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

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution [77/7](#), 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-eighth 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.

* [A/78/150](#).



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	8
II. Replies received from Governments	8
Albania	8
Algeria	8
Andorra	9
Angola	9
Antigua and Barbuda	10
Argentina	11
Armenia	12
Australia	12
Azerbaijan	12
Bahamas	12
Bahrain	13
Bangladesh	13
Barbados	13
Belarus	14
Belize	14
Benin	15
Bhutan	15
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	16
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17
Botswana	17
Brazil	17
Brunei Darussalam	18
Burkina Faso	18
Burundi	19
Cabo Verde	19
Cambodia	19
Cameroon	20
Canada	20
Central African Republic	20
Chad	21
Chile	21
China	21

Colombia	22
Comoros	23
Congo	23
Costa Rica	23
Côte d’Ivoire	24
Cuba	25
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	69
Democratic Republic of the Congo	70
Djibouti	70
Dominica	70
Dominican Republic	71
Ecuador	71
Egypt	71
El Salvador	72
Equatorial Guinea	73
Eritrea	73
Eswatini	74
Ethiopia	74
European Union	75
Fiji	76
Gabon	76
Gambia	76
Georgia	77
Ghana	77
Grenada	78
Guatemala	78
Guinea	79
Guinea-Bissau	79
Guyana	80
Haiti	80
Honduras	81
Iceland	81
India	81
Indonesia	81
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	82
Iraq	83

Jamaica	84
Japan	85
Jordan	85
Kazakhstan	85
Kenya	86
Kiribati	86
Kuwait	86
Kyrgyzstan	87
Lao People's Democratic Republic	87
Lebanon	87
Lesotho	87
Liberia	88
Libya	88
Madagascar	88
Malawi	89
Malaysia	89
Maldives	89
Mali	89
Mauritania	90
Mauritius	90
Mexico	90
Monaco	91
Mongolia	91
Montenegro	92
Mozambique	92
Namibia	92
Nauru	93
Nepal	93
New Zealand	94
Nicaragua	94
Niger	96
Nigeria	96
Norway	96
Oman	97
Pakistan	97
Panama	97

Papua New Guinea	98
Paraguay	98
Peru	98
Philippines	99
Qatar	99
Republic of Korea	99
Republic of Moldova	100
Republic of North Macedonia	100
Russian Federation	100
Rwanda	101
Saint Kitts and Nevis	101
Saint Lucia	102
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	102
Samoa	103
San Marino	103
Sao Tome and Principe	103
Saudi Arabia	104
Senegal	104
Serbia	104
Seychelles	104
Sierra Leone	105
Singapore	105
Solomon Islands	105
South Africa	106
South Sudan	107
Sri Lanka	107
Suriname	108
Switzerland	108
Syrian Arab Republic	108
Tajikistan	110
Thailand	110
Timor-Leste	110
Togo	111
Tonga	111
Trinidad and Tobago	111
Tunisia	112

Türkiye	112
Turkmenistan	112
Tuvalu	113
Uganda	114
United Arab Emirates	114
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	114
United Republic of Tanzania	115
Uruguay	115
Uzbekistan	116
Vanuatu	116
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	116
Viet Nam	118
Yemen	119
Zambia	120
Zimbabwe	120
Holy See	121
State of Palestine	121
III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system	122
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	122
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	125
International Atomic Energy Agency	128
International Civil Aviation Organization	128
International Fund for Agricultural Development	130
International Labour Organization	131
International Maritime Organization	132
International Organization for Migration	133
International Telecommunication Union	133
Office for Outer Space Affairs	134
Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for operational activities for development, Cuba	135
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	138
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	143
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	144
United Nations Children's Fund	145
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	146
United Nations Development Programme	150

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	156
United Nations Environment Programme	157
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	158
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	159
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	159
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	160
United Nations Population Fund	162
Universal Postal Union	163
World Food Programme	163
World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization	165
World Intellectual Property Organization	166
World Meteorological Organization	167
World Tourism Organization	167
World Trade Organization	168
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	169
International Civil Defence Organization	169
Inter-Parliamentary Union	169
South Centre	170

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [77/7](#), 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-eighth session.
2. Pursuant to that request, in a note verbale dated 12 January 2023, 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 31 March 2023.
3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system that had been received as at 6 July 2023. Replies received after that date will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Albania

[Original: English]
[14 February 2023]

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 [77/7](#) and does not have or apply any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the said resolution.

Algeria

[Original: French]
[28 March 2023]

The adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [77/7](#) entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, for the thirtieth consecutive year and by an overwhelming majority, demonstrates, in many ways, the unwavering support of the international community for the Government and people of Cuba, and reaffirms the urgent need to lift the embargo that has been unjustly imposed against Cuba for more than half a century in violation of the rules of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Like the 185 States Members of the United Nations that supported resolution [77/7](#), Algeria remains concerned about the disastrous consequences that this economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to have for the economic growth and socioeconomic development of Cuba and its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Faithful to the purposes and principles of the Charter and the rules of international law, Algeria aligns itself with the principled position adopted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which reiterated, at the eighteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the non-aligned States, held in Baku in October

2019, its call for the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba to be lifted.

Algeria totally rejects the imposition of unilateral laws and decisions and all unilateral coercive measures, which hinder the realization of human rights and the well-being and prosperity of peoples, and thus joins the majority of Member States in calling for a new chapter to begin between Cuba and the United States of America.

Algeria continues to express its steadfast support for and unwavering solidarity with the Cuban people at all regional and international forums, and takes this opportunity to note that it provided food aid to Cuba in January 2023 to help it to cope with the considerable damage and devastation caused by the hurricanes the previous autumn.

Andorra

[Original: French]
[17 March 2023]

Andorra has never adopted or implemented any laws or measures of the type referred to in the preamble to resolution 77/7. In this regard, 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 against Cuba and reaffirms its commitment to the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

Angola

[Original: English]
[8 May 2023]

The Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba share historical ties and long-standing friendship, currently maintaining excellent diplomatic, economic and commercial relations.

The embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America has lasted for more than 60 years. It is one of the most debated issues in international forums, in particular in the General Assembly, which as a result of these discussions has adopted several resolutions on the issue.

Angola has been adding its voice to the debate and throughout these years has strongly and systematically defended the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba, which it considers to be unfair and unfounded in the current context of the existence of unilateral sanctions against this country. Similarly, this embargo has, in the context of development, negatively affected efforts to achieve the objectives advocated by the United Nations, which is a punishment that indubitably violates the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

As a consequence of the embargo and the unilateral coercive measures imposed, the Republic of Cuba continues to experience serious problems in the field of health, a key area of human development, resulting in difficulties in obtaining appropriate equipment, technologies, devices and drugs, necessary for human subsistence. As a result of being prevented from acquiring medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, Cuba has resorted to intermediaries or substitutes, at exorbitant prices for inferior quality.

Food imports from the United States of America are carried out under strict licensing and discriminatory conditions and their discrete volume is incomparable

with the enormous damage of the blockade on Cuba's finances and the effects of its extraterritorial application in third markets.

On the other hand, the issue of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the prevailing world economic situation have negatively impacted Cuba's economic, commercial and financial situation even more, making the lives of Cuban citizens more complicated, which is a flagrant violation of human rights, in particular the right to development.

In the light of this situation, the Republic of Angola reiterates its position, which it has defended over the years, on the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba, based on respect for, and compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations of States under international law.

Angola also defends and supports the normalization of bilateral relations between the two countries, in order for Cuba to be able to re-enter international trade, with a view to relaunching its economy, as well as guaranteeing the well-being of its population.

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]
[27 March 2023]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, the principles of 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 at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba by the United States of America, despite the overwhelming support of Member States for General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), previous resolutions against the embargo and other relevant international treaties.

Furthermore, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution [77/7](#), the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of 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.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has staunchly advocated in various international forums the ending of the embargo and its consequential inhumane impact on the population of Cuba. The unilateral imposition of 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 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda recalls and affirms the position of regional and interregional bodies, such as the Caribbean Community, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda therefore calls upon the United States of America to put an end to its embargo against the Republic of Cuba. Ending the embargo would significantly contribute to regional development and to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the Caribbean and the Americas.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda therefore wishes to reaffirm its unwavering friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Republic of Cuba, and has voted in favour of resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba since its first introduction in the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in 1991. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will continue to vote in favour of the resolution until the embargo is repealed.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[3 February 2023]

The Government of the Argentine Republic has fully implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolution 77/7 of 3 November 2022 and previous General 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 the position set out above, Argentina supported the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 45th annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 30 November 2021, and the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 46th annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 23 September 2022. Paragraphs 294 and 293 of those declarations reaffirm the call upon the Government of the United States to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba and express 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 of 24 January 2023 on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo of the United States of America against Cuba, within the framework of the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Buenos Aires.

Armenia

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

Armenia's national legislation does not promulgate or apply any laws or regulations, as referred to in General Assembly resolution 77/7, 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 negative position against the policy of economic blockades and closed borders, itself being subject to a continuing blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Australia

[Original: English]
[14 March 2023]

The Government of Australia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 77/7. Since 1996, Australia has voted in favour of Cuba's annual resolution in the Assembly calling for an end to the trade embargo of Cuba. While Australia does not have any trade or economic legislation or measures that restrict or discourage trade or investment to or from Cuba, the embargo remains an impediment to trade.

Azerbaijan

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

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 undertake appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with Cuba.

Bahamas

[Original: English]
[21 March 2023]

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.

In this context, 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, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

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]
[3 March 2023]

The Kingdom of Bahrain, in keeping with the principles and purposes set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, has consistently supported the General Assembly resolutions on 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 77/7, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 2022.

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

The Government of Bangladesh has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 77/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”. Bangladesh has consistently supported previous resolutions on this item in the Assembly and also voted in favour of the aforementioned resolution.

Barbados

[Original: English]
[2 February 2023]

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 for 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. In this regard, Barbados has voted in favour of the resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba since it was first 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. Cuba’s support to Barbados has been mirrored by support to countries across the entire Caribbean region.

The Government of Barbados was honoured to host the Eighth Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-Cuba Summit in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 6 December 2022. During that meeting, the Heads of States and Government of CARICOM and of the Republic of Cuba used the occasion to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the independent States of CARICOM and Cuba and the twentieth anniversary of CARICOM-Cuba Day.

The Government of Barbados reiterates its strong support for the most recent resolution on the issue, resolution 77/7, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 2022, 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]
[10 March 2023]

The Republic of Belarus categorically opposes the application of any unilateral restrictive measures against sovereign States Members of the United Nations. The principal aim of States that use illegal restrictive measures is to inflict maximum economic harm on another State and overthrow its existing Government.

Recourse to unilateral restrictions represents direct interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, in gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Such actions are also contrary to the principle of multilateral cooperation: they undermine international relations and foment hostility among the subjects of international law.

The more than 60-year-old economic, trade and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is a flagrant violation of the human rights of all inhabitants of the island and constitutes an act of genocide under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The economic embargo against Cuba has become the longest, most inhumane act of economic warfare ever perpetrated against a sovereign State. Its effects continue to limit the possibilities for the country's economic growth, curb foreign investment, hinder trade relations with third countries and create the maximum possible barriers to banking and other financial operations.

The extraterritorial extension of those restrictive measures is in direct violation of the legitimate rights of other States to fully cooperate with Havana.

Belarus appeals to the United States to reconsider its decision on the embargo against Cuba.

Belize

[Original: English]
[22 March 2023]

Belize 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 freedom of international trade and navigation, which also form fundamental principles of international law. 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, which 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]
[10 March 2023]

On 3 November 2022, Benin took an active part in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/7 entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”. This stance proves that Benin has remained faithful to the principles and values to which it is committed, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and 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 77/7, 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 embargo and the repeal of extraterritorial laws whose effects harm not only the Cuban people but also trade relations between Cuba and third countries.

Benin calls for specific measures to be taken with a view to fully and definitively lifting the embargo 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 of America can normalize their bilateral relations once and for all, for the happiness and prosperity of their two peoples.

Bhutan

[Original: English]
[17 March 2023]

The Royal Government of Bhutan has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 77/7 and has consistently supported similar resolutions in the Assembly and voted in their favour.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

[Original: Spanish]

[27 March 2023]

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. That is also 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 embargo against Cuba.

On 3 November 2022, the General Assembly adopted resolution 77/7 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, 74/7 and 75/289, which after almost 30 years remain ineffective given the persistence of the economic, commercial and financial embargo 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 refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures contrary to the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and despite the call to respect the sovereignty of States, non-intervention, non-interference, and freedom of international trade and navigation, Cuba still remains under an embargo that is illegitimate and contrary to international law and that 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, Bolivia sent donations of medicines and medical supplies to Cuba twice in 2021 and a third time in 2022 in shipments containing 20 tons of food and 10 tons of medicines and medical supplies.

During the 2022 fiscal year, several high-level meetings were held to address issues of joint cooperation in the development of pharmaceuticals, cooperation for consular assistance and areas that will strengthen sustainable development.

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 will continue to call 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 reasoning that runs counter to international law.

