions and acquire staple goods.

As a result of that measure, during the reporting period numerous banks suspended operations with Cuba, including transfers for purchases by the general public of food, medicines and goods, all in the midst of the battle the country was facing against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dozens of Cuban diplomatic missions around the world have had their ties cut with the banks that traditionally provided them with services, owing to the banks' fear of reprisals from the United States Government. This affects the operation of Cuban embassies and the livelihoods of their staff, and has obstructed the payment by Cuba of financial contributions to several international and regional organizations.

The tightening of the extraterritorial application of the blockade in the financial sphere also has an impact on individuals. Reports are mounting of Cubans who live abroad becoming victims, all over the world, of the refusal of banks to serve them or carry out transfers with connections to Cuba.

Cuban banking transactions continue to face obstacles and limitations, in particular in the area of refunds and refusals of transfers by European banks, purportedly owing to internal policies or other reasons.

The United States Government, furthermore, bans third-country banks from holding United States dollar accounts for Cuba or Cuban nationals. It also prohibits the use of its currency, or of dollar accounts, in transactions between nationals of third countries and Cuban nationals. All this leads to substantial losses owing to fluctuations in exchange rates between the United States dollar and the currencies of third countries in which collections and payments are made, as well as other additional costs.

On 10 June 2021, the Cuban banking and financial system was forced to temporarily stop accepting deposits of cash in United States dollars, owing to the problems that the United States blockade causes with regard to the use of the currency in transactions, once funds have been collected in Cuba.

Between January and July 2021, the main effects of the blockade policy on the Cuban banking and financial sector were the following:

- **Refusal to provide banking services**

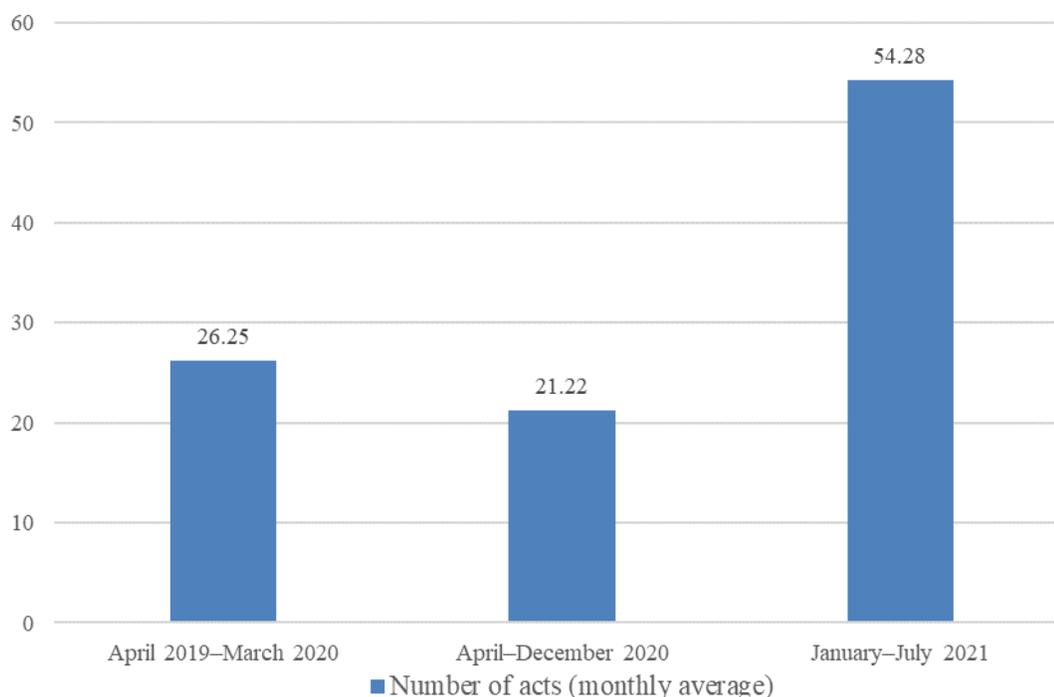
In only seven months, there were 381 instances of harm to the Cuban banking system caused by the acts of foreign banks (44 banks in Europe, 38 in the Americas and 11 in the rest of the world). The transactions in question were in a total amount of €24,588,193,039, showing the financial flows affected by the blockade's deterrent effect.<sup>14</sup>

On average, during the reporting period there were approximately 54 cases per month of foreign banks harming the Cuban banking and financial sector. This is more than twice the average monthly figure for the two previous periods (see figure I below).

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<sup>14</sup> The figure is expressed in euros as that is the currency Cuba uses with foreign banks owing to the ban on the use of the United States dollar.

Figure I  
Acts by foreign banks that affect Cuban banking and financial operations



Such acts include refusal to open or close accounts; refusal to transfer funds to or from Cuba and to provide other banking services; cancellation or refusal of requests for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) or Relationship Management Application (RMA)<sup>15</sup> keys from foreign banks; and return and cancellation of transactions and correspondent agreements.

These examples show the obstacles faced on an almost daily basis by Cuban banks in the processing of the country's transactions, because foreign banks are increasingly refusing to work with Cuba, because of United States sanctions against the island or compliance with internal policies, or on other grounds.

When comparing the average monthly costs of the fees that Cuba has to pay to foreign banks to recover the costs generated by rejected transactions, it is estimated that between January and July 2021 there was an increase of more than 200 per cent (\$2,176.84 per month) compared to the costs between April and December 2020 (\$902.82 per month).

- **Access to foreign financing in extremely onerous conditions**

This is a situation that Cuba has faced for many years owing to the economic, commercial and financial war waged by the United States, which has been intensified in recent years. Cuban banking and business entities continue to pay much higher interest rates than those set by the market for similar transactions conducted by other

<sup>15</sup> Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) or Relationship Management Application (RMA) messaging keys are essential for banking operations because they are used by banks for electronic transfers (currency transactions) and interbank communication. SWIFT codes are essential to the security and speed of transactions and are a prerequisite for opening accounts with banks in third countries.

countries to obtain foreign financing. That is the result of surcharges arising from the country risk classification applied to Cuba, which is the main element in determining the feasibility and costs of financial operations, and which has increased as a result of the blockade.

- **Difficulties in the dispatch and receipt of bank documents through courier agencies**

Problems remain in connection with the services provided by DHL and the following negative effects are still apparent:

- Using means other than DHL and SWIFT to send banking documents does not offer the same level of guarantees or security.
- Documents, including bills of lading, are sent as copies by email, instead of the originals being sent directly through DHL.
- Cuban importers need to find alternative ways of receiving documents in order to carry out customs formalities to have goods released from the port, which leads to delays in the process and in getting the goods to the domestic market.

- **Impact on services provided to the population**

The inclusion by the United States Government of the companies Financiera Cimex (Fincimex) and American International Services on the List of Restricted Entities and Subentities Associated with Cuba, in June and September 2020 respectively, and the inability to process remittances through them, closed the principal formal channels for remittances, creating further difficulties in the ties between Cuban families in both countries, already hard hit by the pandemic.

This harm is illustrated by the example of the volumes of money that were transferred to the population as remittances through the contract between Fincimex and the Cuban mercantile company Sociedad Mercantil Cubana Casas de Cambio (CADECA).<sup>16</sup> In 2020, an average of \$6,504,490 in remittances to individuals was processed each month through this system alone. The figure collapsed to zero as from December 2020, as a result of the unilateral United States sanctions on Fincimex. Based on this change, it is estimated that in the first seven months of 2021, approximately \$45,531,430 was not transferred to the population. This reveals the scale of the damage caused to Cuban families, although it does not show the total harm caused by the measures against Fincimex.

#### **4. The blockade violates international law: extraterritorial application**

##### **4.1 Impact on Cuban entities**

On 11 and 12 January 2021, the Kazakh company Best Tour Travel made two transfers through CenterCredit bank to the Cuban company Cubadeportes for accommodation and transportation services for the athletes of the Kazakhstan Olympic boxing team, who were to visit Cuba from 14 to 29 January 2021. The blockade prevented the receipt of the funds in the intended account. CenterCredit said that on 21 January it had received a communication from its correspondent bank, the Bank of New York Mellon, to the effect that the payments sent had been blocked in accordance with the United States sanctions in force against the Cuban Government.

On 9 February 2021, the Cuban Embassy in Fiji was informed that its accounts with Bred Bank-Fiji had been closed, owing to the consequences of the sanctions on

<sup>16</sup> The Sociedad Mercantil Cubana Casas de Cambio (CADECA) is a financial institution that has been helping the country to meet its monetary policy goals since 1994. It provides individuals and entities with local and foreign currency bureau de change services, among others.

Cuba. Since that date, Cuba has been working with other banks in the country to open new accounts, to no avail. It is therefore impossible for the Cuban Embassy to receive payments for consular services rendered.

On 9 March 2021, an adviser for the Alto Cedro Group, which together with the payment service company Pecunia Cards provides point-of-sale terminal services to the Cuban Consulates in Spain, stated that MasterCard had contacted Pecunia Cards, instructing it to stop accepting cards at the aforementioned terminals with immediate effect. The instruction is based on a global internal MasterCard rule that, owing to the blockade, prevents the company from serving or collaborating with entities linked to the Cuban Government.

On 18 March 2021, the chief financial officer of the Abu Dhabi Stem Cell Center asked the head of the Cuban medical brigade in the United Arab Emirates to find another correspondent bank to handle payments to Cuba for the services of the brigade members sent to the United Arab Emirates. The justification provided was that, as a result of the blockade, the German bank Deutsche Bank, which had been used as a correspondent up to that time, refused to continue in that role.

On 19 March 2021, Scotiabank informed the office of the Cuban education brigade in the Bahamas that, as of 26 March 2021, it would not make any transfers to Cuba from the account held by the office with the bank. In addition, several Cuban pharmacists working under agreements between the Bahamas Public Hospitals Authority and Cuban Medical Services, whose work is essential to maintain the pharmacy services at the Princess Margaret Hospital, received similar notices.<sup>17</sup>

On 26 March, it became known that Scotiabank branches were taking action against Cuban individuals or entities in several Caribbean countries in response to an alert issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control to the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, a Canadian government regulatory body. Specifically, the Office of Foreign Assets Control asked the Office of the Superintendent to audit all Canadian bank transactions with Cuba, despite the fact that no changes had been made in the sanctions against the country.

On 1 June 2021, the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty Organization informed the Cuban Embassy in Austria that a shipment of equipment donated for the establishment of a national data centre in Cuba had been held up, because the shipping company suddenly reported that it would not be able to carry out the transaction owing to the sanctions imposed by the United States against the island.

On 13 July 2021, the directors of a bank decided to close the accounts of the Cuban Embassy in France, with 60 days' notice. This move should be considered in the context of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Council Regulation (EC) No. 2271/96, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 22 November 1996, and the European Union Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba.

In recent years, owing to the financial persecution of Cuba by the United States Government, the National Assembly of People's Power has had problems paying its membership contributions to international organizations, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, which have led to serious limits on Cuban participation in the organizations.

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<sup>17</sup> All the transfers and transactions related to the work of Cuban teachers and health professionals in the Bahamas have been transparent and legal, and are based on agreements entered into by the corresponding Cuban institutions and ministries and their Bahamian counterparts. Scotiabank is at risk of breaching those agreements.

In the case of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, it was not possible to make membership payments for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Several courses of action have been explored directly with the organization, in coordination with the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland, but all have been unsuccessful owing to a Swiss bank's refusal to accept transfers from Cuba.

In the case of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, it has not been possible to make membership payments for 2020 and 2021. The Parliament has been contacted directly but negotiations have not been successful because the bank does not accept transfers from Cuba owing to the blockade.

#### **4.2 Other extraterritorial impacts**

In January 2021, the head of a company informed the Cuban Embassy in Finland (accredited also to Estonia) that a bank in Estonia had started to block payments to its new financial partner from its customers who use the bank. The bank in Estonia alleged that the payment contravened its risk policy. The bank further stated that transfers related to the company were not in accordance with the principles and objectives of the implementation of international sanctions.

The company's lawyers sent a memorandum on the arbitrary application of international financial sanctions in the banking sector in Estonia and the improper implementation of sanctions (dated 18 January 2021) to the Estonian Ministry for Foreign Affairs; in the memorandum, they denounced what had happened and the illegality of the restrictions imposed on the company by the bank. Among other things, they stated that:

- The bank's activities are contrary to the principle of free movement of goods, services and capital laid down in article 26 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and infringe the freedom of enterprise pursuant to article 31 of the Estonian Constitution.
- Article 29 of the Treaty also stipulates that products from a third country shall be considered to be in free circulation in a member State if the import formalities have been complied with and any customs duties have been levied. Those requirements are enforced by the Estonian Tax and Customs Board and, if they are properly complied with, the bank has no legal grounds for restricting the circulation of the tobacco products supplied by the company.

On 5 February 2021, the head of an Argentine company, a regular supplier of grains and meals to Cuba, informed the Cuban Embassy in Buenos Aires that a bank in Uruguay had refused to process payment of a transaction for the supply of alfalfa meal. The bank official provided written notification that the funds in question had been returned to the Cuban bank Banco Internacional de Comercio because the Uruguayan bank had instructions not to receive funds from Cuban State-owned companies. The measure causes frequent suppliers to Cuba further inconvenience because it not only prevents them from receiving necessary funds on time, but also forces them to look for alternative ways to receive those funds.

In April 2021, to contribute to the purchase of medical supplies, the solidarity organization "Cubans in UK", based in the United Kingdom, made a transfer to the association of Cubans living in Germany "Estrella de Cuba", which was withheld by the bank and triggered an investigation of its accounts.

In May 2021, the Cuban Embassy in Jamaica made two transfers to a bank to pay the membership fees of Cuba as a member of the International Seabed Authority. Both transfers were rejected by the bank because, as from 1 April 2021, it had decided not to continue to provide payment services to or from Cuba for its customer accounts.

On 6 May 2021, one bank's accounts in euros, pounds sterling and Japanese yen, which had been managed at another bank's London branch, were closed. The measure mainly affects British entities that trade with Cuba, because the aforementioned branch had previously received funds for subsequent transfer to Cuban banks and payments had been made in pounds sterling to British companies. Personal remittances sent to Cuba through the first bank were also affected.

## **5. Universal rejection of the blockade**

### **5.1 Opposition within the United States**

During the reporting period, demonstrations of broad international support for Cuba in the struggle against the blockade continued. Declarations, media activities, resolutions and other initiatives rejecting the economic siege came from various quarters in the United States. Representatives of civil society in the areas of culture, academia, religion, the environment and solidarity, business groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and lawmakers and politicians in the country expressed their opposition to the continuation of the blockade.

In addition to denouncing the blockade as a whole, most of these efforts focused on urging the Government of the United States to change the course of its Cuba policy and make a fresh start in bilateral relations. President Biden received many requests to use his executive powers to eliminate the coercive measures imposed during the Government of President Trump.

In many of the initiatives, the need to lift the blockade or relax its provisions was emphasized, in view of the profound impact of the restrictions and prohibitions on the fight against COVID-19.

Some examples of opposition to the blockade within the United States during the reporting period are set out below:

- On 4 January 2021, the San Francisco Labor Council passed a resolution on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, in which it urged the Congress and President of the United States to lift the restrictions on travel to Cuba and the importing of medical supplies.
- On 12 January 2021, the Chair of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop David J. Malloy, issued a statement opposing the United States Government's designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism. Bishop Malloy reaffirmed the support of the Conference for the full lifting of the blockade against Cuba.
- On 14 January 2021, the United States Agriculture Coalition for Cuba released a letter addressed to President Biden. The organization urged the incoming Government to resume efforts to normalize bilateral relations and support congressional action to lift the blockade. It also called for early action, among other things, to suspend the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act as an important step for the United States agricultural sector and for business in general.
- On 19 January 2021, the Massachusetts Democratic congressperson and Chair of the Committee on Rules of the House of Representatives, James McGovern, sent President Biden a letter in which he urged Mr. Biden to act quickly to reverse the damage done to bilateral relations by President Trump and to foster new ties. Among the actions requested was the removal of restrictions on travel, interchanges and commerce.

- On 19 January 2021, Seattle City Council approved a resolution in which it called for cooperation with Cuba in the fight against COVID-19 and urged the Biden Administration to end the blockade against the island.
- On 24 January 2021, Cuban émigrés in Key West held a ceremony to mark the 168th anniversary of the birth of José Martí, during which the blockade against Cuba was condemned, as was the country's inclusion in the list of State sponsors of terrorism of the United States Department of State. The city's mayor, Teri Johnston, participated in the meeting.
- On 24 January 2021, the United States actor Tyrese Gibson released a message, through the social network Instagram, in which he urged the Biden Administration to end the blockade of Cuba. Gibson referred to the rapprochement with Cuba as one of President Obama's main achievements.
- On 28 January 2021, in an article in the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, the United States academic William LeoGrande advocated swift action by the Biden Administration to restore bilateral relations, including the removal of the blockade regulations imposed by the Trump Administration.
- On 29 January 2021, in a statement issued through social networks, the Alliance for Cuba Engagement and Respect urged the Biden Administration to remove restrictions on remittances and travel to Cuba. It also called for the beginning of a new era of mutual respect and understanding between the two countries.
- On 31 January 2021, demonstrations involving caravans of bicycles and cars were held in several United States cities, such as Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Seattle, to demand an end to the blockade against Cuba and support stronger ties between the two countries. The initiative was organized by the Bridges of Love project.
- On 4 February 2021, the Oregon Democratic senator Ron Wyden introduced the United States-Cuba Trade Act of 2021 to lift the blockade completely and establish normal trade relations. Under the Act, the main laws containing the measures against Cuba, including the Helms-Burton Act and the Torricelli Act, and other provisions affecting trade, investment and travel, would be repealed. The Democratic senators Patrick Leahy (Vermont), Richard Durbin (Illinois) and Jeff Merkley (Oregon) co-sponsored the bill.
- On 7 February 2021, the Vermont Democratic senator Patrick Leahy stated on Twitter that the blockade of Cuba, which he described as a policy that had made life more difficult for Cubans, needed to be lifted.
- On 7 February 2021, Family Farm Defenders, an organization based in Madison, Wisconsin, released an open letter to President Biden, in which it urged him to allow collaboration between Cuba and the United States to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and called for an end to all economic and travel-related sanctions against the country.
- On 8 February 2021, Asuntos Cubanos (Cuban Affairs), a group of Cuban Americans on social networks, together with the Asociación Cultural José Martí USA de Miami (United States José Martí Cultural Association of Miami) and organizations of patriotic emigrants to the United States, sent President Biden a letter in which they advocated a new approach in the policy towards Cuba and urged the new Government to lift the blockade, which was an obstacle to the Cuban economy and the main barrier to the full enjoyment of human rights in the country.
- On 9 February 2021, the international committee of the Democratic Socialists of America tweeted its support for the legislative initiative of the Democratic

senator for Oregon, Ron Wyden, to lift the blockade of Cuba. Cuba should be included without restrictions in international trade, and the repeal of the Helms-Burton Act and all sanctions against the country should be a priority for President Biden's Government.

- On 10 February 2021, 56 United States civil society organizations, including Cuban American groups and leading academic, religious, human rights, environmental and business organizations, sent a letter to President Biden urging him to initiate a new policy of rapprochement with Cuba. The organizations advocated the lifting of the restrictions imposed by President Trump and called for a complete end to the blockade.
- On 17 February 2021, 17 churches and religious organizations in the United States sent President Biden a letter in which they urged him to honour his commitment to reversing President Trump's policies that harmed Cubans and their families, and advocated the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, the suspension of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and the lifting of the blockade.
- On 17 February 2021, the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, based in Oakland, California, published an open letter to President Biden in which it advocated that the Government of the United States adopt a new policy of rapprochement with Cuba. The Committee urged the United States executive branch to lift the blockade against Cuba and all sanctions, prohibitions and extraterritorial laws against the country.
- On 23 February 2021, the City Council of Chicago, Illinois, unanimously approved a resolution in which it called for the United States Government to end the economic blockade against Cuba. The full restoration of trade and travel between the two countries would be of great benefit to both parties, and the city would benefit from the export of agricultural and industrial products to Cuba.
- On 25 February 2021, six Democratic senators sent a letter to the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, urging him to reverse President Trump's Cuba policy. Among other things, they advocated lifting restrictions on travel, remittances and the functioning of the two countries' embassies. The signatories were Patrick Leahy (Vermont), Ron Wyden (Oregon), Sheldon Whitehouse (Rhode Island), Chris Van Hollen (Maryland), Martin Heinrich (New Mexico) and Mark R. Warner (Virginia).
- On 26 February 2021, the Washington Office on Latin America held a videoconference entitled "Mapping out change: the United States and Cuba – a new policy of engagement", in which it advocated the lifting of blockade restrictions on Cuba. The participants included the Democratic congressperson James McGovern (Massachusetts); the academic William LeoGrande; the President of the Office, Geoff Thale; and the interim Executive Director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas, María José Espinosa.
- On 28 February 2021, a series of demonstrations demanding an end to the blockade against Cuba was held in cities in the United States and Canada. In the United States cities of Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Seattle and Washington, D.C., the demonstrations were part of the eighth Bridges of Love caravan initiative.
- On 2 March 2021, the organization Code Pink held a videoconference entitled "Peace with Cuba", in which the new Government was urged to lift the blockade. As part of the initiative, the organization advocated support for the United States-Cuba Trade Act of 2021, introduced on 4 February 2021 by the Oregon Democratic senator Ron Wyden.

- On 3 March 2021, 79 Democratic congresspersons sent President Biden a letter in which they asked him to reverse immediately the cruel policies implemented by Donald Trump against Cuba and resume mutually beneficial dialogue with the Government of Cuba. The congresspersons also called for initial steps to be taken in relation to travel, remittances and other matters, and for an end to the economic blockade against Cuba. The original signatories of the letter were congresspersons Bobby Rush (Illinois), Steve Cohen (Tennessee), Barbara Lee (California) and Gwen Moore (Wisconsin).
- On 9 March 2021, the Latin America Working Group launched an online petition calling on President Biden to restore ties with Cuba. The Group urged swift and comprehensive action to lift the restrictions imposed by Trump, end the blockade of Cuba and fully normalize bilateral relations.
- On 15 March 2021, the City Council of Cambridge, Massachusetts, approved a resolution urging the United States Government to lift the blockade against Cuba and resume the policy of rapprochement between the two countries.
- On 17 March 2021, the Democratic senator Patrick Leahy (Vermont) released a statement in which he said that rapprochement was the only “logical choice” for Cuba policy and criticized the imposition of conditions on the Government of Cuba in return for progress in the bilateral relationship; imposing conditions would perpetuate a policy that had hurt rather than helped the Cuban people.
- On 18 March 2021, the Democratic congressperson James McGovern (Massachusetts) made a statement in support of a change in the policy towards Cuba at a session of the House of Representatives. He urged President Biden to take swift and comprehensive action to restore United States-Cuba relations by removing restrictions on travel, remittances and financial transactions, and on educational, scientific, environmental and cultural exchanges.
- On 26 March 2021, the City Council of Minneapolis, Minnesota, unanimously approved a resolution in which it advocated medical and scientific collaboration with Cuba, and called on Congress and President Biden to reverse the designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism, re-establish full diplomatic relations with the country, and end the decades-long economic blockade.
- On 28 March 2021, caravans and demonstrations to demand an end to the blockade were held in several United States cities, including Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, Tampa and Washington, D.C. The initiatives were part of a global day involving around a hundred cities in dozens of countries.
- On 13 April 2021, the Commission of Wayne County, Michigan, approved a resolution in which it urged President Biden’s Government to resume a cooperative relationship with Cuba, criticized the setbacks in bilateral ties driven by the Trump Administration and advocated the lifting of the blockade.
- On 22 April 2021, the Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, approved a resolution advocating the lifting of the blockade and the beginning of a process of normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States.
- On 25 April 2021, caravans to demand an end to the blockade of Cuba were held in more than a dozen states and cities in the United States, including Alabama, California, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Seattle, Tennessee, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin. The initiative was organized by the Bridges of Love project, which advocates the resumption of the rapprochement between the two countries.

- On 3 May 2021, 16 churches and religious and humanitarian organizations sent the United States Secretaries of State and the Treasury a letter in which they set out the adverse consequences of the restrictions imposed by the Government of President Trump for the people of Cuba. They recommended that President Biden's Government resume the rapprochement with Cuba and advocated the lifting of the blockade.
- On 5 May 2021, several organizations in the United States sponsored a worldwide mass tweet to demand the resumption of the consular services of the embassy in Cuba and the lifting of the blockade. The Bridges of Love project, the Alianza Martiana, the Paz Amor association and the Foundation for the Normalization of United States-Cuba Relations were the main promoters of the initiative.
- On 5 May 2021, 36 organizations linked to the agricultural, academic, environmental and civil society sectors in the United States sent a letter to President Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, advocating the resumption of the rapprochement with Cuba. The organizations called for executive action to dismantle the measures imposed by the Trump Administration and completely lift the blockade of Cuba.
- On 19 May 2021, the Democratic senator Amy Klobuchar introduced a bill to lift most of the provisions of the blockade against Cuba. In tweets, she said that the bill should be approved in order to put an end to the failed policy once and for all. Senators Patrick Leahy (Democrat, Vermont), Jerry Moran (Republican, Kansas), Christopher Murphy (Democrat, Connecticut) and Elizabeth Warren (Democrat, Massachusetts) co-sponsored the bill.
- On 28 May 2021, the Democratic congressperson Bobby Rush (Illinois) introduced bill 3625 in the House of Representatives to repeal the blockade.
- On 30 May 2021, as part of the third world caravan of solidarity with Cuba, demonstrations were held in various cities in the United States to demand an end to the blockade of the island. The events were held in Albany, Albuquerque, Atlanta, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Milwaukee, New Haven, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Tampa.
- On 30 May 2021, the Illinois House of Representatives adopted a resolution in which it called on the federal Congress to lift the blockade of Cuba and remove travel restrictions. The House also urged President Biden to renew engagement with Cuba and allow for an increase in the number of diplomatic staff sent by each country to the other.
- On 2 June 2021, five senators sent a letter to the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, urging him to resume dialogue with the Government of Cuba on environmental issues, and to reverse policies of the previous Administration that restrict scientific and professional exchanges. The letter was signed by the Democrats Sheldon Whitehouse (Rhode Island), Patrick Leahy (Vermont), Ron Wyden (Oregon), Jeffrey A. Merkley (Oregon) and Chris Van Hollen (Maryland).
- On 7 June 2021, the Alliance for Cuba Engagement and Respect published a letter in which it urged President Biden to abstain from the voting against the blockade at the United Nations on 23 June. The letter, which was also sent to the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, was signed by 139 NGOs.
- On 8 June 2021, Baltimore City Council adopted a resolution in which it urged the United States Government to end the blockade against Cuba.

- On 24 June 2021, the United States NGO Code Pink posted on its website a petition in which it called on President Biden to listen to the world and end the Cuba blockade. The petition contained a reference to the support of 184 countries in the most recent vote against the blockade at the United Nations and urged President Biden to fulfil his campaign promises and reverse President Trump's measures against Cuba.
- On 28 June 2021, the NGO Knowledge Ecology International sent various United States agencies a memorandum in which it requested clarification that the blockade did not apply to activities and agreements related to COVID-19 vaccines. The organization criticized the blockade's adverse effects, in particular on the Cuban vaccine development programme, during the pandemic.
- On 29 June 2021, the actor Danny Glover published, in the magazine *The Nation*, an opinion piece entitled "Biden's failure to end Trump's war on Cuba threatens lives", in which he criticized the inaction of President Biden's Government with regard to Cuba and emphasized the need to lift the blockade against the island.
- On 12 July 2021, the independent senator for Vermont, Bernie Sanders, tweeted that the unilateral United States blockade against Cuba, which had only hurt, not helped, the Cuban people, must end.
- On 12 July 2021, the Center for Democracy in the Americas issued a statement urging President Biden's Government to take action for the benefit of the Cuban people. The Center requested, among other things, the amendment of restrictions on travel, remittances, banking relations and the percentage of United States-made components used in imports.
- On 15 July 2021, the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida published a statement in which it called on the Biden Administration to repeal the blockade of Cuba completely and immediately, and described the blockade as one of the greatest failures of United States foreign policy in modern history.
- On 19 July 2021, the Latin America Working Group stated in a tweet that the blockade was economic warfare and advocated the reversal of the maximum pressure policy imposed by the Trump Administration against Cuba.
- On 22 July 2021, messages denouncing the blockade of Cuba were projected onto a building in Union Square, New York. The projection, organized by the United States organizations Code Pink and the People's Forum, was part of the Let Cuba Live campaign.
- On 23 July 2021, more than 400 politicians, intellectuals, members of the clergy, artists, personalities and activists from all over the world signed a letter in which they urged President Biden to lift the blockade against Cuba and make a fresh start in bilateral relations. The letter, entitled "Let Cuba live", was published as a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*. The signatories called for the immediate annulment of the 243 coercive measures imposed by the Trump Administration and criticized the maintenance of strangulation policies during the pandemic. The signatories included the intellectual Noam Chomsky, the film-maker Oliver Stone, the actors Danny Glover, Jane Fonda and Susan Sarandon, and many other personalities from the United States.
- On 23 July 2021, the Illinois Democratic congressperson Jesús "Chuy" García introduced in the House of Representatives an amendment to remove restrictions on the sending of remittances to Cuba. In statements to *Newsweek*, García said that the sending of remittances must be resumed and that a decision to do so

would be an important first step in lifting the blockade imposed by the United States on the island.

- On 23 July 2021, the Georgia Democratic congressperson, Hank Johnson, published an op-ed article in *The Washington Diplomat*, in which he criticized the blockade policy maintained by various United States Governments against Cuba, mentioned the difficulties that the blockade causes for Cubans and advocated a policy of rapprochement between the two countries.
- On 28 July 2021, 37 civil society organizations in the United States sent President Biden a letter in which they urged him to take action to resume the flow of remittances, lift restrictions on the sending of medicines, and remove financial transaction-related obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Table 3  
**Bridges of Love caravans in the United States against the blockade  
(January–July 2021)**

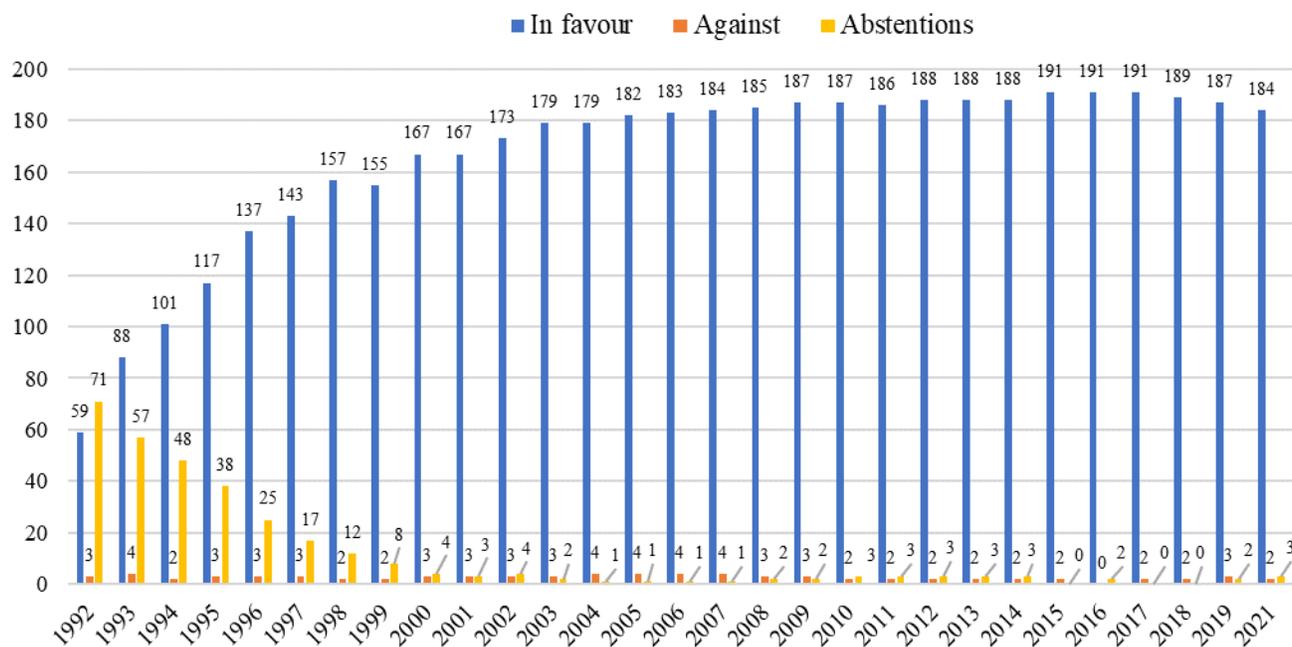
<i>City</i>	<i>No. of caravans</i>
Albany	2
Albuquerque	1
Atlanta	2
Auburn	1
Bloomington	1
Chicago	2
Dallas	1
Detroit	3
Evansville	1
Fort Wayne	1
Goshen	1
Hartford	1
Indianapolis	1
Las Vegas	2
Los Angeles	5
Miami	6
Milwaukee	2
Minneapolis	2
Minnesota	1
Nashville	1
New Haven	1
New York	5
Oakland	1
San Diego	2
San Francisco	3
Seattle	5
Tampa	3
Washington, D.C.	4

## 5.2 Opposition by the international community

The growing and overwhelming support of the international community for Cuba in its efforts to have the blockade lifted is remarkable (see figure II).

Figure II

**Historical patterns of voting on the General Assembly resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” (1992–2021)**



Many voices are being raised around the world, in favour of halting this inhuman policy. During the reporting period, many calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the policy were made.

Between April and June 2021, more than 300 initiatives were taken in solidarity with Cuba and in rejection of the blockade, including declarations by important figures and caravans against the blockade in many countries.