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 77/7

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 77/7. In this regard, 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 77/7

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 77/7, 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]

[27 March 2023]

Bosnia and Herzegovina, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, supported General Assembly resolution 77/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted on 3 November 2022.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in resolution 77/7 and is ready to develop cooperation with Cuba at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

Botswana

[Original: English]

[31 March 2023]

Botswana has not promulgated, applied or enforced any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 77/7 of 3 November 2022, 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 reflected by our vote in favour of 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.

Brazil

[Original: English]

[29 March 2023]

Brazil reiterates its firm opposition to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, as well as to the extraterritorial application of discriminatory domestic trade laws.

Brazil condemns the embargo and for decades has been advocating with the Government of the United States of America for the normalization of relations with Cuba. The rejection of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba since 1962 is a virtual international consensus.

The inclusion of Cuba in the United States list of State sponsors of terrorism on 12 January 2021, exacerbates the impact of the economic embargo. The measure imposes additional restrictions, such as the prohibition of exports to Cuba of products with a percentage greater than 15 per cent of United States components, along with the limitation of humanitarian assistance provided by the United States. Brazil expresses its concern about the aggravation of the negative effects of the embargo resulting from that measure.

After three years of absence, Brazil was fully reincorporated into the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on 4 January 2023. The President of the Republic participated in the seventh CELAC Summit held in Buenos Aires on 24 January 2023. A special declaration was issued on that occasion on the need to end the economic blockade against Cuba. In addition to condemning the embargo, the statement rejected the inclusion of Cuba in the United States list of State sponsors of terrorism.

Intensifying economic relations with Cuba is the correct path that should be followed by all countries interested in supporting the development of the island and the improvement of the living conditions of millions of Cuban citizens. The embargo harms the Cuban people, mainly the poorest ones, who suffer the impact of such unilateral measures through economic uncertainty and unemployment.

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

Brunei Darussalam reaffirms its commitment to upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam therefore opposes the use of unilateral sanctions as it contravenes international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

In line with this consistent and principled opposition to the use of unilateral sanctions, and in view of the adverse effects of such sanctions on the economic and social development of affected countries, Brunei Darussalam reiterates its support for all General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba, including General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[29 March 2023]

The Government of Burkina Faso maintains normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of 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 its obligations under 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 77/7, adopted on 3 November 2022.

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 against 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]
[22 March 2023]

The position of the Government of the Republic 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]
[20 March 2023]

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 laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 77/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by United States of America against Cuba”, adopted on 3 November 2023.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

The Royal Government of Cambodia reaffirms its unwavering support for General Assembly resolution 77/7 and calls for the lifting of the United States of America’s economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Cambodia considers this unilateral coercive measure contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, multilateralism and free trade regulations.

The Royal Government of Cambodia fully respects and complies with all provisions under the framework of the United Nations and persistently joins the international community’s efforts to support Cuba’s struggle for justice. Cambodia extends sympathy to the people and the Government of the Republic of Cuba, who have been suffering from the tightening of this policy and the setback in bilateral relations imposed by the Government of the United States for more than six decades. Consequently, this blockade has also affected those who wish to engage in commercial relations with Cuba.

The Royal Government of Cambodia once again strongly rejects the imposition of illegal sanctions and urges the Government of the United States of America to implement in full the General Assembly resolutions by completely and unconditionally putting an end to the unjustified sanctions against Cuba for the benefit of the nations and people.

Cameroon

[Original: French]
[16 May 2023]

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.

Pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, together with previous resolutions on the subject, and in accordance with the above-mentioned principles, Cameroon has never adopted laws or regulations intended to strengthen or extend the blockade against Cuba.

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

Canada

[Original: English]
[24 March 2023]

The Government of Canada confirms its support of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#). 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 continue 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]
[10 May 2023]

The position of the Central African Republic regarding the complete elimination of the blockade against Cuba remains unchanged.

The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba for more than 60 years has caused serious harm to the Government and people of Cuba on all levels. The vote against the embargo has always been adopted by an overwhelming majority of Member States in the General Assembly.

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 enshrined in 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]
[24 March 2023]

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 77/7 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 3 November 2022. 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 of America 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]
[2 March 2023]

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]
[23 February 2023]

For 30 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, urging all countries to comply with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and to repeal or nullify any laws or 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 yet to be lifted. This not only runs counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, but has also caused immense economic and financial losses for Cuba, hindered efforts by the Cuban people aimed at poverty eradication, economic and social development and the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, impaired their right to survival and the right to development and disrupted the normal economic, commercial and financial exchanges between Cuba and other countries.

China has always advocated respect for countries' right to independently choose their own social system and path of development, and opposed the imposition of military, political, economic or any other means of unilateral coercive measures against other countries. China has been strictly abiding by and implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. China and Cuba maintain sound economic and trade relations, as well as people-to-people exchanges, and the mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation between the two countries in various areas continues to grow. This meets 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 prevailing trend of the times. Equal dialogue and friendly consultation are the best way to resolve differences. China calls upon the United States to fully lift its embargo against Cuba 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 would be beneficial to the peace and stability of the entire region.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[30 March 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Colombia reiterates that, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, it has not promulgated or applied any laws or unilateral measures against Cuba.

Colombia is acting in accordance with its policy of respect for international law and adherence to the principles of political independence, self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Colombia promotes the independent development of the internal policies of each nation and considers that it would be appropriate for all types of measures that threaten economic development, the development of trade and the well-being of populations to cease.

Lastly, Colombia considers it essential for Member States to make progress in building cooperative and friendly relations based on the promotion and protection of human rights and democracy, respect for the sovereignty and autonomy of peoples, peaceful coexistence, good neighbourliness, multilateralism, respect for the principle of sovereign equality and other provisions enshrined in Chapter I of the Charter of the United Nations.

Comoros

[Original: French]
[12 April 2023]

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 77/7 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 with Cuba in all those sectors.

Congo

[Original: French]
[12 May 2023]

The Republic of the Congo, in its desire to promote strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, has repeatedly called for the unconditional lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba by the United States of America.

The Government of the Republic of the Congo has always maintained friendly, multifaceted relations with the Republic of Cuba. The Republic of the Congo has continuously voted in favour of 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”. It has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, trade or financial relations between the two countries.

The Republic of the Congo believes that the embargo imposed against Cuba for over 60 years continues to inflict untold suffering on the Cuban people, and always calls for it to be lifted in its statements in the General Assembly.

The Republic of the Congo regrets that the current context of multidimensional crises has not allowed for the relaxation or, better still, the total lifting of the embargo, which runs counter to the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference and the right of peoples to self-determination.

The Government of the Republic of the Congo, as in the past, totally rejects the imposition of unilateral extraterritorial laws and decisions and all unilateral coercive measures that stand in the way of the realization of human rights and the well-being and prosperity of peoples. It takes this opportunity to reaffirm the urgent need to unconditionally lift the blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[30 March 2023]

The Government of Costa Rica, which is committed to effective multilateralism, reaffirms its full support for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the sovereign equality of States,

non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs, and freedom of international trade and navigation. Accordingly, it has applied and will continue to apply General Assembly resolution 77/7, as well as previous General Assembly resolutions on the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba since 1992.

With regard to the implementation of paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 77/7, the Government of Costa Rica has not implemented, nor will it implement in the future, measures, laws, policies or actions that are contrary to international law and violate or limit the freedom of trade and navigation. Costa Rica reiterates that the extraterritorial application of unilateral coercive measures is contrary to international law. It also reiterates that any type of political, economic or military sanction imposed on States must be based on a decision or recommendation of the Security Council or the General Assembly.

Costa Rica has highlighted in various regional and international forums the call upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba. In that regard, it reiterates that it is concerned about the inclusion and maintenance of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism – which makes commercial and financial operations difficult – especially given the high costs and negative consequences that this inclusion entails for the Cuban people.

The combined effects of a multidimensional crisis at the global level, together with the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the cooling of relations between the two countries, the continuation of the blockade policy and the intensification of that policy with the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, are undeniably having a negative impact on the living conditions of the Cuban people and on third parties that engage in legitimate commercial and investment activities in Cuba. Costa Rica is firmly convinced that differences between States can be addressed only through direct dialogue, multilateral mechanisms and international law and urges the Governments of Cuba and the United States of America to deepen their dialogue in order to resolve all outstanding issues, including the matter of the lifting of the blockade.

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.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]
[29 March 2023]

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 77/7, 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 July 2023]

Introduction

The economic, commercial and financial blockade has been the central element of United States policy towards Cuba for more than six decades. The effects of this undeclared war against the economy and society, and the daily life and dreams of progress of more than 11 million Cubans, have not ceased for a single day. More than 80 per cent of the current population of Cuba has known Cuba only under the blockade.

The present report covers the harm caused by this policy between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023, a period that saw the continued and deliberate application of the maximum pressure measures introduced during the Administration of Donald Trump, the continuation in force of the laws that make up the system of unilateral coercive measures, and the inertia and inaction of the current Administration of President Joseph Biden with regard to driving real progress in bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States.

The Administration of Joseph Biden has not been able to formulate its own policy towards Cuba so as to deliver on the electoral promises that underpinned the Democratic Party's platform in 2020. In practice, the most hostile actions against the island have continued unabated and are still causing significant harm to all Cubans.

The most severe current aspects of the hostile policy of the United States towards Cuba are the possibility of filing claims in the United States courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act; the continued presence of Cuba on the arbitrary list of State sponsors of terrorism drawn up by the United States Department of State; interference with the country's financial and commercial transactions; the impossibility of processing non-immigrant visas in Havana; the intimidation of companies that send fuel supplies to the island; attempts to thwart the recovery of the tourism sector following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and the smear campaign against Cuban medical cooperation programmes.

These measures are particularly harmful in the context of an international economy that is in crisis and that is increasingly interconnected, interdependent and subject to the dictates of the financial centres of power that are controlled from Washington.

In addition to the heightened effects of the blockade, Cuba has faced the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which extends to all areas of the country's socioeconomic life, as well as the combined impact of a multidimensional crisis at the global level.

The Government of the United States opportunistically saw in the situation arising from COVID-19 an ally for its hostile policy against Cuba. The malicious intent to strengthen the blockade in these circumstances reveals its particular inhumanity and its strong interest in taking advantage of the economic downturn caused by the pandemic across the world to foment social instability and bring the Cuban people to its knees through hunger and desperation.

During the period under review, therefore, the policy has had a more malign and harmful dimension from the humanitarian point of view.

The blockade causes extreme direct harm through the comprehensive machinery of its measures, but at the same time it has the cruel practical purpose of depriving the country of the financial revenue that is essential in order to procure food, supplies, equipment, spare parts, technology and software, in the midst of the shortages, long queues and anxiety that now characterize Cubans' daily lives. This is real harm that is reflected in particular in the country's deteriorating socioeconomic indicators.

In addition, United States communication and intelligence entities are waging a media crusade against Cuba to construct a distorted reality at the virtual level, foment discontent, create a perception of domestic political crisis, discredit government institutions and minimize the country's enormous efforts to overcome the challenges of a blockaded economy.

Even though the Government of Cuba has prioritized taking care of human beings, the blockade has had an undeniable impact on the quality of life and on the services provided to the population, which has never before faced such extreme shortages of medicines, food and fuel as in the past few years. These circumstances are not only causing a deterioration in physical living conditions but are also harmful to human dignity.

The increase in emigration from Cuba is directly linked to the tightening of the blockade. Those who do not recognize that this policy is the main cause of the country's worsening economic situation, and that it has led a substantial number of Cubans to seek other means of personal fulfilment outside Cuba, would not be telling the truth.

From 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023, the blockade caused an estimated \$4,867 million in losses to Cuba, representing a shortfall of more than \$405 million dollars per month, more than \$13 million per day and more than \$555,000 for each hour of the blockade.

This amount reflects the intensified impact of the blockade on Cuban exports, mainly in the tourism sector, the ruthless interference with the country's banking and financial operations, the costs of geographical relocation of trade, the effects on production and services provided to the population, and the obstacles to accessing advanced technologies.

It is estimated that, without the blockade, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Cuba could have grown by 9 per cent in 2022.

At current prices, the losses accumulated over more than six decades of enforcement of the policy amount to \$159,084,300,000. Taking into account the performance of the dollar against the price of gold on the international market, the blockade has caused quantifiable losses of more than \$1,337,057,000,000, a figure lower than that contained in the previous report, which covered August 2021 to February 2022, as the price of gold at the end of February 2023 had fallen by 4.2 per cent in comparison with the same month in 2022.

No other people has had to undertake a social and development project under such conditions, with such systematic and prolonged hostility on the part of the largest power that humanity has ever known. Nonetheless, under the worst circumstances and most criminal pressures, Cuba was able to defeat the severe COVID-19 pandemic through its own efforts and talent.

The blockade constitutes a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of all Cubans. Because of its stated purpose and the political, legal and administrative framework on which it is based, it constitutes an act of genocide under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

This unilateral policy is the main obstacle to the implementation of the National Plan for the Economic and Social Development of Cuba until 2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Few issues have managed to unite the international community as much as the condemnation of the blockade. More and more forces and actors around the world are taking responsibility for denouncing the inhumane and illegal policy at every opportunity and in every forum. The present report is intended to contribute to those efforts.