Of those initiatives, 14 were taken in the United States, 61 at the headquarters of the main multilateral organizations at which Cuba is represented, 72 in Europe and Canada, 86 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 50 in sub-Saharan Africa, 8 in North Africa and the Middle East, and 23 in Asia and Oceania. Five international days of caravans and rallies against the blockade were celebrated in 117 cities in more than 40 countries.

The following are some of the most important international initiatives taken to denounce the blockade between January and July 2021:

- On 9 January 2021, at the twenty-sixth International Rosa Luxemburg Conference, held remotely, the Cuba Sí working group of the German party Die Linke presented the European solidarity campaign Unblock Cuba. The campaign, which lasted until the voting on the resolution against the blockade of Cuba at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, was intended to highlight the effects of the policy not only on the Cuban people but also on

citizens of third countries. Nearly 100 organizations from 27 countries in Europe actively participated in the campaign in 2021.

- On 20 January 2021, a group of public figures, politicians and organizations in Denmark, led by the Danish-Cuban Friendship Association, sent the President of the United States an open letter in which it called for an end to the blockade against Cuba and the establishment of normal relations with the island. The policy should have been lifted a long time previously, as it harmed people inside and outside Cuba, violated the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and was therefore inhumane, illegal and unproductive.
- On 7 February 2021, the Assembly of the African Union, at its thirty-fourth ordinary session, held remotely, adopted a resolution on the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States. The Assembly of the African Union expressed serious concern over the continuation of the blockade and reiterated its support for the resolution adopted on the matter by the General Assembly each year. It also regretted the regression in relations between Cuba and the United States, and urged the United States to lift the unjustifiable and long-standing sanctions. It also expressed concern about the adverse effects of the extraterritorial application of the Helms-Burton Act, in particular the full implementation of its Title III, as well as the aggravated impact of the blockade during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On 17 February 2021, the Movement for Continental Solidarity of Latin America and the Caribbean with Cuba published an open letter to the President of the United States, in which it demanded an immediate end to the blockade and the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism of the United States Government. The Movement also called for the re-establishment of political and commercial relations between the two countries, without pressure or interference, based on mutual respect and international laws for the peaceful coexistence of peoples.
- The Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement, in the Declaration issued at its 21st meeting, held virtually on 1 March 2021, called for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba and demanded an end to the possibility of bringing actions in United States courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. The Council also recognized the contribution of Cuba to the pandemic response, even under the complex circumstances imposed by the tightening of the blockade and the United States Government's campaign to discredit and sabotage Cuban medical cooperation, which had benefited millions of people in various countries and territories.
- On 4 March 2021, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan, and the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Obiora C. Okafor, issued a press release in which they said that the sanctions authorized by the United States on the basis of alleged states of emergency violated a wide range of human rights in China, Cuba, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe and other countries around the world, including the rights to freedom of movement, freedom of association and due process, economic and social rights, and the right to life itself. The United States also imposed secondary sanctions against people who allegedly interacted with sanctioned people or Governments.
- On 8 March 2021, the executive committee of the German network for solidarity with Cuba, which brings together almost 40 solidarity organizations, sent

President Biden and Vice-President Harris a letter in which they called for an end to the United States blockade against Cuba. In the letter, which was made public through a press release, the executive committee called upon the United States authorities to recognize the independence and sovereignty of Cuba, and to introduce a civilized policy towards the island.

- On 9 March 2021, the National Council of Switzerland (the lower house of the country's parliament) approved a proposal submitted by its Foreign Policy Committee, urging the Government of Switzerland to work within the United Nations to increase the pressure on the United States Administration to end the blockade against Cuba. The Committee had agreed on the text in early November 2020, on the basis of the "Unblock Cuba" petition launched by the Asociación Suiza-Cuba (Switzerland-Cuba Association), MediCuba-Suisse and six other solidarity organizations.
- On 18 March 2021, Patrick Herminie, leader of the United Seychelles party, sent the Embassy of Cuba in Seychelles a letter in which he expressed his support for and solidarity with Cuba, and his rejection of the blockade imposed by the United States. He also acknowledged the assistance provided for decades by the people of Cuba to a small nation such as Seychelles. On the same day, United Seychelles issued a statement in which it reiterated its condemnation of the blockade, and described the policy as a systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people and "the largest economic aggression in human history".
- On 24 March 2021, members of the Group of Friendship and Solidarity with the People of Cuba in the European Parliament sent President Biden a letter in which they urged him to repeal the sanctions imposed on the country by President Trump. They also requested Mr. Biden's support for the immediate lifting of the blockade, which was the main obstacle to the development of Cuba and the normalization of relations between that country and the United States. The efforts of the Government of Cuba to combat COVID-19 had been seriously limited by the blockade regulations. Cuba had shown solidarity during the pandemic by sending medical brigades to dozens of countries and territories.
- On 14 April 2021, the Senate of Italy approved a motion urging the Government of that country, together with other States members of the European Union, to strengthen international action to effectively lift the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba. The Senate denounced the blockade as illegal and contrary to international law, while recognizing the serious harm it caused to the Cuban people, a situation aggravated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also mentioned the aid with which Cuba provided in solidarity with Italy in March 2020, in the form of medical brigades to help in the fight against the pandemic.
- On 15 April 2021, an international campaign was launched to raise funds to purchase syringes and send them to Cuba to help vaccinate the entire population against COVID-19. In Spain, the campaign was promoted by Solidaridad para el Desarrollo y la Paz (Sodepaz) (Solidarity for Development and Peace) and supported by the Movimiento Estatal de Solidaridad con Cuba (State Movement of Solidarity with Cuba), which brings together nearly 40 groups of friends of the island. The campaign lasted until 23 June, when the General Assembly adopted the resolution against the blockade.
- On 26 April 2021, the Parliament of Dominica passed a motion calling for an end to the blockade and requesting the removal of Cuba from the United States Government's list of State sponsors of terrorism. The Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, stated that the motion was historic, as it was the first time such a resolution had been introduced in his country's Parliament.

- On 8 May 2021, the Council for Foreign and Community Relations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) expressed its concern about the “significant adverse impact” of the United States blockade against Cuba.
- On 25 May 2021, in Havana, the NGO Oxfam International presented its report entitled “Right to live without a blockade: the impact of US sanctions on the Cuban population and women’s lives”, in which it called upon the United States Government to end the policy and normalize relations with Cuba, as well as to suspend immediately the measures that prevent the island from acquiring the materials and supplies needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Oxfam also recommended that the United States Government return to the path laid out in the October 2016 presidential policy directive on the normalization of relations with Cuba, remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, suspend the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, repeal the 2017 national security presidential memorandum on strengthening United States policy towards the island, remove the restrictions on remittances and travel, and re-establish diplomatic services. On 27 May, a virtual forum was held in order to present the report to the international community, with the support of public figures and organizations from Cuba, the United States and the United Nations.
- On 29 May 2021, a parliamentary hearing in favour of lifting the blockade, convened by the committees responsible for international relations, constitutional and legal affairs, and health and sport in the National Assembly of People’s Power, was held in Havana. Beatriz Paredes Rangel, a senator from Mexico and the Chair of that country’s Committee on Foreign Relations with Latin America, expressed the solidarity of the Mexican people and roundly rejected the unilateral policy of the United States, which she described as a tool that violated the human rights of millions of Cubans.

That view was reiterated by Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Vice-President of the European Parliament, who said that the blockade was an anachronistic and inhumane practice that had been condemned for decades by a majority of the General Assembly. The former Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, also rejected the absurd United States policy against Cuba. In addition, he expressed his gratitude to the thousands of Cuban doctors and paramedics who continued to help in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

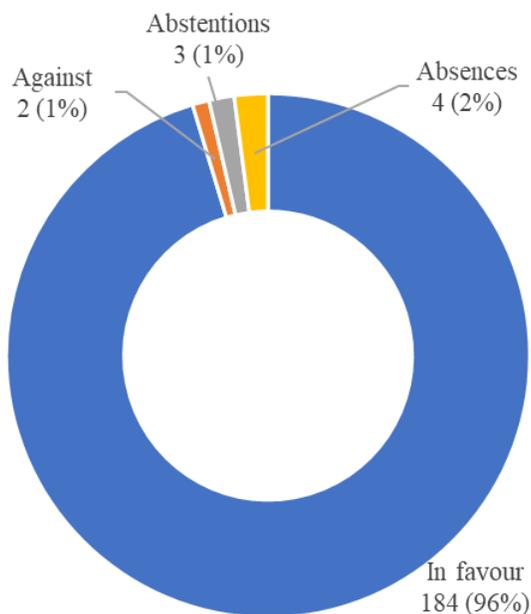
- In June 2021, more than 60 figures from German culture, science and society petitioned that country’s Government to intensify its efforts to end the United States blockade and promote German cooperation for development in Cuba.
- On 2 June 2021, the Federation Council of the Russian Federation (the Russian Senate) issued a declaration on the need to lift the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba. The policy violated international law and ran counter to the international community’s efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council called upon the United States Government to respect the position of almost all States and review its policy towards Cuba, since doing so would benefit the citizens of both Cuba and the United States.
- On 3 June 2021, a webinar on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the national health systems of targeted countries and the well-being of women, children and people in vulnerable situations was held under the auspices of the Permanent Missions of Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe to the United Nations. The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan, highlighted the

impact of such measures on the national health systems of the affected countries, which had increased during the pandemic.

- On 20 June 2021, representatives of many South African political, trade union and youth organizations,<sup>18</sup> led by the political parties that form the country's governing coalition, sent a memorandum to the Embassy of the United States in South Africa demanding the immediate and unconditional lifting of the economic blockade imposed against Cuba. The document was read publicly on the same day, in front of the United States Embassy in Pretoria, as the climax of a massive caravan organized against the blockade by the South African political forces that favour solidarity with Cuba, shortly before the voting on the resolution against the blockade of the island in the General Assembly on 23 June.
- On 23 June 2021, the General Assembly adopted, for the twenty-ninth time in succession, the resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", with 184 Member States voting in favour. During the debate on and adoption of the Cuban resolution, 51 speakers gave statements in favour of lifting the blockade, including the representatives of six regional and subregional coordination groups and organizations, namely, the Group of 77 and China, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Group of African States, CARICOM, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see figure III).

Figure III

**Voting on the resolution against the blockade at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, 23 June 2021 (proportion of votes in favour, votes against, absences and abstentions)**



<sup>18</sup> Namely, the African National Congress (ANC), the South African Communist Party (SACP), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the South African National Civic Organization (SANCO), the Friends of Cuba Society (FOCUS), the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADEL), the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL), the Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA) and the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL).

- On 24 June 2021, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Greece, Dimitris Koutsoumpas, in his inaugural speech at the twenty-first Party Congress, expressed the Party's solidarity with the Cuban people and condemned the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba. He also recognized the victory won in the General Assembly through the voting on the Cuban resolution.
- On 29 June 2021, the House of Representatives of Jamaica passed a motion supporting the General Assembly resolution sponsored by Cuba, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". The House described the blockade as a violation of international law, of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and of the rules governing international trade and freedom of navigation. The House also recognized the aggravated impact of the blockade during the COVID-19 pandemic and the adverse effects of the policy on the national interests of Jamaica, as a result of the extraterritorial application of United States laws that affect Jamaican relations with Cuba.
- On 1 July 2021, the House of Representatives of Belgium adopted a resolution intended to relaunch transatlantic relations after the United States elections. In point 29 of the resolution, the House called upon the federal Government of Belgium to urge the United States to lift the embargo on Cuba.
- At the 112th session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, held virtually from 6 to 8 July 2021, a resolution on the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba was adopted. The Council urged the Government of the United States to end the policy, and rejected the activation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and its extraterritorial effects. It also acknowledged that the blockade was the main obstacle to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Cuba.
- On 21 July 2021, the international NGO Justicia Alimentaria (Food Justice) issued a press release in which it said that the blockade compromised the Cuban people's right to food, since it had brought the country to the brink of a food crisis. Despite the efforts of society and the authorities in Cuba to generate resilient systems, the blockade prevented them from continuing to make the changes needed to stop climate change. The organization also called upon the European Union to act urgently to lift the policy.
- On 11 August 2021, a group of experts and Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council issued a communiqué in which they said that unilateral sanctions imposed against countries such as Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) violated those countries' right to development. Sanctions made it harder for entire populations to stay healthy, hampered the transport of goods needed for economic development, wasted natural resources, and undermined environmental sustainability and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Activities essential to every country's development were affected when unilateral sanctions were imposed. The group called upon countries that imposed such sanctions to withdraw them or at least minimize them to ensure that the rule of law and human rights were not affected.

**Table 4**  
**Authorities who referred to the United States blockade against Cuba during the general debate at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly (September 2021)**

Bahamas	Philip Edward Davis, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Belarus	Vladimir Makei, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Belize	John Briceño, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment
Benin	Mariam Chabi Talata, Vice-President
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Luis Alberto Arce Catacora, President
Burkina Faso	Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President
Chad	Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Transitional Military Council, President and Head of State
Congo	Jean-Claude Gakosso, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Congolese Abroad
Costa Rica	Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Song Kim, Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Dominica	Kenneth Darroux, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations
Equatorial Guinea	Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President and Head of State
Gabon	Ali Bongo Ondimba, President
Gambia	Isatou Touray, Vice-President
Grenada	Oliver Joseph, Minister of Business, Industry, Cooperatives and CARICOM Affairs
Guinea	Aly Diane, Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Jamaica	Andrew Holness, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Economic Growth and Job Creation
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Phankham Viphavanh, Prime Minister
Lesotho	Moeketsi Majoro, Prime Minister
Mexico	Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Namibia	Hage Geingob, President
Nicaragua	Denis Moncada Colindres, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation	Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Timothy Harris, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Security, Sustainable Development, Constituency Empowerment, and Human Resource Management and Information

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Saint Lucia	Philip Joseph Pierre, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Youth Economy
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs and Information
Solomon Islands	Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister
South Africa	Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President
Suriname	Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President
Syrian Arab Republic	Fayssal Mekdad, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
Timor-Leste	Karlito Nunes, Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Trinidad and Tobago	Amery Browne, Minister for Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
Tuvalu	Kausea Natano, Prime Minister
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Nicolás Maduro Moros, President
Viet Nam	Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, President

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In June and July 2021, Cuba was the target of an intense political and communications operation, orchestrated and financed by the United States Government and the political machinery of the State of Florida in order to destabilize the country, discredit its Government, incite violence and promote hatred among Cubans.

Many actors in the international community denounced this manoeuvre against Cuba, expressed their solidarity with the Cuban people and Government, and urged the United States Government to lift the economic siege that had been imposed on the island and opportunistically tightened during the pandemic.

Among the statements made were the following:

- On 12 July 2021, the President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, expressed his solidarity with the Cuban people and his opposition to United States interventionism, and called for the blockade imposed on Cuba to be lifted because it was inhumane and ran counter to international law. He was in favour of the Cuban people resolving their internal conflicts and condemned the media campaign against the Cuban Government. On 24 July, at the opening session of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, Mr. López Obrador reiterated his condemnation of the blockade, which he described as a “medieval act”, and recognized Cuba as an example of resistance.
- Also on 12 July, the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, based in the United Kingdom, issued a statement in which it condemned the call, by right-wing, pro-blockade United States politicians and groups, for the establishment of a so-called “humanitarian corridor” in Cuba as a pretext for United States intervention. Anyone genuinely interested in helping the Cuban people should instead ask the United States Government to ease the sanctions against the island.

- On 12 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation described the interference of the United States in the internal affairs of Cuba and any other foreign initiative intended to destabilize the situation on the island as unacceptable.
- On 14 July 2021, the Brazilian intellectual Frei Betto published an article entitled “Cuba resiste” (Cuba resists), in which he denounced the financial, economic, commercial and energy persecution of Cuba by the United States, and the intention of the United States to cause a social explosion in the country and call for “humanitarian missions” that would result in invasions and military interference.
- On 14 July, the American Association of Jurists issued a statement in which it denounced the media campaigns against Cuba, which were full of falsehoods and disinformation, and the statements in which President Biden had suggested so-called humanitarian intervention. The Association called upon the Government of the United States to respect the sovereignty of Cuba in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, lift the blockade, and respect the will of the overwhelming majority of the international community, expressed in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the need to end the blockade.
- On 19 July, the Argentine Nobel Peace Laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel sent President Biden a letter in which he stated that Cuba was not a threat to any country in the world and called for the blockade to be lifted.
- On 20 July 2021, the French academic and essayist Salim Lamrani urged the United States Government and President Biden to heed the call of the international community and United States public opinion; accept the fact that Cuba was a sovereign and independent country that had the right to determine its own destiny; respect international law; and end the economic sanctions against the island.
- On 26 July, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, Gaston Browne, sent the United States President a letter in which he reiterated the rejection by CARICOM of the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba and demanded that all the rights of the Cuban State and its people be respected.

Table 5  
**Countries in which public actions were carried out to denounce the blockade in the period from January to July 2021**

<i>Country</i>	<i>No. of actions</i>
Albania	1
Angola	3
Antigua and Barbuda	13
Argentina	65
Armenia	1
Australia	11
Austria	7
Azerbaijan	10
Bahamas	3
Bangladesh	1

<i>Country</i>	<i>No. of actions</i>
Barbados	12
Belarus	7
Belgium	16
Belize	8
Benin	1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	35
Botswana	2
Brazil	33
Bulgaria	9
Burkina Faso	2
Cabo Verde	1
Cambodia	32
Canada	21
Chad	1
Chile	14
China	37
Colombia	23
Congo	1
Costa Rica	16
Croatia	1
Cuba	80
Cyprus	5
Czechia	13
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	8
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3
Denmark	19
Djibouti	1
Dominica	11
Dominican Republic	16
Ecuador	33
Egypt	3
El Salvador	23
Equatorial Guinea	1
Eswatini	1
Ethiopia	1
Fiji	1
Finland	9
France	10
Gabon	1
Gambia	25
Germany	24
Ghana	2
Greece	23

<i>Country</i>	<i>No. of actions</i>
Grenada	15
Guatemala	17
Guinea	1
Guinea-Bissau	2
Guyana	3
Haiti	6
Honduras	6
Hungary	14
India	16
Indonesia	17
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10
Ireland	49
Italy	18
Jamaica	17
Japan	14
Jordan	2
Kazakhstan	8
Kenya	5
Kyrgyzstan	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	17
Lebanon	5
Lesotho	1
Liberia	3
Luxembourg	3
Malaysia	2
Mali	6
Mexico	63
Morocco	1
Mozambique	2
Namibia	8
Nepal	2
Netherlands	6
New Zealand	11
Nicaragua	60
Niger	2
Nigeria	1
North Macedonia	1
Norway	7
Pakistan	3
Panama	26
Paraguay	15
Peru	16
Philippines	5

<i>Country</i>	<i>No. of actions</i>
Poland	15
Portugal	16
Republic of Moldova	2
Romania	4
Russian Federation	25
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3
Saint Lucia	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4
Senegal	3
Serbia	19
Seychelles	1
Sierra Leone	2
Singapore	5
Slovakia	16
Solomon Islands	1
South Africa	21
Spain	49
Sri Lanka	9
Suriname	2
Sweden	15
Switzerland	10
Syrian Arab Republic	7
Tajikistan	1
Thailand	9
Timor-Leste	4
Togo	3
Trinidad and Tobago	13
Tunisia	2
Turkey	27
Tuvalu	1
Uganda	2
Ukraine	30
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	21
United Republic of Tanzania	2
United States of America	97
Uruguay	16
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	80
Viet Nam	10
Zambia	5
Zimbabwe	2
Holy See	1
State of Palestine	3

## 6. Conclusions

The effects of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States Government against Cuba, and the blockade's impact on the daily life of every Cuban, exceed the mere interpretation of a numerical figure.

Not one area of the country's social and economic life escapes these effects. Several generations of Cubans have been born and lived under the siege of this criminal policy, which violates the people's rights, and affects well-being and the development paradigm to which all Cubans aspire.

Understanding the essence of the blockade inevitably involves understanding the intention behind it: to asphyxiate the Cuban economy and overcome the people through hunger and need. Every provision of the web of unilateral coercive measures is deliberately designed for that purpose. The blockade is an act of economic warfare in times of peace.

The deliberate and opportunistic tightening of the blockade against Cuba in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic is illustrative of the policy's profoundly cruel and inhumane nature.

Between January and July 2021, the current United States Government maintained in force and strictly applied the more than 240 additional coercive measures against Cuba implemented by its predecessor. Under the pretext of a prolonged process of reviewing its policy towards Cuba, President Biden's Government is applying the blockade rigorously, even during the pandemic. The electoral promise to reverse the measures has proved to be a fallacy.

All of the above has seriously affected the functioning of the Cuban economy by reducing export revenues and access to fuel, medicine and medical supplies, and by causing shortages that affect the population on a daily basis during the pandemic.

During the reporting period, from January to July 2021, the blockade caused Cuba losses of approximately \$2,557,500,000. This represents an average impact of more than \$365 million a month and more than \$12 million a day.

At current prices, the losses accumulated in six decades of application of the policy amount to \$150,410.8 million. Taking into account the depreciation of the dollar against the price of gold on the international market, the blockade has caused quantifiable losses of more than \$1,326,432 million.

The blockade is the main obstacle to the economic and social development of Cuba, the implementation of the national plan for economic and social development, and the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Its extraterritorial effects also hinder the relations of Cuba with third countries.

The blockade is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and respect for self-determination and independence. It is also a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of Cubans.

While the Government of the United States persists in arrogantly ignoring the 29 resolutions in which the General Assembly has called for an end to the blockade, a fervent clamour is growing in that country and worldwide for an immediate and unconditional end to the policy.

Under these particularly complex circumstances, Cuba and its people are deeply grateful for the expressions of international solidarity and support, and confident that they can continue to count on the support of the international community in their legitimate demand for an end to the blockade.

## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

[Original: English]

[3 August 2021]

The General Assembly has strongly requested the United States to end all illegal savagery in the form of the economic blockade and unilateral coercive measures against Cuba. This year for the twenty-ninth consecutive time, with overwhelming support from the international community, General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" was adopted on 23 June 2021.

This shows the steadfast and continued solidarity of the international community towards the people of Cuba who are struggling vigorously for justice and peace in the world. It is the unanimous demand of all States Members of the United Nations that the United States should end the anachronistic and unjust embargo against Cuba, which constitutes the main obstacle for the economic and social development of the country, as well as for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

However, despite these repeated calls by the international community, there has been a progressive and systematic increase in the aggressiveness and interference of United States policy against Cuba and against all sovereign States that maintain or try to establish economic, commercial and financial relations with Cuba.

There have been over 240 anti-Cuba coercive measures imposed by the United States in recent years and moreover, a considerable number of measures adopted in the year 2020 alone, in the midst of the pandemic, illustrating the particular cruelty of this policy in extraterritorial scope to deprive the people of Cuba of the necessary supplies to prevent and treat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The DPRK Government strongly denounces such coercive measures imposed by the United States against Cuba as a critical challenge to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as an infringement on sovereignty and as crimes against humanity.

The unilateral sanctions of the United States against sovereign States draw condemnation and denunciations from the international community as days go by and bring about only isolation of the United States itself.

The longer the anachronistic United States economic embargo against Cuba continues, the more the Cuban people will struggle with their redoubled efforts.

The DPRK Government strongly urges the United States to lift unconditionally and with no further delay all forms of unilateral coercive measures and economic sanctions against Cuba in the fields of economy, trade and finance, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and the final document of the eighteenth summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The DPRK Government once again extends its full support to and solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba in their just cause to safeguard the sovereignty of their country.

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

[Original: English]

[5 November 2021]

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomes the importance that the Secretary-General continues to attach to the issue of the

economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has supported steps taken by the United States to lift certain sanctions, in particular the restrictions on travel for family reasons and on remittances, as well as the authorization for the development of communication services between the two countries, as a means of gradual normalization with a view to the full resolution of the issue.

At a time when all the peoples of the world are facing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also supports any initiative through which Cuba and the United States are urged to engage in a constructive, fruitful dialogue that could help to bring about a peaceful and mutually beneficial settlement for the peoples and Governments of the two countries.

## **Djibouti**

[Original: English]  
[6 October 2021]

The Republic of Djibouti wishes to reaffirm its fundamental commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law. Furthermore, the Republic of Djibouti has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the resolution. Therefore, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

## **Dominica**

[Original: English]  
[20 October 2021]

The Commonwealth of Dominica has neither promulgated nor applied any law or measure that in any way hinders the freedom of trade and navigation with the Republic of Cuba.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has embraced and will continue to embrace the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba as a fellow member of the United Nations, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America (ALBA) and a sister nation of the Caribbean. For over 38 years, the Governments and peoples of both nations have enjoyed strong cultural and political ties and solidarity in a number of areas of cooperation, especially education, health and sports.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica is fully aware that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is a threat to all of humanity. Thus, solidarity is now crucial in the face of this unprecedented global health crisis. The Government and people of the Republic of Cuba have risen to the occasion and have dispatched contingents to various regions to aid in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore recognize the global humanitarian effort of the Government and people of Cuba in this fight.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica unreservedly opposes the extraterritorial enforcement of national legislation that demonstrates disregard for and undermines the sovereignty of other States without the authorization of the United Nations. Such unilateral actions are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations,

international law and customs and the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica continues to view with serious concern the decision to fully apply Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, with its resulting negative consequences, and reiterates the call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has done much damage to the Cuban people over the past 61 years. This is a call for the return to the well-established reliance on dialogue and diplomacy as core strategies for the resolution of outstanding issues between members of the international community.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica emphasizes that due consideration be given to the call by States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the vast majority of the international community for an end to the embargo and for dialogue and compromise to be given pride of place in the relations between our two hemispheric neighbours.

## **Dominican Republic**

[Original: Spanish]  
[5 October 2021]

The principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States is set out in article 3 of the Constitution of the Dominican Republic and is an invariable rule of Dominican foreign policy. Likewise, article 26 of our Constitution recognizes the Dominican State as a member of the international community whose international relations are based on and governed by respect for the rules of international law.

In various regional and international forums, the Dominican Republic has reiterated that it does not adopt, advocate or apply any measures involving intervention in the internal affairs of States, underscoring its commitment to the norms and principles of self-determination of peoples and sovereignty of States, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and public international law.

Our country accepts an international legal system that ensures respect for basic rights, peace, justice, peaceful coexistence among peoples and the duties of solidarity with all nations. The Dominican Republic does not have laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution [75/289](#) and it meets its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including respect for the freedom of trade and navigation.

## **Ecuador**

[Original: English]  
[13 August 2021]

Ecuador does not recognize as valid sanctions that have been imposed against a State unilaterally; our country complies exclusively with the multilateral sanctions imposed by the relevant authorities of the United Nations system and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Therefore, Ecuador has not adopted any measure to implement the regime of economic, commercial and financial sanctions imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

## Egypt

[Original: English]  
[27 September 2021]

The Arab Republic of Egypt voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), in line with its consistent position that unilateral sanctions imposed outside the framework of the United Nations are not a course of action that Egypt can condone.

The embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba constitutes a clear violation of the principles of multilateralism and is in breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as of the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and mutual trust.

The unjust and unjustifiable embargo causes undue economic and social hardship on the Cuban people. It also affects the vital sectors of the Cuban economy. The embargo is an anachronism from a bygone era that must be lifted. The embargo has an extended effect on companies and citizens from third countries. The extraterritorial effects violate the sovereign rights of many Member States. Egypt is deeply concerned about the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the embargo, which is an added argument in favour of its prompt elimination.

Moreover, the embargo has posed additional challenges to Cuba, negatively impacting its efforts to prepare and respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Access to the health products necessary to prevent and control the spread of the COVID-19 was affected by the imposed embargo.

While previous advances constituted a step in the right direction, they remain insufficient, as the imposition of the blockade has remained unchanged and the laws and regulations underpinning it continue to be in force and implemented with utmost severity.

Egypt believes that many steps and brave decisions still need to be taken by the United States towards the immediate lifting of the embargo imposed against Cuba, to allow for the full normalization of relations between the two countries.

Egypt believes that the embargo continues to be a counterproductive and morally insupportable policy, which has not served the purpose of breaking the Cuban people's determination to control their own future. And, in spite of all the detrimental repercussions and adverse impacts of the embargo, the Government of Cuba has made enormous efforts in meeting the needs of its people.

What has been proved through over 59 years of embargo against Cuba is that, in this globalized world, the Cuban people can still survive thanks to their perseverance and hope.

Egypt hopes that dialogue between Cuba and the United States, based on mutual respect and on observance of the principles of international law and of the Charter, will lead to the immediate lifting of the embargo and the normalization of bilateral relations between the two countries in all their aspects.

Egypt once again urges the United States to comply immediately and fully with all 29 General Assembly resolutions, which were adopted by the overwhelming majority of the international community, and to put an end to the unjustified embargo, which should never have existed and must cease once and for all.

## El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]  
[13 September 2021]

The Republic of El Salvador, respecting the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, believes that the unilateral application of coercive economic, commercial and financial measures that affect the development of any State's population must be eliminated, and therefore supports the call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against the Cuban people.

El Salvador is aware that the blockade affects vital areas of economic and social systems in Cuba, such as health, education, food, sport and culture, and therefore considers that the measure has had a serious impact on the progress and development of the Cuban people.

El Salvador believes that, in order for the international community to advance firmly towards development, unilateral measures such as those mentioned above must end. El Salvador also recognizes the growing strength of the international community's call to lift the blockade against the Cuban people, and once more joins that call.

## Equatorial Guinea

[Original: Spanish]  
[13 September 2021]

The position of the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea remains unchanged. It has consistently indicated and insistently drawn attention to the urgent need to put an end to the blockade and economic isolation to which Cuba has been subjected for many years, imposed unilaterally by the United States of America.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea reaffirms its commitment to and faith in the primacy of international law in the settlement of any dispute or problem between two States Members of the United Nations, especially when the international community is also affected by the implementation of international measures, such as those in force in the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States of America against Cuba.

The blockade exacerbated the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic because it has blocked access to resources and inputs needed by the Cuban health system. Meanwhile, Cuba has helped other countries and developed vaccines such as Abdala, Soberana 02 and Soberana Plus against COVID-19.

The continued economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba undermines the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Eritrea

[Original: English]  
[3 September 2021]

Eritrea strongly objects to any form of unilateral coercive measures. Accordingly, Eritrea has not applied, nor has it promulgated, any laws of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

Eritrea opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. The embargo is inconsistent with the principles of

international law and undermines the endeavour of the people of Cuba to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the embargo will undoubtedly hinder the efforts of the Government of Cuba to address the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the socioeconomic consequences for its citizens.

Eritrea joins other States in calling on the United States to immediately repeal or invalidate all laws and measures that continue to adversely impact the livelihoods of the people of Cuba and Cuban nationals living in other countries.

## **Eswatini**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini commends and supports any efforts made and steps taken towards the normalization of relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba, in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We strongly believe that constructive dialogue should reign supreme to ensure trust and understanding between and among countries of the world.

The removal of the economic, commercial and financial embargo will surely ensure that Cuba enjoys all the freedoms, rights and privileges enjoyed by all sovereign nation States, without any hindrance. In this view, the Kingdom encourages the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba to ardently exploit the power of dialogue as they pursue the path towards normalization of relations and advancing cohesion and peaceful coexistence between the two countries and, in extension, countries of the world.

## **Ethiopia**

[Original: English]  
[16 September 2021]

Unilateral coercive measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and of the basic principles of the multilateral system. The negative ramifications of such measures on the enjoyment of human rights are encompassed in Human Rights Council resolution [27/21](#).

The unilateral economic and financial embargo imposed on Cuba has affected the living conditions of the Cuban people and constrained the Government's efforts to achieve development. The sanctions against Cuba, coupled with the prevailing global pandemic of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), have intensified the economic and commercial impacts on the country. The unilateral sanctions have also prevented the Cuban economy from engaging in international trade and exploiting its potential. The embargo also curtails progress towards achieving both the national development objectives of Cuba and the global development goals.

There is an increasing strain on the ability of States to fulfil the needs of their people. Global challenges such as climate change, health epidemics and transnational security threats exacerbate the situation. States need the maximum available cooperation to overcome these challenges. The unilateral embargo and any additional measure imposed on Cuba will impose a heavy toll on the well-being of the Cuban people.

Ethiopia encourages open and constructive dialogue between the United States of America and Cuba to bridge differences. We are hopeful that the Government of the United States will take a step toward lifting the sanctions by applying the commendable and exemplary measure it took in 2015 when it reinstated its diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Ethiopia believes that unilateral coercive measures are not only an affront to the normative framework of our international system, it particularly impinges on the efforts of developing countries to realize adequate standards of living for their citizens and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation. Therefore, Ethiopia calls for the sanctions against Cuba to be lifted.

## **European Union**

[Original: English]  
[27 September 2021]

The European Union and its member States believe that the unilateral measures of the United States against Cuba should be ended. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States contributes to the economic crisis in Cuba, negatively affecting the living standards of the Cuban people, being a factor in the current shortages, and having consequences in the humanitarian field as well. The embargo also constitutes an additional obstacle to the ability of Cuba to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, restricting its capability to import pharmaceuticals, medical devices and other medical supplies.

The measures directed against Cuba negatively affect the interests of the European Union and violate commonly accepted rules of international trade. The introduction by the United States Administration of additional restrictions, and the redesignation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism in particular, have introduced further obstacles to international financial transactions with the island and curtail the possibility for engagement with the Cuban people.

The European Union and its member States continue to express their opposition to the unlawful extraterritorial application of the United States embargo, such as that contained in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

In November 1996, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted a regulation and a joint action to protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the European Union against the extraterritorial application of the Helms-Burton legislation. In particular, Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 prohibits compliance with that legislation and forbids the European Union member States from giving effect to that legislation. Moreover, on 18 May 1998, at the European Union-United States Summit in London, a package was agreed covering waivers to Titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act; a commitment by the United States Administration to resist future extraterritorial legislation of that kind; and an understanding with respect to disciplines for the strengthening of investment protection (together, the "Agreement").