1. Continuity and tightening of the blockade policy

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

Contrary to the provisions of resolution 77/7 of the United Nations General Assembly, the State and government agencies of the United States, including the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Commerce, strictly apply the provisions of the blockade against Cuba. During the period covered by the present report, the following United States laws and regulations remained in force:

- The Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917, section 5 (b), provides that the President may impose coercive measures in time of war or any other national emergency, and prohibits trading with the enemy or with allies of the enemy during hostilities. Although in 1977 the International Emergency Economic Powers Act restricted the powers of the President to impose measures on the basis of “national emergencies”, the Trading with the Enemy Act continued to apply to Cuba, without the declaration of a national emergency.
- The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 authorizes the United States President to establish and maintain a total “embargo” upon trade with Cuba, and prohibits the granting of any aid to the Government of Cuba. It provides that United States government funds earmarked for international aid and delivered to international agencies cannot be used for programmes involving Cuba. It prohibits the granting to Cuba of any assistance mentioned in that Act or any other benefit mentioned in any other Act, until such time as the President determines that Cuba has taken action to return to United States citizens and entities no less than 50 per cent of the value of properties nationalized by the Government of Cuba following the triumph of the Revolution, or to provide equitable compensation for such properties.
- Proclamation 3447, issued on 3 February 1962 by 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.
- The Cuban Assets Control Regulations of the Department of the Treasury of 1963, under which all Cuban assets in the United States are frozen, all financial and commercial transactions are prohibited unless approved under a licence, Cuban exports to the United States are prohibited and any natural or legal person from the United States or a third country is prohibited from conducting transactions in United States dollars with Cuba, among other provisions.
- The Export Administration Act of 1979, section 2401 (b) (1), “National security controls”, “Policy toward individual countries”, establishes 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.

- The Export Administration Regulations of 1979 establish the terms for general controls over items and activities subject to control under the Regulations, in accordance with the measures imposed by the Government of the United States. They establish a general policy of denying exports and re-exports to Cuba.
- The Cuban Democracy Act (Torricelli Act) of 1992 prohibits the subsidiaries of United States companies in third countries from trading in goods with Cuba or with Cuban nationals. It prohibits third-country vessels that have visited a Cuban port from entering United States territory within 180 days without a licence from the Secretary of the Treasury.
- The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996, or Helms-Burton Act, codifies the provisions of the blockade and expands its extraterritorial scope through the imposition of penalties on directors of foreign companies that conduct transactions involving United States property nationalized in Cuba and the threat of lawsuits in United States courts. It also limits the President's powers to lift the blockade as a whole.
- Section 211 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999 prohibits United States courts from recognizing the rights of Cuban companies to trademarks associated with nationalized property.
- The Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 authorizes the export of agricultural products to Cuba, on condition that payment is made in cash and in advance, and without United States financing. It prohibits travel to Cuba for tourist activities by United States persons, defining tourist activity as any activity involving travel to, from or within Cuba that is not explicitly authorized under Title 31, section 515.560, of the Code of Federal Regulations. In other words, it limits travel to the 12 categories authorized when it was enacted.

1.2 Principal blockade actions taken between March 2022 and February 2023

Between March 2022 and February 2023, the Administration of Joseph Biden rigorously applied his predecessor's policy of maximum pressure against and suffocation of Cuba. The blockade had a negative impact, in absolute terms, on all sectors of the country's economy.

The continued false classification of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism, the possibility of filing claims in United States courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, the extensive interference with Cuban financial transactions and the consequent obstacles to the supply of fuel to the country, as well as the existence of unilateral lists that prevent financial transactions with Cuban entities, were the most severe provisions.

On 16 May 2022, the Government of the United States announced a set of measures on visas, regular migration, flights and remittances. Although these new provisions were steps in the right direction, they did not amend the most harmful aspects of the blockade, nor did they reverse the most aggressive measures imposed against Cuba by the Administration of Donald Trump.

During the period covered by the present report, the President of the United States extended severe laws and provisions related to Cuba, the impact of which exacerbated the harmful consequences of the blockade. In that regard, the following were the most important official announcements:

- On 11 May 2022, the Secretary of State 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, thereby confirming the inclusion of Cuba on the

list of such countries for the third consecutive time. The measure took effect on 20 May 2022, following its publication in the Federal Register.

- On 2 September 2022, President Joseph Biden extended the blockade restrictions against Cuba under the Trading with the Enemy Act for one year. The decision was made public through a White House press release.
- On 14 October 2022, by Presidential Policy Directive, Joseph Biden extended for one year the restrictions on granting federal funds for cultural and educational exchanges with Cuba, among other measures. That action was owing to the island remaining in tier 3 in the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report.
- On 30 November 2022, the Department of Justice published a recommendation made by the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector to the Federal Communications Commission that it deny an application for a licence for the ARCOS-1 submarine cable system, which sought to add a landing point in Cuba. The Committee's arguments included the alleged counter-intelligence threat posed by Cuba to the United States and the designation of the country as a State sponsor of terrorism.

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, strengthened the extraterritorial reach of the blockade against Cuba. In addition to seeking the imposition in Cuba of a Government directly subordinated to the interests of Washington, D.C., the Act was designed to internationalize the blockade through coercive measures intended 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 natural and legal persons 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.

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.

In this regard, the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan, in a keynote address delivered on 4 May 2023 at the University of Havana during her academic visit to the island, said that all these sanctions are so complex and comprehensive that not even the so-called Blockade Statute of the European Union fully protects its own companies that wish to conduct operations with Cuba, even though those countries reject the Helms-Burton Act.

The possibility of bringing an action against the alleged beneficiaries of “trafficking” has been consistently suspended every six months since 1996 by all Presidents of the United States by virtue of an exception, contained in the Act, under which they are 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 consider the actions brought.

The decision has not been reversed by the Biden Administration. As a result, United States and third-country companies that have done or do business with Cuba, as well as national companies, continue to be affected.

As at 31 March 2023, a total of 42 Title III actions had been filed. Specifically, between March 2022 and February 2023, the following announcements were made:

- On 22 March 2022, plaintiffs Richard Sierra, Veronica Gooch, Roland Sierra, Lucia Lleras de Labrada and Priscilla Lleras-Bush filed a complaint in the District Court for the District of Delaware against Trafigura Trading, alleging that they are shareholders in the companies that own the Matahambre mines, the Santa Lucia port terminal in Pinar del Rio, docks, warehouses, commercial buildings, ranches, roads and a mineral processing plant, among other properties that were nationalized after the triumph of the Revolution in 1959.
- On 22 March 2022, United States plaintiff Central Santa Lucía, incorporated just prior to 12 March 1996 by the Sánchez Hill family, who claim to be owners of the Cuban company Central Santa Lucía, filed a lawsuit against Expedia Group in the District Court for the District of Delaware. The plaintiffs allege that Expedia Group made travel arrangements for stays at several luxury hotels in and around Holguín, which were allegedly built on land that had been owned by the Cuban company.

1.4 Impact of including Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism

On 11 January 2021, a few days after Donald Trump’s departure from the White House, the State Department of the United States announced that Cuba would once more be placed on the list of State sponsors of terrorism, on the basis of inconsistent arguments and without evidence. In the period covered by the present report, the Biden Administration maintained this designation, fully aware that there was no true justification for it.

The presence of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism entails severe consequences for the country’s economy, mainly in the banking and financial sector, while reinforcing the deterrent and intimidating effects on third parties in their commercial relations with Cuba. Its impact is extremely detrimental not only to trade, but also to the possibilities of obtaining credit and making payments for goods and supplies essential for the country’s development.

Owing to the classification of Cuba as a State that allegedly sponsors terrorism, during the reporting period numerous companies and financial entities around the world refused to engage with Cuba for fear of reprisals from the Government of the United States, specifically from the Department of the Treasury.

Dozens of banks suspended their operations with the country, including transfers for the purchase of food, medicines, fuel, materials, parts and other goods. Owing to this position, adopted by several financial institutions in respect of payment to suppliers, and the impossibility of gaining access to faster and more expeditious logistical routes, Cuba had to cover high additional costs to obtain priority supplies.

Likewise, more than 50 Cuban diplomatic missions faced difficulties with the banks that traditionally provided them with services, a situation that affected the

operation and maintenance of the country's embassies and consulates. The payment of its financial obligations to several international and regional organizations was also seriously affected.

Cuba cannot obtain goods and technologies manufactured in third countries that contain more than 10 per cent United States components, which poses an additional obstacle owing to its presence on the list. In practice, this restriction had already been imposed on Cuba prior to its designation as a State sponsor of terrorism.

As a result of this measure, the nationals of the countries that benefit from the Electronic System for Travel Authorization to enter United States territory were not able to benefit from the visa waiver programme with the United States but had to formally apply for a visa to enter that country if they visited Cuba after 1 March 2011. Press reports from several countries reported the warnings of European Governments to their citizens about this provision, which in practice threatens tourism, one of the main industries of Cuba.

Some restrictive provisions associated with inclusion on the list of State sponsors of terrorism are reflected in United States federal laws:

- The Export Administration Act of 1979 restricts trade benefits, foreign aid and support from international financial institutions to listed countries. Special licences or permits are required to export most goods to listed States.
- The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 prohibits the granting of any "aid" to the Government of a country that "has repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism".
- The Arms Export Control Act of 1968 prohibits the export or transfer of any type of munitions to a country whose Government "has repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism".
- The Export Administration Act of 1979 and the Arms Export Control Act prohibit the sale or export of defence goods and defence services if the President determines and certifies to Congress, by 15 May of each year, that the country "is not cooperating fully with United States antiterrorism efforts". The list of States that "do not cooperate fully with United States antiterrorism efforts" currently includes Cuba.
- An amendment to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 permits litigation against a listed State or its officials.

In the case of Cuba, some of these restrictions provide an additional legal foundation for the prohibitions that already apply to our country owing to the blockade. That is to say, they coincide with the provisions of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, which are the legal framework for the system of unilateral coercive measures.

Concrete examples of the impact of those measures on Cuba and third country nationals will be presented in the sections on sectoral impacts throughout the present report.

1.5 Powers of the President of the United States to modify the application of the blockade

With President William Clinton's signature of the Helms-Burton Act on 12 March 1996, the blockade against Cuba and the string of executive orders supporting this policy were codified in law. Since then, the United States Congress has become the body empowered to revoke the laws underlying the blockade and to decree the end thereof.

The Act itself provides for the maintenance of presidential powers to allow certain transactions through the issuance of licences, which makes it possible to dismantle blockade restrictions by means of executive actions. Therefore, on the basis of his broad powers, the President of the United States may announce substantive amendments to the provisions of the blockade through changes in the regulations of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Commerce, such as:

- Reversing the policy of financial persecution against Cuba.
- Enabling Cuban entities, including banks or businesses, to open correspondent accounts in United States banks.
- Authorizing the export to Cuba of United States products for key branches of the Cuban economy, such as mining, tourism and biotechnology.
- Authorizing the import to the United States of any goods made or derived from products grown, produced or manufactured in Cuba by State enterprises (nickel, sugar, tobacco, rum, etc.).
- Allowing the export to Cuba of medical supplies and equipment that could be used to produce Cuban biotechnology products.
- Relaxing the licensing policy on investments by United States companies in Cuba.
- Authorizing United States citizens to receive medical treatment in Cuba.
- Modifying the limit of 10 per cent United States components in the goods that Cuba can import from any country in the world.

There are only certain aspects of the blockade that the President of the United States cannot reverse, because they require action by the United States Congress for their elimination or modification, namely:

- The rule that prohibits United States subsidiaries in third countries from trading with Cuba (Torricelli Act).
- The ban on transactions with United States properties that were nationalized in Cuba (Helms-Burton Act).
- The Act that prevents United States citizens from visiting Cuba as tourists (Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000).
- The ban on granting financing for the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba (Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000).

The President of the United States could make use of his broad powers if there were the will to alleviate the harm caused by the blockade to the Cuban people and to overcome the greatest obstacle to the economic, commercial and financial relations of Cuba with the United States and the rest of the world, as well as to the well-being of the Cuban people.

2. The blockade violates the rights of the Cuban people

2.1 Social impact

Seventy-three per cent of the Cuban State budget in 2022 was allocated entirely to sectors with the greatest impact on the population, including health, education and social security. This is a government strategy of profound humanist conviction that is constantly affected by actions taken as part of the blockade, which is aimed at turning into setbacks the achievements of Cuba in human development over more than 60 years.

During the reporting period, this policy caused health sector losses of \$239,803,690, which is nearly \$80 million more than the losses reported in the period prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (from April 2019 to March 2020). The accumulated losses to services in this area during more than six decades of application of the blockade amount to \$3,625,840,594.

The cancellation of contracts, the increase in marketing costs and the growing pressure on banks in every corner of the globe have had a significant negative impact on the process of procuring supplies to support the sustainability of the health system. This impact has been compounded by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While COVID-19 claimed millions of lives around the world and strained the Cuban health system, which is public, free and universal, the Government of the United States did not implement a single measure to alleviate the blockade. Instead, this inhumane policy was further tightened, causing difficulties and delays in the arrival of vital medical supplies and equipment, including for the industrial scale-up of Cuban vaccines. Even the purchase of medical oxygen in third countries was hindered.

The vile and deliberate action of preventing the supply of pulmonary ventilators when they were most needed by our health system made clear the profoundly inhumane nature of this policy, as well as its impact on the right to life. The Cuban people were able to overcome these challenges and develop their national production with their own prototypes.

The exceptional conditions under which Cuba had to face SARS-CoV-2 were recognized by the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan, during her keynote address given at the University of Havana on 4 May 2023 as part of her academic visit to the island: she noted that Cuba was the only country where AliExpress was unable to collect and deliver donations because of the deterrent effect of the unilateral sanctions of the United States, and said that that was illegal.

In recent years, dozens of suppliers around the world have severed their relations with Cuba. As a result, the pharmaceutical industry has faced unprecedented strains, to the extent that its supply line has been severely affected. The negative effect of the blockade on the country's purchasing power has also limited the possibility of allocating additional resources to medicines, which, without this policy, would be obtained at a price three or four times lower than their current price.

These severe limitations adversely affect the quality of the services provided to the Cuban population, as they lead to delays, waiting lists for specialized medical care, longer hospital stays and other negative consequences, with a direct impact on national health indicators.

To mention just one example, the infant mortality rate was reported at 7.5 per 1,000 live births in 2022, whereas, prior to 2019, it had been successfully maintained around or below 5 per 1,000 live births. The growing financial limitations, the impossibility of accessing essential supplies for the National Maternal and Child Health Programme and the persecution of the traditional partners of Cuba for supplying medicines, equipment and technologies, among other things, have had a direct impact on the full realization of the right to health. No country deserves to be subjected to such conditions of harassment and cruelty.

These circumstances have led to the emergence of solidarity projects within Cuban communities that seek to support the Government in its efforts to alleviate the current difficult situation.

This is the case of the "From the Heart" network, an initiative of young people who have taken on the task of creating a platform to collect medicines and donate

them to the most vulnerable people. Various solidarity organizations and movements in the United States have donated to the network, including Bridges of Love, the Los Angeles Tenants Union, Put People First! PA and United States Hands Off Cuba, despite the many obstacles that they have faced in getting supplies into the country.

Contrary to the will of the people of the United States and the country's own scientific community, the Government continues to impose barriers to broader and more fruitful bilateral health cooperation.

In this regard, Grettel Gómez González, a young Cuban university student and founder of the network, has said: "If the initiative of individuals or small groups can mobilize efforts to bring medicines to Cuba, how beneficial would a direct relationship between Cuban pharmaceutical laboratories and their United States counterparts be?"

During the period covered by the present report, the company MediCuba made 69 requests to United States companies to access resources and other supplies needed for the national health system, in particular for the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology. Three companies (Thermo Fisher Scientific, New England BioLabs and Agilent) refused the requests, while 64 companies did not respond.

In Cuba, approximately 450 new cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed annually. A girl who was barely six years old had to undergo surgery to partially remove a grade 4 tumour located in the intracranial area. Although she has been guaranteed chemotherapy treatment for the tumour, it has not been possible to administer lomustine, a medication that cannot be accessed because of the blockade and that constitutes the first line of treatment for this type of high-grade tumour that affects the central nervous system. Currently, the patient has relapsed and is undergoing salvage therapy. For this little girl, as for other Cuban children, the blockade continues to be a matter of life and death.

Currently, there are 20,000 Cuban families awaiting diagnoses of genetic diseases that have not been properly treated owing to lack of access to the required technology, which contains more than 10 per cent components made in the United States. To mention just one example, Chroma, a North American company, has prohibited Cuba from accessing supplies for CytoVision systems installed in national medical genetics centres, which include immunofluorescence microscopes.

The Japanese company JASCO, a manufacturer of spare parts for laboratory equipment, refused to sell products to Cuba owing to its policy of not engaging with countries that are on the list of State sponsors of terrorism issued by the United States Department of State. These measures have a particularly harsh impact on the most vulnerable individuals.

A Cuban girl only 2 years old was taken to a genetic consultation before her first birthday. Her family identified a significant curvature of her spinal column and a bulging in the thoracic region. Geneticists suspected Kozlowski syndrome, a severe bone dysplasia that affects the spine and the metaphyses of all the body's long bones. There are around 1,000 cases in the world. The blockade prevented the diagnosis of the disease in Cuba because the required technology is not available. It was necessary to pay for studies in an international laboratory, where the condition was confirmed.

An 8-year-old boy, residing in the eastern region of the country, was brought to a clinical genetics consultation in 2018, when he was just 3 years old. He presented with general muscle weakness, and it was suspected that he had a congenital myopathy of unknown cause. The unavailability of the necessary laboratory technology prevented a conclusive diagnosis. It took three years, significant efforts and costly research abroad to arrive at a final diagnosis, which was confirmed in

December 2021, when the boy was 6 years old. The child suffers from Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease, a type of leukodystrophy that involves an abnormality of the white matter that covers the nerve fibres. Only 1 in 400,000 people in the world suffer from the disease.

Cuba is unable to purchase phosphorus binders from United States companies; specifically, it is unable to purchase sevelamer, which is used in the treatment of paediatric patients with kidney diseases. Failure to promptly administer the drug puts patients at risk for developing renal osteodystrophy, which causes severe bone abnormalities that progress to disability.

Cuban newborns with acute renal failure face difficulties in receiving necessary dialysis owing to the lack of catheters of the recommended calibres for newborns. These supplies could not be obtained because they are manufactured by United States companies that are prohibited from having any ties with Cuba. As a result, it has been necessary to use catheters of larger calibre to save the lives of these newborns.

Nutricia, a multinational company based in the Netherlands, continued to refuse to sell products to Cuba for its National Maternal and Child Health Programme, citing the reactivation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. These products are nutritional supplements for medical purposes for children suffering from diseases associated with inborn errors of metabolism, as well as other parenteral nutrition products for newborns with very low birth weight, protein allergies or very poor absorption of nutrients, including Anamix Junior, Anamix Infant, XP Maxamum and Neocate.

It is also not possible to access molecular diagnostics to personalize the treatment of patients with breast cancer or colon cancer and to predict the risk of relapse. As a result of the current difficulties, the waiting list extends up to three months for diagnosis and follow-up with cancer patients, which directly affects the quality of the services provided.

Novel oncology drugs produced by North American pharmaceutical companies are not available to Cuba. These drugs include abiraterone acetate for the treatment of castration-resistant prostate cancer, manufactured by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson; pemetrexed, for lung adenocarcinoma, marketed by Eli Lilly and Pfizer; and sunitinib, a drug for metastatic renal carcinoma, also produced by Pfizer.

Cuba does not have access to United States-made medications such as memantine, donepezil and rivastigmine for the treatment of dementia or to insulin analogues for diabetes mellitus in older populations.

The drug nusinersen is used to treat infantile-onset spinal muscular atrophy. The drug is expensive, costing approximately a quarter of a million dollars per year of treatment, but it keeps more than half of children with this deadly disease alive, which demonstrates its effectiveness. It is produced only by the United States multinational company Biogen; therefore, it is not available to Cuban patients.

Deep brain stimulation devices and invasive vagus nerve stimulation devices are therapeutic alternatives that have proved to be effective in several clinical trials for the treatment of some patients with movement disorders and epilepsy. These devices are mainly produced and marketed by three United States companies – Medtronic, Boston Scientific and St. Jude Medical, Inc. – which are not authorized to sell to Cuba.

Cuba has also been denied the purchase of the da Vinci Xi Surgical System Model IS4000 surgical robot, depriving our patients of the possibilities offered by the safest and most precise robotic surgery.

Currently, it is extremely costly to update the technology for the comprehensive therapeutic treatment of burn patients. There are no bathtubs, dermatomes, endoscopic

surgical instruments, skin substitutes, biological dressings or first-line antiseptic solutions for critical burn care.

The Swiss banks UBS, Bank Cler and Basler Kantonalbank refused to transfer donations made to Cuba by the Swiss solidarity organizations MediCuba-Suisse and Switzerland-Cuba Association, which were intended for the purchase of surgical instruments for the burns and reconstructive surgery unit of Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital.

During the period covered by the present report, the fulfilment of a gases contract with the German company Westfalen for the launch of a capnograph, a piece of equipment used for measuring the carbon dioxide exhaled by a patient, was cancelled. The supplier claimed that, because of the blockade, it could be included in a blacklist, which would mean that it could not obtain supplies from any other United States company.

The Cuban digital medical technology company Combiomed experienced difficulties in obtaining spare parts for Hipermax BF equipment for self-measurement of blood pressure and oximetry modules for the production of the Doctus VIII patient monitor required in intensive care units because the carrier claimed that the company was on the list of entities under United States sanctions.

The losses in the area of stomatological care have been substantial. There have been significant fluctuations in the supply of surgical and examination gloves, alginates, plaster and dental cements, among other things. During the period covered by the present report, production of more than 300 dental prostheses was stopped.

In addition, the United States Government has continued its hate campaign in an attempt to discredit and obstruct the international medical cooperation offered by Cuba, spreading slander persuading other States to refrain from requesting such cooperation. This is part of a deliberate attack to deprive Cuba of fair, honest and legitimate income earned through the efforts of thousands of professionals in the country who have received technical, humanist and ethical training.

The international community has recognized on many occasions the professionalism and altruism of the more than 605,000 Cuban health workers who, in the past 60 years, have carried out missions in 165 nations.

Thanks to the medical cooperation provided by Cuba, by the end of April 2023 more than 2,198 million patients had received care in consultations around the world; more than 10,035,000 lives had been saved; more than 5,112,000 births had taken place; and more than 16 million surgical procedures had been carried out. In addition, 57 medical brigades, with 22,632 members, offered their support in solidarity around the world.

The smear campaign conducted by the Government of the United States is immoral in any circumstances, and is particularly offensive in the context of post-pandemic recovery. Cuba supported efforts to combat SARS-CoV-2 in 42 countries and territories, to which 58 medical brigades travelled, in addition to the more than 27,000 health professionals who were already working in 59 nations. The brigades have cared for more than 4 million patients and have saved more than 80,000 lives. It is an effort that is consistent with the ethical and humanist principles on which Cuban society is built.

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

The Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutrition Security Act was adopted in Cuba in May 2022 in response to the express recognition in the Constitution of the right of persons to healthy and adequate nutrition. The Act governs the organization of local food systems that coordinate, in an intersectoral and inter-institutional manner, the production, processing, sale and consumption of food.

Despite the substantial resources and efforts directed by the Government of Cuba towards the development of the agricultural sector, the impact of the blockade in this area is significant. Between March 2022 and February 2023, losses of approximately \$273,390,800 were recorded.

The negative impact of the economic siege on access to supplies, raw materials, chemicals and technologies for production processes has led to a considerable decline in national production. To mention just one example, the Spanish-Cuban joint venture Bravo could have purchased 384 additional tons of meat raw material and produced 626.2 tons of finished product in the period under review if it had been able to obtain supplies directly from the United States market.

The shortage of agricultural machinery and animal feed, and the lack of parts, including spare parts, for equipment and industry, together with the shortage of fuel, have prevented the national agricultural system from being fully supplied to meet existing demand, both domestically and for foreign trade. In addition, since it is impossible to enter into contracts with a considerable number of shipping companies, supplies that have already been paid for cannot be brought into the country.

It is also impossible to procure medicines for cattle; in the past, these were mostly obtained from the German company Bayer. Following its merger with a United States consortium, the company has stopped doing business with Cuba.

In the period under review, the Cuban company Alimport reported losses of \$35,200,000, which represents 90 per cent of all the losses declared by the importers in the foreign trade business group Grupo Empresarial del Comercio Exterior de Cuba.

These losses are due in large part to the refusal of some 10 banks to process payments to the company's traditional suppliers for the supply of foods, including oats, grain, cacao and pig feed.

Similarly, the Canadian company Cypress View Land decided not to continue a grain production project with the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology because of the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. It claimed that itself and its partners conduct agricultural operations on United States land and could therefore be subject to legal action. The ability of their employees to travel to the United States could also be compromised.

In that sector, the main cause of the losses to Cuban exporters is the difficulty of offering Cuban tobacco for sale on the United States market because of the restrictive measures imposed by the Government of the United States. The amount of these losses is estimated at \$237.5 million.

The financial limitations resulting from the blockade against Cuba and its cumulative impact, the increase in prices and the difficulties of accessing meat raw materials, refrigerators, tripolyphosphate and nitrite, among other things, have also affected national food production. As a result, shortages on the retail market have become more widespread, with a significant impact on the population and on forms of non-State management. In addition, the infrastructure of refrigerated and conventional warehouses, technological equipment and transport is deteriorating.

The blockade has also deprived national industry of funding to import the supplies needed for food production.

With permits subject to legal restrictions, Cuba can buy, through commercial channels, a limited amount of agricultural products in the United States, but it is forced to pay in advance and without access to credit, which is extremely difficult because the country's income sources are also blocked. In this context of financial harassment, numerous efforts are made by the Government of Cuba to guarantee the basic family food basket.

The basic basket consists of 24 highly subsidized products that are distributed every month to the entire population. In addition, specific products are guaranteed for 1,218,000 persons, and milk, compote, beef and chicken are subsidized for children, pregnant women and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Enormous efforts are made to maintain the food system for 58,457 persons who include older adults, persons with disabilities and others who are in vulnerable situations because, for example, they have insufficient income or no family able to provide assistance. Efforts are also made to guarantee free school meals for 124,664 students in 764 schools.