Against this backdrop, the European Union regrets the United States Government's decision to activate Title III fully and to resume enforcement of Title IV. We believe this clearly constitutes a violation of the Agreement of 1998. The European Union recalls that it has delivered – and is continuing to deliver – on its commitments under this Agreement and calls on the United States to do the same. In view of the activation of Title III and Title IV of the Helms-Burton Act, including against companies or nationals from European Union member States, the European Union must consider all instruments and options at its disposal to protect the economic activities of European Union nationals and companies, including its

investments. This includes Regulation (EC) No 2271/96, whose provisions can be invoked by European Union operators that are negatively affected by the extraterritorial application of the Helms-Burton legislation. The European Union is in the process of reviewing the Regulation, in order to make it even more effective.

The European Union is convinced that engagement with Cuba at all levels, including with civil society, is the most effective approach to contributing to the country's institutional, economic and social modernization, including a frank and open dialogue on the necessary improvements with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms. In the framework of the European Union-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement which has been provisionally applied since 1 November 2017, the European Union offers Cuba a consistent and reliable partnership – on the assumption that it continues to seek economic and social reforms, sustainable development and common solutions to global challenges, while continuing to promote democracy and respect for human rights.

## **Fiji**

[Original: English]  
[4 August 2021]

The Government of Fiji reaffirms its support for the resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The Fijian Government reiterates its position that all nations should refrain from imposing or supporting economic sanctions of the nature referred to in this resolution, thereby conforming to their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Fiji wishes to reaffirm that Fiji has never taken any measures that might impair economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Fiji. Fiji continues to develop cooperative relations with all countries and fully supports the call for lifting the embargo against Cuba.

## **Gabon**

[Original: French]  
[18 October 2021]

The Government of the Gabonese Republic reiterates its commitment to calling for the repeal of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

In accordance with its obligations under the relevant purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Gabon voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and previous resolutions on the matter.

Gabon remains concerned about the continued application of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba and its adverse effects on the well-being of the Cuban people.

Gabon expresses its strong hope that the United Nations resolutions echoing the collective call for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba will be respected and implemented, allowing Cuba to participate in and benefit from international trade.

Finally, Gabon calls on the international community to pursue its tireless efforts in calling for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

## Gambia

[Original: English]  
[5 October 2021]

The Government of the Gambia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Accordingly, the Gambia is opposed to the continued enactment or application of such laws, acts or measures against Cuba, which impede the free flow of international trade and navigation. The embargo against Cuba contravenes the fundamental principles of international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, violating the sovereign equality of States and of non-intervention and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other Member States. The embargo has no legitimate or moral justification given the fact that it continues to undermine the essential rights to economic emancipation and to development of the Cuban people; it must come to an immediate end.

As a responsible member of the international community, the Gambia therefore joins other Member States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws, measures or policies that impede the free flow of international trade and navigation as they are contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law. It is our fervent desire that the relevant United Nations resolutions echoing collective concerns on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba will be respected and implemented.

## Georgia

[Original: English]  
[25 August 2021]

Georgia reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Georgia has not promulgated or applied laws or taken measures against Cuba that would prohibit or restrict economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Georgia.

## Ghana

[Original: English]  
[16 October 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Ghana remains committed to the Charter of the United Nations and to the established principles of international law, which underpin the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

For this reason, Ghana joins the majority of Member States in calling for the lifting of the United States embargo against Cuba, which militates against the legitimate political, social and economic aspirations of the Government and people of Cuba.

Ghana believes that the continued imposition of the unilateral embargo by the United States against Cuba is legally unjustified and no longer tenable, especially at this time, when the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated all countries, with a greater impact on developing countries. The unjustified embargo is of serious international concern, as reaffirmed by the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and its continued imposition impedes the Cuban people from realizing their fundamental rights to development, including the rights to food, medical care

and social services, especially for the most vulnerable such as women and children. The embargo also undermines the efforts of Cuba to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is detrimental to the global progress desperately required for sustainable development.

Consequently, Ghana will continue to support the General Assembly's resounding call for the lifting of the unilateral embargo and refrain from promulgating or enforcing laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Ghana encourages all other Member States to do the same.

Ghana once again expresses her solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba and reiterates her solemn call for the United States to heed the broader call by the international community to lift its unilateral embargo against Cuba, to enable the country to achieve its full potential for the benefit of her people and the wider global community.

## **Grenada**

[Original: English]  
[2 September 2021]

Grenada, as a sovereign, independent State with the firm conviction of the sovereign equality of States, reiterates its steadfast recognition of the sovereign equality of States and its adherence to the principles of the United Nations, and urges all Member States to do the same.

Grenada also continues to unequivocally reiterate that it neither promulgates, applies nor condones laws or measures that encroach on or undermine the sovereign rights of any State, or laws that restrict or hinder international trade or navigation by any State.

Consequently, Grenada issues another clarion call for the removal of the economic, commercial and financial embargo unilaterally imposed on the Government and people of Cuba by the United States of America.

The measures of this embargo are a deterrent and an impediment to the economic development of Cuba. They have suppressed the essence of the socioeconomic advancement of the Cuban people, have created untold hardship for them and have been counterproductive to the goal of human development. They also continue to violate the sovereign rights of the Cuban people in direct contravention of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Grenada thus unreservedly supports resolution [75/289](#), which urges States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the steps necessary to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime, and specifically speaks about the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

Grenada also joins the international community in expressing the desire to see the complete removal of this imposition based on mutual respect and the right of Cuba to participate fully in the activities of the international community of nations.

## **Guatemala**

[Original: Spanish]  
[27 September 2021]

Since 1997, the Republic of Guatemala has supported the resolutions on the economic, commercial and financial blockade against the Republic of Cuba, in

accordance with its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

On 23 June 2021, the country joined the efforts of the United Nations by adopting General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), and pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 thereof, Guatemala declares that it has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of any kind contrary to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter or contrary to the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Guatemala rejects any unilateral measures that run counter to the principles of free trade and international law and urges those countries that continue to maintain those provisions in their domestic legislation to take the necessary steps to repeal them.

Consequently, there are no legal or regulatory impediments to transit or trade between Guatemala and Cuba, as reflected in the excellent relations between our countries.

Guatemala is concerned that, despite the almost unanimous United Nations General Assembly resolution, the policies of the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba are being increasingly tightened, with consequences that harm the development and well-being of the Cuban people.

The Republic of Guatemala reiterates and makes a strong call for the restoration of a fruitful dialogue between the United States of America and Cuba to ensure the rapid reestablishment and normalization of their diplomatic, economic, commercial and financial relations and mutual cooperation.

The Republic of Guatemala will continue to join the international community in supporting and promoting actions that lead to a prompt and definitive solution to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade against the Republic of Cuba.

## Guinea

[Original: French]  
[20 October 2021]

The Republic of Guinea reiterates its support for resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021 in New York.

Considering the embargo to be a unilateral decision that undermines international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for the sovereignty and equality of States and human and peoples’ rights, the Republic of Guinea reaffirms its solidarity with the Cuban people, whose economic and social development efforts are still being undermined, after six decades, by a coercive measure devoid of any legal foundation.

In this regard, the Republic of Guinea condemns the embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States and appeals to the solidarity of all Member States to ensure that the above-mentioned resolution is promptly implemented.

The Republic of Guinea will remain faithful to its international friendships and commitments to respect the inalienable and imprescriptible rights of the Cuban people.

## Guinea-Bissau

[Original: French]

[18 October 2021]

Guinea-Bissau reaffirms that discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic law are contrary to the obligations to promote dialogue and to uphold the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Guinea-Bissau has not endorsed any resolutions against Cuba and has adopted no internal mechanisms for their implementation, as they are unilateral and contrary to the norms of international law, in particular with regard to freedom of trade and navigation.

Guinea-Bissau notes with concern the actions and measures aimed at tightening the blockade.

Guinea-Bissau regrets that this blockade, which has been in place for more than 58 years, continues to cause the Cuban people highly significant harm in all major sectors of the Cuban economy, such as public health, nutrition, transport and agriculture, as well as banking, trade, investment and tourism.

In addition, this decades-long blockade continues to hinder the socioeconomic progress and development of the Cuban people and, for as long as it lasts, will continue to obstruct the efforts of Cuba to achieve sustainable development.

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau therefore acknowledges the importance attached by the Secretary-General to this issue and calls for the full implementation of resolution [75/289](#).

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau also calls upon Cuba and the United States to reach an agreement through sincere and constructive dialogue, with a view to improving ties between the two States.

## Guyana

[Original: English]

[5 October 2021]

The Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana has consistently demonstrated its unwavering respect for, and adherence to, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those stated in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

Accordingly, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana has not enacted any legislation or adopted any policies and practices the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, including Cuba. Further, the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana is in full compliance with, and remains fully supportive of, General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, as a matter of principle, has maintained a consistent and firm opposition to the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed on Cuba. Guyana maintains its call for support to the end of the embargo which will stimulate normalization. The Government of Guyana underscores that developing countries like Cuba particularly, need the full support of the international community at the current juncture when they are confronting the multidimensional impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Government of Guyana expresses its concern over the strained relations between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the United States of America. Guyana is of the view that the normalization of relations between the two countries would have a beneficial impact on peace in the hemisphere and result in greater prosperity for all.

The Government of Guyana reiterates its appreciation for the solidarity and medical support of Cuba and commends the Cuban Government's international efforts to stem the spread of the virus outside its borders which demonstrate a long and consistent pattern of global humanitarian commitment. We salute their dedicated healthcare professionals and other service personnel deployed around the world on the frontlines of the response to the pandemic.

## **Haiti**

[Original: French]  
[14 September 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Haiti has never promulgated any laws, legal provisions or measures of the kind referred to in resolution [75/289](#), adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021.

Haiti reaffirms its commitment and adherence to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, as well as the rights of States and their nationals to the free enjoyment of the benefits of freedom of navigation and trade. States must act in accordance with these principles of international law and renounce unilateral measures that could affect the social, economic and financial structures of other States.

Based on these principles, the Government of Haiti has always supported the efforts of the sister Republic of Cuba regarding the urgent necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade that has been in place against that country for many years, within the United Nations and at various summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

The Government of the Republic of Haiti therefore hopes that normal bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States are normalized, leading to an end to the economic and financial blockade against Cuba.

## **Honduras**

[Original: Spanish]  
[28 September 2021]

In fulfilment of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, Honduras has not promulgated or applied any unilateral economic and commercial laws or measures against other States that might affect the free flow of international trade.

## Iceland

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The Government of Iceland reaffirms its position in favour of General Assembly resolution 75/289. Iceland neither promulgates nor applies any laws or measures of the kind referred to in resolution 75/289. Iceland does not apply trade or economic legislation that restricts or discourages trade with or investment in Cuba. Iceland opposes the extraterritorial extension of unilateral measures to a third country.

## India

[Original: English]  
[15 September 2021]

India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 75/289 and, therefore, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

India has consistently opposed any unilateral measure by countries that impinge on the sovereignty of another country. These include any attempt to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

India recalls the Final Documents adopted by the Eighteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 25 and 26 October 2019, on this subject, and the Santa Cruz Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77, as well as other high-level decisions of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

## Indonesia

[Original: English]  
[15 September 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia reiterates its strongest opposition to unilateral coercive measures with an extraterritorial effect on the sovereignty of other States and reiterates the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation. In that regard, Indonesia also continues to reject additional measures aimed at further strengthening the unilateral embargo against Cuba.

Indonesia reaffirms that the prolonged imposition of the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States against Cuba violates the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs, which are enshrined in many international legal instruments, including the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States.

Despite our support for consecutive resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, regrettably, we have witnessed little to no improvement in the situation. The suffering and hardships of the people of Cuba, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, women and elderly people, remain. And all of this continues to happen during the very challenging period of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

As we enter the decade of action for Sustainable Development Goals, any act that would impede other countries' capacity to fulfil their economic and social development is deemed intolerable. The embargo runs counter to the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and risks leaving the people of Cuba behind.

With the recent global COVID-19 pandemic, the economic, commercial and financial embargo, which limits access by Cuba to finance and international cooperation, as well as to vaccines, medical supplies and other essential goods, will also hinder measures needed to address COVID-19, and, consequentially, prevent a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic. Ultimately, this will inflict harm on the health and well-being of the Cuban people. It is imperative and timely that such actions should be lifted to protect millions of lives.

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia continues to underline the importance of an enhanced dialogue with a view to ending the embargo imposed against Cuba and toward normalization of bilateral relations.

### **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its longstanding position that the imposition of any kind of unilateral coercive measures against Member States of the United Nations is a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law, in particular principles of sovereign equality and of non-intervention in international relations. Such illegal actions also contravene the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and are accordingly rejected, as well as strongly condemned, by the international community.

The international community has strongly denounced unilateral coercive measures. The General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions against unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries every two years since 1989; on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba each year since 1992; and on human rights and unilateral coercive measures each year since 1997. Dozens of General Assembly resolutions, United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions and Special Rapporteur reports have confirmed and reiterated that unilateral coercive measures and legislations are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization has also objected to unilateral coercive measures from a legal perspective on multiple occasions since it was founded in 1956.

Recalling its preceding resolutions, on 23 June 2021, the General Assembly adopted its annual resolution calling for an end to the United States embargo against Cuba. The resolution, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority, called for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States and urged all countries to comply with the Charter, as well as with the norms of international law, and to repeal or invalidate any laws and measures that have extraterritorial effects affecting the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Regrettably, and contrary to all of its obligations under international law, the United States of America has totally disregarded all these resolutions and imposed further economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba.

The continuation of these unlawful measures is not only a gross violation of international law and the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter and of relevant General Assembly resolutions, but also a source of immense economic and financial losses for Cuba. Such illegal actions continue to negatively affect the living conditions and basic human rights of the Cuban people and will hamper the efforts and abilities of the Government of Cuba to achieve sustainable development.

It is matter of great concern that imposing unilateral coercive measures with extraterritorial effects against the Member States by the United States of America has reached an unprecedented level. These illegitimate measures have been intentionally taken to pursue certain political agendas to inflict tremendous hardships and sufferings on the people of that country and negatively affect freedom of trade, in particular, trade in humanitarian goods and commodities, such as foodstuff, medicine, agricultural and animal products.

Given the devastating effects of unilateral coercive measures, in particular their effects on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, we have consistently called for the earliest repeal of these measures, as well as the rejection of political pressure and coercion that exacerbates a confrontational approach to international relations.

Any unilateral coercive economic measure adversely affecting the entire population of a nation, hindering the fulfilment of humanitarian needs of the population or impeding the full enjoyment of people's fundamental human rights constitutes a grave violation of international law. In consultation with other Member States, we will continue to demand the adoption of international means to prevent, remove, minimize and redress the adverse impacts of unilateral coercive measures.

In conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation, the Islamic Republic of Iran has neither applied nor promulgated any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

In the same vein and as done in the annual resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", we call on the Secretariat to prepare material and substantial contributions to the subject, including through preparing a thorough report on the implementation of the resolution. Along with the accumulation of views and reports of Member States and international bodies, the annual reports should contain substantive analysis and propose practical arrangements to ensure its full implementation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has long been the subject of economic coercive measures, shares the concerns of the Government and people of Cuba on the continuation of economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and therefore emphasizes the urgent need to put an immediate end to such unlawful measures and to fully implement General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

## **Iraq**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

In keeping with its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions and its respect for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of trade and navigation for all States, Iraq supports all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic,

commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Iraq declares its solidarity with Cuba and its full support for the right of the Cuban people to self-determination and its sovereign right to benefit from the use of its land and waters without any economic restrictions. Iraq rejects illegal economic measures that affect vulnerable groups, in particular children, women, the elderly and the sick; hinder development; and impede efforts to eradicate poverty in Cuba.

Iraq welcomes any diplomatic mediation efforts to encourage the United States and Cuba to engage in negotiations and dialogue that lead to the ending of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, and it welcomes all efforts to normalize relations between the two countries and to enable Cubans to again engage freely in trade and economic activity, in keeping with the efforts of the United Nations to achieve sustainable development for all peoples, without exception.

## **Jamaica**

[Original: English]  
[1 October 2021]

The Government of Jamaica remains fully committed to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly, the principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and freedom of international trade and navigation of all Member States.

In keeping with the obligations under the Charter and international law, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the Government of Jamaica has not promulgated any legislation or measure which would infringe on the sovereignty of any State or its lawful national interests.

Jamaica views economic sovereignty as a cornerstone in a State’s development. On 29 June 2021, Parliament passed a resolution supporting meaningful action to end the embargo that the United States has imposed on Cuba. Jamaica agrees that the imposition of unilateral extraterritorial laws is contrary to the letter and spirit of Charter and undermines the principles of multilateralism, sovereignty and free trade.

Jamaica remains concerned about the impact of these measures on the development of the Cuban economy, especially in the light of the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the additional strain this will have on the Government and people of Cuba in navigating the new normal which the world currently faces. Measures by the United States, such as the Cuban Asset Control Regulations aimed at imposing increased restrictions on travel, the processing of remittances and hotel accommodation properties and at broadening the List of Restricted Entities and Subentities Associated with Cuba to subject them to additional tax sanctions, are particularly harmful.

The strong advocacy of Jamaica for Cuba to be fully reintegrated into the hemisphere is based on its view that the embargo is not only a punitive measure against Cuba but an impediment to our shared regional development.

Jamaica has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions, including [75/289](#), which call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, and urge all Members States to uphold the Charter by ceasing the application of such inimical measures.

Within regional forums, Jamaica has joined with other Member States in affirming this position. The Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community have repeatedly issued public statements rejecting the imposition of these unilateral coercive measures and have called for an immediate and unconditional end of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba. Most recently, in July, the Community reiterated its call for the immediate lifting of sanctions against Cuba.

This position has also been reiterated within the ambit of the Association of Caribbean States and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which at its VI Summit, held in Mexico City, Mexico on 18 September 2021, issued a Special Declaration calling for an end to the United States embargo.

In addition, Jamaica joined the call made at the inaugural Caribbean Community-African Union Summit, held on 7 September 2021, for the lifting of unilateral sanctions and the embargo against Cuba, which have hampered the country's ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jamaica therefore reiterates its call for the complete and immediate removal of the embargo which continues to have dire social and economic effects on Cuba and its people.

## **Japan**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

The Government of Japan believes that the economic policy of the United States towards Cuba should be considered primarily as a bilateral issue. However, Japan shares the concern, arising from the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (known as the Helms-Burton Act) and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, that, if application of such legislations causes undue hardship in relation to the economic activities of the enterprises or nationals of a third party, the legislations are likely to run counter to international law regarding the extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

The Government of Japan has been closely following the situation in relation to the above-mentioned legislation and the surrounding circumstances, and its concern remains unchanged. Having considered the matter with the utmost care, Japan voted in favour of resolution [75/289](#).

## **Jordan**

[Original: English]  
[28 July 2021]

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has not applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has consistently voted in favour of resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and reaffirms its commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

## Kazakhstan

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

In its foreign policy, Kazakhstan is guided by the principles of international law and stands for the rights of nations to develop according to their own way of development.

Kazakhstan strongly condemns any unilateral acts that affect the sovereignty of another State.

Kazakhstan has never adopted any national regulations that infringe upon, impede or delay the development of other countries, including in the economic, commercial and financial spheres.

Kazakhstan, like the overwhelming majority of members of the international community, calls for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba and the cessation of all acts that are contrary to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

## Kenya

[Original: English]  
[18 October 2021]

The Government of Kenya has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

The Government of Kenya believes in a rules-based multilateral system and cannot support unilateral decisions that seek to block the Republic of Cuba and cause continued suffering for the friendly Cuban people.

The United Nations should never uphold or support any sanctions or embargos in perpetuity, particularly when these have undermined the overall objectives of national ownership, sustainable peace and sustainable development of Cuba.

It is for these reasons that Kenya always votes in favour of the resolutions on the necessity to eliminate this prolonged burden on the Cuban people. The Cuban people deserve a chance to self-determination and free participation in the global market, as well as in other trends and events at play, as a nation duly recognized by the United Nations.

## Kiribati

[Original: English]  
[19 October 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati reiterates its support for the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) disapproving the United States decades-long unilateral embargo against Cuba, and, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, has not taken any measures that might impair economic, commercial and financial relations between Kiribati and Cuba – or, for that matter, any other country.

The resolution addresses moral and human considerations and, when implemented, will contribute positively to improving the general welfare and well-being of the people of Cuba.

## **Kuwait**

[Original: English]  
[9 August 2021]

The State of Kuwait supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, and reaffirms its strong commitment to international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including those pertaining to the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, non-aggression, coexistence and the settling of disputes by peaceful means.

It further reaffirms its adherence to the principles of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

[Original: English]  
[12 August 2021]

In its foreign policy, the Kyrgyz Republic firmly adheres to the fundamental norms and principles of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and advocates respect for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and shipping. For its part, the Kyrgyz Republic consistently supports the efforts of States Members of the United Nations to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

## **Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

[Original: English]  
[7 September 2021]

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic would like to reaffirm its position that an embargo with its extraterritorial implications not only hinders the socioeconomic development of a nation, but also contradicts the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the sovereign equality of States, and freedom of international trade and navigation. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic has therefore neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

The imposition of the economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Republic of Cuba by the United States not only violates international law, but also imposes severe restrictions and obstacles on the socioeconomic development of Cuba. Against this backdrop, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic calls for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba as soon as possible.

## **Lebanon**

[Original: English]  
[27 September 2021]

The Government of Lebanon fully complies with General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations and international law. This is a standing position

of Lebanon, based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, stressing the need to respect the sovereignty of States.

## Lesotho

[Original: English]  
[19 October 2021]

The Kingdom of Lesotho reaffirms its commitment to the provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, provide for the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is deeply concerned about the harmful effects of the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. Lesotho calls upon the United States to lift the embargo imposed against Cuba.

## Liberia

[Original: English]  
[22 October 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Liberia supports the call to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba, principally as the embargo poses challenges to the people of Cuba.

The position of the Republic of Liberia is in line with the common position of the African Union, which calls for the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Liberia collaborates with other Member States of the United Nations to support the call to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba and the resolutions on that matter.

## Libya

[Original: Arabic]  
[29 September 2021]

Libya reiterates its strong opposition to unilateral measures imposed on States for political purposes, and stresses that such conduct does not help to resolve differences between States but, rather, complicates and exacerbates them.

Libya has consistently expressed its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. It has not enacted or applied any laws of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

Libya, in keeping with its principled position, voted in favour of resolution [75/289](#) in order to reiterate that it opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo. It calls upon States to resolve their differences by peaceful means and to shun coercive unilateral measures, which violate the principles of the Charter and human rights and impede efforts to achieve development, especially the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Madagascar**

[Original: English]  
[21 October 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Madagascar has neither promulgated nor applied laws or economic, trade and financial sanctions against the Republic of Cuba.

Madagascar supports the measures aiming to lift the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

## **Malawi**

[Original: English]  
[22 October 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Malawi wishes to register its support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

## **Malaysia**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

As a responsible member of the United Nations, Malaysia remains opposed to all forms of unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargoes that contravene the norms of international law and contradict the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Malaysia reaffirms its support for the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), adopted on 23 June 2021.

Malaysia will continue to support the efforts of the international community and join other Member States in reiterating our strong support for the lifting of the unilateral embargo imposed against Cuba, which has impeded its development and caused significant suffering for the Cuban people. Malaysia urges an immediate end to the unilateral embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and calls on all parties to resolve their disputes amicably through dialogues and negotiations.

## **Maldives**

[Original: English]  
[4 August 2021]

The Republic of Maldives is against imposing any kind of sanctions against any country without an explicit mandate from the Security Council. As such, the Republic of Maldives has not imposed any sanctions on Cuba nor has it enacted any laws or regulations that would contravene the provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), in favour of which the Republic of Maldives has voted.

## Mali

[Original: French]  
[26 July 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Mali has always voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba.

The Government of the Republic of Mali, which fully supports General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), adopted on 23 June 2021, has not promulgated any laws or applied any measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to that resolution.

As in the past, Mali maintains its position that the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba should be lifted.

## Mauritania

[Original: French]  
[14 October 2021]

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania disagrees with and is opposed to any embargo that hinders the economic and social development of a country and leads to human suffering. Mauritania has consistently voted in favour of resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba in the General Assembly.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania remains committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs and freedom of trade and navigation.

## Mauritius

[Original: English]  
[21 October 2021]

Mauritius reiterates its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs. In line with these principles, and in conformity with international law, the Republic of Mauritius has not promulgated any law or measure aimed at imposing a unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

The Republic of Mauritius enjoys good bilateral relations with the Republic of Cuba and remains open to developing its trade relations with Cuba.

## Mexico

[Original: Spanish]  
[15 September 2021]

Mexico reiterates that, in relations among sovereign nations, any unilateral measure intended as a means of political pressure to achieve changes from outside in the internal decisions of another State contravenes the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and undermines peace and stability among peoples.

Therefore, Mexico categorically condemns the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed for almost six decades against Cuba, as well as the decision to implement Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (Helms-Burton Act) that has affected not only the sovereignty of the Cuban people but also the national interests of third countries.

Given the severe health crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, ending the economic and financial blockade of Cuba is an urgent necessity. It would contribute to reversing the difficult economic situation faced by the Cuban people. Mexico urges nations to show solidarity and support so as to promote the well-being, economic growth and development of nations.

The Government of Mexico, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), has cooperated with the other member countries to develop the countries of the region.

As announced by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador at the CELAC ministerial meeting on 24 July 2021, Mexico is ready to support the people and Government of Cuba by sending humanitarian aid that will help to overcome the economic situation that it is currently facing, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and the tightening of the United States blockade. The following humanitarian aid has been sent to Cuba:

- On Saturday, 17 July 2021, a Mexican Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft arrived at Havana international airport with 800,000 syringes and other medical supplies.
- On Monday, 26 July 2021, the State oil company tanker *José María Morelos II* arrived in Havana with food, medicines and 40 million litres of diesel oil (equivalent to 200,000 barrels).
- On Friday, 30 July 2021, the Mexican Navy ship *El Libertador* arrived at the port of Havana with more than 612 tons of food, oxygen and medical supplies.
- On Saturday, 31 July 2021, a Mexican Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft arrived with approximately 11 tons of medical supplies, including COVID-19 diagnostic kits, gowns, syringes, protective equipment and other medical products.
- On Sunday, 1 August 2021, the ship *Papaloapan* arrived with a cargo of 1,283 tons of medical supplies and food.

Trade between Mexico and Cuba has increased on average by 8.5 per cent over the last decade and during 2019, the last year for which there is a complete record, amounted to 423.5 million dollars.

Cuba is an important trading partner for Mexico and the region; ending the blockade would mean a greater increase in total trade and would benefit Mexico, Cuba and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Monaco

[Original: French]  
[7 September 2021]

Pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the general principles of international law, the Principality of Monaco has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), adopted on 23 June 2021.

## Mongolia

[Original: English]  
[14 September 2021]

In accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), the Government of Mongolia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the aforementioned resolution.

Mongolia reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular the principle of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs, and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Government of Mongolia has consistently opposed the continued application of the unilateral measures and reiterates its unconditional support for lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

## Montenegro

[Original: English]  
[4 October 2021]

The Government of Montenegro supported General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

The Government of Montenegro reaffirms its commitment to the purpose and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution [75/289](#). The Government of Montenegro is ready to further develop cooperation with Cuba both at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

## Morocco

[Original: French]  
[4 October 2021]

The Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the cardinal principles of international law.

The Kingdom of Morocco has always encouraged the development of friendly relations between the States Members of the United Nations.

## Mozambique

[Original: English]  
[6 October 2021]

The Republic of Mozambique has never promulgated, applied, collaborated on or contributed to the application of any laws or regulations contravening General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

That position is consistent with the vote of the Republic of Mozambique in support of similar resolutions in 2019 and 2020.

The Republic of Mozambique reiterates its unconditional support for the provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and calls for the unconditional lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

## Myanmar

[Original: English]

[6 September 2021]

During the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, Myanmar did not have a chance to vote in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), in which the Assembly called for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, although Myanmar voted in favour of similar resolutions in previous years.

Myanmar upholds the purposes and principles of international relations of sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and the peaceful settlement of disputes as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Myanmar has always been against the extraterritorial application of the blockade and politicization of human rights issues.

In particular, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the embargo imposed against Cuba severely impacted the economic sector of the nation, which had negative consequences for other sectors such as the health and social sectors. Therefore, Myanmar strongly opposes embargoes or sanctions in this difficult pandemic time, especially for developing countries.

Myanmar hopes that a normalization of the relationship between the United States and Cuba will open great opportunities of peace and prosperity for the two neighbouring countries and will extend the benefits to the whole region. Myanmar believes that this will lead to the eventual lifting of the embargo imposed against Cuba, which would create an economic environment for Cuba conducive to realizing its full development potential, thereby advancing its efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind.

Myanmar hopes that the United States and Cuba have the wisdom, courage and ability to address this protracted political problem between them and to enter a new chapter of friendship and cooperation for the good of their peoples through dialogue in line with the norms of international law and good-neighbourliness.

## Namibia

[Original: English]

[3 September 2021]

Namibia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has unwaveringly supported General Assembly resolutions and is committed to the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of international law, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the affairs of sovereign States. Namibia has confidence that unity and peace between nations and peoples is the mainspring of fostering economic development and strengthening global trade. In particular, our ability to effectively respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is hinged on proximity to the global pandemic response and preparedness, and other health-related issues in the spirit of cooperation and multilateralism.

The embargo impacts the sisterly republic of Cuba, violates the human rights of its citizens and hinders the normal development of international relations, as well as economic, commercial and financial relations, not only with the United States of America, but between Cuba and the rest of the world. The impact of unilateral

sanctions hinders the ability of Cuba to fight the pandemic through the delivery of necessary medical equipment within internationally recognized trade channels and poses a serious threat to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **Nauru**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Government of Nauru reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including, in particular, the fundamental principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in internal affairs, as well as to the freedom of international trade and navigation, as established by international law.

It is imperative today more than ever, with the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, that an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo be realized.

The Government of Nauru reiterates its full support for, and observance of, General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

## **Nepal**

[Original: English]  
[9 August 2021]

The Government of Nepal has firmly adhered to the provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and has not enacted or applied any laws or measures contrary to this resolution.

## **New Zealand**

[Original: English]  
[18 October 2021]

The Government of New Zealand reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). The Government of New Zealand has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo against Cuba. We reiterate those calls. New Zealand has no trade or economic legislation or measures that restrict or discourage trade with Cuba or investment in or from that country, and welcomes all steps towards normalization, including lifting the embargo.

## **Nicaragua**

[Original: Spanish]  
[4 August 2021]

Nicaragua continues to defend and promote multilateralism by building relations based on respect, equality, solidarity and mutual cooperation, and by respecting and upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including non-interference in internal affairs and respect for international law.

Nicaragua reaffirms its long-desired goal of international understanding and peaceful coexistence and continues to promote a culture of peace, basing its

international relations on friendship, solidarity and reciprocity among peoples, and recognizing the principle of the peaceful settlement of international disputes pursuant to international law. Therefore, we always advocate and will continue to advocate the defence of sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and the right to self-determination of our peoples.

With its policy of peace and solidarity, and in accordance with international law and the right of the world's peoples to live in peace and to develop, Nicaragua asserts once more that the doors of dialogue and negotiation must be kept open and military intervention and war must become things of the past.

Nicaragua, like every developing country and the entire international community, notes with concern that sanctions, unilateral coercive measures and the blockade imposed during the pandemic, are becoming a crime against humanity. The blockade directly affects the valiant Cuban people's right to development, violating all human rights and undermining the efforts of the Government and the people to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals.

Nicaragua condemns the tightening of the blockade against the brotherly people and Government of Cuba, a step that caused even greater damage to sensitive sectors such as health, education and sport and culture, totalling \$5.570.3 billion. That figure was up by approximately \$1.226 billion from the amount recorded in the previous year, from April 2018 to March 2019, bringing the total damage in the nearly six decades since this anachronistic policy was first put in place to \$144.4134 billion.

The blockade has undermined the efforts of the noble country of Cuba to combat the pandemic, particularly owing to its extraterritorial component, deliberately depriving the Cuban people of mechanical ventilators, masks, test kits, protective goggles, suits, gloves, reagents and other supplies necessary for the management of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Our commitment to the lifting of the inhumane blockade against Cuba, which has already caused irreparable and irreversible damage to the economy of the Cuban people, as has been amply demonstrated in the respective reports of the Secretary-General, has been firm and unwavering.

We believe that no State has the right to impose its will on others through unilateral coercive economic measures that violate international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Such a practice is illegitimate and illegal and undermines the gains made in global economic governance.

We reject any interference, intended or actual, in the internal affairs of Cuba. We call on all States to respect sovereignty, international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as commitments and legal instruments concluded in the field of digital communications, in order to avoid acts of aggression. We also reject the campaign of disinformation and fake news discrediting Cuba.

The overwhelming majority of the international community has consistently expressed its firm rejection of the blockade, as seen at the latest vote on this resolution, on 23 June 2021, when 184 of its 193 Member States voted in favour.

The United Nations must fulfil its historic purpose of promoting a multilateralism, on the basis of sovereign equality, where the voices of our peoples prevail, where the yearnings of humanity are fulfilled, and where the intensification of the blockade and its extraterritorial effects are denounced and rejected.

Nicaragua hopes that the General Assembly's numerous resolutions will be respected and implemented once and for all, putting an end to this illegal policy towards Cuba and laying the foundations for a respectful dialogue aimed at resolving

the pending bilateral issues between the two countries, based on the principles of the equality of States, reciprocity and respect for the sovereignty and independence of Cuba.

## Niger

[Original: French]  
[4 October 2021]

The Government of the Niger is deeply committed to respecting the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and freedom of international trade and navigation, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and has taken no measures that run counter to the provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), adopted on 23 June 2021.