The above-mentioned factors have caused fluctuations in the availability of basic supplies and disrupted their delivery to the population.

In 2023, a sum of \$1,648 million was envisaged to cover the basic family basket. That entire cost could have been covered, for the benefit of our population, with only a third of the amount lost as a result of the blockade between March 2022 and February 2023.

Education, sport and culture are also priorities in the efforts of the Government of Cuba to support people's welfare. The blockade has had a direct impact in these sectors because of the difficulties in accessing financing, the limitations associated with the lack of fuel, the high costs of purchasing and transporting the required supplies, and also because of banking and financial obstacles to receiving payments for professional services offered abroad.

Between March 2022 and February 2023, losses in the education sector were estimated at \$75,551,799. Among the main impacts during the period under review are the following:

- Difficulties in procuring supplies for the production of books, brochures and other printed teaching materials, which has made it impossible to obtain texts for the third drive to improve the national education system. More than 118,600 pupils, mainly in preschool and first grade, were affected because they did not have all the exercise books needed for reading, writing and mathematics.
- Empresas de Periódicos y Ediciones Caribe halted production of 76.9 million notebooks, books, exercise books and medical prescriptions and 97.4 million copies of newspapers. These losses resulted in part from the cancellation of a line of credit in connection with the decision of a Canadian mill to discontinue production for Cuba because of the blockade.
- Within the national education system, 1,315 institutions are registered as needing repairs, at an estimated total cost of \$6.5 million. Twelve hours without the blockade would be equivalent to the amount necessary to cover the needs of the education sector in that regard.
- It is difficult to import hearing aid batteries for students who need them because the vast majority of them are made in the United States. Of 1,152 students with hearing impairment, 920 need hearing aids, and 219 of them have broken hearing aids.

- The Government of Cuba makes considerable efforts to subsidize 50 per cent of the cost of school uniform. However, the impact of the blockade is currently reflected in the scarcity of raw materials for making uniforms and for improving school furniture. In this area, the country is spending four to five times more owing to the geographical relocation of trade to distant markets.
- The blockade prevented University College London from buying and sending computer equipment as planned for a joint project with the José Antonio Echeverría technological university in Havana, because it was intended for a Cuban entity.
- Students at the University of Information Sciences cannot access more than 300 websites of interest to computer scientists because they are blocked for Cuban Internet Protocol addresses, which prevents the downloading of resources for installing or updating software and hampers the University's academic, research and productive development.
- During the period under review, funding was withdrawn from a Cuban student of computer science engineering for his participation in the World Congress on Undergraduate Research, a scientific event that was held at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom, from 4 to 6 April 2023. The organizers of the event informed him that, as Cuba was included in a list of countries subject to sanctions, the institution's departments of insurance and financial compliance were not in a position to fund his travel.

In the area of sport, there has been an obvious theft of Cuban talent, promoted and encouraged by the discriminatory and selective policies of the United States. In the case of baseball, despite the interest on the part of Cuba, it has not been possible for the Cuban Baseball Federation and Major League Baseball to reach an agreement to allow our athletes to play in Major League Baseball without having to abandon the country.

The promotion of hate speech against Cuba was in evidence on 19 March 2023, when the semi-final of the fifth World Baseball Classic between the teams of Cuba and the United States was held at LoanDepot Park stadium in Miami, Florida. There was direct aggression against our players, the delegation accompanying them and the followers of the Cuban squad; in addition, objects were thrown, offensive language and threats were used, signs with political slogans were held up and there were attacks designed to undermine the team's morale.

Cuba strongly denounced the incitement to harassment, violence and abuse against the athletes by local politicians and figures holding public office. The same groups in 2018 sabotaged an agreement between the Cuban Baseball Federation and Major League Baseball, which would have been beneficial to all the parties involved and would have helped to put an end to the discriminatory treatment suffered by Cuban athletes.

Well before the start of the championship, the Cuban team had to go through a complex and discriminatory process in which the Major League Baseball authorities had to request and receive, after a delay, authorization for licences from the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury. The process included the issuance of a special permit for Cuba to participate in the event, another one issued later to allow Cuban players to be included in the Major League circuit, and another one issued even later to allow them to join the rest of the team early. The permits that were granted explicitly prohibited several team members from travelling to Cuba with their teammates at the end of the championship. All of this jeopardized the participation of Cuba in the World Baseball Classic and entailed significant disadvantages.

Since the arbitrary inclusion of the country in the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism, excessive and xenophobic controls have been imposed on our sports delegations at customs points and international migration checkpoints.

There are increased restrictions and costs for the procurement of sports articles, textiles, clothing, technical and teaching resources and technological media, among other things, in cases where the main producer is the United States. These articles are currently bought in third countries, which increases costs by more than 50 per cent; the purchase of such articles is therefore limited.

Our athletes and sports officials have also suffered the withholding of thousands of dollars of prize money because foreign banks have refused to process the relevant payments intended for Cuba. This is the case for the athletes Leila Consuelo Martínez Ortega and Lidianny Echevarría Benítez, female beach volleyball players, who have been unable to receive the sum payable for their participation in the world circuit for beach volleyball.

With regard to culture, the blockade makes it difficult to find market niches and business opportunities, prevents the promotion, dissemination and sale of our cultural talent, reduces sales prices to almost nothing and severely limits the enjoyment of our art by broad audiences across all continents.

During the period under review, the culture sector has been the target of the policy of subversion against Cuba by the United States, which has directed all its resources towards fomenting discontent, encouraging emigration, conducting a vicious media campaign against Cuban creators and artists who are still working in the country, thwarting their presentations abroad, including through harassment and physical violence, and promoting the severing of ties with cultural institutions in other countries.

In May 2023, the Cuban duo Buena Fe fell victim to this brutal smear campaign. During their concert in the Galileo Galilei hall in Madrid, as part of a European tour, audience members threw objects and subjected them to verbal insults in an attempt to disrupt their performance. The media harassment and abuse directed at the promoters and owners of concert halls led to the suspension of other performances planned for Salamanca and Zamora.

The Cuban intellectual and winner of the National Prize for Literature, Nancy Morejón, was also the target of the cultural and communications war against Cuba. In late May 2023, the organizers of the Poetry Market event, held in Paris from 7 to 12 June, cancelled her honorary presidency of the event, giving in to pressure from those who promote hate speech and persecution against Cuban artists.

Other artists residing in Cuba, such as Los Van Van, Haila Mompié, Alexander Abreu, Pedrito Calvo and Paulito FG, have been attacked and harmed by calls for boycotts and lynching in Miami.

Various forms of non-State management associated with the sector have also faced difficulties in importing and obtaining supplies as a result of the restrictions imposed under the blockade. This is the case for Cuban artists working in fine and applied arts: goods that they have ordered have arrived in Cuba with a delay of up to two and a half months because of discriminatory controls abroad, transfer operations, difficulties at ports of embarkation and the need to resort to distant markets to obtain these materials, with the result that purchase costs are four times higher.

The unjustified blockade of personal and institutional accounts linked to culture continues, as does bombardment with anti-Cuban propaganda on digital media, aimed at discrediting our society's achievements and values.

2.2 Impact on economic development

In 2022, the Cuban economy grew by barely 2 per cent, having lost 13 per cent of its GDP between January 2020 and September 2021 as a result of the combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic crisis and the unprecedented tightening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States.

As a result of inflation, between January and October 2022 alone, the average price of the basket of goods and services increased by almost 29 per cent. Between October 2021 and October 2022, inflation increased by almost 40 per cent. Major factors in this context are not only imported inflation deriving from prices on the global market but also, principally, the lack of availability of foreign exchange, exacerbated by the heightened effects of the blockade and the relentless interference by the Government of the United States with every source of revenue for the country.

As a result, the purchasing power of salaries in Cuba has diminished significantly. This situation has had devastating effects in all areas of the economy, with a direct impact on the population and on any national initiative to meet the accumulated needs of the population.

The country is currently in the process of regaining the levels of activity lost in the past three years and increasing supply to the population. To that end, the Government of Cuba has advocated and worked for the diversification of the production matrix, greater market participation by State and non-State enterprises, and opportunities for foreign investment. As at the end of April 2023, a total of 7,947 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and 65 non-agricultural cooperatives were registered, with an estimated 212,479 employees.

The main reason that the economy has not advanced more quickly and vigorously has been the impossibility of achieving the projected revenue because of exports that have not materialized. On that count alone, the blockade caused losses amounting to \$1,808 million during the period under review, which represents 37 per cent of the total losses reported as a result of the policy between March 2022 and February 2023.

In that regard, one of the factors that has affected the availability of foreign exchange in the country has been the failure to achieve the target of 2.5 million tourists set for 2022. During the period under review, the focus under the blockade on obstructing the recovery of the tourism sector, a major source of income for the country, caused losses amounting to \$1,089,470,572.

By the end of 2022, the number of international visitors to Cuba was 1,614,087, or 64.6 per cent of the projected number and only 37.8 per cent of the 2019 figure. The cumulative effect of the unilateral coercive measures imposed, the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism and the maintenance by the Government of the United States of the list of restricted Cuban entities, which includes almost all the country's hotel facilities, have caused a decline in the number of travellers to Cuba.

Without the blockade and the prohibition on United States nationals travelling to Cuba as tourists, it is estimated that the annual number of United States visitors to the island could reach at least 1.2 million, which would make the United States the main market in terms of travellers to Cuba. If we subtract from that figure the 117,825 people who did in fact travel to Cuba during the period under review, it can be calculated that approximately 1,082,175 people from the United States did not visit the country because of the blockade. If those people had visited Cuba, the Cuban tourism industry would have earned an estimated \$1,001,011,875 from the United States market.

At the same time, the prohibition on entry to Cuban ports by United States cruise lines, in addition to the fines and legal proceedings faced by those that have carried out operations with Cuba, has obstructed further progress in that sector.

In that regard, in a judgment handed down by a federal judge in South Florida in 2022 under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, four cruise lines that included Cuba in their itineraries (Carnival, Mediterranean Shipping Company, Royal Caribbean and Norwegian) were ordered to jointly pay the plaintiff, Havana Docks, more than \$439 million in addition to legal fees.

If cruise ship tourism had continued, the country could have earned a total of approximately \$56 million from it during the period covered by the present report, an amount that would support the Government's efforts to revitalize the national economy and the country's main social sectors.

Following the absurd and fraudulent classification of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism, the imposition by the Government of the United States of a requirement to obtain an entry visa for the United States on every person who has visited Cuba or who wishes to travel from Cuba, including those who use the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, has had a negative impact on travel abroad by residents of Cuba and visitors from other markets corresponding to more than 50 countries. This has also discouraged travellers from the United States to Cuba, even if the purpose of their trip falls within one of the 12 categories permitted by their Government.

As a result of the financial persecution by the Government of the United States, foreign banks have refused to work with Cuba, which has led to a drastic reduction in commercial transactions and, consequently, in the sale of tourism packages. Havanatur, an international group of tour operators and travel agents and a leader in the promotion and marketing of Cuban tourism products, has faced the closure of its accounts abroad.

In addition, delays in the processing of payments by the banks currently used have caused substantial harm to the sector. Because it is impossible to use United States currency, travel agencies have been obliged to seek highly risky and costly ways of remitting funds, sometimes with more than three exchanges of currency, which has caused considerable monetary and financial losses.

The obstacles imposed on commercial transactions with Cuba in a context of economic crisis at the international level have resulted in a decline in the number of potential investors in the tourism sector. This has had an impact on the business development of the Cuban company Palmares and its four pipeline projects with opportunities for foreign investment.

This is the case for the Varadero Water Park project, planned as part of a joint venture and located in the country's main tourist destination: around 25 companies have been invited to participate but no proposals have been received from them.

In addition, there have been aggressive political communication campaigns on digital platforms, social media and other information media, attacking and discrediting the quality and prestige of tourism services and limiting the number of visitors to the country.

Another sector of the Cuban economy that has been significantly affected by the blockade is biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry. Both research and development, and the production and marketing of products in that sector, are affected every year, with significant economic losses.

The industry proved to be a key pillar of national sovereignty during the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to development in the sector, we were able to produce five candidate vaccines of our own, three of which counteracted the spread of the disease and saved thousands of lives. However, we could have responded much

earlier and more swiftly if the blockade had not obstructed the process of research, development, production and industrial scale-up of our drugs.

In the period under review, the harm caused in this area amounted to some \$142,896,200, mainly as lost export revenues, losses owing to the geographical relocation of trade and monetary losses.

For the Finlay Vaccine Institute, producer of the Cuban COVID-19 vaccines Soberana 02 and Soberana Plus, the blockade hampered a total of 14 operations, 7 of which related to reagents and raw materials, 4 to supplies and 3 to equipment from United States manufacturers. Most of these materials had to be purchased through third parties, which resulted in significant increases in unit prices and shipping costs.

In addition, in the period under review, Deutsche Bank and Royal Bank of Canada repeatedly refused to accept payments from the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology to patent offices that represent us in various countries, which affects any future negotiations and the registration and marketing of our products abroad.

Since 2021, three European banks have refused to carry out transactions with Banco Financiero Internacional and Banco Internacional de Comercio, as a result of which a supplier withheld the technical services that it was supposed to provide at the plant of the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Mariel, where the Abdala vaccine against COVID-19 is produced on an industrial scale.

Furthermore, the tightening of the blockade has led to a continued high perception of risk among United States companies with regard to negotiations on and the future sale of the Cuban product heberprot-P, which is the only one of its kind in the world for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers and reduces the number of amputations resulting from that condition. If we had been able to export this product to the United States market, the revenue during the period covered by the present report would have amounted to some \$105 million.

Between March 2022 and February 2023, the economic harm caused by the blockade to the information and communications technology sector in Cuba, including telecommunications, is estimated at \$41,270,050. During that period, as in previous periods, the telecommunications company Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba continued to be the company most affected, recording \$40,901,400 in losses, which represents approximately 99.1 per cent of the total losses reported in the sector.

Entities that have trade relations and others interested in doing business with communications companies continue to face harassment and pressure, which has a negative impact on the availability to Cubans of adequate infrastructure, greater Internet access and computerization. No other country is going through a process of technological upgrading in such circumstances.

A number of international suppliers who used to provide repair services for installed technology have decided not to continue doing so; the services of these suppliers are needed for more than 50 per cent of existing equipment.

The limited availability of energy sources and the lack of fuel resulting from the restrictions imposed by the Government of the United States on suppliers and vessels entering the country have affected the autonomy of generators in technology centres.

The blockade has also prevented Cuban and United States companies from moving forward in reaching mutually beneficial agreements in the telecommunications sector.

The signing of the contract between Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba and Columbus Network Limited, a subsidiary of Liberty Latin America, for the connection to ARCOS-1, the first submarine cable that would link the United States

with Cuba, was pending for more than four years while the licence application submitted by the company to the Federal Communications Commission was evaluated.

On 30 November 2022, the Department of Justice published a recommendation made by the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector to the Federal Communications Commission that it deny the licence application. The Committee's arguments included the alleged counter-intelligence threat posed by Cuba to the United States and the designation of the country as a state sponsor of terrorism.

On 13 December of the same year, the Florida Senator Marco Rubio sent a letter to the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission demanding the immediate refusal of the licence. These actions placed pressure on the United States company, which withdrew the application.

Following the arbitrary decision to place Cuba back on the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism, it has become more difficult to receive private express packages from the United States, which also affects the Universal Postal Union's Express Mail Service.¹

Broadband Internet access continues to be restricted, which affects the download speed for software, music, and radio and television programmes that are broadcast in real time and access to certain sites that provide updates, often free, to programs used by millions of people around the world.

These obstacles restrict the flow of information and the expansion of Internet access in Cuba, make connectivity more difficult and expensive, and affect the entry of Cuban users to various virtual platforms.

To mention just one example, the Adobe website is blocked for Cuba, which makes it impossible to access help for certain programs that are found online and are not available in other formats, as is the case for the most up-to-date versions of the multitrack editing software Audition CS6. In addition, there are restrictions on other resources that were free until recently, including SourceForge, WeTransfer, Dell and Intel.

Representatives of Cuba have faced numerous difficulties in participating in meetings and other virtual events organized by United Nations system entities because the country's access to several of the digital platforms used for those purposes, such as Zoom, is restricted.

In addition, a number of platforms on the official websites of international organizations, including that of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, have been forced to find other alternatives because they appear to be restricted with regard to Internet Protocol addresses in Cuba in view of the measures imposed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control. This is discriminatory and illegal.

In the period under review, the total losses to Cuban industry and the business system as a result of the blockade are estimated at around \$467,750,990. These losses consist mainly of foregone revenues from exports of goods and services, the geographical relocation of trade, exchange rate variations, losses caused by the technological blockade and the shortage of fuel, which has had an impact across the whole industrial and business system. Some of the most significant losses in the sector are listed below:

¹ Express Mail Service is an international urgent postal service for documents and goods offered by postal operators of the Universal Postal Union that connects more than 180 countries and territories around the world.

- The Cuban textile company Inejiro Asanuma was unable to obtain spare parts when the Swiss company Rieter, the manufacturer of the technology employed, refused to supply them on the grounds of the blockade.
- For the joint venture Suchel Camacho, the delivery times agreed in contracts have been affected, with a direct negative impact on production plan commitments. For example, the delivery of soap to the population was affected during the period under review, owing to the lack of raw materials because there are no vessels that can enter Cuban ports without being subjected to sanctions and because the number of operations by the biggest shipping companies, namely Hamburg Süd, Mediterranean Shipping Company, Maersk, Cosco, CMA CGM, Hapag Lloyd, Nirint and Melfi, has declined.
- The telecommunications company Copextel was able to receive imports from only 68 suppliers out of a portfolio of 573, which demonstrates the difficult conditions in which businesses are operating.
- In the period under review, the company Cimex, which imports, exports and sells goods and services, reported losses amounting to \$101,921,200. If the company had been able to obtain the products directly in the United States, the price would have been 20 per cent lower than the price it had to pay to obtain the products in other markets.

The store chain Caribe received 1,256 containers of foodstuffs, 40 per cent of which (502 containers) could have been obtained on the United States market. With regard to perfumes and hygiene products, 1,151 containers were received, of which 57 per cent (656 containers) could have been obtained on the United States market, which means that there was an estimated loss of \$3,680,900. Delays to vessels hampered the supply of goods to sales outlets, causing shortages among the population. During the period under review, the store chain continued to be affected by technical problems, partly because it was impossible to obtain spare parts and tyres, among other things, in the United States. As a result, on average 100 of the store chain's forklifts and 174 of its vehicles were out of operation.

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 March 2022 and February 2023, losses in this area were reported to amount to \$89,134,500.

A total of 93.6 per cent of reported losses, amounting to \$83,425,400, affected the Directorate General of Housing.

Most of the losses affect access to basic goods and technologies for the materials industry, such as cement, aggregate, blocks, fibre cement tiles, asphalt blankets and carpentry items. In addition, contracts with foreign suppliers have closed and there have been transportation difficulties owing to the shortage of fuel.

To mention just one example, in early 2022 a Central American supplier with which a framework contract worth \$3 million had been signed for the supply of plumbing and hydraulic pipes made of polyvinyl chloride stated that it could not continue to work with Cuba and failed to fulfil a total of 26 orders. This situation entailed a considerable increase in costs because of the conclusion of new contracts with other suppliers.

The steel industry reported production losses amounting to some \$9,172,568 because of the difficulties in accessing the necessary supplies and the decline in imports. The non-production of goods not only affected companies but also had a negative impact on the national housing construction programme, affecting the availability of metalwork, fittings, lightweight metal trusses and beams, among other materials.

Furthermore, the losses in the transportation sector resulting from the blockade amounted to \$202,420,140 during the period under review.

In the past three years, there has been a progressive deterioration in all passenger transportation capacities and infrastructures because of the low technical availability of vehicles and the impossibility of accessing spare parts due to both lack of liquidity and the refusal of suppliers to provide them, as well as the measures adopted since 2019 by the Government of the United States to prevent fuel supplies to Cuba, which has had a devastating impact in this area. This has resulted in fewer services being offered, significantly affecting the population.

Public transportation alone requires more than \$40 million in maintenance every year, to say nothing of investments in that sector. The ban on the entry of cruise ships to Cuba curtailed one of the main sources of income for financing transport-related infrastructure.

The purchase price of a bus for public transport in the capital is set at more than \$200,000, that of a train at over \$2 million, a small aeroplane at more than \$30 million and a ferry at over \$10 million. One week without the blockade would make it possible to purchase 206 buses, 6 trains, 1 aeroplane and 1 ferry.

Ordinarily, more than 80,000 litres of diesel are required per day for public transport in the capital. It is not currently possible to meet all of the demand. It should be noted that, during the period under review, maritime transportation freight costs tripled as a result of the increase in fuel prices, which has made those operations even more expensive.

Restrictions on international shipowners employing Cuban crew members on their vessels remain in place, as do obstacles preventing access to United States ports under the Torricelli Act of 1992. On learning that the crew of a vessel includes any Cuban personnel, the immigration authorities detain the vessel outside the port for several hours, establish a watch on the vessel at a cost of \$1,500 for each day spent in port, payable by the shipping company or shipowner, and prohibit our sailors from going ashore.

In the case of air transportation, the United States withdrew aircraft leasing licences; Cubana de Aviación cannot, therefore, quote for international flights. On the basis of the 7,854 flights not conducted with medium-sized aircraft used by airlines operating in Cuba, and the average consumption of 3.13 tons (4,000 litres) of fuel used by that type of aircraft on one of the busiest routes to Miami, the loss for the period from March 2022 to February 2023 is estimated at \$37,572,455.96.

Similarly, interline agreements for the transportation of cargo remain cancelled, which prevents the sale of the cargo service with air waybills of Cubana de Aviación and the increase of multiple-destination sales in commercial partnerships with Avianca, DHL, Air France, Air Caraïbes, Cathay Pacific, LATAM and Lot Polish. The cancellation of these agreements is currently affecting the import and export service that can be provided to the Cuban business and non-State sectors, since they must use alternative, more expensive routes in order to transport cargo.

On 17 May 2022, the Portuguese intermediary JTM, which provides international logistics and transportation services and with which a business relationship has been maintained since 2019, attempted to make a payment by bank transfer to the account of the Cuban company Servicios Aduanales y Transitarios. The transfer was cancelled. It was subsequently verified that this was the result of the presence of Cuba on the arbitrary list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

In the energy and mining sector, estimated losses during the period under review amount to \$491,156,960. The National Electric Union reports the largest loss, at \$239,276,300.

Cuba has experienced immense difficulties in maintaining electricity generation, owing to the tense situation created by the blockade. The economic siege has exacerbated limitations with regard to finance and access to the loans needed to repair the country's thermoelectric plants and obtain the technologies and fuel required to guarantee a stable supply for the population and the strategic sectors of the national economy.

The prices of import transactions are increased because we have to go to more distant markets to obtain articles for the asset maintenance that is required for electricity generation. The loss reported for freight and insurance alone amounts to \$92,784,868.

As a consequence of the acts of persecution and intimidation, as well as the regulations and provisions issued by the United States against shipowners and shipping companies that send fuel supplies to Cuba, the portfolio of foreign suppliers has been reduced, and those that have continued to supply those products have increased their prices considerably owing to the country risk. In addition, despite provisions in contracts, delivery times have been extended, which has affected the availability of the resources.

The data do not illustrate the true impact of these outcomes on the daily lives of Cubans nor the constant stress caused by the interruptions to the electricity supply, despite the Government's willingness and efforts to solve the problem promptly and effectively.

The German firm Brüel & Kjær Vibro, which provided the technology for the vibration monitoring systems of the thermal turbines of the National Electric Union, has maintained its position of not working with Cuba on the recommendation of its bank because of the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.

The firm Accelleron, formerly a division of ABB Turbocharging, from which the technology for the turbochargers used by the National Electric Union was obtained, has decided not to work directly with Cuba in order to comply with the policy of unilateral United States sanctions on exports to countries included in the list of sponsors of terrorism. As a result, between March 2022 and February 2023, the total costs of the transactions that were typically conducted with this company increased by 30 per cent.

Parts and spare parts for gas turbines were being imported from the Canadian company Diesel Expert Quebec. Recently, one of the requested turbines was intercepted by Canadian customs and detained because it had more than 10 per cent content of United States origin. The supplier is in the process of obtaining an export licence from the Government of Canada to ship the parts to Cuba. Each unavailable turbine prevents the generation of 20 megawatts, which is the amount needed to cover the peak hours of electricity consumption in the country.

State-of-the-art systems for managing the petroleum industry have been vetoed for Cuba, and some companies have declined to tender for them because of the blockade. During the reporting period, difficulties have been encountered in obtaining depth pumps from the Swiss manufacturer Kudu, intended for oil and gas extraction. The supplier Schlumberger reported that it could not continue to supply the pumps or their components, directly affecting the entire industry, which employs that technology.

In addition, the economic siege has seriously affected the non-State sector. The blockade restrictions significantly restrict the activity of numerous Cuban entrepreneurs, business owners and cooperative members. Travel restrictions on United States citizens have continued to affect the flow of visitors to the island, which

has led to a significant reduction in the demand for goods and services from the non-State tourism sector in recent years.

At the same time, the impossibility of processing non-immigrant visas in Havana has restricted the ability of Cuban entrepreneurs to travel to the United States and directly obtain the supplies they need for their businesses.

A number of private businesses, restaurants, shops selling Cuban handicrafts, stalls selling national literature, and car rental and taxi services, located mainly in the historic centre of Havana, have seen their businesses affected by the ban on the entry of United States cruise lines into Cuban ports.

Moreover, Cuban entrepreneurs have had their bank accounts in the United States closed, making their financial transactions more difficult and expensive. As a result of the coercive measures imposed on financial institutions in recent years, several e-payment and e-commerce platforms, such as PayPal and Airbnb, refuse to provide services to those individuals.

2.3 Unquantifiable human harm

The serious losses resulting from the blockade have a human component, which is not quantifiable but is real and significant.

Since its inception, the blockade policy has sought to attack that component, which, because of its sensitivity and cross-cutting nature, affects all spheres of socioeconomic and political life in the country.