On the contrary, the Republic of the Niger and Cuba have maintained good cooperative relations since the signing of a general agreement on cooperation between the two countries in 1994. Since then, the scope of this cooperation and the activities covered by it have evolved and expanded. The two countries regularly hold bilateral consultations, attesting to the political will of their leaders to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and solidarity between them for the benefit of their peoples. In addition, the President of the Republic, Mamadou Issoufou, conducted an official visit to Cuba in September 2014 to consolidate that cooperation.

Nonetheless, the economic, commercial and financial blockade remains in place and continues to inflict dreadful pain on the Cuban people and hamper economic development.

The Niger therefore calls for the lifting of the blockade, which is a key prerequisite for the gradual normalization of relations between the United States of America and Cuba that will bring an awareness and depth to the work already done, namely the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2015.

The Republic of the Niger thus remains in solidarity with and provides constant support to Cuba and trusts, once again, that it will be able to rely on the support of the international community to secure the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba.

## Nigeria

[Original: English]  
[1 October 2021]

The Federal Government of Nigeria reiterates its continued resolve to maintain friendly relations with all States and condemns the application of unilateral measures for the settlement of disputes between States. Nigeria also reiterates its support for ending the embargo against Cuba and for the promotion of international cooperation among Member States. Nigeria believes that the easing of the embargo on Cuba would be a demonstration of peaceful settlement of disputes in the international system.

## Norway

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

The Government of Norway reaffirms its position in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Norway does not promulgate or apply laws or measures

of the kind referred to in the resolution. Norway does not apply trade or economic legislation that restricts or discourages trade with, or investment in, or from Cuba.

Norway opposes the extraterritorial extension of unilateral measures against a third country. Norway regrets that the United States has not resumed its previous commitment to waive Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, and encourages the United States and Cuba to work for the normalization of bilateral relations with a view to bringing about the end of the embargo against Cuba.

## **Oman**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

The Government of Oman complies with and implements General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and does not apply any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of said resolution.

## **Pakistan**

[Original: English]  
[20 October 2021]

Pakistan is fully in observance of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

## **Panama**

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 September 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Panama continues to enter into bilateral, economic, trade and cooperation agreements with Cuba to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Panama reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The Government of Panama also expresses its concern over the application of unilateral coercive measures against Cuba, particularly those affecting the health of the Cuban population, which have been exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and that impede the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As a founding Member of the United Nations and a State that advocates peace, Panama maintains relations of friendship and cooperation with all States on the basis of inclusion and respect for the principles of justice and international law, as well as for the right to self-determination of peoples, respect for sovereignty and non-intervention in matters that lie essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of States.

Panama promotes and will continue to promote dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes, free trade and transparent international trade.

Historically, the Republic of Panama has voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution supporting the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, a commitment that is based on the understanding that it would

contribute to the socioeconomic development of its population, and therefore supports the drafting of a comprehensive report on the implementation of resolution [75/289](#).

The Republic of Panama also reiterates its support for the full integration of Cuba in the region and the world.

## **Papua New Guinea**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

Papua New Guinea reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), underscoring the imperative to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

In this spirit, Papua New Guinea is opposed to any extraterritorial application of laws and regulations that infringe on the sovereignty of other United Nations Member States.

Papua New Guinea, at present, does not have restrictive legislative, policy or other measures against Cuba. On the contrary, Papua New Guinea encourages constructive and friendly relations between Cuba and the United States, consistent with the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international law.

## **Paraguay**

[Original: Spanish]  
[15 September 2021]

Paraguay fully supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) in accordance with its historical position of refraining from promulgating and applying laws or measures of the kind indicated in the resolution.

In this regard, it rejects any domestic law whose extraterritorial effects have an impact on the sovereignty of other States, international law and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Paraguay, mindful of its situation as a landlocked developing country, is bound by the principles enshrined in its Constitution regarding international relations and reaffirms its commitment to unrestricted respect for the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, to international law, to the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and interference in internal affairs and to freedom of international trade and navigation, among other principles established in various international legal instruments.

## **Peru**

[Original: Spanish]  
[1 September 2021]

Peru reiterates its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, particularly the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in a State's internal affairs, freedom of international trade and navigation, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Peru believes that the extraterritorial application of domestic laws, as demonstrated by the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, is a

unilateral act that is contrary to the Charter, international law and the basic principles of the multilateral trading system.

Since 1992, when Peru voted in favour of resolution [47/19](#) on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, the Government of Peru has been consistent in its foreign policy and has voted in favour of all the resolutions on this matter in the General Assembly.

Peru believes that such unilateral coercive measures affect the economic growth of Cuba and impede its social and human development. The Government of Peru expresses its concern at the adverse effects of these measures on the quality of life and well-being of the Cuban people, especially with regard to food supply, health and other essential services, by denying them access to private credit, food, medicine, technology and other supplies needed for the country's development.

Peru considers that the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba is inconsistent with the dynamics of regional politics. Peru will continue to promote trade and economic exchanges with Cuba by consistently opposing the economic, commercial and financial blockade against that country.

## **Philippines**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

The Philippines fully supports and reiterates its commitment to adhere to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

The Philippines has not imposed and does not intend to impose any laws, regulations or measures that are contrary to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

## **Qatar**

[Original: Arabic]  
[19 October 2021]

The position of the State of Qatar remains unchanged with regard to the resolution, which it fully supports. Similarly, the State of Qatar firmly supports and applies the rules and principles of international law in its foreign policy and fully complies with the purposes and principles of Charter of the United Nations. Qatar has consistently urged against the imposition of any unilateral coercive measures.

Accordingly, the State of Qatar has not introduced or applied any laws or measures that are inconsistent with the resolution.

## **Republic of Korea**

[Original: English]  
[29 October 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Korea has consistently supported the General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba since 1999. Therefore, the Republic of Korea has not applied laws and administrative measures of the kind which are referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

## Republic of North Macedonia

[Original: English]  
[4 October 2021]

The Republic of North Macedonia has neither applied nor promulgated any unilateral sanctions or embargoes and reiterates that it fully implements General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

## Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]  
20 September 2021

The Russian Federation, together with the overwhelming majority of members of the international community, has consistently maintained a principled position in favour of this resolution, advocating the complete, urgent and unconditional lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

All unilateral restrictive measures taken by Washington against Havana limit the natural inalienable rights of Cuban citizens (as well as citizens of the United States), are totally illegal and grossly violate the fundamental principles and norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The sanctions war unleashed by Washington to achieve its main goal of ousting an undesirable government is a symptomatic example of open foreign policy pressure in the spirit of the notorious “Monroe Doctrine”, interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and blatant disregard for human rights and humanitarian values.

At a time when the world community is faced with a common scourge – the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) – the campaign unleashed by the United States to discredit Cuban doctors and the sanctions against the biopharmaceutical industry that have endangered the health of millions of people in many countries around the world are absolutely unprincipled and inhumane. It is encouraging that Havana, even in such circumstances, has demonstrated remarkable resilience and continues to help other nations by providing doctors and medical supplies and developing its own vaccine against COVID-19, including for the needs of third countries. The main goal guiding our partners here is clear – selfless medical assistance in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic global challenge that has befallen humankind.

It is noteworthy that pressure from the United States on Cuba under the Biden Administration has not weakened but, on the contrary, has tightened. For example, in May 2021 Cuba was included by the United States in its Federal Register of countries that do not cooperate sufficiently with it in countering terrorism and, in July 2021, in the category of countries that fail to meet its standards for combating trafficking in persons. The significant drop in the number of visas issued to Cuban citizens (of the promised 20,000 visas, only about 5,000 are issued) cannot be ignored. At the same time, none of the 243 restrictive measures taken while President Trump was in office have been lifted.

Russia believes that finally lifting of the embargo would not only benefit the people of Cuba and the United States, but would also, more generally, help to improve international relations at the regional and global levels.

## Rwanda

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The position of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda remains unchanged with regard to the resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba. The Republic of Rwanda has enjoyed friendly diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba for years.

Rwanda, like the majority of Member States of the United Nations, voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021.

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implemented General Assembly resolution [75/289](#); reaffirms its support for said resolution; and has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the resolution. The Government of Rwanda stresses that there are no legal or regulatory impediments to free transit or trade between Rwanda and Cuba.

## Saint Kitts and Nevis

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis is once again pleased to support the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), which seeks to bring an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against the Government and people of Cuba.

The embargo inevitably continues to be the greatest tribulation for the Cuban people, with a significant adverse impact on the economy and daily life. This situation is not only regrettable, but it is in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. It is also in violation of the norms and principles of international law and peaceful resolutions of disputes between States.

The recent levying of additional tougher sanctions against travel and remittances from the United States to Cuba has also negatively impacted the business climate and Cubans who heavily depend on assistance from relatives abroad.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has further exacerbated the socioeconomic hardships for the Cuban people caused by the embargo. Notwithstanding, Cuba continues to contribute significantly to global health by sending its medical brigades all over the world, to assist countries in their fight against COVID-19.

We firmly believe that there is no better time than now for serious consideration to be given to the removal of the embargo which will greatly assist with the resuscitation of the Cuban economy and exponentially increase opportunities for the Cuban people to enhance their standard of living.

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis therefore calls for renewed dialogue between Havana and Washington, to swiftly bring an end to this outdated embargo.

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis continues to stand in solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba and again votes in favour of the resolution entitled, “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo

imposed by the United States against Cuba” and reiterates its position that the time has come to end this longstanding embargo.

## **Saint Lucia**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The Government of Saint Lucia, in compliance with international legal obligations, and in line with its commitment to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure, or taken any other action, that would contravene the exercise of sovereignty by a Member State in its lawful interests, or obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade or economic cooperation.

The Government of Saint Lucia underlines the consistent economic, educational, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and Saint Lucia in furtherance of socioeconomic advancement and sustainability.

Saint Lucia reaffirms its position on the extraterritorial application of national legislation and considers it to be contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful co-existence among nations.

The Government of Saint Lucia has consistently supported the General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

## **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

Each year, since 1992, the overwhelming majority of members of the United Nations have collectively reaffirmed their support for the Government and people of Cuba by repeatedly calling for the immediate end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United State against Cuba. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with our sister Caribbean nation and reiterates its unequivocal support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba”.

The unilaterally imposed blockade, which remains an unmitigated failure, continues to present undue hardship for the Cuban people, constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, has extraterritorial implications and prevents the procurement of necessary equipment – further complicating the Government’s ability in the scaling up of the manufacturing of vaccines to respond appropriately to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Despite the prejudicial effect of the lingering antithetical blockade, Cuba continues to demonstrate its resolve. Our Caribbean sister nation has developed its own vaccines, including the Soberana and Abdala, to respond to the pandemic. Furthermore, in the areas of healthcare and humanitarian assistance, the contributions of Cuba to underserved regions in the world have been invaluable. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and indeed, the majority of States Members of the United Nations, have benefited, and continue to benefit significantly from the solidarity and support of Cuba. For this, we remain eternally grateful.

The time has long past for the economic blockade to be completely repealed. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to fervently advocate for the complete lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade, which is critical for the Government and people of Cuba to achieve full prosperity.

## **Samoa**

[Original: English]  
[21 October 2021]

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa reaffirms its absolute commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including in particular the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and the freedom of international trade and navigation, which are fundamental principles of international law.

Samoa therefore supports General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures that are contrary to the said resolution.

## **San Marino**

[Original: English]  
[27 July 2021]

The Republic of San Marino has always and generally been against any imposition of any embargo and therefore it is against the imposition of the unilateral embargo against Cuba as a means of applying pressure, because of the serious repercussions on the populations.

## **Sao Tome and Principe**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe once again fully endorses the content of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, of 23 June 2021.

Sao Tome and Principe pursues a policy of full respect for international law and is committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal matters of other States.

The Government of Sao Tome and Principe continues to reject the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures and calls upon States to refrain from promulgating and applying such laws and measures as they affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of the entities under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Sao Tome and Principe therefore calls for the expeditious removal of the current embargo facing the Republic of Cuba, which we believe will have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of the people of Cuba.

The Government of Sao Tome and Principe will continue to consistently support the annual resolution in the General Assembly on this item and continuously vote in favour of this resolution.

## Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]  
[13 October 2021]

Saudi Arabia enjoys normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

Saudi Arabia has not applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Cuba.

Saudi Arabia is committed to the purpose and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and recalls and reaffirms its commitment to the rules and principles of international law.

## Senegal

[Original: French]  
[29 September 2021]

In accordance with its international obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, Senegal will continue to comply with the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

## Serbia

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Republic of Serbia, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming its commitment to the rules and principles of international law, fully implements General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures or acts of the kind referred to in the preamble to the resolution.

The Republic of Serbia has consistently supported the resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba in the General Assembly and voted in its favour.

The Republic of Serbia calls for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, expressing the desire of the overwhelming majority of Member States of the United Nations.

## Seychelles

[Original: English]  
[10 August 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles once again fully endorses the content of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted on 23 June 2021.

Seychelles pursues a policy of full respect for international law and is committed to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal matters of other States.

The Government of Seychelles continues to reject the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impacts and any other forms of coercive economic measures, and calls on States to refrain from promulgating and applying such laws and measures as they affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of the entities under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

That being said, the Government of Seychelles encourages the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States of America. Seychelles is of the view that dialogue and collaboration between the two countries will serve to positively impact the lives of the people of Cuba and the United States.

In this context, Seychelles, therefore, urges the expeditious removal of the current embargo facing the Republic of Cuba, which will, it believes, have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of the people of Cuba.

The Government of Seychelles will continue to consistently support the annual resolution on this item in the General Assembly and vote in favour of it.

## **Sierra Leone**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Republic of Sierra Leone reiterates its unwavering commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law. Sierra Leone was one of the first countries in Africa to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba several decades ago.

Bilateral relations between the Republic of Sierra Leone and Cuba have been cordial and trade cooperation between the two friendly countries has also made great progress. Sierra Leone is committed to strengthening the already excellent relations between the two sister countries on both bilateral and multilateral fronts. Sierra Leone has been consistent in its enduring support for all previous resolutions demanding an end of the United States economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba and its people.

The Republic of Sierra Leone is reaffirming its call for the total elimination of the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which continues to gravely affect the lives and livelihoods of the Cuban people.

Sierra Leone therefore reiterates its full and unreserved support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) which calls for an end to the unilateral economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. The Republic of Sierra Leone is heartened by the efforts made in the past to normalize relations between Cuba and the United States. We trust that the progress made will be built upon.

## **Singapore**

[Original: English]  
[6 August 2021]

The Government of Singapore reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Singapore has consistently supported resolutions calling for an end to the United States' trade embargo on Cuba since 1995 and has voted in their favour.

## Solomon Islands

[Original: English]  
[3 November 2021]

Solomon Islands, in its support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), calls for the unconditional lifting of the 1962 economic and financial blockade on Cuba by the Government of the United States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Solomon Islands appreciates the spirit, resilience and generosity of the Government and people of Cuba in educating, sheltering and clothing children from a multitude of States who are studying there, despite the imposed hardship.

## South Africa

[Original: English]  
[7 September 2021]

In adopting resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, South Africa joined 184 countries voting in favour to 2 against (Israel and the United States), with 3 abstentions (Brazil, Colombia and Ukraine).

The South African Government is concerned about the devastating impact that the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba has on the lives and the livelihoods of the people of Cuba, especially the poor and vulnerable. The United States designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism, together with the enforcement of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, is even more damaging. South Africa is calling on the new United States Administration to remove the unjust yoke of sanctions and to opt for constructive dialogue with Cuba, not further isolation. South Africa joins the outright majority of Member States in calling for a new chapter of hope for Cuba and its people.

South Africa is in full agreement with the Group of African States, the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement that the United States embargo and other punitive measures have caused immeasurable damage to Cuba. Notwithstanding sanction-related burdens, Cuba continues to be an inspiration to humanity as it provides medical brigades to countries to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The South African Government and people acknowledge with deep humility the sacrifice made by the Cuban people with their lives to fight for South Africa’s liberation. Cuba champions the rights of developing countries, and it has an unquestionable right to develop and prosper.

The United States sanctions are major impediments for South African companies in conducting business with Cuba. Relations between South Africa and Cuba, however, continue to serve as a successful model of South-South cooperation, and South Africa has recommitted to existing bilateral cooperation programmes with Cuba and to pursuing new areas of cooperation such as in infrastructure development, agriculture, science and technology.

The United States embargo remains the most significant obstacle for Cuba in its quest to realize its development objectives, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United States sanctions have caused major socioeconomic difficulties for Cuba, including shortages of essential items such as food, energy and medicines. The sanctions have also hurt the tourism sector, which is a major economic sector in Cuba. The severe economic and financial restrictions, which are threatened to be increased, further compound the hardships and the

suffering of the people of Cuba, despite Cuban regulations and laws that protect countries and companies doing business on the island.

South Africa, therefore, takes this opportunity to commend those countries that have taken measures to mitigate the specific effects of the Helms-Burton Act and to request third-party countries to support Cuba and its people by scrapping any domestic laws or regulations that continue to hamper the development of Cuba and its people in accordance with resolution [75/289](#), adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021.

South Africa appeals once again to the international community to redouble its efforts to promote constructive and transparent dialogue between Cuba and the United States, both bilaterally and through the appropriate United Nations structures, with a view to achieving the objectives of all the resolutions already adopted by the General Assembly on the matter and ensuring the sustainable further progress of the people of Cuba.

## **South Sudan**

[Original: English]  
[14 October 2021]

The Republic of South Sudan reiterates its profound concern about the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

In line with the majority of States Members of the United Nations and African Union resolutions Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVII), Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XIX) and Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXI), the Republic of South Sudan calls for the lifting of the embargo endured by the Cuban people for over half a century.

The Republic of South Sudan considers that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba is a unilateral act contrary to the principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to the basic principles of the multilateral trading system.

The Republic of South Sudan considers that these coercive measures are affecting the economic growth of Cuba and impeding its social and human development. The Republic of South Sudan calls for the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2021.

## **Sri Lanka**

[Original: English]  
[15 September 2021]

Sri Lanka does not approve of the use of unilateral economic measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Sri Lanka is of the view that the implementation of such measures impedes the rule of law, the transparency of international trade and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Sri Lanka has not promulgated any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

Sri Lanka has continuously supported the adoption of the resolutions on this item by the General Assembly and has taken the position that the economic,

commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba needs to end.

## **Sudan**

[Original: English]

[20 October 2021]

The Sudan fully supported resolution [75/289](#), by voting in its favour in the General Assembly.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Sudan and Cuba were established in 1969. Bilateral relations took a step forward when the Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan in Venezuela was accredited as Ambassador to Cuba, in March 2014. Furthermore, bilateral relations have been strengthened through the exchange of visits by senior officials.

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan pursues a policy of full respect for international law, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. Consistent with its principled position, the Sudan opposed the imposition of sanctions on developing countries because of their devastating impact on the efforts of those countries to achieve sustainable development and because they constitute a violation of the Charter.

To that effect, the Sudan participates every year in the debate of the General Assembly on the agenda item under which resolution [75/289](#) was adopted and votes with the majority of Member States in favour of Assembly resolutions prohibiting the imposition of such unilateral measures and sanctions.

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan reaffirms that it does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that could, by being applied outside its own national borders, affect the sovereignty of any State. The Government of the Republic of the Sudan calls for the repeal of laws that impose such measures.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Sudan opposes the economic and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has caused damage and suffering to the Cuban people, being a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), the Government of the Republic of the Sudan has put the issue at hand before the concerned multilateral organs with a view to mobilizing support for the elimination of all forms of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

## **Suriname**

[Original: English]

[9 September 2021]

The Republic of Suriname remains firm in its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to upholding respect for international law. Suriname is of the considered view that sovereign equality and the right of nations to develop in accordance with their own charted paths should be respected at all times. Adherence to these principles is of the utmost importance to the maintenance of a stable international order.

Suriname notes that the decades-long commercial, economic and financial embargo against Cuba is contrary to those principles and norms and is counterproductive in trade relations. Of particular concern is the continued

application of the blockade in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, despite the Secretary-General's call for the lifting of sanctions imposed on countries in order to ensure their access to food, essential medical supplies and medical support.

In the light of the above, Suriname calls for the lifting of the commercial, economic and financial embargo against Cuba, which harms all economic and health-care sectors of Cuba, deprives the Cuban people of the possibility to fully use the potential of the country's resources and provides the single biggest challenge to the full development of Cuba.

Furthermore, it has been the most vulnerable members of Cuban society, such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, who have suffered the most severe consequences of this policy.

Suriname expresses, once again, its solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba and places on record that the Government of the Republic of Suriname has never promulgated or applied laws or measures affecting the economic, commercial and financial rights of the people and Government of Cuba, as referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

## Switzerland

[Original: French]  
[5 August 2021]

As in previous years, Switzerland supported the General Assembly resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" in 2021. Switzerland considers that the economic, financial and commercial measures taken against the Republic of Cuba have negative repercussions on the living conditions of the Cuban people and increase their economic difficulties. For these reasons, they should be repealed.

## Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]  
[27 August 2021]

I am writing to you in response to the letter dated 22 July 2020 (DPPA/DPO/2021/01226) that the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs at the United Nations Secretariat circulated to Permanent Missions, and also with regard to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". Following are the national contributions and assessments of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding that important issue:

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its full commitment to General Assembly resolutions calling for an immediate end to the unjust economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the most recent of which is General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) of 23 June 2021.

The Syrian Arab Republic, which is a founding Member of the United Nations, is firmly committed to applying the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). It disregards and does not consider itself bound by any of the illegal unilateral coercive measures that have been imposed on the Cuban people by successive American administrations since 1962.

In adopting by an overwhelming majority resolution [75/289](#) concerning the ending of this unjust embargo, the General Assembly has reaffirmed, for the twenty-ninth time in succession, the justness of and the international community's support for that cause. In addition, it demonstrates the commitment of the States that voted in favour of the resolution to the rule of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and reflects their demand that any law or measure the extraterritorial effect of which impacts any Member State or threatens the legitimate interests of their peoples must be declared null and void.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms the exclusionary policies pursued by the United States of America, its tightening of the embargo against the Cuban people and its implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996, also known as the Helms-Burton Act, and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992. The enactment of such hostile laws not only causes unjustified hardship for the Cuban people, but also runs counter to human rights principles and international humanitarian law, and hinders realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of prosperity and well-being for Cuba.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the current United States Administration to lift immediately and unconditionally the unjust embargo that it has imposed on the Cuban people, and abandon its policies of putting pressure and imposing unilateral sanctions on States whose free national choices do not accord with American agendas and interests, particularly in view of the fact that the previous United States Administration, in an illegal act, deployed a new instrument of war, namely, placing Cuba on various lists of States that are alleged to be sponsors of international terrorism, a move that my country condemns strongly.

The Syrian Arab Republic draws attention to General Assembly resolution [74/200](#) of 19 December 2019, in particular paragraphs 4 and 5 of thereof, in which the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to "monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries" and to "submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular focus on the impacts of unilateral economic measures on the achievement of sustainable development". The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that such coercive measures are contrary to the principles and Charter of the United Nations and clearly violate the rules of international law and international humanitarian law, as well as the relevant provisions of internationally binding resolutions.

These unilateral coercive measures have a catastrophic effect on the economic growth of Cuba and all sanctioned States, because they impede their social and human development and directly affect the quality of life and well-being of their peoples, all the more so in view of the global crisis that has arisen in the wake of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which affects us all equally. Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic, a peace-loving country, calls for the ending of these coercive measures, which threaten a fundamental human right, the right to health. In that connection, we draw attention to recent efforts by Cuba to develop a vaccine against the virus, as that clearly demonstrates its ability to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of public health.

The coercive measures imposed by the United States of America on Cuba and Syria are major obstacles to the free conduct of trade and financial transactions between the two countries. Despite that, relations between Syria and Cuba continue to serve as a successful model of bilateral cooperation that is based on mutual respect and sovereign equality, with the two countries constantly seeking out new areas in

which they can cooperate, such as education, agriculture, health and exchange of technology.

The Syrian Arab Republic, like Cuba and several other countries, continues to be the target of many unilateral coercive measures that have been illegally imposed by the United States and the States of the European Union outside the framework of the United Nations and international law. Such measures, which are economic terrorism, complement the terrorism of Da'esh and the Nusrah Front and their associated entities. They affect the daily lives of all Syrians and deprive them of the ability to meet their basic needs, limit the capacity of the Syrian Government to provide services and support to those in need, seriously hinder the Syrian economy's ability to produce and recover, and are aimed at individuals and companies that are helping the Syrian Government to rebuild the country's infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, and restore oil and gas production. Indeed, such measures ultimately prevent the Syrian people from enjoying their economic and social rights, including the right to development, and they hinder the creation of the conditions required for the safe and voluntary return of Syrian refugees and displaced persons, and place an additional burden on United Nations humanitarian and relief efforts in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic renews its unwavering commitment to the principles set out in the Charter and reiterates its absolute adherence to the rules of international law and its demand for an immediate and definitive end to the imposition of unilateral coercive measures. Moreover, it draws attention to the calls that you, senior United Nations officials and the rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council have made in that regard. The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the United States of America to comply immediately with the provisions of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and to end immediately the illegal economic, commercial and financial embargo that it has imposed against Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic and other States, with a view ensuring the well-being and prosperity of their peoples.

## **Tajikistan**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The Government of Tajikistan reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#).

Tajikistan is committed to the principles of international law and supports the fundamental rights of nations to freely choose their own paths to development. Taking into account, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and the freedom of international trade, Tajikistan believes that economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba continue to adversely affect the living conditions of the Cuban people and hamper the efforts of the Government of Cuba to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, given that the international community is facing major challenges, in particular the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic which has resulted in an increase in poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of embargoes and sanctions will be more unjustifiable than ever and deserves appropriate reactions at the global level.

Such actions are contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

Tajikistan enjoys friendly diplomatic and economic relations with both the United States and Cuba and will continue to undertake further measures to strengthen cooperation between the countries.

## **Thailand**

[Original: English]  
[18 August 2021]

Since 1994, the Royal Thai Government has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade and economic embargo against Cuba.

Thailand opposes the imposition by one country of its national law on another country which, in effect, compels a third party to comply with it. Such an act would be contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The imposition of the unilateral embargo against Cuba has undermined the socioeconomic development of the country and caused the suffering of its people.

Thailand has maintained neither legal provisions nor domestic measures of such nature and continues to discourage them.

## **Timor-Leste**

[Original: English]  
[10 September 2021]

Timor-Leste fully adheres to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the principles of the freedom of international trade and navigation. Timor-Leste reaffirms its position of support for General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and reiterates that it has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to therein.

The Government of Timor-Leste is strongly opposed to the continued adoption and the application of such extraterritorial measures and supports the immediate and unconditional lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. It is our belief that the imposition of the said measures will hinder the ability of Cuba to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the most effective and timely manner, as well as weakening its capacity to implement the rule of law.

## **Togo**

[Original: French]  
[21 October 2021]

In keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of the Togolese Republic has always striven to promote respect for the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and for non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs. Likewise, it supports unreservedly the principle of freedom of trade and navigation, which is enshrined in numerous international legal instruments. Consequently, Togo systematically rejects the use of any unilateral measures to exert pressure on States. For this reason, it has never promulgated or applied any laws or regulations that curtail the sovereignty of other States or the legitimate interests of entities or individuals under their jurisdiction.

The Government of Togo has always supported the initiatives taken by the Cuban Government to end the blockade imposed against Cuba by the United States of America. The blockade must end, as that would contribute to further advances towards the restoration of economic and trade relations between the two countries, a goal that the Togolese Republic wholeheartedly supports. Togo urgently hopes that the rapprochement that began with the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two States in 2015 will continue.

## **Tonga**

[Original: English]  
[22 October 2021]

The Kingdom of Tonga adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and accepted under international law, in particular, the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Thus, the Kingdom of Tonga has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). The Kingdom of Tonga maintains friendly and diplomatic relations with Cuba.

## **Trinidad and Tobago**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

The principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular, the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, are considered to be sacrosanct by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Government considers that discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws are inconsistent with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter and international law. Accordingly, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter and international law, Trinidad and Tobago does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against other States.

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has maintained a multifaceted relationship with Cuba – an important dimension of which is economic in nature – since 1972, when diplomatic relations were established. Trinidad and Tobago has consistently supported regional and international efforts to promote constructive dialogue so as to bring about the cessation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo in place against Cuba, which significantly challenges the achievement of sustainable development in that country.

Instances of direct, frank dialogue involving Cuba concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo have been welcomed by Trinidad and Tobago. The optimism occasioned by this interaction has not been sustained owing to, for example, the imposition of new economic sanctions and further restrictions placed on travel, tourism and remittances.

Trinidad and Tobago reiterates its support for the revocation of such measures and calls upon the parties concerned to work, in good faith, to build a mature and open bilateral relationship, based on mutual respect and sovereign equality. Trinidad

and Tobago reaffirms its position that the full achievement of such a relationship will continue to be elusive without the lifting of the embargo. This crucial goal must be a priority for both Governments and peoples. Trinidad and Tobago therefore renews, with fervour, its long-standing call for the full reintegration of Cuba into the international economic and political system and the end of the economic, commercial and financial embargo unjustly imposed on that sovereign country.

## **Tunisia**

[Original: English]

[11 August 2021]

Tunisia reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

In that context, Tunisia supported General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and all of the previous Assembly resolutions calling for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Cuba. Tunisia does not apply unilateral laws or measures with extraterritorial effects. It therefore has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures against Cuba prohibiting economic, commercial, or financial relations between the two countries.

## **Turkey**

[Original: English]

[17 September 2021]

The Republic of Turkey does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). Turkey expresses concern about such measures, which adversely affect the living standards of people and free trade between States. Turkey reaffirms its adherence to the principles of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Government of Turkey maintains its stance that differences and problems between States should be settled through dialogue and negotiations.

## **Turkmenistan**

[Original: Russian]

[7 October 2021]

The position of Turkmenistan with respect to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, remains unchanged: the Government of Turkmenistan fully supports this resolution.

Turkmenistan reaffirms the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and the freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments.

Imposing economic pressure on the Republic of Cuba prevents the development of the Cuban economy and creates a serious obstacle to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The relevant United Nations agencies should take appropriate steps to prevent economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures by individual States against other independent States, including Cuba.

## Tuvalu

[Original: English]  
[2 September 2021]

The Government of Tuvalu reiterates its position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the need for promoting dialogue and ensuring the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, such as solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations. Such discriminatory trade practices continue to adversely affect living conditions and human rights, as well as the efforts of the Cuban Government and people to achieve their Sustainable Development Goals.

The Government of Tuvalu has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures against Cuba, and fully supports the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, in line with the unequivocal and continued request of the majority of States Members of the United Nations. This will allow the Republic of Cuba to further consolidate and enhance its cooperation with small island developing States like Tuvalu.

The Government of Tuvalu therefore highlights the importance of mending the relations between the United States and the Republic of Cuba, which would be an honourable step, in line with the Charter and the principles of sovereignty and equality among all nations and people. Tuvalu also wishes to express its appreciation for the scholarships awarded by Cuba to medical students of Tuvalu.

## Uganda

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

Uganda has cordial bilateral relations and close collaborations with the people and Government of Cuba, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

It should concern the international community that after decades of its implementation, the embargo against Cuba has no remarkable achievement, except to have caused great economic hardships to the Cuban people during the period it has remained in force.

Uganda therefore fully supports the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, in line with the request made by the clear majority of States Members of the United Nations.

## United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]  
[21 September 2021]

The United Arab Emirates voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), which was adopted by 184 votes.

The United Arab Emirates acts in accordance with its obligations under the principles and goals of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The United Arab Emirates emphasizes that all States should enjoy full freedom of trade and navigation in all international sea lanes in accordance with international law. Therefore, the United Arab Emirates does not apply any economic, commercial or financial embargo on Cuba. Furthermore, the United Arab Emirates does not permit the application of such measures outside the context of international legitimacy.

## **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

The United Kingdom calls upon the United States to end its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. We consider the embargo to be harmful and counterproductive. It negatively affects the living standards of the Cuban people and impedes the political and economic development of the country. It is blamed for many ills in Cuba, including some of which it is not the cause.

In particular, through restrictions on remittances, tourism and travel to and from the United States, the embargo is having a negative impact on the nascent private sector of Cuba, the development of which is important for the island's economic prospects. Restrictions on travel, both of Cuban citizens to the United States and of United States citizens to Cuba, reduce the exposure of the Cuban people to United States citizens and the exchange of values, ideas and social and cultural understanding.

The extraterritorial effects of the embargo – in particular the activation of Titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act – prevent and restrict the conduct by foreign companies, including British companies, of legitimate and lawful business in Cuba. The United Kingdom considers the extraterritorial effects of Titles III and IV to be contrary to international law and will continue to defend vigorously the right of British businesses to conduct trade with, and invest in, Cuba. To protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the United Kingdom against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation, the United Kingdom has promulgated blocking legislation which prohibits compliance with the Helms-Burton Act and includes provisions for counterclaims to be brought against United States plaintiffs in United Kingdom courts.

The United Kingdom shares the serious concerns of many of our partners about restrictions on civil, political and other human rights in Cuba. We will continue to raise those concerns directly with the Government of Cuba and publicly. The United Kingdom considers that dialogue and engagement with Cuba and the Cuban people are the best ways to encourage progress in Cuba and to promote greater respect for human rights of all kinds. We consider that the United States embargo has the effect of making economic reforms, which will serve the best interests of the Cuban people, more difficult to achieve.

In the specific context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, we consider that the embargo constitutes an additional impediment to Cuba and that it risks exacerbating the effects of the pandemic on the health and well-being of the Cuban people.

## **United Republic of Tanzania**

[Original: English]  
[18 October 2021]

The Cuban people deserve to enjoy their right to adequate living standards, as stipulated in international humanitarian and human rights law. The long-standing economic embargo on Cuba has been an issue of concern for most countries of the world. Now that the global economy has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we commend the resilience of the people of Cuba and we join others to call for the lifting of this unfair embargo so as to allow the people of Cuba to enjoy the full potential of their economy.

## Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]

[18 August 2021]

In regard to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, and in particular paragraph 4 thereof, Uruguay has always strictly respected and observed the principles of international law and all the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Accordingly, Uruguay has not promulgated or applied any provisions affecting the sovereign equality or decisions of other States, and respects the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States.

Uruguay has strongly condemned any theory that supports or justifies the extraterritorial application of domestic laws, with the sole exception of those that form part of international law, primarily in relation to protective jurisdiction and universal jurisdiction.

Uruguay rejects any direct or indirect mechanism constituting unilateral action by one State to impose sanctions for sovereign decisions taken by another State in the political, economic, commercial, social, cultural or other arena.

Consequently, Uruguay believes that the sanctions imposed and the extraterritorial laws enacted against Cuba are not only a violation of international law but also have caused harm to the economic development of Cuba, constitute a form of deprivation of the right to development and have inflicted incalculable damage on the dignity and sovereignty of the Cuban people.

## Uzbekistan

[Original: English]

[30 August 2021]

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, and reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

Uzbekistan fully complies with the provisions of this resolution and has never promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in its preamble.

## Vanuatu

[Original: English]

[22 October 2021]

The Government of Vanuatu reiterates its objection to unilateral coercive measures which are at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Furthermore, Vanuatu has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Republic of Vanuatu and the Republic of Cuba.

## Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]  
[13 September 2021]

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejects, once again, the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects which violate the rights of States to sovereignty and political independence.

Unilateral coercive measures are illegal and their sole purpose is to prevent the independence of national processes and to force a change in the policy of another State, in violation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the principles that should govern relations of friendship and cooperation among States, such as non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the right to self-determination of peoples, and the sovereignty and political independence of States.

Venezuela firmly rejects the application of such measures, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter and other international instruments, as well as the tenets and values expressed in our Constitution: humanism, cooperation, solidarity among peoples and staunch pacifism guided by unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law.

Therefore, the application of such measures by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba is an anachronism contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments and they also impinge upon the freedom of trade and navigation and violate the norms of the international trading system. Venezuela also reaffirms its condemnation of the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Torricelli Act and the Helms-Burton Act, which have caused serious additional harm to the economy of the Republic of Cuba, both in terms of its economic relations with third countries and with the subsidiaries of United States companies.

Venezuela has consistently supported the resolutions on this subject that have been adopted by an overwhelming and exceptional majority of the General Assembly since 1991. Similarly, Venezuela has made and supported declarations in other international forums repudiating such actions, which are by definition hostile and therefore undermine peaceful coexistence between nations and international law.

The Bolivarian Government regrets the setback in bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States of America and the progressive tightening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against the Republic of Cuba. Venezuela believes that planning and executing State policies based on one-sided accusations that are wholly lacking in merit is damaging.

That policy of confrontation, promoted and implemented by the United States of America for decades, has affected the well-being of the Latin American and Caribbean sister nation, whose human rights have been violated as a result of the implementation of these illegal measures.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela urges the United States of America to immediately comply with United Nations General Assembly resolutions [47/19](#), [48/16](#), [49/9](#), [50/10](#), [51/17](#), [52/10](#), [53/4](#), [54/21](#), [55/20](#), [56/9](#), [57/11](#), [58/7](#), [59/11](#), [60/12](#), [61/11](#), [62/3](#), [63/7](#), [64/6](#), [65/6](#), [66/6](#), [67/6](#), [67/4](#), [68/8](#), [69/5](#), [70/5](#), [71/5](#), [72/5](#), [72/4](#), [73/8](#), [74/7](#) and [75/289](#), which when adopted set all-time records in terms of votes in favour at the United Nations, and demands that it heed the repeated calls of the international community to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade it maintains against Cuba, which is contrary to international law and causes large-scale and unjustifiable harm to the well-being of the Cuban people.

As it reiterates its condemnation of the continuation of this anachronistic and internationally illegal measure, the Government of Venezuela stresses that such actions in no way foster the climate of dialogue and cooperation that should prevail in international relations among sovereign, independent countries, in conformity with the spirit and purpose of the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), on the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, adopted on 24 October 1970.

Even in the midst of the profound global crisis caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19), Cuba is subjected to continued acts of aggression through the imposition of the blockade by the Government of the United States of America, intensifying the secondary effects of the pandemic.

In the last four years alone, more than 240 unilateral and illegal coercive measures have been put in place against the Cuban people, making it difficult for them to obtain the staples necessary to meet their basic needs.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of United Nations human rights mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan, issued a joint public statement calling on the United States of America to lift its economic and financial embargo on Cuba that is obstructing humanitarian responses to help the country's health care system fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations experts said that the United States had ignored repeated calls to waive sanctions that undermine the capacity of Cuba and other countries to respond effectively to the pandemic and save lives.

Venezuela agrees with the human rights mandate holders, who stated as follows: "Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the comprehensive embargo has imposed additional financial burden, increased cargo travel time due to an inability to procure supplies, reagents, medical equipment and medicines necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 directly from the United States and therefore constrains the effectiveness of the response", threatening the right to life, health and other critical rights of the most vulnerable sections of the Cuban population, including persons with disabilities and older persons, who are at much higher risk when contracting the virus.

Examples of proof of this include reports that in March 2020 a Chinese businessman announced the donation to Cuba of masks, COVID-19 rapid screening kits, respirators, gloves and medical protective suits, but they could not reach their final destination because the United States shipper refused, citing United States rules.

A group of human rights mandate holders urged the Government of the United States to withdraw the measures aimed at establishing trade barriers and to prohibit tariffs, quotas and non-tariff measures, particularly those preventing supplies of medicines, medical equipment, food and other essential goods.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela endorses the repeated declarations made by, inter alia, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Association of Caribbean States, repudiating the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects as being counter to dialogue and cooperation, which are genuine expressions of inclusive and transparent multilateralism.

Likewise, Venezuela reiterates the declaration of the Heads of State and Government and the Heads of Delegations of the member countries and guests of the

Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples’ Trade Agreement, who met in person on 24 June 2021, which read as follows:

“We renew our most energetic condemnation of the genocidal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba and the more than 240 unilateral coercive measures adopted by Trump, which the current Government has kept intact and whose damages in the last five years caused losses of 17 billion dollars.”

The continued denunciation by Venezuela of the criminal measures against Cuba of the United States is in compliance with General Assembly resolution [75/289](#). In the light of its moral and material commitment to strictly adhere to international law, Venezuela once more calls on the United States of America to lift, unconditionally, the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Republic of Cuba, which owing to its extraterritoriality affects all States that have economic, financial and trade relations with that country. A change on the part of the Government of the United States would demonstrate that country’s commitment to international law, and its respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The international community must not cease in its efforts to demand an end to the application of unilateral coercive measures that seek to curtail the sovereign right of States to determine, in keeping with the right of self-determination, their political and social systems, with the situations and particularities of their respective countries and peoples. Under no circumstances should peoples be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development, much less in the midst of a crisis on the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela renews its firm commitment to the unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law and therefore appeals again to the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 29 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and to put an end to the merciless and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade which it has illegally maintained against Cuba for almost 60 years.

## Viet Nam

[Original: English]  
[19 August 2021]

The General Assembly has for many consecutive years adopted, with an overwhelming majority, resolutions demanding that the United States end its economic, trade and financial blockade and embargo policies and laws against Cuba, the most recent of which is resolution [75/289](#), adopted on 23 June 2021 with 184 votes in favour.

The United States embargo against Cuba is a violation of fundamental principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and runs counter to the common desire of nations to develop equal international relations, regardless of political systems and based on respect for each nation’s right to choose its own path of development. It is the most unjust and prolonged system of unilateral sanctions ever imposed against a country in our modern history. It has inflicted enormous damage on all sectors of the Cuban economy and, therefore, caused untold hardship for generations of the Cuban people.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the related General Assembly resolutions and believes that the United Nations will soon produce concrete initiatives and measures to rapidly implement the adopted resolutions in order to put an immediate end to the blockade and embargo against Cuba.

It is the view of Viet Nam that the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba should maintain their dialogue and exchanges with a view to strengthening the relationship between the two countries based on a spirit of mutual understanding, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and non-interference in the other's internal affairs. Viet Nam urges the United States to put a rapid and complete end to its blockade and embargo against Cuba. This will bring mutual benefits to the people of both Cuba and the United States and significantly contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability, as well as the enhancement of cooperation in the Americas and the world.

Once again, Viet Nam reaffirms its friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people and resolves to do its utmost, with other peace-, freedom- and justice-loving peoples in the world, to help the Cuban people to overcome the consequences of the above-mentioned illegal blockade and embargo policy.

## **Yemen**

[Original: English]  
[7 September 2021]

The Government of the Republic of Yemen reasserts its strong belief in the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law relating to national sovereignty, non-aggression, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, mutual respect, coexistence and the settlement of disputes between States by peaceful means.

The Government of Yemen supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to create effective means of implementing General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), aimed at the adoption by the international community of effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic measures as a means of economic and political coercion against developing countries.

For almost four decades, the Republic of Yemen has enjoyed outstanding diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba at the economic, social and cultural levels. Yemen has consistently sought to develop and strengthen those relations in the joint interest of both countries and peoples. It has concluded several bilateral cooperation agreements with the fraternal Republic of Cuba at the diplomatic, economic, cultural and medical levels. As a result, there has been active cooperation in a number of areas.

## **Zambia**

[Original: English]  
[1 November 2021]

The Government of Zambia continues to oppose the economic commercial and financial embargo unilaterally imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. The sanctions, which have been in place for 60 years, have come to signify the illegal and unjust infliction of suffering on a nation by another through unilateral coercive measures.

Only in the past year the United States blockade has cost the Cuban people over \$4.5 billion, resources that could have gone to fostering the sustainable development agenda for the Cuban nation and its gallant people. It is also regrettable that rather than the sanctions being eased, there is evidence of them being tightened.

Presently, and as a consequence, Cuba continues to suffer from resource deprivation in such sectors as health, tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and food production, education and sports and culture.

Zambia therefore expresses its solidarity with the Cuban people and calls on the United States and all concerned parties to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures that are contrary to the obligations of States under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have multiplied the ravaging effects of the sanctions in the socioeconomic, health and financial sectors in Cuba. The sanctions have repeatedly hampered the arrival of humanitarian aid to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Zimbabwe**

[Original: English]  
[27 September 2021]

Zimbabwe reaffirms its solidarity with Cuba and the Cuban people, who for more than half a century have resisted the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on them by the United States of America. With its near-unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) of 23 June 2021, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the General Assembly reaffirmed once again, the support of the international community for that cause. Zimbabwe considers the embargo imposed against Cuba to be a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular with regard to the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Zimbabwe once again totally rejects the imposition of extraterritorial laws and decisions and all forms of unilateral and coercive measures, which hinder the realization of human rights and prevent peoples from achieving prosperity. Zimbabwe also takes this opportunity to reaffirm the urgent need for the full and unconditional lifting of the embargo that was imposed by the United States on Cuba and which, aside from the considerable harm and suffering that it has caused to the people of Cuba, constitutes a major obstacle to the achievement of their economic and social development goals.

Moreover, Zimbabwe considers that if economic sanctions continue, it will be impossible for Cuba to embark on the path towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, Cuba continues to demonstrate its solidarity with the international community, most recently with contributions to other nations in relation to fighting the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. For these reasons, the embargo must end.

## **Holy See**

[Original: English]  
[11 August 2021]

The Holy See has never drawn up or applied economic, commercial or financial laws or measures against Cuba. The Holy See, on the contrary, has maintained a consistent policy of calling for an end to the embargo against Cuba.

The Holy See has consistently appealed, and continues to do so, for the consolidation of mutually beneficial relations between Cuba and the entire international community, by building bridges and more meaningful civil society participation, opening new avenues of dialogue and strengthening those already existing.

In this context, the Holy See hopes to see as soon as possible an end to the embargo that, for decades, has had humanitarian consequences, especially for those most excluded in Cuba, and has caused the economic isolation of Cuba, especially in the light of the present circumstances when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic afflicts all of humanity.

The Holy See believes that an end to the embargo will contribute to more harmonious and fraternal relations between the people of Cuba and the United States of America.

The Holy See therefore urges both Cuba and the United States of America to pursue perseveringly the process of normalizing their relations and encourages their respective political leaders to assume their responsibility in leading this process.

## **State of Palestine**

[Original: English]  
[13 October 2021]

The State of Palestine stands in full solidarity with the Republic of Cuba against the economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been imposed on it by the United States of America and joins the overwhelming majority of nations in calling for an immediate end to this prolonged and unjust embargo.

The State of Palestine – which continues to suffer from the extensive socioeconomic, humanitarian, developmental, political, security and environmental impact of more than 54 years of illegal foreign occupation, in addition to a more than 14-year inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip, imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, in grave breach of international law and with untold consequences for our people and all dimensions of our society – reiterates its firm opposition to the punitive embargo imposed on Cuba. We reaffirm full support for the global calls and diplomatic efforts to bring an end to this embargo, which continues to so detrimentally affect Cuba and the Cuban people and their rights, including to self-determination and to development.

The State of Palestine reaffirms its principled position in support of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as its adherence to the relevant positions affirmed by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China, among others, calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba. We call for the renewal of active and serious efforts towards the full implementation of this important resolution, consistent with international law and respect for the sovereignty and independence of States and the freedom of commerce and navigation.

We deeply regret that the positive developments of recent years have been reversed and that the United States embargo against Cuba and its debilitating impact remain, in the absence of the political dialogue required for advancing critical steps towards ending the embargo. We therefore once more join the international community's call for the lifting of the embargo to allow for unimpeded Cuban trade and normal economic activity, which are essential for the sustainable development that Cuba and all nations are entitled to and need in order to ensure the prosperity and stability of their peoples and countries, objectives that have become even more urgent

in the light of the increased instability and fragility inflicted on all nations by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State of Palestine, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, affirms that it has never promulgated or applied such laws or measures of the kind referred to in resolution 75/289. Moreover, the State of Palestine enjoys full diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba, remains in solidarity with the Cuban people and Government and will continue to work to strengthen the political, economic and cultural relations and cooperation and friendship between our countries and peoples.

### **III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system**

#### **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

[Original: English]  
[20 September 2021]

Cuba signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 4 February 2021, thereby becoming a member of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. Cuba does not host an International Monitoring System facility under the Treaty. However, as a member of the Organization, it is a recipient of equipment and technical support related to the establishment of a national data centre that can provide it with access to the data collected by the International Monitoring System and the products created by the International Data Centre Division at headquarters. Cuba is also entitled to participate in capacity-building or training programmes of the Organization.

Given that Cuba became a member of the Organization recently, the Provisional Technical Secretariat is not in a position to assess the impact of the existing embargo on the implementation of its projects and activities related to the country.

#### **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

During the Administration of President Donald Trump, over 240 coercive measures were activated against Cuba in the framework of the United States embargo against the island, and these still remain in force. In fact, on 7 September 2021, the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, extended the law regulating the embargo against Cuba under the so-called Trading with the Enemy Act, until 14 September 2022. In a memorandum addressed to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, the President ordered the extension of the sanctions that heavily limit trade with Cuba under these rules. Former President Trump had renewed these in September 2020.

The embargo imposes strict limitations on the Caribbean nation, with extraterritorial effects that hinder its relations with third countries and affect the well-being of the Cuban population. These restrictions deepen the multiple challenges imposed on the island by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and multiply its adverse socioeconomic, health and financial effects. On several occasions, they have hindered the arrival of humanitarian aid in Cuba. The most recent report of the Government of Cuba, for the period April–December 2020, indicates that the embargo

caused losses in the order of \$3.587 billion, more than twice the value of the island's merchandise exports in 2020 and 1.7 times more than merchandise exports in 2019.

The main measures adopted in the framework of the embargo are as follows:

- *Travel, remittances and trade between the two countries are restricted.* Since 2019, the United States has imposed a series of restrictions on travel and remittances. Regarding travel, modifications were made to the licence for educational activities, limiting the definition to student and teacher travel and eliminating people to people travel. The measures include banning cruise ships and private and corporate jets from going to Cuba, suspending commercial flights to cities other than Havana, and prohibiting United States travellers from staying in more than 400 hotels and private residences identified by the Department of State as owned or controlled by the Cuban Government. With regard to remittances, the Treasury limited family remittances to \$1,000 per quarter per Cuban citizen; eliminated remittances of donations; and prohibited the processing of remittances through entities on the restricted list, causing Western Union to close its operations in Cuba in November 2020.
- The Department of State banned Cubans living on the island from receiving five-year tourist (B2) visas for the United States.
- Acoustic incidents prompted the withdrawal of United States diplomatic staff from its Embassy in Havana, with the consequent closure of the consular section. As a result, the issuance of United States visas on the island was suspended. Residents of Cuba must now travel to third countries to obtain a visa.
- *Title III of the Helms-Burton Act was activated for the first time.* Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996, allows United States citizens to sue third-country companies that trade in nationalized property in Cuba. Since then, every United States President had used his legal authority to suspend Title III, until President Trump allowed the provision to go into effect for the first time on 2 May 2019.
- *The List of Restricted Entities was created in 2017 and is constantly updated.* This blacklist comprises companies with which United States citizens are prohibited from conducting any transactions. Last updated in January 2021, this list includes 231 entities (ministries, hotels and numerous companies). Among the recently affected companies is Financiera Cimex S.A. (Fincimex), which is the main agent for Western Union, with a presence in the 16 provinces and 168 municipalities of Cuba. Fincimex issues prepaid cards with which the Cuban state sector buys fuel at gasoline stations belonging to the Cuban oil company Unión Cuba-Petróleo (CUPET), and it processes payments to Airbnb owners in Cuba. Banco Financiero Internacional was also included in the List of Restricted Entities, which made it subject to restrictions and denial of financial transactions by some banks in various parts of the world for fear of sanctions.
- *A campaign was launched against Cuban international medical cooperation.* On 26 September 2019, the United States Department of State issued a public call for all countries to carefully review their medical cooperation programme with Cuba, on the basis that it considered Cuban doctors to be victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. In fact, as at 1 July 2021, the Department of State continued to rank Cuba at tier 3, the worst rating, in its 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report. As a result, countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and El Salvador, unilaterally terminated their medical cooperation agreements with Cuba.
- *Thirty-five Venezuelan tankers were sanctioned for transporting oil to Cuba.* A total of 59 tankers transporting fuel to Cuba were sanctioned (35 of them from

Venezuela), as well as almost 30 companies linked to this activity, which is essential for the functioning of the country and services for the population, such as gas, transport and electricity.

- *Cuba was once again included in the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism.* In January 2021, Cuba was included in the State Department's list of State sponsors of terrorism, and it is also included in the list of States that are not fully cooperating with United States counterterrorism efforts. This requires the Department of Commerce to place Cuba on its most restrictive export licensing list, which could impede technology-related transactions. Some sectors, seeking to avoid any perception of sanctions violations, may be more risk-averse to transactions with Cuba. On 10 June 2021, the Central Bank of Cuba announced that as of 21 June 2021, natural and legal persons, both Cuban and foreign, would no longer be permitted to make deposits or conduct any other transactions in United States dollars in cash in Cuban banking institutions. This step was owing to the difficulty of finding international banking or financial institutions willing to receive, convert or process cash in United States currency as a result of the extraterritorial effects of the embargo and the designation of Cuba on as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.
- *Other trade and financial sanctions.* In September 2019, the Treasury ended the use of U-turn transactions that had allowed banking institutions to process fund transfers originating and terminating outside the United States. It should be made clear that these transactions are not illegal, suspicious or subject to any sanctions in their countries of origin or destination, in Cuba or the United States. For example, funding by a foundation from any country for a Cuban scientist to participate in a conference in Mexico, if channelled through a banking operation in the United States, could be frozen and investigated. Thus, any connection with Cuba obliges banks with any presence in the United States to freeze and report the transaction, at the risk of multimillion-dollar fines. In addition, as of October 2019, the Department of Commerce restricted the access of Cuba to leased commercial aircraft; reimposed a 10 per cent (up from 25 per cent) de minimis rule that requires a company based in a third country to apply for a licence in order to export goods to Cuba if more than 10 per cent of their content originates in the United States; and imposed licensing requirements to export certain items donated to organizations controlled by the Cuban Government or the Communist Party of Cuba and items for telecommunications infrastructure.

The numerous United States sanctions produce real harm that obstructs the access of Cuban citizens to basic goods and violates their rights. These policies are an obstacle to economic, social and environmental development. Owing to the particularities of the COVID-19 emergency, children, women, medical personnel, the elderly and people suffering from chronic diseases appear to be the most vulnerable in the pandemic. The United States sanctions affected access to inputs for the production of COVID-19 diagnostic tests and even inputs for candidate vaccines developed on the island, all amid urgent health and economic needs owing to the pandemic. During the reporting period, the country was unable to access a total of 32 pieces of equipment and supplies related to the production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates or to stages leading to the completion of clinical trials of the vaccine, including equipment for the purification of vaccine candidates, equipment attachments, filtration tanks and capsules, potassium chloride solution, thimerosal, bags and reagents. Cuba had to turn to other suppliers to act as intermediaries, which pushed prices up by 50–65 per cent over historical averages, given the impossibility of dealing directly with manufacturers.

In addition, United States policies have made it difficult to send humanitarian aid to the country. For example, at the end of March 2020, the founder of Alibaba,

Jack Ma, announced a shipment of materials and equipment to 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to combat COVID-19. Cuba was supposed to receive 100,000 masks and 10,000 test kits, but when the United States ship refused to transport equipment and materials to Cuba, Alibaba reassigned this shipment to other countries in the region.

Importantly, in the context of the pandemic, it proved impossible to purchase mechanical ventilators from the United States company Vyaire Medical. Similarly, the Swiss companies IMT Medical and Acutronica Medical Systems, world leaders in the development and manufacture of ventilators – and which had previously done business with Cuba – were acquired by Vyaire Medical and have been forced to suspend all commercial relations with the country. Swiss banks UBS, Banque Cler and Banque Cantonale de Bâle refused to transfer donations made to Cuba by the Swiss solidarity organizations MediCuba-Suisse and Swiss-Cuba Association to support the country's efforts against COVID-19. These donations were intended to raise funds for the shipment of reagents, which are necessary for testing, and protective equipment for the fight against COVID-19. The regular supplier to Cuba of blood bags, the Spanish firm Unfamed, reported that its supplier firm Terumo BCT of Japan had its bank account blocked because it needed an additional licence to sell to Cuba goods not produced in the United States, which in turn caused a shortage of supplies.

DBS Bank of India refused to receive shipping documents from the suppliers Serum Institute of India, Apex Drug and RHR Medicare, as they did not have the Office of Foreign Assets Control licence needed to conduct operations with Cuba; this situation affected the supply of two vaccines that are part of the child immunization programme of Cuba against four diseases: tuberculosis, mumps, rubella and measles.

The shipping company Agencia Naviera de México reported that no ships were available to call on Cuba owing to the restrictions imposed by the embargo. This affected the delivery of dipyron and glibenclamide. Avianca Airlines did not accept goods with final destination Cuba, which caused a delay in the delivery of the drug valproate and resulted in higher costs than the contracted values. MediCuba contacted over 70 United States companies to enquire about the possibilities of importing medicines, equipment and other supplies needed by the country's National Health System. The great majority did not reply, while three replied that the embargo prevented them from engaging in commercial relations with Cuban entities. Thus, in the reference period (April–December 2020), the embargo caused losses to the health sector in the order of \$198.4 million.

The agricultural sector of Cuba, essential for feeding the population, has been one of the most affected by the economic, commercial and financial embargo. In 2020, the sector's economic activity showed a real annual fall of 23.5 per cent (the economy overall contracted by 10.9 per cent), with strong repercussions on food production. The most recent data from the Ministry of Agriculture (for the period April–December 2020) indicate that the agricultural sector has been affected to the tune of \$330 million, including \$194 million in lost export earnings. According to estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture, in the period April–December 2020 this sector faced additional expenditure in excess of \$53 million, as it had to shift its export and import markets to more distant geographical locations, with transportation and delivery times increasing from 30 to 90 days. The impact on production and services is estimated to include an overrun of \$3.9 million owing to cargo transshipments, higher exchange rates and additional taxes. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture estimates \$73 million in losses from new food production technologies being prevented from moving into the country.

Among the sanctions that most affect this sector is the authorization of lawsuits under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, and the impossibility of acquiring inputs for agricultural production with more than 10 per cent United States-produced content. The main production lines affected by the lack of inputs are tobacco, fresh fruits, charcoal, honey and coffee, and impacts include effects on seed banks, equipment parts and accessories, and raw materials for animal feed. In addition, major impacts were caused by limitations on exports of Cuban products, including rum and tobacco, which are in high international demand; the financial persecution of foreign banks and companies that trade with Cuba; and the sanctions against ships, shipping companies and insurance companies that hinder the smooth functioning of international trade. The lack of fuel owing to sanctions on vessels transporting fuel to Cuba has also hurt the sector.

In short, the numerous United States sanctions constitute the most severe and prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any country and continue to hinder the development of the potential of the Cuban economy, the implementation of the country's National Economic and Social Development Plan and the fulfilment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its Goals.

## **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

[Original: English]  
[27 September 2021]

### **Overall situation: effects of the embargo on the sectors of food security, agriculture, fisheries and the food industry**

The main changes since the previous reporting period can be summarized as follows:

(a) The total cereal production of Cuba in 2020 is estimated at 435,000 tons (rice in milled equivalent), down 33 per cent from the previous five-year average. The below-average production level reflects area-driven contractions in the cultivation of paddy and maize;

(b) Paddy production in 2020 was undermined by acute shortages of basic agricultural inputs. Government assessments indicate that 267,000 tons of paddy (or 178,000 tons in milled-rice equivalent) were harvested during 2020, implying a 38 per cent reduction from the previous year and the lowest paddy harvest registered in the country since 1993. Production prospects for the ongoing 2021 season are similarly downcast, pointing to a further contraction in paddy output, given lingering constraints in the availability of fuel, fertilizers and other agrochemicals;

(c) The country's maize production in 2020 is officially estimated to have declined for the fourth consecutive year to a below-average level, at 257,000 tons. The decline is attributed to below-average plantings and yields, resulting from the limited availability of mostly imported agricultural inputs. Imports of fertilizers, including urea, ammonium sulphate and potassium chloride, has steadily decreased during the past four years; in 2020, they were down by more than 60 per cent compared to the average of the previous three years. Farmers were further discouraged from planting maize owing to lower demand for animal feed, reflecting the declining numbers of bovine cattle and poultry;

(d) The total cereal imports of Cuba, which cover more than two thirds of the country's domestic needs, were estimated at 1.9 million tons in 2020, about 10 per cent below the previous five-year average. The decline in cereal imports reflects the lack of foreign currency that has curtailed the country's import capacity. The declining population since 2018 has also contributed to lower import requirements.

Consequently, lower production and below-average imports might reduce the availability of cereals for both food and feed uses in the country.

The main effects of the embargo on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and the food industry are assessed from two different perspectives:

(a) The constraints imposed by the embargo limit trade with the United States, a natural trading partner owing to its geographical proximity. Dependency on distant markets has resulted in higher trade costs, thus affecting the foreign-exchange reserves of Cuba and the country's capacity to import basic food products;

(b) The high costs of inputs for agricultural, fisheries and livestock production (fuel, machinery spare parts, animal feeds, phytosanitary and zoo-sanitary products, fertilizers, herbicides, low-toxicity insecticides and other highly effective pesticides, and veterinary pharmaceuticals and disease diagnostic kits that are in many cases only produced by United States firms) have affected the food production of Cuba and reduced its capacity to satisfy local food requirements.

Overall, the embargo has had negative implications for the balance of trade and foreign exchange earnings of Cuba, as well as for the country's supply of food and agricultural products. One of the bottlenecks that the Government of Cuba has been facing in its economic actualization process is the acute shortage of foreign exchange.

The embargo affects the import of food products for human consumption, particularly those destined for social programmes, given that it can have consequences on both the quantity and quality of food available, thus having a direct effect on the food security and nutrition of the vulnerable segments of the population. The overall economic damage to the agricultural sector between April 2018 and March 2019 was estimated at \$345,454,714.

An additional problem resulting from the embargo relates to the difficulty for Cuba to access external multilateral financing for development programmes in agriculture and rural development in general, and the related unavailability of resources for rehabilitating and modernizing agricultural equipment and infrastructure.

In 2016, Cuba and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding on agriculture and related fields. The memorandum was expected to enhance cooperation on issues such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures, plant and animal sanitation, standards and forest conservation. In 2017, the countries signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at improving cooperation in the fields of animal and plant health, protection and quarantine. Furthermore, for the first time in a decade and following the 2018 United States Farm Bill, the United States removed some restrictions on financing agricultural trade with Cuba.<sup>19</sup> However, the tightening measures of the embargo adopted by the previous United States Administration have deepened the negative impacts on agricultural production in Cuba.

The embargo also affects the operations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), although it is officially exempted from its provisions. For instance, delays in or blockage of payments to FAO staff (even if made in euros) and to service providers for project procurements reduce the willingness of suppliers to sell to FAO-Cuba and can increase the costs of the few remaining suppliers.

Over the years, members of the Congress of the United States have proposed legislation with the objective of easing the current situation.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Congressional Research Service, "Cuba: US policy overview", 5 March 2019.

<sup>20</sup> Anita Regmi, 2021, Congressional Research Service, U.S. agricultural trade with Cuba: current limitations and future prospects, 14 May 2021. Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R46791.pdf>.

## Effects of the embargo on selected agricultural commodities

### Cereals

The total cereal production of Cuba in 2020 is estimated at 435,000 tons (rice in milled equivalent), down 33 per cent from the average volume produced in the preceding five-years. Acute shortages of basic agricultural inputs significantly undermined the area planted to paddy in 2020, despite efforts made to mitigate losses by optimizing input usage in more productive fields or crop cycles, as well as through increased usage of animal traction and organic fertilizers and pesticides. Passing storms caused additional output losses, in particular Hurricane Eta which occurred in November 2020. As a result, Cuban rice paddy production in 2020 is officially reported to have slumped 38 per cent below its already reduced 2019 level, to 267,000 tons (or 178,000 tons in milled equivalent) – the lowest level since 1993. The ongoing 2021 season has progressed under similar constraints as regards the availability of fuel, machinery, fertilizers and other agrochemicals. Reportedly, dry-season plantings of paddy were also hindered by changes in the prices of inputs and agricultural services associated with the country's monetary policy reform introduced on 1 January 2021. This is so, even if the costs have since been adjusted downward. Although the outcome of the season will also depend on rainfall performance through November, rice production in Cuba is preliminarily forecast to incur a further 12 per cent reduction in 2021 to 235,000 tons (157,000 tons in milled equivalent). The 2021 maize crop is also forecast at a below-average level, owing to a contraction in the area sown, exacerbated by dry weather conditions.

Despite ongoing efforts by the Government of Cuba to liberalize and promote domestic production, Cuba remains highly dependent on rice imports. Although recent declines in local rice production have heightened the need for imports, actual rice purchases by the country have fallen short of levels needed to avert an increasingly tight supply situation. A total of 447,000 tons of rice are reported to have been imported in calendar year 2020, down 6 per cent from the reduced 2019 level. Viet Nam normally provides the bulk of the country's rice needs through government-to-government deals that allow Cuba to defer payments of purchases. The balance is normally covered by South American exporters, namely Brazil and Uruguay. However, given the foreign exchange shortages faced by Cuba and hikes in the export prices of South American rice origins since mid-2020, it remains to be seen whether the imports by Cuba of South American rice would remain unabated in the short-term.

Because of restrictions of payment and financing options imposed by the embargo, as well as the more advantageous terms provided by alternate rice exporters, virtually no United States rice has been shipped to Cuba since 2008. Legislative provisions passed in the United States in December 2018, which lifted restrictions on the use of government funds by United States farmers to assist marketing of agricultural exports to Cuba, have not altered this trend. Still, the United States rice industry supports an easing of the embargo, believing that the commercial advantage provided by the geographical proximity of the two countries could help the United States to provide up to 30 per cent of the rice imports by Cuba within two years of the lifting of the embargo. In the case of maize, the only imported coarse grain, foreign purchases were estimated in the order of 780,000 tons in 2020, a 10-year low. Argentina is the main maize provider to Cuba, followed by Brazil and the United States. Imports from the United States have declined sharply in recent years, and the share of maize from the United States maize compared to the total maize imports by Cuba dropped from 25 per cent in 2017 to 4 per cent in 2020. Wheat imports, mostly originating from Europe and Canada, remained at a below-average level of 700,000 tons in 2020. Since 2011, Cuba has not purchased any wheat from the United States, which was the major wheat supplier to Cuba between 2003 and 2009.

## Oilseeds

Oilseed production in Cuba is not significant and, as a result, the country depends almost entirely on imports to meet its vegetable oil and meal needs, with soybeans, soybean oil and soybean meal dominating foreign purchases. When the United States embargo came into effect, Argentina and Brazil became the main suppliers of soybeans and derived products, with Canada and Mexico occasionally shipping small volumes to Cuba. Imports of soybeans and derived products from the United States resumed in 2002. In that year, following the implementation of the United States Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act, and owing to geographical proximity, the United States became the principal supplier of soybeans, soybean oil and soybean meal for Cuba, largely replacing imports from other regions. However, from 2005 onward, United States sales were gradually replaced by more competitive offers from Argentina, Brazil and Canada. The effect of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States in 2015 allowed the United States to resume soybean shipments to Cuba, becoming one of its regular suppliers with Canada and, more recently, Uruguay. By contrast, the deliveries of soybean meal from the United States have been irregular in recent years, with Brazil and Argentina supplying the bulk of import demand in Cuba. Deliveries of soybean oil from the United States remained low and erratic, as Brazil and, more recently, the Russian Federation became key suppliers for Cuba.

## Raw sugar

Traditionally, the sugar industry played an important role in the economy of Cuba, up until the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, when important export markets were lost and the sector's competitiveness declined sharply.<sup>21</sup> Nevertheless, sugar exports continue to make up a large share of agricultural exports by Cuba.

Following five consecutive seasons of growth between 2009/10 and 2014/15, raw-sugar production in Cuba remained at high levels in 2015/16 and 2016/17. This was followed by a sharp contraction in 2017/18, when raw-sugar production fell by 32 per cent year-on-year to 1.1 million tons – the lowest level on record. The sharp decline was the result of significant damage caused to the crop by Hurricane Irma, which hit the country in late 2017. Sugar production has been recovering since then to reach 1.2 million tons in 2019/20. Preliminary forecasts for 2020/21 indicate that the sugar output of Cuba could increase, although input shortages and logistical constraints may affect the final outcome.<sup>22</sup>

On the demand side, domestic sugar consumption is expected to remain relatively stable at about 0.53 million tons, which – combined with higher domestic production – would leave 1 million tons for export in 2020/21, representing a 14 per cent increase from the previous season. The main destinations for sugar exports include China and the European Union.

The Government of Cuba continues to support the industry. For many years, the domestic sugar sector has been managed by a complex system of price-support mechanisms, production limits and import restrictions to maintain high domestic sugar prices, despite a number of attempts to reform the sector. The objective of the Government is to improve the efficiency of the sector, by facilitating foreign direct investment targeted at the sugar industry.

<sup>21</sup> B.H. Pollitt, "The rise and fall of the Cuban sugar economy", *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 36(2): 319–348.

<sup>22</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Food Outlook: Biannual Report on Global Food Markets – June 2020* (Rome, 2020).

## **Meat**

Following two years of consecutive decline, meat production in Cuba stood at 50,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent), one of the lowest levels registered in recent years. With the Government's decision in April 2021 to relax the decades-old ban on cattle slaughtering and beef sales, a slight increase in bovine meat output is expected. However, this increase is unlikely to lift meat production substantially, given that bovine meat constitutes only a quarter of total meat output in Cuba and considering the challenging production environment facing the meat sector. Expanding domestic meat production has become increasingly difficult owing to inadequate availability of inputs – including energy, veterinary pharmaceuticals, agricultural machinery and spare parts.

Restrictions on accessing financial resources and technologies have made building livestock-related infrastructure and increasing productivity even more difficult. More recently, the loss of tourism-related income and reduced remittances owing to the COVID-19 pandemic have made it extremely difficult to secure foreign currency required to import agricultural inputs and technology.

Despite the low level of local production, meat imports in 2020 fell by 6 per cent to 377,000 tons, as a result of lower demand amid a contraction in economic growth linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, continued sanctions by the United States and domestic inefficiencies. Cuba sourced around 60 per cent of meat imports in 2020 from the United States, consisting primarily of poultry meat. Despite the geographic proximity and significant logistical advantages over competitors, the share of the United States in meat exports to Cuba have declined slightly in recent years, mainly owing to a combination of stringent import financing requirements applying to United States shipments to Cuba and the efforts of Cuba to diversify its meat supply network.

## **Dairy products**

After reaching 633,000 tons in 2010, milk production in Cuba has not reached similar output levels. In 2020, milk production amounted to 459,000 tons, one of the lowest output levels registered in recent years. The decline in the milk production of Cuba resulted from several factors, ranging from a sharp decrease in the national dairy herd, lack of capacity for genetic improvements, high costs of animal feed and limited availability of fuel and transport equipment. Restrictions on access to financial resources and new technologies have made building farm-related infrastructure and improving productivity more challenging. With the Government's decision in April 2021 to relax the decades-old ban on the sale of milk directly to consumers, an increase in milk output is likely, but sustaining growth of milk production would be challenging.

Given the domestic industry's inability to meet national dairy consumption needs, Cuba continues to import large volumes of dairy products, amounting, in 2020, to 329,000 tons (in milk equivalent) – mostly milk powders – sourced from suppliers in Europe, Latin America and Oceania. The expenditure on milk powder alone in 2020 exceeded \$130 million, representing a significant proportion of the country's foreign exchange reserves. The development of the dairy sector remains a primary objective for the country to ensure food security and adequate nutrition for its people.

## **Fish products**

Fish products are important for food security in Cuba as a source of nutrition and earnings from exports. In 2018, capture fisheries production reached 22,590 tons, representing an increase of 5 per cent compared with 2017, but a decline of over 91 per cent compared with the peak reached in 1986 (238,900 tons), when the country

also fished in distant waters. The potential for expansion of capture fisheries is limited and focused on the adoption of a management approach that allows for the recovery of fish stocks that may have suffered overfishing. Cuba is a member of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, the regional fishery body that promotes international cooperation towards the sustainable management and conservation of fish stocks. At its last session, in July 2019, the Commission adopted seven regional fisheries-management recommendations, the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2019–2029) and other important recommendations and resolutions in support of the regional framework for fisheries and ocean governance, climate change and other environment and socioeconomic issues. Cuba participates in the regional discussions on the strategic reorientation of the Commission and, together with other member countries, participated in the development of a road map for the development of a model for a regional fisheries-management entity or arrangement in the area covered by the Commission. At the national scale, Cuba is currently developing a medium-sized project funded by the Global Environment Facility trust fund on the improvement of the management and protection of marine habitats in the Gulf of Guacanayabo, focused mainly on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

The greatest potential for expansion in domestic fish production lies in aquaculture, which has shown some fluctuations during the past few years. Production was 29,200 tons in 2018 (8 per cent less than in 2017). Almost all of the fish exports consist of high-value products, notably frozen lobster and shrimp, which are in high demand on the international market. However, the embargo prevents access to the United States market, which is one of the most important markets and the leading world importer of fish and fish products. As a result, Cuba exports to more distant destinations, facing higher marketing and distribution costs. In 2018, exports reached an estimated \$74 million, representing a decline of 25 per cent compared with 2017. Fish imports, consisting mainly of low-value fish products, increased by 8 per cent in 2018, compared with 2017, reaching an estimated \$40 million.

#### **Technical assistance to Cuba by the Food and Agriculture Organization**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continues to provide support to Cuba, notably in promoting rural development and fisheries, with an emphasis on food security. FAO has assisted Cuban institutions in organizing several international congresses and events in such areas as sustainable agriculture, organic agriculture, animal production and animal health surveillance; cooperatives and family farming; fisheries and related policies; forestry and biodiversity; and environment and climate change. In addition, FAO assists Cuban experts in providing help with respect to South-South cooperation and in attending meetings on international conventions and agreements. Travel logistics and flight bookings are also affected by the embargo.

Policy and technical support have been provided to update the national agricultural policy, with particular emphasis on the dairy sector, given that it constitutes one of the most important components of the food basket, as well as being a major economic engine for the generation of employment and income in rural areas. Technical assistance has been focused on assessing the productivity level of different forms of industrial organizations and assisting the Government in identifying policy recommendations to strengthen the industrial set-up of the national dairy sector.

The Food and Agriculture Organization provided technical support and assistance to develop tools for Cuba to establish its national information system mechanism for applying the new monitoring approach for the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Cuban delegation participates regularly, through the FAO

Commission and its intergovernmental working group on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in the development of the policy framework of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as indicators and targets for plant genetic resources and in the preparation of gene bank standards for plant genetic resources.

Policy advice is provided for agricultural sector policies, agro-environmental policies, rural youth employment and the development of sustainable intensification programmes based on FAO pilot projects in the grain, milk and beef value chains. In addition, FAO is assisting Cuba in projects focusing on the rehabilitation and conservation of the environment, particularly in managed landscapes, and in resilience to the risks associated with climate change.

FAO is also implementing the Green Climate Fund project entitled “Increased climate resilience of rural households and communities through the rehabilitation of production landscapes in selected localities of the Republic of Cuba”. It seeks to increase the climate resilience of agricultural production and ensure food security through improved ecosystem services from agroforestry, silvopastoral systems, reforestation and assisted natural forest regeneration in seven municipalities vulnerable to climate change in Cuba. It has enormous potential to reduce emissions from forestry and land use and to deliver significant socioeconomic and environmental co-benefits by restoring soil fertility, increasing rural communities’ access to water and improving food security.

#### **Effects of the embargo on projects implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization in Cuba**

Given that Cuba is subject to an embargo, projects implemented by FAO in the country are affected with regard to the procurement of equipment and supplies that complement the technical assistance because the resources that could be imported from the United States have to be imported from far more distant markets, at much higher prices and higher freight costs. If acquisitions could be made in the United States, it would be much cheaper and more activities could be supported through the available budget.

The most recent embargo measures against Cuba, under which third-country companies trading with Cuba can be sued in United States courts, have had a negative impact on Cuban trade by drastically reducing the commercial partners that operate in the country. This has had a direct impact on the procurement operations that FAO carries out in Cuba in the framework of its technical cooperation projects.

The embargo prevents the FAO country office from being able to manage Internet communications and the FAO network more efficiently despite the fact that FAO has provided all its country offices with the necessary equipment. In the case of Cuba, the country office has not been able to install the required equipment because the United States Government has not approved a licence to the provider Cisco Systems. Technical measures have been taken to resolve the connection limitations, but they are not the most effective and generate higher costs. In addition, there are hundreds of sites and services that cannot be accessed from Cuba using the alternative connections through the link of the national Internet service provider. The acquisition of information technology equipment for the FAO country office or for projects in the country are also affected since a global long-term agreement of FAO with the provider Planson International cannot be used in Cuba without authorization from the United States Government. The processing of this permit generates delays in the acquisition process of the equipment and even changes in the costs initially foreseen.

Under the embargo, conditions hinder the processes of payments and banking transactions to and from suppliers who provide services for cooperation projects and

to the FAO country office. This is demonstrated by banks' rejections of transfers from FAO for sales to Cuba; the impossibility for suppliers to offer products to Cuba obtained from other North American companies; and the inability of suppliers to transfer funds to Cuba for payment of services contracted in the country.

In addition, banks reject commercial and financial transactions by Cuban enterprises in United States dollars and in other currencies, which hinders payment for certifications of Cuban products with a high potential to be commercialized in Europe.

FAO staff continue to be affected by expensive and long formalities in banking processes.

A summary of the negative effects caused by the embargo in some of the sectors in which FAO is providing technical support and other sectors included within its country programming framework is presented below.

The losses originated mainly in:

- (a) Price differences owing to changes in the import market;
- (b) Additional costs related to freight insurance;
- (c) Additional costs owing to a freeze of assets;
- (d) Monetary damages;
- (e) Losses owing to lack of access to the latest technology from the United States;
- (f) Relocation of exports.

## **International Atomic Energy Agency**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

The assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to all its member States, including Cuba, is governed by article III/C of its Statute, which reads as follows: "In carrying out its functions, the Agency shall not make assistance to members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this Statute."

However, the existing embargo continues to pose certain difficulties for the implementation of the technical cooperation programme of IAEA in Cuba. For instance, the procurement of equipment, consumables and material (such as radiation monitoring equipment, chemicals, reagents, medical radioisotopes, radiopharmaceuticals, hot cells, radiation sources for medical and industrial uses and sterilized insects) are affected owing to the limited number of vendors willing to supply for and/or ship to the country.

During the last year, some restrictions applied to the participation of Cuban nationals in virtual trainings and difficulties persisted in the use of information technologies owing to poor Internet connection and limited access to some information technology platforms.

In accordance with the above-mentioned article of its statute, IAEA tries to overcome these difficulties, to the extent possible, to meet the requirements of the technical cooperation programme of the IAEA in Cuba.

## International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]  
[21 October 2021]

At the fortieth session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), held from 24 September to 4 October 2019, the Economic Commission reviewed the submission by Cuba on the continued economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States. In its submission, Cuba reaffirmed that unilateral and extraterritorial actions by the United States impeded the sustainable economic development of international air transport and, in particular, had a great impact on developing countries. Cuba stated that ICAO had a role to play in upholding the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-discrimination, mutual respect, equality of opportunity and freedom of international trade and navigation, enshrined in the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) and the Charter of the United Nations.

Reacting to the submission made by Cuba, some States expressed their support and cautioned against such sanctions owing to their negative impact on the right of a State to develop civil aviation as enshrined in the Chicago Convention. In response to the submission of Cuba, the United States affirmed its position that ICAO was not the proper forum to debate United States sanctions and that the sanctions were meant to target specific behaviour and would be enforced until such behaviour stopped. The United States added that it would continue to uphold all its international obligations to ensure the safety and security of international aviation. In reference to this response, Cuba emphasized that ICAO was the forum to discuss these issues and recalled the reports provided annually to the Secretary-General.

The Commission noted the working paper submitted by Cuba and the views and positions expressed during the discussion. It concluded that the issues raised by the States were delicate, political and sensitive, on which strong views were held by the States concerned, which the Commission was not in a position to resolve. Consequently, the Commission reflected the discussions on the matter in its report to the plenary meeting. The Commission also decided that the matter would be brought to the attention of the President of the ICAO Council, whose good offices had been involved in those issues in the past.

In its resolution A40-9 (appendix A, sect. I, para. 3), the Assembly urged “Member States to avoid adopting unilateral and extraterritorial measures that may affect the orderly, sustainable and harmonious development of international air transport and to ensure that domestic policies and legislation are not applied to international air transport without taking due account of its special characteristics”.

ICAO continues to monitor developments and, where possible and appropriate, work with Cuba and the United States to improve their civil aviation relations.

During the reporting period, Cuba continued its active participation in three regional projects implemented through the ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau. The projects were aimed at providing administrative assistance in the management and administration of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission secretariat, fostering the implementation of performance-based air navigation systems in the Caribbean region leading to a seamless global air traffic management system and establishing and operating a regional safety oversight system, which encompasses the requisite technical, logistic and administrative support in accordance with the provisions of the Chicago Convention and its annexes. No bilateral projects with Cuba were developed or implemented during the reporting period.

As a practical impact of the embargo, Cuba is experiencing challenges in participating virtually in events and contributing to ICAO work. During this time, the secretariat assisted the Cuban participants in joining ICAO videoconference meetings, identifying technical solutions (in coordination between ICAO and the videoconference provider) to enable them to connect to ICAO videoconference meetings organized by both ICAO headquarters and the Regional Office.

## **International Fund for Agricultural Development**

[Original: English]  
[20 September 2021]

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is currently cofinancing three projects in Cuba: the “Cooperative Rural Development Project in the Oriental Region” (PRODECOR), the “Livestock Cooperatives Development Project” (PRODEGAN) and the “Agroforestry Cooperative Development Project” (PRODECAFE), approved by the IFAD Executive Board in 2013, 2016 and 2019, respectively. The projects are implemented by the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture and have been designed to provide agricultural-support services to small rural producers, including women, youth and other groups who are highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and the impacts of climate change.

IFAD-supported projects in Cuba continue to face delays in their implementation as a result of scarce foreign exchange, as well as lengthy and costly import procedures with the cash flow and disbursements closely linked to the procurement cycle of the projects. Measures imposed by the United States against Cuba aggravate these difficulties. For instance, the United States imposes measures against shipping companies from third countries ferrying cargo to Cuba, impeding the flow of oil, foodstuffs and other commerce critical to the daily needs of Cuban citizens and residents, particularly the poor and vulnerable. These measures have increased since 2018, with the full reapplication of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. Furthermore, United States sanctions further impact on the financial transactions of Cuba and its ability to export and import needed materials that support opportunities for agricultural, as well as rural development and human development in general.

In the agricultural and rural sectors, the following limitations are observed:

- Obsolete agricultural equipment (for example tractors, irrigation systems, water pumps) and lack of spare parts.
- High cost and lack of inputs required for agricultural and livestock production, processing and distribution (for example fuel, animal feeds, seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and veterinary pharmaceuticals).
- Insufficient access to hard currency financing for the import of equipment and inputs.
- Limited access to providers of new agricultural technologies.
- Limited export opportunities for some agricultural products.

Among other consequences, the limitations contribute to low productivity levels, limiting the quantity, quality and competitiveness of domestic food production, and making high levels of food imports necessary to cover the needs of the rural population.

The current measures imposed by the United States have had an impact on IFAD projects likely contributing to the reduction of the 2020 PRODECOR production and productivity targets for corn and beans. Rather than the 47,100 hectares of corn planned at the beginning of the cold season, 22,000 were planted. Out of the 54,550

tons of beans planned to be delivered initially to the population, the Government delivered only 25,300 tons. All the adjustments have resulted in an increase in the price of basic products for planting, including fertilizers and pesticides, owing to the need to purchase them in more inconvenient and distant markets.

Like many other nations, Cuba is currently struggling to mitigate the impact and contain the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), while managing the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. After recording one of the world's lowest COVID-19 rates in 2020, Cuba is now experiencing an unprecedented surge in cases. The lack of medical supplies is crippling the country's COVID-19 response amid an economic crisis sparked by the pandemic. Furthermore, with the pandemic's impact on tourism, measures imposed by the United States have compounded other factors resulting in a major fiscal crisis, which has led to a dire economic crisis.

Despite these challenges, the country has continued to honour its debt payment to IFAD, although with important delays. IFAD has engaged in productive dialogue with the Government to ensure the continuity of operations.

## **International Labour Organization**

[Original: English]  
[24 August 2021]

The embargo has intensified in recent years and has significantly constrained development possibilities in Cuba, greatly impacting the living conditions of the Cuban people. Among the effects, just to name a few:

- Restrictions on the transfer of remittances still imply a higher indirect tax burden on salaries legitimately earned abroad and sent for household spending on basic human needs such as food, clothing, education, housing, water and sanitation.
- Limitations on commerce and financial transactions still represent a serious bottleneck and an additional cost for business development and job creation, especially in sectors like agriculture and tourism, as decent work largely depends on productive investment and access to financing.
- Limited access to technology transfer implies further difficulties for enterprises, as well as for social and economic development.

The implementation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act intensifies the embargo by affecting business and investment opportunities in Cuba for third-country investors; the creation of new job sources; and decent work in Cuba.

The direct and indirect effects of the embargo on the Cuban economy and people affect not only the enterprises, but even more their workers and the population in general. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is particularly concerned about the impacts on children, workers and the elderly. Ending the embargo would turn the overall loss into an opportunity for productive investment, employment generation and new business opportunities, as well as for achieving the Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social hasta 2030 and other reforms aimed at improving the economic and social system, for example monetary unification and the expansion of self-employment schemes.

In the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic recovery, the embargo is limiting the possibilities for the country to implement jobs and economic recovery strategies.

Cuba is an active member of ILO and deputy member of the ILO Governing Body. ILO considers that the General Assembly is the appropriate forum for addressing questions related to ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

## **International Maritime Organization**

[Original: English]  
[2 September 2021]

As a member State of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Cuba participates in the meetings of IMO bodies and is a recipient of the available technical cooperation programmes (IMO regional programmes on support for maritime development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as global programmes, as applicable).

IMO maintains collaborative relations with all Latin American and Caribbean member States, including Cuba. Since the early 1980s, IMO has collaborated closely with the Operative Network for Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of the Americas, which comprises South America, Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

The assistance by IMO to Latin America and the Caribbean is guided by the maritime strategies of the region, which are revised every five years, and the organization will continue to focus on supporting their implementation. The countries of the Operative Network have addressed issues such as safety standards, training aspects and marine environment protection through regional strategies, with numerous training activities organized in cooperation with IMO.

Cuba also receives technical assistance from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre for the wider Caribbean, a regional centre based in Curaçao, which aims to assist countries in the region in preventing and responding to major pollution incidents in the marine environment.

IMO has not encountered difficulties in delivering any of the activities in the projects mentioned above as a result of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

## **International Organization for Migration**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Republic of Cuba joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as a member State in 2017. However, the partnership between Cuba and IOM began earlier. For example, IOM supported the response of the Cuban authorities to natural disasters in 2016, 2017 and 2019 by distributing non-food items to populations affected by storms.

Cuba has adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, maintains its commitment to the objectives of the Global Compact and has actively participated in discussions relating to the regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact and provided information, on a voluntary basis, on its progress towards the objectives of the Compact.

Regarding technical assistance, IOM continues the implementation of a project on migration management with the Ministry of Interior.

The International Organization for Migration participates in two of the four working groups of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation

Framework, which addresses the priority lines identified jointly by the Government of Cuba and the United Nations System, namely:

1. Human development, equity and social justice;
2. Natural resources and environment.

In addition to the activities of IOM, activities involving the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have been included in the joint work plans.

Finally, IOM continues to provide assisted voluntary return services to stranded migrants, as well as resettlement assistance for refugees.

## **International Telecommunication Union**

[Original: English]  
[24 September 2021]

During the period in question, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) received, in relation to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), a note dated 22 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland; a note dated 23 July 2021 from the Minister of Communications of Cuba denouncing the use from the United States of information and communication technologies against Cuba, in order to incite criminal and terrorist activities, including cyberattacks on governmental websites and mass media; and a letter dated 12 August 2021 from the Minister of Communications of Cuba denouncing, inter alia, the use, by the United States, of the Internet as a weapon of aggression against its country.

In response to the letter of 12 August 2021 from the Minister of Communications of Cuba, a reply was sent on 13 September, recalling ITU Council Resolution 262 that provides, inter alia, that the Secretary-General of ITU is not competent to intervene in disputes arising between member States and imposes a strict neutrality on ITU and its Secretariat, as well as Resolution 69 (rev. Hammamet 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, which resolved to invite Member States “(1) to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede another Member State from accessing public Internet sites and using resources, within the spirit of article 1 of the Constitution and World Summit on the Information Society principles”, and “(2) to report to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau on any incident of the kind referred to in resolves 1 above”.

Resolution 69 (rev. Hammamet 2016) instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau to integrate and analyse the information on incidents reported from member States and to report this information to member States through an appropriate mechanism – in this case, a dedicated ITU website set up by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau secretariat for this purpose.<sup>23</sup> Any reports received from ITU member States are thus posted on this website and are shared with the Administrations concerned (that is, the Administration of the member State from which the report originates, and the Administration of the member State alleged to be responsible for impeding the access to public Internet sites). All reports and any replies received to this effect are available on said website and can be accessed by ITU Telecommunication Information Exchange Service users only.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.itu.int/net/ITU-T/res69/Default.aspx>.

## Office for Outer Space Affairs

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

Cuba is a State member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space since 2001.

In 1990, Cuba organized, jointly with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, a workshop on the theme “Space communications for development”, held in Havana, from 26 to 30 March 1990. In 2012, Cuban experts benefited from participating in a workshop on the theme “Contribution of space law to economic and social development”, held in Buenos Aires, from 5 to 8 November 2012 (see [A/AC.105/1037](#)).

The potential for disasters as a result of natural hazards, such as hurricanes, tsunamis storm surges, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, floods and heat waves, is high in the Caribbean. In the course of multiple crises over the years, the Government of Cuba has put in place an efficient and unique alert system reaching all corners of the country. However, the use of satellite-based data, as well as of precise positioning and navigation systems or of modern satellite telecommunication by its civil protection agency could improve the performance of the alert system, while providing for improved contingency planning and preparedness. The integration of these tools in the existing systems in Cuba would be greatly facilitated by well-structured participation of all stakeholders at the various levels of administration in Cuba.

The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) implemented by the Office for Outer Space Affairs ensures that “all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle”. The Platform is achieving its mission by focusing on being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, by serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management, risk management and space communities and by being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening. UN-SPIDER is supported by 23 regional support offices (including 5 in Latin America), all of which are crucial to fulfilling the mission of the Platform.

Since 2009, the Platform has provided detailed advisory services to 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru. That support has allowed governments to set priorities to strengthen their capabilities in discovering, accessing and using space-based data, information, products and services, helping to reduce the vulnerability of their population and infrastructure in the face of natural hazards.

Finally, in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has set up a global partnership using space-based technology applications for disaster risk reduction and is a key member of the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems. Those mechanisms put space technology and applications forward as a critical set of tools to plan, prepare, measure and monitor the efforts of nations in reducing risks associated to natural hazards.

A technical advisory mission of the Platform, through a Spanish-speaking international expert team that, consulting key entities in Cuba with responsibilities or potential roles in disaster risk reduction and emergency response, would allow the assessment not only of the current capabilities but also of the priorities for action.

Such a mission could be planned and executed in 2021 or 2022, funds permitting, delivering clear recommendations for the consideration of the Government of Cuba.

## **Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for operational activities for development, Cuba**

[Original: English]  
[15 October 2021]

Cuba maintains a high level of human development. In 2020, the country was ranked seventieth on the global human development index, and sixth at the regional level. Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a national priority and a commitment of the Cuban State. This commitment is enshrined in the National Economic and Social Development Plan towards 2030, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite the complex scenario of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress towards the 2030 Agenda, in particular on the Sustainable Development Goals related to universal access to health care, production capacity for medicines and biotechnological products, access to and quality of education and social protection, allowed for a reduction in the severity of the impact of the pandemic. However, a very complex epidemiological outbreak in recent months, characterized by an exponential growth in active cases, together with the surge of the Delta variant, has stressed the health-care system.

Two domestically developed vaccines were authorized for emergency use by the National Regulatory Authority (CECMED) – an entity certified as a Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) level 4<sup>24</sup> regulatory authority – and the vaccination process of the population is advancing and well under way. By 22 September 2021, the national production of all the vaccine doses needed to fully immunize the Cuban population had been completed, including for children over two years of age.<sup>25</sup>

Since March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Cuba adopted several measures, including a Plan for the Prevention and Control of the New Coronavirus and an Economic Strategy for the Post-COVID-19 Stage.<sup>26</sup>

The effects of the global crisis on international trade, foreign direct investment, tourism, remittances and other flows, together with the social isolation measures in the country, resulted in a sharp contraction of the gross domestic product (GDP), 10.9 per cent, higher than in many other countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The main economic effects were a decrease in economic activity, unemployment, contraction in the availability of foreign currency, reduced family income, weakened fiscal space and higher inflationary pressure.

Other impacts were a reduction in food availability and a contraction in household consumption due to lower income and shortages, as well as pressures on public health and social assistance that resulted in a significant increase in public

<sup>24</sup> Level 4: national regulatory authority that is competent and efficient in performance of the health regulation functions recommended by PAHO/WHO to guarantee the efficacy, safety and quality of medicines. Regional Reference Authority.

<sup>25</sup> See [www.cubadebate.cu/noticias/2021/09/22/cuba-dispone-de-todas-las-dosis-de-vacunas-necesarias-para-inmunizar-a-su-poblacion/](http://www.cubadebate.cu/noticias/2021/09/22/cuba-dispone-de-todas-las-dosis-de-vacunas-necesarias-para-inmunizar-a-su-poblacion/).

<sup>26</sup> These efforts are part of the implementation process for the National Economic and Social Development Plan towards 2030 and are aligned with other national plans and policies such as the Plan for Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Education, the Policy to Promote Territorial Development and the State Plan to Address Climate Change, known as Life Task (*Tarea Vida*).

spending and increased constraints on the maintenance of basic supplies for institutions that provide social services to vulnerable or care sectors, in the context of an ageing population. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), inflation reached 18.5 per cent in 2020, and the fiscal deficit increased significantly, to 17.7 per cent of GDP.<sup>27</sup>

In addition, during this period, as part of the process of updating the country's socioeconomic model, the national authorities promoted transformations related to agricultural production, territorial development, greater autonomy in public companies and a reform of the general system of prices and wages. This last change triggered an inflationary environment with the unification of exchange rates in the economy, correction of retail and wholesale prices and the transformation of the system of subsidies, wages, pensions and social assistance. Most recently, a new regulatory framework for broader participation by non-State actors with micro-, small and medium sized enterprises in the economy was announced.

In this context, the COVID-19 pandemic not only had a negative impact on the health sector, but its effects were also reflected in people's daily lives in aspects such as access to basic goods and services, including food, livelihoods, employment and general well-being. The impacts of the pandemic on the Cuban economy – which was already facing complex challenges – were significantly intensified by the external constraints posed by the ensuing global and regional recessions and the United States embargo against Cuba.

Some of the most restrictive measures of the embargo meant that, as opposed to most other developing countries, Cuba had limited access to credits and other development and emergency resources granted by international financial institutions to respond to the pandemic. This narrowed the country's possibility of obtaining external financial support for its national and local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The domestic public sector was the only source of financing for the increasing health and social protection expenditures during a period of reduced fiscal space.

Remittances, traditionally an important private source of income for families and small non-State economic actors, were also severely restricted by the embargo at the time when they were needed the most owing to the downturn in employment and livelihoods.

There was an increase in expenditure in health and social protection items due not only to the pandemic but also related to higher prices as a result of restricted access to markets and freights. The embargo also prevented and severely limited the purchase of critical health supplies and equipment, discouraging most potential international suppliers and forcing them to go through more costly alternatives. Likewise, limitations on trade with closer and cheaper food supply chains caused higher import costs for food and related inputs.

In 2020, the embargo continued to have a negative impact on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of human development and on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Cuba, with an exacerbated effect in the COVID-19 context, in particular for critical social sectors such as health and food security. This had a direct impact on the Cuban population and placed significant pressure on the quality and sustainability of some of the country's most important Sustainable Development Goal accomplishments.

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<sup>27</sup> See *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021: Labour Dynamics and Employment Policies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery beyond the COVID-19 Crisis*. Available at [www.cepal.org/en/publications/47193-economic-survey-latin-america-and-caribbean-2021-labour-dynamics-and-employment](http://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47193-economic-survey-latin-america-and-caribbean-2021-labour-dynamics-and-employment).

## **Impact on United Nations programmes and operations**

In 2020 the United Nations development system and the Government of Cuba signed a United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020–2024) in line with the priorities of the National Economic and Social Development Plan towards 2030. This strategic framework, involving 22 United Nations development system entities, supports the country's Sustainable Development Goals initiatives in the following areas: effective government; productive transformation; the environment and disaster risk management; and human development with equity.

With an immediate response to the impact of the pandemic on health and as part of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework efforts, a socioeconomic response plan to the impact of COVID-19 was agreed with the authorities, responding to critical priorities to reverse challenges intensified by COVID-19 such as those related to health, food security, social protection, economic recovery, livelihood reactivation and development financing, inter alia. For this purpose, in dialogue with national authorities and donors, United Nations development system funds were reprogrammed to support the health and socioeconomic response, and additional resources were mobilized.

During this complex period of the COVID-19 pandemic, the embargo negatively affected the implementation of these United Nations development system programmes and initiatives in Cuba, inter alia, entailing delays and the need to use scarce and limited budgetary resources to cover additional costs.

In a context of scarcity in the international market, products and services critical for the United Nations development system response to the COVID-19 pandemic (many of a humanitarian nature) had to be acquired from third countries and from secondary suppliers at prices significantly higher than those of comparable products sold on the international market, including medicines, medical equipment, personal protective equipment, food-related items such as fertilizers, food supplements, laboratory equipment, agricultural implements, educational tools, computers, information and communications software, construction materials and bibliographic resources.

Restrictions on shipping companies whose vessels dock in Cuban harbours meant that stopovers needed to be made in neighbouring countries for trans-shipment of cargoes, causing delays and extra costs. This was particularly critical in the context of COVID-19, given that the international trade and transport restrictions resulting from the pandemic were added to those imposed by the embargo.

Even though long-term United Nations corporate agreements with international suppliers apply to United Nations development system entities in Cuba, providers must obtain a special licence from the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control to deliver services or products to projects in the country. In addition, owing to special licensing constraints, many long-term agreements with United Nations global suppliers may not apply, resulting in costly and inefficient alternatives.

United Nations entities' access to internet and telecommunication services was also limited, inhibiting the efficient use of institutional platforms and slowing online processes and activities. Similarly, access to technical information sites, technical support, studies and price analysis, inter alia, was restricted. Operations from the national Internet providers through payment gateways were blocked. During the pandemic, the limited access to these virtual platforms negatively affected the implementation capacities of the United Nations development system.

United Nations country offices in Cuba cannot make financial transfers in United States dollars. For that reason, and although the budgets of projects are

recorded in United States dollars, transfers abroad must be made in another currency. Even then, bank charges significantly increase because of requests for additional information by banks to comply with the Office of Foreign Assets Control all along the banking chain (issuer, intermediary and beneficiary), and these requests have often affected the ability of United Nations country offices to honour payments to suppliers within the agreed time frames. The financial operations related to the United Nations COVID-19 response were also affected by these restrictions.

The embargo continues to severely limit financial transactions conducted by United Nations international and national personnel, as well as banking and insurance services. Local officials find it difficult to use corporate United States-based banking services, and international personnel with local bank accounts generally have difficulties in making payments abroad. In addition, as to medical insurance, United Nations officials are directly affected, since many health insurance companies may not work directly with Cuban health service providers, given the restrictions imposed under the embargo.

### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to express concern regarding the negative impact that extraterritorial sanctions have on human rights. These concerns were also voiced by the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in her reports to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/45/7](#)) and to the General Assembly ([A/75/209](#)). The Human Rights Council expressed its grave concern that, in some countries, such measures impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the populations, with particular consequences for women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.<sup>28</sup>

The immediate impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on countries affected by unilateral coercive measures resulted in statements from several agencies and experts calling for a waiver, an easing, suspension or lifting of the restrictions imposed on certain countries, including the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. Seven United Nations human rights experts reiterated this in a message, requesting the United States of America to lift its economic and financial embargo on Cuba that is obstructing humanitarian responses to help the country's health-care system fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

As noted by the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, "the COVID-19 pandemic (...) has made the negative humanitarian effects of unilateral sanctions more obvious and more disastrous". The Special rapporteur issued a guidance note calling on States and other stakeholders to act in the spirit of cooperation and solidarity and to consider urgent steps to be taken internationally to prioritize saving lives in the course of COVID-19 over political, economic and other conflicts. She also pointed out that unilateral sanctions may slow the speed of the recovery and highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the short-term and long-term impacts of unilateral

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<sup>28</sup> See for example [A/HRC/RES/46/5](#).

sanctions on the enjoyment of all categories of civil, economic, social and cultural rights (A/75/209, paras. 97 and 100).