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

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.

The most notable impacts of this policy that cannot be expressed in monetary terms include the following:

- Time spent searching for solutions and alternatives to the daily problems caused by the blockade.
- The cumulative effect of more than six decades of application of this policy on the perception of the Cuban social project and the erosion of its potential.
- The levels of disenchantment, anguish, desperation and dissatisfaction of the population owing to the lack of stability in the supply of basic goods and services and to hardships.
- The psychological damage caused by the curtailment of life plans and the separation of families in the pursuit of their legitimate aspirations for development.
- The impact of the blockade on the right to life.
- The human lives lost as a result of the irregular migration flow between Cuba and the United States.
- The human lives lost because of the impossibility of accessing first-line pharmaceuticals and treatments for progressive and serious diseases.

Another example that typifies this web of unilateral coercive measures and is difficult to quantify is the arbitrary and discriminatory restriction of movement placed on Cuban diplomats accredited to United Nations Headquarters in New York. This measure is a violation of the host country obligations of the Government of the United States.

In September 2019, an additional constraint was imposed, restricting movement to a limited area of the island of Manhattan, with a maximum width of just 2.3 miles and a length of approximately 11 miles. No country is subject to a restriction as extreme and severe as that applied to Cuba. This act, in addition to being illegal and entirely in contravention of international law, affects the work of Cuban diplomats and has had the ludicrous end result of making it impossible for their children to join in extracurricular activities with classmates outside Manhattan.

During a keynote address on 4 May 2023 at the University of Havana, delivered during her academic visit to Cuba, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Ms. Alena Douhan, stated that actions that infringed on the freedom of movement of diplomats qualified as unilateral coercive measures in violation of international law.

3. Impact on the external sector of the Cuban economy

3.1 Impact on foreign trade

The losses to Cuban foreign trade as a result of the blockade in the period from March 2022 to February 2023 amount to \$3,081,300,000.

In an increasingly globalized world economy, it is becoming more and more difficult for Cuba to acquire the supplies required for industry, services and consumers, regardless of the political or commercial relationship with the market of origin of its imports.

During this period, foreign trade activity, in particular import volumes, decreased significantly. The increase in commodity acquisition costs has also led to a decrease in real funding to support economic plans.

The inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism has resulted in an increase in prices for businesses with foreign investment, as well as the cancellation of business transactions, cooperation activities and investment projects that were at various stages of implementation. It has also had a negative impact on banking and financial institutions, which refuse to work with Cuban entities for fear of attracting sanctions.

As in previous years, the greatest losses incurred have been in terms of income foregone from the non-export of goods and services, amounting to \$1,808 million. Tourism continues to be the most affected sector in this respect, accounting for approximately 58.5 per cent of the total.

The inability to export to the United States because of the blockade prohibitions has resulted in losses to the Cuban agricultural sector of \$248.9 million, 8 per cent more than in the previous report. This figure includes potential exports of tobacco, charcoal, selected fruits, honey and chilli peppers, among other products.

The United States market is among the five largest in the world for ground and whole-bean roasted coffee. Cuban coffee, thanks to its quality, could meet a large part of the United States market demand, but, as in the case of honey, United States companies interested in importing it are denied a licence from the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

The value of potential exports of sugar to the United States during this period is estimated at about \$20,820,600, based on the 60,000 tons that Cuba managed to place on the world market.

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

Moreover, the existing limits on imports of agri-food products from the United States remain. The importer Alimport is forced to shoulder additional expenses involved in this irregular trade flow, which works in one direction only, since Cuba does not have access to financing from the United States banking system or the international credit system for this type of transaction, because of what is termed the country risk rating.

This exposes Alimport to dependence on other creditors, which apply charges of approximately 5 per cent above the normal rate. Alimport cannot make payments in United States dollars to third parties, so it must buy repayment currencies to carry out its transactions, with the consequent losses relating to exchange-rate risk. As a result, each commercial transaction involves several international banks which apply commissions for their services, further increasing the financial costs that Alimport must cover.

Losses arising from freight and insurance costs and the use of commercial intermediaries, and the resulting increase in the cost of goods, amounted to \$490.9 million, 31 per cent higher than the previous reported amount.

The following table shows the effects of the embargo on Cuban foreign trade between March 2022 and February 2023:

<i>Losses resulting from</i>	<i>USD (millions)</i>
Inability to access the United States market	488.8
Increased freight and insurance costs and use of intermediaries	490.9
Income foregone from exports	1 808.0
Country risk/increase in the cost of credit	13.4
Prohibition on the use of the United States dollar	280.2
Total	3 081.3

3.2 Impact on the banking and financial sector

Between March 2022 and February 2023, the banking and financial system continued to be one of the main targets of the aggressive measures taken by the Government of the United States to strengthen the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. The monetary and financial impact on the Cuban economy during this period exceeded \$280.2 million.

This period was characterized by the growing refusal of foreign banking and financial institutions to process transactions by Cuban banks and companies, by the closing of accounts and termination of already-concluded contracts, and by the constant rejection of banking transactions, as well as by the cancellation of keys for the exchange of financial information through the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

Ongoing harm is being caused by the restrictions on the use of the United States dollar in the international business and financial transactions of Cuba, and it is still impossible to use the United States financial system to carry out such transactions when the origin or destination of transfers is a Cuban entity. 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.

All this leads to substantial losses owing to fluctuations in the 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.

The inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism has had a devastating impact on the banking and financial sector.

As a result of the policy of pressure, intimidation and dissuasion exercised by the Government of the United States against international financial institutions, new methods of hindering Cuban banking operations are being used. They include requesting additional documents to carry out transactions, which causes delays and limits the processing of payments to suppliers and the receipt of income from abroad.

There has been an increase in the compliance requirements of correspondent banks for the processing of banking transactions, resulting in increased information requirements for transactions processed by customers, not only from correspondent banks but also from the intermediary banks they use and beneficiary banks.

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.

During the reporting period, the number of foreign banks that refused for various reasons to carry out transactions with Cuban banks was 130 (75 in Europe, 21 in the Americas and 34 in the rest of the world), with 267 transactions involved.

Below are some examples of the extraterritorial application of the blockade in the banking and financial sector during the reporting period.

Refusal to provide banking services

- Six foreign banks, all located in Europe, refused to open or close accounts.
- A total of 35 entities, 21 in Europe, 9 in the Americas and 5 in the rest of the world, refused to transfer funds from or to Cuba and to provide other banking services.
 - As a consequence of these actions, the membership of Cuba in the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies was cancelled, since the 2021 fee was only partially paid and the 2022 fee was unpaid.
 - Currently, over 50 Cuban diplomatic missions abroad have lost their relationship with the banks that traditionally provided them with banking services. As a result, they have been unable to carry out the banking and financial transactions required for their normal operations.
- A total of 28 institutions have cancelled or rejected requests for SWIFT message keys by foreign banks: 17 in Europe, 2 in the Americas and 9 in the rest of the world.² These cancellations of keys cause difficulties and delays in the processing of banking transactions.
- Banking transactions were returned by 59 entities, including 29 in Europe, 10 in Latin America and 20 in the rest of the world. The greatest effect on

² Authorizations that are exchanged with correspondent banks and allow users to filter and limit the messages received and the type of message sent (known as relationship management application (RMA) keys).

operations processed, whether for transfers or for documentary credits, was through the return of funds because internal policies of the beneficiary banks or correspondent banks ostensibly prevented the funds from reaching their destination. The largest volume of returns in banking transactions was made by European, Latin American and Asian banks, which gave justifications involving the existence of sanctions against Cuba.

- Two European banks cancelled banking operations and correspondent banking agreements.

Moreover, Cuba can only access very limited external financing under extremely onerous conditions. Owing to the surcharges added as a result of the country risk classification applied to Cuba, Cuban banking and business entities continue to pay interest rates higher than the market rates for similar foreign financing operations carried out by other countries.

There continue to be difficulties in sending and receiving bank documents through courier agencies, in particular DHL. Cuban importers need to find further 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.

The sanctions against the Cuban non-bank financial institution Fincimex continue to affect the volume of remittances sent from the United States through the Western Union company following the closure of all its branches in Cuba in November 2020. During the reporting period, the entity was unable to process an estimated \$651,329,080 in remittances, which had a direct impact on Cuban families.

The United States remittance entities VaCuba and Cubamax have had to operate below their capacities. Cubamax has been forced to resort to triangular bank transfers and rely on other business partners.

With respect to VaCuba, the damage to Cuban families is estimated at \$21,981,060 foregone between March 2022 and February 2023. Cubamax was unable to process transfers of \$8,961,090 during that period.

4. The embargo violates international law because it is applied with extraterritorial effect

4.1 Impact on Cuban entities

In May 2022, Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales, the fuel supplier in Argentina to the airline Cubana de Aviación, indicated that it was unable to service Cuban aircraft because the Spanish bank Santander, where the company has its accounts, refused to accept payments from Cuba as a country under Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions.

In 2022, Sociedad Marroquí del Tabaco, exclusive distributor of the famous Habanos cigars, was unable to make payments to its counterpart in Cuba as a result of intermediary banks' refusal to carry out transactions connected with Cuba. The main Moroccan stakeholders affected include the entities operating under the Cuban "Casa del Habano" commercial franchise, which has franchises in Rabat and Casablanca and one in the process of opening in Marrakesh. As franchises that depend exclusively on the sale of Cuban products, they are the most severely affected by job and income losses and the temporary closure of stores.

In August 2022, it was learned that the United States visas of the chief executive officer of Phoenicia, a Cypriot businessman, and of his two minor children had been cancelled. Phoenicia markets and distributes Habanos cigars, one of the flagship products of Cuba.

In August 2022, the National Australia Bank informed the Embassy of Cuba in Australia that it would close the embassy's accounts, after 25 years of service, because it was using a new cloud-based payments system based in the United States. As it searched for an alternative, another 10 Australian and 2 international banks refused to open accounts because of the "risk" factor resulting from the extraterritorial effect of the blockade. Two other banks never responded.

In September 2022, Galp, a company based in Portugal that supplied fuel to the airline Cubana de Aviación, gave notice that it would not renew its contract with the Cuban entity because it was under sanction by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

On 20 October 2022, it was announced through the organizing committee of the Cuba-Cambodia volleyball friendly match that the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Phnom Penh, a subsidiary of the United States hotel chain Marriott International, refused to host a Cuban delegation. The argument put forward was that the delegation represented the Government of Cuba and hosting it violated United States law.

In November 2022, a Bancolombia branch blocked the debit card and the associated bank account of the Do It Viajes y Turismo agency, which markets destinations in Cuba.

On 7 December 2022, Nordea Bank in Finland cancelled a transfer made from Havana by the Publicitur agency through Banco Financiero Internacional because the latter entity is under sanction by the Office of Foreign Assets Control. The cancellation prevented the payment of 12,000 euros to the company Aurinkomatkat/Suntours.

From 11 to 15 January 2023, at the Utrecht Tourism Fair in the Netherlands, there were difficulties in making bank transfers for accommodation and promotional activities involving Cuba as the destination.

On 26 January 2023, the Maccorp Exact Change entity in Madrid denied a United States dollar currency exchange service to a Cuban diplomat. The Treasury Department's regulations on Cuba were cited as the reason.

On 31 January 2023, the subsidiary of Peugeot in Berlin requested termination of a lease agreement with the Embassy of Cuba in Germany as the company had been transferred to the Stellantis & You consortium, the majority of whose shareholders are in the United States.

In January and February 2023, Wise Payments Limited, the Bank of Scotland and UniCredit Bank Austria did not accept transactions from Cuba for the payment of services invoiced by the organizers of the MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) tourism fairs in Frankfurt, Germany, and at the Messe Wien exhibition centre in Austria, which may make it impossible to register and participate in future fairs.

4.2 Other extraterritorial impacts

On 21 April 2022, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury of the United States announced out-of-court settlements with two United States companies for alleged violations of the blockade against Cuba. Penalties were imposed on the multinational mining company Newmont Corporation (Denver, Colorado, United States) in the amount of \$141,442 and on Chisu International Corporation (Florida, United States) in the amount of \$45,908. The Office of Foreign Assets Control alleged that between 2016 and 2017, in violation of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, subsidiaries of both companies in Suriname and Panama purchased mining explosives and other items of Cuban origin exported by the Cuban entity Unión Latinoamericana de Explosivos.

On 26 September 2022, the Office of Foreign Assets Control announced a settlement with CA Indosuez Switzerland, an indirect subsidiary of Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, located in Switzerland, for apparent violations of the sanctions programmes against Cuba, Iran, the Sudan and Syria. CA Indosuez Switzerland, which specializes in wealth and corporate management and investment banking, agreed to pay \$720,258 to avoid a civil lawsuit. In addition, the Office of Foreign Assets Control reported a similar settlement with CFM Indosuez Wealth, an indirect subsidiary of Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank located in Monaco, for violations of the laws on the Cuban blockade and the sanctions against Iran and Syria. The company agreed to pay \$401,039 to avoid a civil lawsuit. According to an official statement from the Office of Foreign Assets Control, both CA Indosuez Switzerland and CFM Indosuez Wealth operated United States dollar bank and securities accounts on behalf of customers located in jurisdictions under sanctions and conducted business in United States dollars on behalf of these customers through the United States financial system.