Particular difficulties were reported in countries subject to unilateral coercive measures, including Cuba, to obtain medical equipment vital to fight the pandemic, including oxygen supply and ventilators, protective kits and spare-parts software (A/75/209, paras. 49 and 93). In addition, during the pandemic virtual platforms increasingly became important to continue coordination in and between affected countries, and reports were received alleging that countries targeted by United States sanctions, including Cuba, were prevented from using online services, including Zoom (A/HRC/45/7, para. 51; A/75/209, paras. 17 and 24). Furthermore, information was received about the alleged difficulties faced by Cuba in obtaining emergency loans from the World Bank to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to political influence in international institutions (A/HRC/45/7, para. 46).

The challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted previously reported difficulties related to the humanitarian exceptions applying to unilateral coercive measures. The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights noted that humanitarian exemptions and mechanisms to supply humanitarian aid are usually complex and confusing (Ibid., para. 38) and recommended that humanitarian exemptions should be harmonized among States and should be made clear, transparent and straightforward. They should be forward-looking and anticipate broad categories of international emergencies, such as pandemics, natural disasters and economic crises, so that they require minimal adjustment in order to be effective. Any requests for licensing to purchase medical equipment, its component parts and software, medicine and food should be considered without any delay (A/75/209, para. 108). In her report to the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur also noted the increased effect of sanctions on the populations of sanctioning States owing to the introduction of prohibitions and punishments of their own nationals aimed at the implementation of sanctions. She referred to appendix A to part 501 of the Economic Sanctions Enforcement Guidelines of the United States and its impact resulting from overcompliance in situations when humanitarian exemptions are applicable, which reportedly led to difficulties to process the donation of medical equipment to Cuba by a Chinese businessman as the hired carrier, a United States company, declined at the last minute to deliver the goods, citing United States regulations (A/HRC/45/7, paras. 35 and 36).

The Special Rapporteur also called on States to engage in a contextual way in the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework, recalled the importance of the drafting of a definition of unilateral coercive measures and highlighted the possibility for abuse created by the absence of clear, consistently used terminology (Ibid., paras. 3, 101 and 102).

In a public statement issued following the events that occurred in Cuba on 11 July 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reiterated her call for the lifting of unilateral sectoral sanctions, given their negative impact on human rights, including the right to health.

On 11 August, in a joint press statement, four mandate holders of the Special Procedure of the Human Rights Council stressed that unilateral sanctions impinge on the right to development and called on countries that impose unilateral sanctions to withdraw or at least to minimize them to guarantee that the rule of law and human rights, including the right to development, are not affected. They explicitly referred to Cuba as a targeted country and pointed out that owing to the unilateral sanctions some countries sink into poverty because they cannot get essential services like electricity, housing, water, gas and fuel, let alone medicine and food.

In the biennial panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights held during the forty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that sanctions can create severe and undue suffering for individuals who have neither perpetrated crimes nor otherwise bear responsibility for improper conduct. When sanctions target an entire country, or address entire economic sectors, it is the most vulnerable people in that country – those who are least protected – who are likely to be worst harmed.

OHCHR reiterates its recommendation for Cuba to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which it signed in 2008. This would provide an opportunity to highlight, through the periodic reporting obligations, the negative impact that the economic, commercial and financial embargo has on Cubans. OHCHR also reiterates its call to extend invitations to special procedures mandate holders, as a way to assess independently the effect that such unilateral measures have on the human rights of Cubans.

## **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

[Original: English]

[31 August 2021]

Cuba is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1967 Protocol thereto. Nevertheless, thousands of refugees have found international protection in Cuba over the years, and the Government has allowed the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to exercise its mandate to recognize refugees and grant them international protection for more than three decades.

Cuba has maintained its de facto policy of non-refoulement for all refugees recognized under the mandate of UNHCR. In 2021, until the end of June, no new applications for refugee status were received in Cuba, while 9 persons had a determination of their refugee status pending from previous years. This represents a marked decrease in asylum requests in comparison with previous years (33 in 2017; 38 in 2018; 32 in 2019; 6 in 2020) and is most likely the result of border closures associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Asylum seekers in Cuba are allowed to remain in the country while UNHCR conducts a determination of their refugee status and, upon recognition of said status under its mandate, UNHCR endeavours to identify durable solutions for them.

Although the overall population of concern to UNHCR in Cuba is relatively low, few solutions remain available. At the end of June 2021, 188 recognized refugees were in need of a durable solution and, for most, resettlement to a third country was the only viable option. However, in 2021, access to resettlement was available to only a few, owing to the limited number of resettlement spaces provided by resettlement countries.

Cuba has not developed a local integration policy. Nevertheless, in recent years, a limited number of refugees were granted permanent residence permits on the basis of close family relationships to Cuban nationals, in accordance with the current national legislation. Such individuals were given a legal status that grants them some rights and opportunities as nationals.

While most recognized refugees are not granted work permits, they have full access to free health care and some access to education. Although some refugees have specifically been admitted to Cuba under government scholarships covering tertiary education, the programme applies only to refugees who are pre-selected before their arrival and therefore cannot be extended to all refugees recognized under the mandate of UNHCR.

In the past, Cuba has made relevant contributions to regional frameworks aimed at enhancing international protection and promoting solutions for refugees, stateless persons and other persons of concern to UNHCR. In 2014, the country agreed to approve the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action. Similarly, Cuba participated in a constructive way in the formal consultations leading to the development of the global compact on refugees, which was affirmed by the General Assembly on 17 December 2018. Cuba also participated in the high-level segment on statelessness during the seventieth session of UNHCR's Executive Committee in October 2019, sharing recent policy and legal developments in this area as good practices.

If the embargo against Cuba ends, more favourable conditions in the country could ultimately be fostered for persons of concern to UNHCR. Such conditions could also support local integration. UNHCR will continue to advocate the accession by Cuba to the international refugee and statelessness treaties and looks forward to improved international cooperation, which would encourage accession and help to promote stronger protection for refugees and displaced persons.

## **United Nations Children's Fund**

[Original: English]  
[17 September 2021]

Lack of access to the United States market increases procurement costs which has an impact on the efficiency of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and on programme implementation. This pertains to both regular programming and humanitarian programming in response to natural disasters, aggravated by the consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Goods, services and technology produced in the United States covered by United States patents or which contain components produced or patented in the United States and other countries are not available to the Cuban market. In the context of the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic, expenses in the acquisition of supplies have increased by 137 per cent with respect to 2020, with a 53 per cent rise in the cost of transportation and handling of goods. This has greatly affected programme budgets which now must allocate larger sums to logistics, owing to the acquisition of products in more distant markets and the contracting of freight agencies with higher costs and longer delivery periods.

The process of acquiring supplies internationally has, on average, been delayed by more than three months; that is, acquiring supplies overseas takes twice as long as expected. As a consequence, the UNICEF office in Cuba has been forced to cancel contracts with shipping companies and restart over the process of finding new agencies. On the other hand, in the acquisition of supplies, some vendors request an end-user certificate indicating that only the UNICEF country office will use the product and not any other organization that benefits from UNICEF programmes.

The UNICEF office in Cuba cannot benefit from the savings in transactional costs represented by the global corporate contracts of UNICEF with companies located in the United States (long-term agreements) for the acquisition of supplies and services, specifically those related to information and communication technology, software licences and internet service, etc.

Restrictions on bank transfers in United States dollars to and from Cuba have remained in place over the last year. As a result, the UNICEF office in Cuba must use an intermediary bank to replenish the funds in its local account in United States dollar, incurring a minimum loss of 3 to 4 per cent of the total value transferred owing to exchange rate differences. In order to guarantee the operating capacity of the office, a local bank balance is maintained to ensure 30 days of operations.

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]  
[24 September 2021]

Paragraph 34 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, adopted at the fourteenth session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in July 2016, states:

States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, and that affect commercial interests. These actions hinder market access, investments and freedom of transit and the well-being of the populations of affected countries. Meaningful trade liberalization will also require addressing non-tariff measures including, inter alia, unilateral measures, where they may act as unnecessary trade barriers.<sup>29</sup>

Cuba has been under the United States economic embargo since 1962. The current United States policy toward Cuba was laid down in the National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba, enacted on 16 June 2017.<sup>30</sup> The directive established a major policy direction, which inter alia sought to tighten the embargo against Cuba, including through restrictions on transactions with companies controlled by certain government entities, and elimination of individual people-to-people travel.

Subsequently, steps were taken to further strengthen restrictions on Cuba, including by enforcing all provisions of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, known as the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.<sup>31</sup> In April 2019, the United States imposed measures on companies involved in transporting oil from Venezuela to Cuba. In June 2019, the United States restricted non-family travel. In September 2019, the country imposed a cap on remittances and prohibited dollar transactions through third-party financial institutions. In December 2019, it restricted commercial and charter flights between the United States and Cuba.<sup>32</sup> Despite the change of Administration in the United States, the embargo against Cuba remains in force and operational in 2021.

### Overall economic trends

The COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted unprecedented human and economic costs on Cuba. As at September 2021, over 776,000 cases of COVID-19 and 6,600 related deaths have been reported in the country.<sup>33</sup> Generalized and continued lockdown measures, border closures and travel restrictions worldwide have severely affected the Cuban economy, which highly depends on international trade, tourism revenues and remittance inflows. The Cuban economy contracted by an estimated 10.8 per cent in 2020. While the world economy is forecasted to grow by 5.3 per cent in 2021, and the Central America and the Caribbean region by 3.9 per cent on average,<sup>34</sup> prospects for a strong recovery of the Cuban economy are uncertain, given

<sup>29</sup> See [TD/519/Add.2](#). The fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, scheduled to be held from 3 to 7 October 2021, in Bridgetown, Barbados, is expected to adopt a new outcome document.

<sup>30</sup> Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 202. 20 October 2017.

<sup>31</sup> White House (2019), *President Donald J. Trump Is Taking a Stand for Democracy and Human Rights in the Western Hemisphere*, 17 April.

<sup>32</sup> Congressional Research Service (2021a), *Cuba: U.S. policy overview*, 6 August.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info>.

<sup>34</sup> UNCTAD, "Trade and Development Report 2021: from recovery to resilience – the development dimension", September 2021.

that domestic activities would remain weak in the face of more cases of COVID-19, as well as a continued decrease in the demand for trade and tourism.

The fragilities experienced by Cuba during the pandemic largely stem from the fact that trade plays an essential role in the Cuban economy. As a small island State short on natural resources, capital, technology and domestic demand, the country critically needs access to international markets to sell its products to reach a larger quantity and variety of goods and services, as well as foreign capital, technology and investment, to meet the domestic needs of its population, build a robust productive base and fuel its economy to sustain growth and development. In 2019, exports of goods and services amounted to 12 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in Cuba, and imports, 11 per cent.

However, the overall economic conditions in Cuba before the pandemic were inimical to dynamic trade growth for the immediate future. Between 2015 and 2020, the Cuban economy grew at an average rate of -0.12 per cent, compared to 2.7 per cent between 2010 and 2015, and significantly lower than the 5 per cent growth rate deemed necessary for the country to attain a sustainable growth path.<sup>35</sup> After registering a decelerated growth rate of 2 per cent in 2019, the Cuban economy contracted an estimated 10.8 per cent in 2020.

The deceleration of growth observed before the pandemic is symptomatic of chronic stagnation in domestic production and erosion of competitiveness, affecting productive sectors in Cuba. As a small island economy with a GDP of \$101 billion (2020), Cuba has a small and labour-intensive agricultural sector which generates 4 per cent of GDP but absorbs 17 per cent of the workforce,<sup>36</sup> and a capital-intensive industrial sector which contributes 24 per cent to GDP but employs just 17 per cent of workers in 2019. In contrast, services are the dominant sector of the economy, contributing 72 per cent to GDP and 65 per cent to employment and having emerged as the main exporting sector.

### **Bilateral trade between Cuba and the United States**

Bilateral trade between Cuba and the United States is small in view of the size, economic complementarities and geographical proximity of the two economies.<sup>37</sup> In 2020, the United States markets remained virtually closed to Cuban products under the embargo. Existing Cuban exports to the United States<sup>38</sup> were estimated at \$3.8 million, about 0.2 per cent of the total exports of Cuba to the world.

By contrast, the imports of Cuba from the United States were far greater and substantial. In 2020, the bilateral imports of Cuba were valued at \$383 million, accounting for 4.9 per cent of its total imports from the world. These imports mainly consisted of basic food items (95 per cent of the total), such as “meat and meat preparations”, and “cereals and cereal preparations”, including edible meat (e.g., poultry), wheat, rice, maize and oil seeds. This reflects the fact that commercial agricultural exports from the United States have been authorized since 2001, albeit subject to numerous restrictions and licensing requirements. The United States today is one of the primary suppliers of food and agricultural products for Cuba.

<sup>35</sup> R.E. Feinberg, *Cuba's economy after Raúl Castro: A tale of three worlds*, Foreign Policy at Brookings, February 2018.

<sup>36</sup> The labour figures are International Labour Organization estimates for 2019.

<sup>37</sup> The source of all data referred to in the text is UNCTADStat, unless otherwise specified.

<sup>38</sup> UNCTAD classification “All allocated products (SITC 0 to 8 + 961 + 971)”.

Commercial exports of medicines and medical products have also been authorized since the early 1990s.<sup>39</sup>

### Trade pattern and trends

Partly reflecting the domestic production structure, the overall trade pattern of Cuba is marked by a persistent deficit in merchandise trade (\$5.9 billion in 2020)<sup>40</sup> and a persistent surplus in services trade (\$8.2 billion in 2019). Over the past few years, there has been a decline in the overall trade surplus, with the surplus amount falling from \$2.4 billion in 2014 to \$0.4 billion in 2019.

It is particularly notable that Cuban merchandise exports have steadily and substantially fallen from 2011 to 2016, partly reflecting the weakening of domestic productive capacities and competitiveness. In 2020, the value of Cuban merchandise exports was \$2.2 billion, barely more than a third of the historic high of \$6.4 billion attained in 2011. Consequently, the share of Cuba in world merchandise exports halved from 0.035 per cent in 2011 to 0.012 per cent in 2020.

The export product basket of Cuba includes basic food, beverages and tobacco, ores and metals, chemical products and other manufactured goods. At a more disaggregated level, tobacco, sugar, metalliferous ores, medicinal and pharmaceutical products figured prominently among the major export products. Despite their diminishing role in the economy, traditional cash crops – sugar and tobacco – remained the country's main foreign exchange earners. In addition, a biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector that supplies the domestic healthcare system has become a significant export industry, while nickel mining has also produced viable export activities.

The main export markets of Cuba in 2020 were the European Union (representing 27 per cent of total exports), China (16 per cent), Canada (16 per cent), Venezuela (14 per cent) and the Russian Federation (4.3 per cent). Despite a slight recovery in 2018, the relative importance of Venezuela as an export market has declined since 2010 and that of the European Union and Canada increased markedly. In world markets, Cuban exports faced weighted average tariff of about 16.8 per cent.<sup>41</sup>

Estimated at \$8 billion in 2020, merchandise imports were four times larger than merchandise exports, as the country relies heavily on imports for the supply of essential energy and foodstuffs, as well as capital goods. Basic food, including cereals and meat; mineral fuels; and different manufacturing categories (machinery and transport equipment, other manufactured goods and chemical products) are the main imported items. Cuba reportedly meets 70–80 per cent of domestic food needs from imports. As to energy, since 2000 the country has maintained a preferential oil agreement with Venezuela whereby Cuba received the amount of oil equivalent to two thirds of its domestic consumption. The provision decreased in early 2019 to one-third of consumption.<sup>42</sup> The measures imposed in April 2019 on several shipping companies transporting the oil between the two countries may have adversely affected the bilateral trade.

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<sup>39</sup> Congressional Research Service (2021b), *Cuba: U.S. policy in the 116th Congress and through the Trump Administration*, 22 January.

<sup>40</sup> As reported in the Balance of Payments. Balance of Payments-based statistics of trade in goods may differ from international merchandise trade statistics reported elsewhere in the text owing to differences in the concepts and definitions.

<sup>41</sup> UNCTAD TRAINS database accessed through WITS.

<sup>42</sup> Congressional Research Service (2021b), *op.cit.*

## Services and remittances

Cuba has developed important export capabilities in the services sector. In 2019, the services exports of Cuba amounted to \$10.2 billion, as compared to the imports of \$2 billion, generating a services trade surplus of \$8.2 billion, as noted. Key export activities are professional services, largely medical personnel supplying services in Venezuela, and booming tourism services.

Tourism has grown significantly since the mid-1990s. Tourist arrivals reached 4.3 million in 2019. Yet, the pandemic significantly affected the tourism sector of Cuba and in 2020, the number of international visitors fell to 1.1 million, down by 75 per cent. This is significant, as related travel services generated some 25 per cent of the total services exports. Development of tourism services was already constrained by the tightened United States measures, such as the prohibition of people-to-people educational travel. The United States regulations currently restrict travel to Cuba to licensed travellers engaged in certain specified activities. The recovery of tourism services is not yet in sight for Cuba as the first six months in 2021 were reported to have seen further deceleration of tourist arrivals.<sup>43</sup>

Remittance flows to Cuba sent by migrants and workers abroad were valued at \$4.0 billion in 2019. That year, \$3.7 billion were estimated to originate in the United States.<sup>44</sup> The amount of total remittance inflows was greater than the total merchandise export receipt of Cuba, or 30 per cent of the country's total exports of goods and services, and equivalent to 3.8 per cent of its GDP. Remittances have been the major source of external finances and could potentially serve as investment capital for households and private enterprises. The decision of the United States in September 2019 to cap family remittances to \$1,000 per quarter is expected to curb remittance flows to the country.

## Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented damage to the Cuban economy and people's lives. The crisis is expected to reverse much of the progress made towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Generalized and continued lockdown measures, border closures and travel restrictions worldwide have severely affected Cuba, which is highly dependent on international trade, tourism revenues and remittance inflows. The pandemic has yet again demonstrated the critical importance of a healthy flow of international trade and finance in the Cuban economy, and that of building resilience and preparedness in view of the utmost fragilities that could occur in case of economic downturns and extreme shocks.

Recent actions taken by the United States have had the effect of intensifying economic measures against Cuba. The embargo remains in force and hinders the healthy development of commercial relations between the two neighbouring countries. This continues to be a matter of concern to Cuba as trade plays a crucial role in its economy and as the country seeks to build back better from the crisis. To date, the embargo has frustrated the country's efforts to use trade as an instrument of sustainable development, including through further expansion of promising tourism and professional services activities, as well as productive use of remittances.

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<sup>43</sup> Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información, República de Cuba.

<sup>44</sup> Congressional Research Service (2021b), *op.cit.*

## United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]  
[23 September 2021]

Cuba continues to maintain a high human development index ranking. President Miguel Díaz-Canel has ratified the commitment of Cuba to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Cuban development model continues to change. The document entitled “Economic and social policy guidelines of the Party and the Revolution” continues to provide guidance for ongoing reform. The Cuban Parliament also approved the conceptualization of the Cuban economic and social model and the 2030 “National Plan for Economic and Social Development”. The plan defines key strategic priorities for: an effective and socialist Government and social integration; changes in the production sector and participation in international trade; infrastructure development; the development of human potential, science, technology and innovation; natural resources and the environment; and human development, equity and justice. For the implementation of the Plan, a work system was approved that includes six development macroprogrammes. These constitute the mechanism for planning, monitoring and evaluating the fulfilment of objectives, indicators and goals.

The economic and social policy guidelines are innovative within the national context and represent a challenge for the country. The main objective of the guidelines is to stimulate foreign investment and accelerate economic growth and competitiveness, recognizing that local governments have a vital role in the forthcoming decentralization framework. In late 2013, Cuba initiated a process of monetary unification that represents a key challenge for the country. In 2019, new measures were adopted in this complex, ongoing process, for which rigorous preparations are required to address possible impacts on the population. In this context, universal social services and social development remain a priority for the Government. The traditional social protection network is thus being adjusted to ensure sustainability and greater focus on the most vulnerable groups, such as older persons.

Guideline No. 85 of the economic and social guidelines calls for the promotion of multilateral collaboration to support the 2030 national plan for economic and social development, with direct reference to the United Nations system. In that regard, the United Nations system supports national authorities in addressing emerging issues and challenges.

The Seventh Communist Party Congress also approved the state plan to respond to climate change and to promote resilient development, known as Life Task (*Tarea Vida*).

A new constitutional text was endorsed by a broad referendum process in 2019. The new Constitution recognizes citizens’ rights, as well as different types of property; reaffirms the local role in development; and legalizes changes in the governance structure, among others. The legislative changes derived from the Constitution are under implementation.

Cuba has also been affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result of an intersectoral work strategy, the country approved a plan for the prevention and control of the pandemic. As part of the response, Cuba has developed several vaccine candidates and is developing the population immunization plan based on its own vaccines. These vaccines, the first produced in the region, are already being used in other countries.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports national authorities' efforts to address emerging development issues and challenges. The partnership between UNDP and the Cuban authorities is based on a long-standing relationship. UNDP has supported major local and national development strategies and policies for over 40 years. The country programme for 2020–2024 was approved in 2020 and is aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework agreed between Cuba and the United Nations system. It addresses the strategic priorities of the country, as expressed in the 2030 national plan for economic and social development, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Each expected result will prioritize a multidimensional development approach, combining economic improvement, people's well-being and empowerment, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and comprehensive risk management. UNDP will promote coordination between State, non-State, civil society and community-based organizations whose actions contribute to change.

UNDP supports priority areas of cooperation that are at times innovative within the national context, have a high strategic relevance in view of the changes made to the Cuban development model and contribute to the socio-economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19. Fostering sustainable human development will continue to be at the heart of the cooperation programme, which promotes South-South cooperation, innovation and technology and knowledge transfer.

### **Diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States**

The process towards the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States was strongly affected by the measures adopted by the previous United States Administration. Among the measures that negatively affect bilateral relations are: the suspension of consular services in the United States Embassy in Havana for Cuban citizens who wish to travel to the United States; the significant reduction in United States diplomatic personnel in Cuba; the elimination of the granting of tourist visas valid for five years for Cubans; and the entry into force of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, entitled "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act", which reinforces the general conditions of the embargo, by allowing legal claims for property confiscated in Cuba from United States citizens and companies, as well as Cuban citizens nationalized in the United States.

Other measures were taken to significantly limit financial transactions with Cuba, including the expansion to more than 200 such entities and subentities of the list of restricted entities and subentities associated with Cuba with which it is prohibited to have direct financial transactions;<sup>45</sup> the amendment of the general licence relating to "U-turn" financial transactions; the elimination of the authorization for donative remittances; and the placement of a cap on family remittances. In May 2019, Title III of the Helms-Burton Act was allowed to come into force, permitting legal action to be brought against companies from third countries that do business with Cuba and use properties that had previously been nationalized by the Cuban Government and were owned by United States citizens. The Helms-Burton Act was passed in 1996 as legislation that further strengthens the economic embargo, although the implementation of Title III had been suspended every six months by previous Administrations. Further restrictions on travel were imposed, such as banning cruise ships from stopping over in Cuba, narrowing travel authorizations with the elimination of the people-to-people travel category that allowed United States citizens

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<sup>45</sup> See list of restricted entities: [www.state.gov/cuba-sanctions/cuba-restricted-list/list-of-restricted-entities-and-subentities-associated-with-cuba-effective-as-of-november-19-2019/](https://www.state.gov/cuba-sanctions/cuba-restricted-list/list-of-restricted-entities-and-subentities-associated-with-cuba-effective-as-of-november-19-2019/)."

to visit Cuba as part of organized group educational tours and banning United States flights to all Cuban cities except Havana.

Furthermore, several sanctions, including penalties and the freezing of financial assets, were imposed on international crude-oil providers and financial entities.

In January 2021, the United States Administration announced the inclusion of Cuba in the list of countries sponsors of terrorism. This measure has represented – in addition to an important setback in bilateral relations – the reinforcement of the sanctions against Cuba and against those people and countries that carry out trade activities with the country.

Under the current United States Administration, new sanctions have been adopted and there are no signs that indicate a change in direction regarding the restrictions already imposed on Cuba.

### **Specific effects of the United States embargo**

In pandemic conditions, the embargo remains in place, and its negative impact has been more specific and significantly larger than in previous years, particularly on commerce and financial activities. The embargo limited the acquisition of medicines and medical equipment and supplies, it affects the external economic relations of Cuba, and its impact can be observed in all spheres of the country's social and economic activities. The embargo also maintains the restrictions on the use of the United States dollar and on imports from Cuba. It affects opportunities for national and local development and creates economic hardship for the population. The embargo has an impact on the population's most vulnerable groups and on human development in general.

According to official estimates, the cumulative direct and indirect losses for the Cuban economy owing to the embargo from the early 1960s until March 2020 amount to \$144.4 billion at current prices.

The embargo has limited the access of Cuba to development credits granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. This has narrowed the possibility of obtaining resources to provide financial support for the national and/or local development plans of Cuba.

In the context of updating the Cuban economic model, the embargo also limits the participation of foreign investors – particularly United States companies – in prioritized economic projects, including the special development zone in Mariel. The embargo impedes investment flows and limits access to regional and global value chains.

Travel by Cuban experts and researchers to the United States in the framework of cooperation agreements has been limited by the process of obtaining visas.

The embargo has continued to negatively affect day-to-day work in external cooperation initiatives, creating many difficulties for the implementation of programmes and projects owing to trade restrictions or prohibitions on purchasing inputs from United States companies and subsidiaries established in the United States or in other countries. It also reduces the number of possible suppliers and limits competitive processes.

On a financial level, the embargo continues to prevent the UNDP country office in Cuba from making transfers in United States dollars. For this reason, and although budgets of all projects are recorded in United States dollars, transfers abroad are made in other currencies (mainly euros, British pounds, Canadian dollars, Japanese yen and Swiss francs). However, even when payments are made in any of these currencies, bank withholdings have significantly increased, with constant requests by banks for

additional information in order to comply with the Office of Foreign Assets Control all along the banking chain system (issuing, intermediate and beneficiary). Most suppliers that have had fluid commercial relations with Cuban companies and with the UNDP country office for years have continued to have their accounts closed because of policies implemented by many banks, mainly in Mexico and Panama, directly and explicitly related to United States sanctions against Cuba. In 2020, the UNDP country office in Cuba and its projects faced several issues, with most financial transactions involving intermediary banks that were subject to United States jurisdiction and ending in automatic rejections by the banks as part of compliance policies. These measures have affected the ability of the country office to honour payments to suppliers within agreed time frames and have implied additional transaction costs, affecting project budgets.

In addition, the embargo places practical restrictions on transportation for shipping lines whose vessels dock in Cuban harbours. This significantly reduces the number of shipping companies that include Cuba in their routes, thus limiting the availability of transportation and delaying the loading of goods. Costs associated with intermediaries and long-distance transportation negatively affect access to key inputs to implement development projects, as well as the final cost of imported project goods and equipment. Likewise, products for development projects must be purchased and imported from more distant places at much higher costs.

### **Effects on projects**

The embargo has had a direct impact on all UNDP development projects and emergency activities, because it increases the transaction costs of obtaining project inputs, the shipping cost of imported goods and transportation time. Finding alternative shipping companies requires additional time and effort. As a result, projects have suffered significant delays in the purchase and distribution of project inputs, which has had a negative impact on the timely implementation of project activities and on results.

The situation has been particularly complex and worrisome in the case of projects related to food security and local development, given the lengthy process to access and import agricultural inputs such as irrigation systems, machinery and agricultural tools. In general, procurement processes take longer, delaying project activities and their results. Therefore, financial proposals and new projects must consider, in their design, an extended period for procurement processes; they must also allocate additional financial resources to cover incremental costs that could otherwise be allocated for development activities. Those additional costs are covered by the funds provided by international development partners, which are channelled through UNDP.

Many of the assets required by country office projects involve United States technologies or include United States manufacturing components. The Torricelli Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 are still in force. Both explicitly prohibit sales to Cuba by United States companies and subsidiaries in third countries and include sanctions against those who violate the prohibition. The full application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, which began in May 2019, has limited new partnerships and agreements.

In the current context of the full application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, restrictions have been more rigorously applied and new challenges have emerged for the implementation of development projects in Cuba. This has not only affected business transactions with the United States, but also had a deterrent effect in other countries whose persons, companies, banks and other entities are more apprehensive about sanctions. The decrease in available international suppliers is a direct result of

sanctions and a setback in the context of a local market that depends on imports. This situation also affects the acquisition of computer technology.

The projects financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, of which UNDP is the principal recipient, provides medicines, reagents and laboratory equipment for the benefit of 28,950 persons of all ages living with HIV/AIDS. These products are purchased from third countries and secondary suppliers at prices significantly higher than those of comparable products sold on the international market. Even when long-term corporate agreements between UNDP and international suppliers apply to the project in Cuba, the embargo hinders purchases of products that are manufactured or have a component manufactured in the United States. In such cases, the providers must obtain a licence from the Office of Foreign Assets Control to deliver services or products to projects in Cuba, a bureaucratic process that takes much time and effort. For example, in 2020, it was not possible to approve a purchase order with the provider Mylan Laboratories because the bank would not accept payment for the anti-retroviral drugs being Cuba the beneficiary country. This meant that another provider had to be used and that the procurement of these drugs, essential for HIV services in the country, was delayed.

### **Effects of the embargo on country operations of the United Nations Development Programme**

The embargo also affects the day-to-day work of the UNDP country office. There are limits on the use of corporate long-term agreements that are meant to effectively implement and monitor development, among others. As an external restriction, the access from Cuba (procure-to-pay cycle) to practically all international e-commerce sites remain completely closed at the level of connectivity. In many cases, it is based on the requirements of the United States embargo.

Many websites and services accessed from Cuban Internet service providers are blocked owing to the embargo. Some websites and services, such as Adobe, Amazon, Cisco and VMware, are blocked for Cuban Internet service providers. Likewise, the access to technical information sites, technical support, studies, price analysis, among others, is restricted. Payment gateways do not allow operations from the national Internet service providers. For example, there is no access to the key UNDP corporate platforms such as the performance Management and development platform site, Oracle's new Enterprise Resource Planning or DocuSign, among others, when trying to connect from national Internet service providers. Access to online training and webinars is also limited, while cloud-based services cannot be used.

Consequently, the country office obtains access to the Internet through a satellite provider, resulting in higher costs, limited bandwidth and inferior quality for video and voice services through the Internet. This situation restrains the effective use of corporate platforms, increasing the amount of time required to perform online processes and activities. Also, additional costs are incurred since, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 95 per cent of the country office users connect to the Internet in telework mode by sharing their data connections from their cell phones with "metered" connections.

In the last period the UNDP office in Cuba has faced new delays of shipments owing to the application of compliance policies for trade-sanctioned countries by some shipping companies.

The country office is also affected by not being able to use corporate accounts with United States banks or the United States dollar as a currency of payment. The office has to take additional administrative measures to carry out programme-related financial operations. For example, it must use third-country banks, which results in higher costs for the office and its projects, as well as a heavier administrative burden.

These additional costs have been covered by UNDP and project funds from donors, therefore using resources that could otherwise have been used for development activities.

International Financial Bank is a Cuban bank used by many Cuban entities and other foreign companies with presence on the island. Its inclusion since 2020 as a Specially Designated National of the Office of Foreign Assets Control and more recently on the United States State Department List of Restricted Entities constitutes new obstacles to having commercial and financial relations with the potential emerging local market. Not only are dollar transactions penalized, but any operation where International Financial Bank is involved.

In 2021, the negative impact in the financial area is maintained and expressed in further delays in the monthly receipt of funds transfers into UNDP local bank accounts. This has directly affected the payment cycles related to suppliers and those associated to United Nations programmes and personnel, negatively affecting UNDP operations in general.

In January 2021, the Administration of former President Trump designated Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism. As a result, a reinforcement of the restriction on exports and on access to certain commercial benefits as credits from international financial institutions followed. The compliance policies of banks operating with Cuba or with operations related to Cuba such as the operations in the framework of international cooperation have been reinforced since then.

One direct effect of the inclusion of Cuba on the list is the reinforcement of the Bureau of Industry and Security's pre-existing prohibitions for United States entities to carry out any type of commercial operations with Cuba in any of the products controlled by the Export Administration Regulations. All without exception must apply for a licence, with the recommendation normally denied, except for agricultural products and some medical items and travel which already have general licences.

This extends to any North American entity that markets any product, including non-United States products, and to any entity in the world that markets products with non-United States origin having 10 per cent or more of North American components. If it is high-technology products, no matter the percentage, they will always be banned, and the entity sanctioned.

The scrutiny of financial operations carried out by anyone on the island in search of arms trafficking, etcetera, has doubled. So has a ban on granting financing from global institutions. The result is above all discouraging foreign suppliers of goods and services from participating in UNPD bidding processes.

## **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

[Original: English]  
[29 September 2021]

The embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba continues to affect developments in the spheres of competence of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as its activities.

Sports in Cuba are affected as access to the latest technologies for the development of athletes, sporting goods and accessories for training, as well as equipment and supplies for important scientific centres, such as the anti-doping laboratory, has been limited.

Efforts to obtain visas to participate in international competitions in the United States have been hampered, or excessive expenses have been incurred given the need to travel to third countries for this purpose.

The embargo has affected academic exchanges between students and scientists. Financial transactions for purchases abroad and payments to coaches and athletes and for services rendered have also been affected. All this also impacts persons with disabilities who practice sports.

The embargo limits the possibilities of accessing technological platforms. According to reported statistics, over 60 software programmes, websites and services are restricted, including educational sites and video conferencing service platforms such as Zoom and WebEx.

Amidst the mobility restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, several Cuban institutions have had to decline participation in online events and offers to give distance courses, given that these websites cannot be accessed from Cuba. On several occasions, this has hindered the participation of representatives of Cuban institutions in international virtual meetings and online events organised by the United Nations.

In the case of the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean and Cluster Office for Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the organization has had to request a special license for the use of the Zoom platform in Cuba. It should be noted that, while access is possible for meetings organized by UNESCO, access to its website to generate meetings or download client information is blocked.

Obstacles to accessing Internet sites and procuring technologies and supplies increase the cost of Internet services on the island, while constituting a barrier for the citizens' access to information and knowledge.

The embargo affects communications and directly affects the development of the computerization programme of Cuban society (increase in procurement costs, impossible upgrade of technologies, no access to the fibre optic cables surrounding Cuba, increase of international connectivity costs).

In the culture sector, limitations remain on the promotion, dissemination and marketing of Cuban artistic talent, notably to the United States market. The persecution of banking operations with and from Cuba prevents direct transactions with the United States to provide cultural goods and services.

Likewise, the prohibition on the procurement of technological inputs that contain more than 10 per cent of United States components remains in force, as well as regulatory and licensing requirements on the import, export and re-export of goods and technology of United States origin to the island. The intensification of these regulatory and licensing requirements has significant impact on procurements by the United Nations system, complicating and delaying procurement processes and severely restricting the use of the goods and technology procured by end-users.

Affecting UNESCO operations, procurement processes are hampered by the increasing time spent on needs analysis, market research and the arrival of goods and services in the country. Some of the companies UNESCO has signed long-term agreements with to lower prices and seek better terms and conditions are prevented from bidding in Cuba. As it is not possible to access the United States market, UNESCO has to pay much higher freight costs because imports need to be made from third countries more distant from the island.

United States-based information technology companies with which UNESCO has signed global supply agreements are required to apply for special licenses from the United States Department of the Treasury to export their products to the UNESCO

office in Cuba. These permits are issued under the condition that ownership over said products is not transferred to any national entity.

The nature of the embargo has led to other financial restrictions that prevent or hinder banking transactions, even in currencies other than the United States dollar. This has had an impact on financial transactions by UNESCO and its staff. For example, international staff members cannot receive their salary in their personal bank accounts at the United Nations Federal Credit Union and often experience difficulties making online payments with credit cards. UNESCO staff in Cuba cannot use their own Cuban bank accounts to make payments for airline tickets or hotel accommodation, whether for personal travel or official missions abroad. All this has an impact on the implementation of official missions and on leading activities.

Lastly, in connection with health insurance, UNESCO officials continue to be directly affected, as many health insurance companies are unable to work directly with Cuban health service providers owing to the restrictions imposed by the embargo, which makes it difficult to ensure health services for the office staff.

## **United Nations Environment Programme**

[Original: English]  
[16 August 2021]

From an environmental perspective, the embargo imposed by the United States affects both Cuba and the Caribbean subregion, including parts of the United States.

First, the embargo imposed on Cuba impedes regional information-sharing and cooperation in environmental matters by eliminating the possibility of dialogue, common strategies and agreements on shared regional environment and natural management. This has a detrimental impact on countries' ability to manage shared coastal and marine ecosystems.

The embargo also impedes the ability of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to support South-South knowledge transfer, capacity-building and technical cooperation between Cuba and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean by way of training events, capacity-building activities and workshops.

The embargo impedes the mobilization resource and implementation of environmental protection projects in Cuba. Challenges relating to project implementation have increased costs which has, over the past several years, limited the ability of UNEP to mobilize resources from the Global Environment Facility and the global coordination group for Cuba. The economic, commercial and financial embargo also affects the ability of Cuba to submit its financial contribution to our organization.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has added another dimension to the effects of the United States embargo on Cuba. With the unavoidable transition to online meetings and virtual modalities of work, lack of connectivity on the island and difficulties in accessing virtual platforms that rely on the United States have impeded Cuban participation in intergovernmental meetings. Often, Cuban representatives are either excluded or resort to additional technological solutions at their own expense. The participation of Cuba in the twelfth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 1 and 2 February 2021, and its related previous negotiating processes, was affected despite UNEP efforts to accommodate Cuban representatives using different platforms.

UNEP supports Cuba within its possibilities. However, ending the embargo would significantly facilitate the processes and operation of projects and programmes

in Cuba as well as the country's proper participation in regional intergovernmental and technical cooperation processes.

## **United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

[Original: English]

[30 September 2021]

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been working in Cuba since 2001 and there has been a UN-Habitat office in Cuba since 2007. The main objective of its presence is to accompany the Government of Cuba in the implementation of its development agenda and priorities in line with the priorities and mandates of UN-Habitat.

During these past years, UN-Habitat has supported Cuba in the implementation of several projects whose priorities are reflected in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the UN-Habitat country programme. Notable projects include planning and urban management at the national and municipal levels; housing and urban recovery after hurricanes; supporting changes in the housing and habitat sector; and promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at national and local levels.

The projects that are being implemented are oriented towards development issues. There have been some restrictions on their execution owing to the international implications of the economic, commercial and financial embargo. It restricts financial transactions and the access to international markets that are of great importance for guaranteeing the acquisition of supplies, equipment, technologies and infrastructure for the urban and territorial development of Cuba and gradual improvement of the quality of life of the Cuban people.

The embargo affects Cuba daily. Furthermore, during the past year, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic intensified the consequences of the embargo on the population of Cuba. This policy constitutes the main obstacle to the sustainable development of the country, hence the impellent necessity to ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo.

From the perspective of UN-Habitat, the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) will enable Cuba to contribute decisively to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

## **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

[Original: English]

[16 September 2021]

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been supporting the efforts of the Government of Cuba to enhance the sustainability of the Cuban industry, promote foreign direct investment and create strategic alliances conducive to strengthening the country's industrial capabilities and competitiveness in priority industrial sectors through the implementation of a country programme.

In 2020, UNIDO finalized its first country programme in Cuba, which focused on three main objectives: (a) improving the business environment and sustainability; (b) improving industrial competitiveness; and (c) attracting foreign investment. The country programme included various projects in strategic sectors for the economic

and social development of Cuba, such as industrial policy, renewable energies and energy efficiency, and agrochemical and agriculture machine production.

Approximately \$9.4 million was mobilized out of an overall budget of \$59 million which were tentatively identified as the target amount to be mobilized for the implementation of the four-year programme. However, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic which has exacerbated national challenges and the existing constraints in the mobilization of funds and partnerships, UNIDO has not been able to make the expected and needed advances within the country programme.

A new country programme covering the period 2021–2025 has been formulated. The new programme will consist of 16 pipeline project proposals with a value of \$26.4 million. These proposals are in line with national priorities, including building of capacities of key actors in sustainable food systems; promoting the development of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry; leveraging the use of renewable energies and increasing energy efficiency in key sectors; developing value chains and integrating them into international value chains and supporting the development of industrial parks and special economic zones.

## **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) coordinates international efforts in disaster risk reduction and guides, monitors and reports on the progress of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The support involves engaging Cuba in the subregional projects carried out by UNDRR and its partners in the Caribbean, including capacity-development of national and local governments, non-governmental stakeholders and the private sector to implement the Sendai Framework; disseminating good practices in risk-sensitive policy and investment; and strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems in the region. It also involves facilitating the participation of Cuba in disaster risk reduction knowledge-sharing processes and initiatives, in particular through the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, to be held virtually from 1 to 4 November 2021.

Drawing on the country's expertise in disaster risk reduction, Cuba has continued to make sustained efforts to implement the Sendai Framework and to promote the integration of disaster risk reduction within the sustainable development agenda. Cuba also continues to share this expertise with neighbours in the region and to support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in the Americas, which has been of great importance in strengthening regional coherence and collaboration on disaster risk reduction.

Based on the experience of UNDRR collaborating with Cuba, reducing the human and economic impacts of disasters, as per the goals of the Sendai Framework, requires access to current scientific and technical advances. In the light of an increased intensity and frequency of natural hazards in the Caribbean, and the need to recover from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, achieving further progress would also benefit from accessing resources from donors and international finance institutions aiming to build resilience in the region. Achievements in protecting the population against different hazards, such as biological, environmental, technological, hydro-meteorological and geological hazards, among others, need to be complemented by strengthening preparedness and early response and recovery planning processes with a build back better approach.

This would be further enhanced by accessing disaster response and early warning equipment, including in the health sector, as well as technology for risk modelling, resilient infrastructure and disaster-related information technology and communication.

UNDRR considers that the achievement of goals and targets for disaster risk reduction in Cuba is hampered by the repercussions of the embargo. It limits the country's access to key information, knowledge and technology, including critical virtual platforms and software, that are of utmost importance for building the necessary capacities to deliver on the commitments of the Sendai Framework to save lives and reduce economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure and social services. Reducing disaster loss and damage is critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with no one left behind.

## **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

[Original: English]  
[24 September 2021]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that the Caribbean region continues to be confronted with challenges related to the illicit production and trafficking of cocaine originating in Latin America, as well as to other transnational organized crime activities, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, cybercrime, trafficking in firearms, violence and corruption. In addition, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and environmental threats, caused by natural disasters owing to climate change, had a heavy impact on the region, through increased criminal activities in wildlife and forestry trafficking, among others. Consequently, UNODC is attempting to further strengthen its presence in the Caribbean and to adapt to emerging crisis, in order to support Member States in their efforts to address these challenges. UNODC aims to strengthen its cooperation with Cuba, in the context of regional initiatives, including to enhance border controls.

Cuba is covered by the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean based in Panama. In addition, UNODC has established a presence in Barbados and the Dominican Republic. From these locations, UNODC supports Cuba as part of a strengthened UNODC presence in the Caribbean region, in close coordination with key regional and national counterparts. UNODC does not have any presence in Cuba and does not implement national programmes. All technical assistance is delivered under UNODC global programmes.

In the area of anti-corruption, Cuba is a State party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and participates actively in its implementation review mechanism. During the first review cycle, which was completed in 2013, Cuba was reviewed by Brazil and Guatemala and chose to publish its full country review report on the UNODC website. For the second review cycle, Cuba is under review by Mozambique and Uruguay. A country visit took place in June 2019. The executive summary of the country review report has been published as required by the mechanism. The final report is currently being finalized.

In the area of law enforcement and interdiction capacity building, Cuba takes part in the global Container Control Programme of UNODC, which is being implemented in partnership with the World Customs Organization. The programme established one port control unit in the Port of Mariel and one air cargo control unit at the International Airport of José Martí in Havana. The units in the Port of Mariel are composed of customs and anti-narcotics police officers, all female, working jointly in daily 12-hour shifts. The Units received basic theoretical and practical

training and specialized training, including on trafficking of cultural property, as well as endangered plants and animals. They participated in work-study tours to international benchmarking ports and mentoring activities during 2019. During 2020 and 2021, the port control units in Cuba reported two seizures of cocaine totalling 2.9 kgs and one case of undeclared goods.

The greatest effect of the sanctions on the Container Control Programme delivery has been the restrictions placed on travel, limiting the ability to fully deliver and implement training, mentoring and study visits, as well as stakeholder meetings and engagements. Unfortunately, the online training and alternative equipment procurement methods outlined and successfully used elsewhere in the region have not been available in Cuba, owing to the stringent domestic controls, restricted access to the Internet and travel, as well limited procurement opportunities affected by trade controls and sanctions in place. Throughout 2020 and 2021, training, meetings and equipment provision have been difficult if not impossible, also owing to COVID-19.

Another important multi-agency programme is the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of UNODC, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL, which aims at strengthening the capacities of participating international airports in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East to detect and intercept drugs, illicit goods and high-risk passengers in origin, transit and destination countries with the overall objective of disrupting the illegal criminal networks. UNODC secured funding to support the implementation of AIRCOP in Cuba. The implementation initiated at the José Martí International Airport is bringing together key law enforcement agencies: National Customs, Immigration, Police and INTERPOL. National authorities have confirmed their commitment and interest in the implementation of AIRCOP to address trafficking in drugs, arms, persons, cultural property and wildlife, smuggling of cash and bearer negotiable instruments.

UNODC also established cooperation with Cuba in the context of the fight against firearms trafficking. Cuba has participated in regional activities organized by the Global Firearms Programme, such as the regional meetings on Strengthening Regional Cooperation in America to Prevent and Combat Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, providing a platform to exchange good practices and foster international cooperation.

In the health sector, Cuba is part of a UNODC regional programme for 11 countries in Latin America, launched in 2020, on drug demand reduction, treatment and rehabilitation, with the objective to strengthen quality standards in the treatment of disorders associated with drug use. Cuba has so far benefited from regional activities implemented during 2021.

Cuba faced numerous difficulties in participating in meetings and other virtual events convened by UNODC given that Cuba has restricted access to several of the digital platforms used for these purposes, such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

In 2021, UNODC initiated the development of a strategic vision for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2021–2025, which is in line with its overarching strategy launched in February 2021. The strategic vision for Latin America and the Caribbean aims to support Member States in confronting the evolving security challenges facing the region and implementation of 2030 agenda, including the impact of COVID-19. Hence, it will serve as a guiding tool for all interested partners for future programming in the region in an inclusive and integrated manner.

Finally, UNODC is committed to sustaining and strengthening its collaboration and operational partnership with Cuba to address challenges related to drugs and crime. The forthcoming UNODC strategic vision for Latin America will provide opportunity to potentially expand and diversify its technical assistance to the

Caribbean region including to Cuba. In the meantime, the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean is making every effort to include Cuba as a beneficiary/partner in new initiatives to be presented to donors for funding. An end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo would presumably facilitate the future operational engagement of UNODC in the country, in close partnership with the Cuban authorities.

## **United Nations Population Fund**

[Original: English]  
[21 September 2021]

Against the backdrop of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to have an impact on the situation and fundamental rights of women and youth in Cuba. Its adverse effects were felt in the shortage of supplies and services for sexual and reproductive health, including contraceptives, produced nationally with materials purchased from other regions, as well as in procurement processes related to the 2022 Population and Housing Census and the provision of essential services for care of victims of gender-based violence, owing to delays in the purchase of materials from international suppliers.

In this context, the implementation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) country programme continues to face challenges, particularly in the procurement of reproductive health commodities and supplies that are produced by the United States or covered by United States patents, which have to be purchased from other regions at high transportation and freight costs. The UNFPA country office has been working in partnership with the Latin America and the Caribbean regional office and headquarters units to mobilize additional resources aimed at mitigating the effects of the embargo-related measures on the availability of sexual and reproductive health supplies.

UNFPA is one of the few organizations that supports sexual and reproductive health, population and development issues, and gender programmes in Cuba. Despite the limited amount of programme resources available for Cuba, UNFPA continues to strengthen its cooperation with government, academic and non-governmental actors in support of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. UNFPA continues to support the efforts of Cuba to maintain the progress it has attained in the areas of sexual, reproductive and maternal health, including access to family planning methods, sexuality education, and in data generation on and analysis of population dynamics and sustainable development.

## **Universal Postal Union**

[Original: English]  
[7 October 2021]

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has always regarded Cuba as a fully fledged member of the organization. As such, Cuba enjoys the same rights and obligations as any other UPU member country.

In that regard, it may be worth noting that Cuba currently serves as a member of the UPU Council of Administration, following the results of elections that took place on 26 August 2021, during the 27th Universal Postal Congress held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Moreover, Cuba regularly benefits from postal development assistance provided within the framework of UPU technical cooperation activities. In terms of relevant developments since June 2020, the following activities may be highlighted:

- Within the framework of the UPU Operational Readiness for E-commerce initiative, Cuba participated in five remote workshops held between July 2020 and September 2021;
- Cuba attended a remote workshop in November 2020 within the framework of a global UPU project concerning electronic advance data;
- Within the framework of the UPU Financial Inclusion Technical Assistance Facility initiative, the designated operator of Cuba (Correos de Cuba) was supported by the UPU in 2021 with a view to determining its readiness to implement a project concerning the development of postal payment and other financial services by digital means in Cuba;
- Cuba also attended a remote workshop on Disaster Risk Management in July 2021;
- Finally, Cuba attended UPU remote induction day for the Latin American region held in July 2021, concerning the 27th Universal Postal Congress.

UPU has not encountered difficulties in implementing the aforementioned assistance or undertaking any other joint activities with Cuba as a result of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against that country.

## World Food Programme

[Original: English]  
[16 August 2021]

Over the past 60 years, Cuba's comprehensive social protection programmes have largely eradicated hunger and poverty. Cuba was one of the most successful countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and is ranked seventieth on the 2020 human development index of the United Nations Development Programme.

During the 1990s, Cuba faced a severe economic crisis, which had a lasting impact on food security and nutrition. The 2008 global financial crisis, frequent natural disasters – including the drought spells currently affecting the country – high global food prices, limited access to credit, low productivity and the embargo by the United States have further exacerbated the food security situation in the country.

In 2011, the Government of Cuba launched a process to improve the efficiency, reduce the costs and increase the sustainability of social protection programmes. Those efforts are guided by the Government's commitment to ensure that no Cuban is left unprotected. Under the process, food security was identified as a national priority, with an emphasis on food-related social protection systems, the decentralization of the decision-making process regarding food resources, the adoption of a new management model for agriculture, reinforcing value chains and reducing food imports.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has been working in Cuba since 1963 to support the Government's efforts to promote food security and nutrition. In 2015, the agency launched its first four-year country programme for Cuba. In January 2020, WFP started the implementation of activities under its new one-year interim country strategic plan. In June 2021, the WFP Executive Board approved the new country strategic plan for the period 2021–2024. WFP works in the five eastern provinces (Granma, Guantánamo, Holguín, Las Tunas and Santiago de Cuba), which have the

lowest development rates and are prone to drought, torrential rains and occasional earthquakes. In addition, WFP works in the province of Matanzas in western Cuba, which is exposed to tropical cyclones that severely affect food security and nutrition. WFP activities are aligned with the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Cuba 2020–2024.

The current WFP programme of work in Cuba focuses on capacity-building and augmentation, using focused transfers to meet critical food and nutrition needs and to strengthen the overall food-related safety nets in Cuba. The programme supports national and local authorities in shifting to more sustainable and targeted social protection systems.

### **Effects of the United States embargo**

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the United States embargo continued to have a negative impact on the economy of Cuba as well as on the operational conditions of WFP. The high costs of importing agricultural equipment and inputs are a limiting factor for agricultural productivity in Cuba, affecting the country's ability to cover its food requirements. This represents a significant budgetary burden for the country, threatens those most dependent on social safety nets and poses challenges to food security in Cuba.

The ability of WFP to procure services and products from United States-based companies or companies that process payments through United States subsidiaries is also affected by the embargo, directly affecting projects and the ongoing running of the WFP office.

The procurement and shipment of food and non-food commodities, including fortified food provided by WFP, are also delayed owing to the above-mentioned logistical challenges. In July 2021, WFP-Cuba could not receive a shipment of lentils from Canada because it was not possible to find a shipping company willing to enter a Cuban port. Often, vessels are obliged to make a stopover in a neighbouring country for trans-shipment, causing delays and additional costs that also affect WFP shipments.

The ongoing work of WFP in Cuba is also affected by difficulties in purchasing equipment at more competitive prices, given that suppliers both in the region and elsewhere are often prevented from selling directly to Cuba. This applies to equipment, spare parts for cars, office stationery and other specialized technical equipment for projects, increasing the regular costs for WFP. Moreover, voice and data communications are extremely expensive as they have to bypass United States telecommunications infrastructure.

Banking transactions are also restricted by the limitations that the embargo imposes on financial institutions dealing with Cuba. This can affect the payment of staff entitlements, as well as their personal financial activities. The country office's payments, though processed through UNDP, are also vulnerable to these limitations.

### **World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization**

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

This submission, prepared by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas, in response to General Assembly resolution [75/289](#), entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", points to issues regarding the effects of the embargo on public

health and on the technical cooperation of PAHO/WHO with the country. It covers the period between February 2020 and September 2021.

According to the Cuban Government, the embargo has a negative impact on the Cuban health sector, mainly owing to difficulties in acquiring medicines, raw materials for the preparation of priority medicines, reagents, instruments, spare parts for medical equipment and other supplies necessary for the operation of the sector. This includes an impact on the efficiency of global drug and technology purchasing mechanisms operating in Cuba.

This negative impact, according to Cuban authorities, is owing to the need to obtain special licences from the United States Department of the Treasury for certain activities. The United States Government has stated that the embargo permits humanitarian goods to be shipped to Cuba and that the United States Government expedites requests to export humanitarian or medical supplies to Cuba. It has, however, been reported that in practice, the issuance of these licences can take several months, and as a result, potential international suppliers have in some cases not been interested in such transactions given the costs and time required. The Cuban Government has reported that as a result of the above the country has, in some cases, had to obtain certain medical products from remote markets and/or through intermediaries, which can result in increased prices of such supplies or limited access for patients.

Between February 2020 and September 2021, PAHO/WHO has encountered challenges with the purchase of certain equipment needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in Cuba. Two payments for supplies were withheld in the international financial system, and their release required substantial effort and discussion, consequently delaying the purchase of COVID-19 supplies. In addition, challenges are being experienced in procuring a molecular diagnostic testing system for use in the country, for which a first request for a humanitarian licence from the United States Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control was rejected. This matter is ongoing.

The fact that certain online communication platforms (for example, Zoom and Microsoft Teams) are in some cases not available in Cuba may impact the effectiveness of the technical cooperation of WHO in the country, including with the nine PAHO/WHO collaborating centres, health institutions, national and international reference centres located in the country. The extent to which any such access issues are the result of the embargo is unclear.

## **World Intellectual Property Organization**

[Original: English]  
[11 August 2021]

As a result of the embargo, the circumstances outlined below have been observed in Cuba as an obstacle to the country's advancement in the field of intellectual property and as having a direct impact on its technological, social and economic development.

By restricting the access of Cuban citizens to the United States of America, the embargo limits the possibilities of human resources development in the United States. As a result, specialized professionals from Cuba may not fully benefit from greater specialization opportunities in the field of intellectual property, especially those available in the United States. These include, notably, aspects of intellectual property asset and office management, as well as the opportunity to become acquainted with successful experiences in the implementation of technology transfer offices,

technology management, intellectual property valuation and intellectual property collateralization.

Increased restrictions on access for Cuban citizens connecting from Internet Protocol addresses in Cuba to platforms and web services supplied, directly or indirectly, from the United States, or by United States companies such as Google Cloud, Zoom and WebEx, have drastically restricted the participation of Cuban representatives in many of the virtual meetings and capacity-building activities organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Furthermore, this access restriction prevents authorities and users in Cuba from accessing global public publication platforms such as Espacenet and Latipat-Espacenet (European Patent Office), in the framework of which Cuba actively participates by providing patent data and sharing information on patent applications filed and patents granted by the Cuban office.

Visa restrictions also hinder the possibilities for intellectual property professionals from Cuba to participate in regular training programmes, meetings and other events organized by WIPO in the United States.

Poor telecommunication facilities also have a negative impact on and obstruct the access of Cuban nationals to WIPO online databases and other digital services in the field of intellectual property. This situation, in particular the online access to global intellectual property databases, including Patentscope (patent information) and the Global Brand Database, only available through the Internet, is detrimental to the advancement of technological research and other innovation programmes carried out by the Government of Cuba in the environmental, medical and life sciences, and bio- and nanotechnologies, and limits knowledge of the behaviour of brands in potential export markets.

The embargo affects the availability of information technology equipment and software for the performance of administrative operations regarding filing and granting procedures, in particular patent and trademark search and examination services. Although Cuba is administratively equipped to perform such functions because of a capillary presence of provincial branches of the Cuban Industrial Property Office, the lack of specialized software critically hinders such performance. External procurement formalities to obtain the required equipment and software are extremely burdensome. This situation continues to cumulatively delay the delivery of the services that these offices are required to render and prevents the normal growth and expansion of such services. Most importantly, this situation stifles the possibility of taking full advantage of the functionalities available under the WIPO intellectual property automated system, since some of the system's operating tools are not freely accessible for users in Cuba. Thus, the possibilities of expansion and customization of the system to the needs of Cuban users (in both the capital and the provinces) are seriously compromised.

The extraterritorial effects of the embargo extend to the financial arena as well. Payments from Cuba to WIPO under the WIPO-administered treaties (the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Madrid System) may be effected only in euros or Swiss francs, not in United States dollars, in order to avoid the restrictions imposed by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control. Payments from WIPO to the Cuban Industrial Property Office must be made in the same currencies. The cost of these indirect transactions for the purpose of avoiding the United States banks amounts to considerable financial losses and discourages the use by Cuban nationals of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Madrid System.

The financial implications of the embargo also extend to the payment of copyright royalties based on the rights granted under the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. A number of national banks cannot receive

deposits from or send deposits to the Cuban collective management society of authors. In addition, the exercise of rights based on the said Convention through reciprocal representation agreements between the collective management societies of Cuba and the United States is not possible.

## **World Meteorological Organization**

[Original: English]  
[30 September 2021]

In the framework of the activities of the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Meteorological Organization, Cuba is often present through its representatives in meetings, courses and workshops, exchange of meteorological and hydrological data, as well as projects covering the Caribbean area and Central America. Except for the impossibility for colleagues in Cuba to use the Zoom platform for virtual meetings with Regional Association IV members, which limits their participation in common work, during the year 2020 the World Meteorological Organization has not encountered any inconvenience or limitation regarding Cuba for regional scientific collaboration.

## **World Tourism Organization**

[Original: English]  
[15 October 2021]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba persists in general activities, including restrictions on travel by United States citizens to Cuba, which has a direct impact on the Cuban tourism sector, as well as on the country's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Given the current economic downturn caused by the global pandemic, it is highly likely that the recovery of the Cuban tourism sector could slow down over time if these measures persist and, therefore, the sector's contribution to economic growth and development could be at risk.

According to the latest UNWTO *World Tourism Barometer*, issued in July 2021, the performance of the tourism sector of Cuba was somewhat disheartening by comparison with previous years. Nevertheless, once tourism restarts, the results of the tourism sector of Cuba for the coming years could improve significantly if the measures affecting tourism were lifted or softened.

International and domestic tourism in Cuba through the years has continued to undergo severe losses in important areas and services.

## **World Trade Organization**

[Original: English]  
[25 August 2021]

The scope and functions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are defined in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization. The preamble to said Agreement recognizes that trade and economic endeavours should be conducted with a view to, among others, attaining higher living standards and ensuring full employment, in accordance with the objective of sustainable development and in a manner consistent with members' needs and concerns at

different levels of development. The preamble also stresses the desirability of the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international trade relations.

The issue referred to in General Assembly resolution [75/289](#) was raised orally in the context of the WTO General Council Meetings held on 1, 2 and 4 March 2021, 16–18 December 2020 and 13 October 2020. During the meeting held in March 2021,<sup>46</sup> Cuba mentioned that it had put forward vaccine candidates for COVID-19 which were in clinical trials despite all the difficulties that came with the economic, commercial and financial embargo practiced against Cuba by the United States.

At the General Council meetings held in October 2020<sup>47</sup> and in December 2020,<sup>48</sup> Cuba affirmed that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States had intensified over the last two years, even during the pandemic. Cuba also referred to the imposition of new measures including fines on companies that had financial relations with Cuba.

The issue was also referred to in the annual report of Cuba, dated 26 November 2020,<sup>49</sup> to the WTO General Council on a waiver extension granted under the decision of 7 December 2016.<sup>50</sup> The waiver was originally granted to Cuba under the decision of 14 October 1996<sup>51</sup> in relation to article XV:6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1994). In the annual report, Cuba informed that the economic, commercial and financial embargo had intensified with new restrictions adopted in October 2019, preventing countries from re-exporting manufactured items to Cuba containing more than 10 per cent of United States components. The report also notes that in September 2019, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury updated the Cuban Assets Control Regulations implementing a cap of \$1,000 per quarter on family remittances, removing grant remittances (non-family) and suspended related transfers whose origin and destination were outside the United States.

#### **IV. Replies received from entities and organizations that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly**

##### **International Civil Defence Organization**

[Original: English]  
[16 August 2021]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo makes it impossible for the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO) to fulfil its mandate of helping its member States such as Cuba with its emergency preparedness and capacity-building to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

ICDO considers this inhumane and unfair to the innocent, ordinary people of Cuba, who are the most vulnerable in any disaster. ICDO therefore supports ending the economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba immediately and without reservation.

<sup>46</sup> See WT/GC/M/190.

<sup>47</sup> See WT/GC/M/187.

<sup>48</sup> See WT/GC/M/188.

<sup>49</sup> See WT/L/1102.

<sup>50</sup> See WT/L/1003.

<sup>51</sup> See WT/L/182.

## Inter-Parliamentary Union

[Original: English]  
[28 September 2021]

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) upholds the provisions of the IPU resolution entitled “Are embargoes and economic sanctions still ethically acceptable, do they still work, and are they suited to achieving their purpose in an ever more globalized world?”, adopted at the 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Jakarta on 20 October 2000, and the IPU resolution on “The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States”, adopted at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka on 5 April 2017. The IPU reiterates the view that economic sanctions are to be avoided as far as possible because they inflict suffering on too many innocent persons and opposes the adoption, by a State or groups of States, of laws or other measures with extraterritorial effect which are aimed at obliging third party States or their nationals to apply economic sanctions adopted by it.<sup>52</sup> Moreover, the IPU underscores that the people of each country have the inalienable right to determine their own political future, and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development, in accordance with international law.<sup>53</sup>

The Inter-Parliamentary Union continued to exercise its role as the premier global platform for parliamentary dialogue and convened a series of global meetings, notably the 142nd IPU Assembly, held in May 2021 in virtual format, and the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments, in virtual format, held in August 2020 and in-person, held in Vienna in September 2021. The high-level meetings allowed national parliaments to engage in a range of global issues requiring multinational collaboration, and to build relations of parliamentary dialogue and cooperation.

In previous years, the IPU welcomed the interaction between legislators from Cuba and the United States aiming to normalize relations. The IPU believes that this interaction can be further pursued via parliamentary diplomacy.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic underlined the vital importance of solidarity and collaborative action to ensure that vulnerable populations have access to medicine, food and health care. The IPU is hopeful that, through political dialogue, humanitarian challenges can be addressed and the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba can finally be lifted.

The IPU reiterates its support for the lifting of the United States embargo against Cuba and expresses solidarity with the people of Cuba, who continue to suffer from its consequences.

## South Centre

[Original: English]  
[16 September 2021]

The General Assembly adopted by an overwhelming majority resolution [75/289](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” on 9 June 2021.

It was the twenty-ninth consecutive year in which a resolution on the United States embargo against Cuba, which is rooted in the Cold War, was adopted. Resolution [75/289](#) reiterated and reflected the content of previous resolutions, reports and declarations adopted by the United Nations and other intergovernmental forums

<sup>52</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union resolution adopted at the 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Jakarta, 20th October 2000.

<sup>53</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union resolution adopted at the 136th IPU Assembly, Dhaka, 5th April 2017.

and bodies rejecting the use of unilateral coercive measures such as “trade sanctions in the form of embargoes and, the interruption of financial and investment flows between sender and target countries”,<sup>54</sup> as in the case of the United States’ embargo on Cuba.<sup>55</sup>

Over the years, the annual report of the Secretary-General has become an important vehicle for highlighting the adverse impact of the United States embargo on Cuba and calling for an end thereto.

The South Centre is the intergovernmental organization of developing countries established in 1995 pursuant to the 1995 Agreement to Establish the South Centre, deposited with the United Nations following the recommendations of the report *The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission*. The report was prepared by the South Commission and its outcomes were considered by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/155.<sup>56</sup> The Centre holds observer status at the General Assembly and currently has 54 developing countries as members, including Cuba. The Centre supports developing countries in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by promoting their common interests in the international arena. The South Centre undertakes policy-oriented research in various international areas with a view to contributing to the strengthening of the United Nations system and multilateralism. It joins the international community in condemning unilateral coercive measures, which impinge on the principles of self-determination and international cooperation.

Since the South Centre submitted its contribution to the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on the “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, nothing has changed despite the grave humanitarian crisis that the world has undergone, which has also severely affected the Cuban people. The inauguration of a new United States Administration has not reversed a policy that is at odds with the concept of human rights and the respect for international law.

### Repercussions of the blockade

The blockade imposed against Cuba reached new levels under the 1996 Helms-Burton Act of the United States, which is incompatible with the principles of the Charter which calls on all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures that are against international law and the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The deleterious effects of unilateral coercive measures only worsen in times of a pandemic. As also noted by experts from the United Nations, “sanctions make it harder for entire populations to stay healthy and hamper the transportation of goods needed for economic development, result in the waste of natural resources, undermine environmental sustainability and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”.<sup>57</sup> The Cuban population has been victim of such measures. The United States blockade has affected the life of every Cuban for almost 60 years.

<sup>54</sup> See, for example, “Human rights and unilateral coercive measures” at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Seminars/Pages/WorkshopCoerciveMeasures.aspx>.

<sup>55</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba – Report of the Secretary-General, Doc. A/75/81, 21 September 2020.

<sup>56</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Report of the South Commission, Doc. A/RES/46/155, 19 December 1991. Available from <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/136143?ln=en>.

<sup>57</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Unilateral sanctions impinge on right to development – UN experts”, 11 August 2021. Available from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27373&LangID=E>.

The scientific and technological capacities established over the years in Cuba and the strengths of its medical sector allowed it to participate in the race to develop vaccines against COVID-19. With the Abdala vaccine approved on 9 July 2021 for emergency use, Cuba became the first Latin American country to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. This was followed by the Soberana 2 vaccine, approved on 20 August 2021. These achievements have opened a window of hope not only for the Cuban people but also for the people of other developing countries. They will provide new tools for the strong engagement of Cuba in South-South cooperation, which has even been extended to developed countries during the current pandemic through medical support to assist with the treatment of the disease in 40 countries and territories. Similar support should be received by Cuba to dismantle the unlawful United States blockade.

### **Conclusion**

The continuation of the United States financial and commercial blockade against Cuba is incompatible with an international system which is grounded in the rule of law. It is rather grounded on the exercise of political and economic power. The information set forth above is illustrative of some of the dimensions of the blockade and its impact, and of the need to dismantle unilateral coercive measures that undermine sovereign rights, the realization of human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The signatory countries of resolution [75/289](#) should continue to cooperate to put an end to the unjust denial of the right of Cuba to development and self-determination.

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