On 30 September 2022, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control announced a settlement with Tango Card, a company based in Seattle, Washington, that supplies and distributes electronic rewards, for alleged violations of laws on the blockade and other sanctions programmes. Tango Card agreed to pay \$116,048.60 to avoid civil litigation because, according to the Office, it transmitted stored-value products to individuals with Internet Protocol and email addresses associated with Cuba, Iran, Syria, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Crimea region.

On 11 October 2022, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control announced an agreement with Bittrex Inc., a private company based in Bellevue, Washington, that offers virtual currency exchange services. Bittrex agreed to pay \$24,280,829.20 to avoid a civil lawsuit for alleged violations of various sanctions programmes, including laws on the blockade. The Office alleged that the company allowed individuals located in jurisdictions under sanction to use its platform to engage in virtual currency-related transactions with a value of over \$263 million.

On 31 March 2023, the Office of Foreign Assets Control announced a monetary settlement of \$72,230.32 with Uphold HQ, a money service company based in Larkspur, California, for alleged violations of the "sanctions" programmes for Cuba, Iran and Venezuela. There were 25 transactions involving Cuba, for a total of \$142,683.74, between March 2017 and May 2022.

On 6 April 2023, Microsoft Corporation, based in Redmond, Washington, agreed to pay \$2,980,265.86 to the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control and another \$347,631 to the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce for violations of various coercive programmes of the United States, including the one against Cuba. The total penalty amounted to \$3,327,896. Statements from both agencies said that the company committed 1,339 violations related to the export of services or software to "sanctioned" jurisdictions, such as Iran, Syria and Ukraine/Russia. Fifty-four of these alleged violations pertained to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations.

On 1 May 2023, Poloniex, a company based in Boston, Massachusetts, agreed to pay \$7,591,630 to the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control for violations of various coercive programmes of the United States, including the one against Cuba. A statement from the agency indicates that the Poloniex trading platform allowed clients apparently located in "sanctioned" jurisdictions to engage in online transactions related to digital assets with a combined value of \$15,335,349.

5. Universal rejection of the blockade

5.1 Opposition within the United States

During the reporting period, a significant number of initiatives were recorded in the United States that called for the blockade against Cuba to be lifted and for the removal of the country from the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism. In many cases, they were addressed to President Biden, calling on him to use his executive powers to put an end to the additional coercive measures imposed against Cuba during the Trump Administration.

Representatives of various sectors of society, including artists, academics, religious leaders, lawyers, business and solidarity groups, non-governmental organizations, Cuban Americans and lawmakers, expressed their opposition to the policy of maximum pressure against the island.

Some examples of the statements, media activities, resolutions and other initiatives undertaken by various sectors in the United States that called for the lifting of the blockade and the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism are set out below.

On 19 and 20 March 2022, the International United States-Cuba Normalization Conference was held at the headquarters of the solidarity association The People's Forum, in Manhattan, New York. Solidarity groups from the United States and Canada participated in the event to demand that President Biden end the blockade policy against Cuba. They also reiterated calls to reverse the coercive measures imposed during the Trump Administration, which have a severe impact on Cuban families.

On 26 March 2022, the MetroDC Coalition and the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization/Pastors for Peace organized an event for solidarity with Cuba in Washington, D.C., at which they denounced the ongoing blockade against Cuba and discussed the need for its immediate removal.

On 27 March 2022, several initiatives were organized in the United States to demand the lifting of the blockade on Cuba. Demonstrations were reported in the cities of New York, Seattle, Phoenix and Portland, among others.

On 29 March 2022, the No Embargo Cuba Movement and other pro-Cuba groups held demonstrations in the towns of Bloomfield, West Hartford, and Middletown in the State of Connecticut. As part of the initiative, 1,200 flyers were distributed calling for an end to the aggression against Cuba and advocating collaboration between the two peoples.

From 6 to 8 April 2022, the third Cuba-United States Agriculture Conference was held in Havana. During the event, the United States participants denounced the obstacles posed by the blockade to the expansion and diversification of business with the different economic actors in Cuba in the agricultural sector.

On 17 May 2022, the organization No Embargo Cuba Movement issued a statement in which it expressed its agreement with the measures towards Cuba regarding visas, regular migration, flights and remittances that were announced on 16 May 2022, while noting the need to completely remove the blockade.

On 23 May 2022, several Cubans and United States citizens held a demonstration in Miami, Florida, to demand an end to the economic blockade and to the decision of the United States to keep Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 10 June 2022, several United States activists delivered a letter to the Los Angeles Convention Center, where the ninth Summit of the Americas was being held, in which they called for an end to blockades against countries such as Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. This initiative took place within the framework of the

People's Summit and was accompanied by statements and other actions in support of Cuba as part of the event.

On 16 June 2022, a group of 26 Democratic representatives, led by Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Steve Cohen of Tennessee, sent a letter to President Biden in which they asked him to explore possibilities for engaging with Cuba on health issues. They requested a policy review to ensure that the sanctions against Cuba did not impede that country's efforts to share COVID-19 vaccines, medical services and health technologies with low-income countries.

On 29 June 2022, a total of 22 organizations, churches and religious denominations associated with the Interfaith Community of Washington, D.C., sent a letter to President Biden, in which they addressed the impact of the blockade and called for further easing of the restrictions in the areas of travel, remittances and consular services. They also requested the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 31 July 2022, a number of initiatives demanding the lifting of the blockade against Cuba were organized in several cities in the United States, including Seattle, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, New York, Miami and Oklahoma.

On 8 August 2022, a group of United States artists, intellectuals, politicians, scientists, activists and religious leaders sent a letter to President Biden, calling for the urgent rejection of the "cruel policies" implemented by the White House during Donald Trump's time in office. In view of the fire at the supertanker base in Matanzas Province, they called for the lifting of the coercive measures that prevent Cuba from receiving, directly or indirectly, medical, humanitarian and environmental aid, or receiving financial or other assistance from the United States. They also urged the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 8 August 2022, United States organizations sent a letter to President Biden in which they requested technical assistance and direct relief assistance for Cuba and the suspension of the coercive measures in order to facilitate response and recovery following the incident at the supertanker base. The signatories included the Center for Democracy in the Americas, Cuba Puentes, Cuba Partners Network, the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Cuba Study Group, CubaOne Foundation, the Washington Office on Latin America and the Alliance of Baptists.

On 10 August 2022, the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Gregory W. Meeks (Democrat, New York), together with the Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, Barbara Lee (Democrat, California) and the Chair of the Rules Committee, James P. McGovern (Democrat, Massachusetts), issued a joint statement in which they called on the Biden Administration to send assistance to Cuba following the incident at the Matanzas supertanker base. The lawmakers also called for the temporary suspension of coercive measures against Cuba.

On 11 August 2022, a resolution calling for an end to the blockade of Cuba was introduced in New York City Council by Council Member Charles Barron of the forty-second district.

On 27 August 2022, friends of Cuba gathered at Reverend Dorlimar Lebrón's Church in New York in solidarity with the Cuban families worldwide that are calling for an end to the blockade.

On 2 September 2022, the Center for Democracy in the Americas published a thread of tweets on the Twitter platform. In one tweet, it insisted on the need for the Biden Administration to lift all sanctions that affect Cubans and to implement beneficial measures.

On 20 September 2022, the Council of the town of Willimantic/Windham in Connecticut passed a resolution, in which it called for the removal of the blockade against Cuba.

On 22 September 2022, Somerville City Council in Massachusetts passed a resolution in which it urged the Government of the United States to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism and to end the coercive measures in effect.

On 25 September 2022, several people demonstrated for an end to the blockade in cities such as New York, Chicago, Seattle, Boston and Miami.

On 2 October 2022, the progressive organization The People's Forum called upon the President of the United States to temporarily suspend the coercive measures against Cuba and to permit the purchase of materials needed for rebuilding after Hurricane Ian struck the island. That request was reflected in the Sunday edition of *The New York Times*.

On 3 October 2022, the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Gregory W. Meeks (Democrat, New York), together with the Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, Barbara Lee (Democrat, California) and the Chair of the Rules Committee, James P. McGovern (Democrat, Massachusetts), issued a statement in which they urged the Biden Administration to provide humanitarian assistance to Cuba in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. They also urged the suspension of any relevant sanctions or regulations in order to expedite such a response, including the export of humanitarian or medical supplies to Cuba.

On 29 October 2022, more than a hundred organizations in solidarity with Cuba in the United States held a march in New York to call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade. Participants marched from Times Square to United Nations Headquarters ahead of the vote on the draft resolution rejecting the blockade in the General Assembly, due to take place on 2 and 3 November. The event was attended by Bridges of Love, Code Pink and The People's Forum, among other associations, as well as representatives of the Cuban émigré community.

On 29 October 2022, members of the Code Pink organization communicated through social media that they had called for the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism at a meeting with State Department officials. The organization sent a petition signed by 10,000 individuals and more than 100 organizations to President Biden and to the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, with the aim of furthering the rapprochement with Cuba.

On 30 October 2022, a new caravan was organized in Miami, Florida, to call for an end to the blockade against Cuba. Demonstrations in support of the same cause were also reported in Portland, Oregon; Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota; Phoenix, Arizona; and Hartford, Connecticut.

On 1 November 2022, an international delegation of scientists led by experts from the United States issued a report in which they called for the barriers to be lowered in order to increase collaboration with the biotechnology industry in Cuba. The Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, Michael Osterholm, said in the report that, despite the complexity of the politics, the barriers to cooperation in that area needed to be addressed.

On 3 November 2022, in the context of the General Assembly's thirtieth vote on the draft resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the Center for Democracy in the Americas published a Twitter thread in which it criticized the

policy maintained by the Government of the United States against Cuba for over 60 years and addressed the effects of the blockade on the Cuban people.

On 3 November 2022, the World Council of Churches sent a letter to the President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, in which it expressed its support for the resolution against the blockade introduced in the General Assembly and its support for the call to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 5 November 2022, a donation of powdered milk, surgical gloves, food and medicines arrived at the Pepe Portilla Pediatric Hospital in the Cuban Province of Pinar del Río, thanks to Carlos Lazo, a Cuban-American teacher and activist who leads the Bridges of Love project, and the pacifist organization Code Pink. Lazo said that the donation was an effort to help Cuba in the face of the economic blockade.

On 14 November 2022, Chris Moldes, a United States citizen of Cuban origin, published an article in *The Washington Post*, in which he called for an end to the blockade against Cuba and the removal of the country from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. He pointed out that both decisions reflect an anachronistic policy.

On 19 November 2022, the organization No Embargo Cuba Movement denounced the impact of the blockade against Cuba at a meeting of Connecticut congresspersons and consular representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean. José Oro, a member of the group's board of directors, made a speech in which he condemned the coercive measures applied for more than six decades against Cuba that were aimed at weakening the country's economic life, causing desperation and overthrowing the Government.

On 28 November 2022, the Troy Area Labor Council issued a resolution in which it called for an end to the blockade of Cuba and for the country's removal from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 4 December 2022, a new caravan was organized in Miami, Florida, to demand an end to the blockade against Cuba.

On 7 December 2022, the majority leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, Yousef Rabhi, introduced a resolution in which the House urged President Biden to lift the blockade and remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. Abraham Aiyash, David LaGrand, Julie Brixie, Cynthia Johnson, Mary Cavanagh, Joseph Bellino, Laurie Pohutsky and Jim Ellison co-sponsored the initiative.

On 21 December 2022, solidarity organizations and friends of Cuba came to the city of Miami, Florida, to participate in a vigil calling on President Biden to end the coercive measures against the island. The activists, who had gathered at the city's international airport, urged an end to the blockade and demanded that the White House speed up the process of family reunification at its embassy in Havana, strengthen the process of sending remittances to relatives in the Caribbean nation and promote broad cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries. They also urged the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

In January 2023, Berkeley City Council in California adopted a resolution in which it called for the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism and the lifting of the blockade.

On 4 January 2023, the Oregon Democratic senator Ron Wyden called on the Biden Administration to strengthen support for small and medium-sized businesses in Cuba by granting more general licences and by removing obstacles to private sector access to international banking.

In the first week of January 2023, members of a United States delegation that visited Cuba aboard the ship *Golden Rule*, symbol of the pacifist organization Veterans For Peace, called for an end to the blockade.

On 16 January 2023, the group Bridges of Love marched in Seattle alongside thousands of United States citizens and people of different political and religious backgrounds and creeds to call for an end to the blockade of Cuba.

On 18 January 2023, United States activists sent 40,000 pounds of humanitarian aid to Cuba for the victims of Hurricane Ian. The donation departed from Port Everglades, Florida, and was made possible thanks to the collaboration of associations such as the ANSWER Coalition, The People's Forum and the Alianza Martiana.

On 19 January 2023, a group of 160 United States lawyers sent a letter to President Biden, in which they called for the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism and argued that the inclusion of Cuba on the list lacked moral and legal justification.

On 20 January 2023, Bloomington City Council in Indiana unanimously passed a resolution in which it called for an end to the United States blockade against Cuba.

On 26 January 2023, Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secretary of State of Delaware, and Michael T. Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture of Delaware, called for an end to the blockade against Cuba during their visit to Havana.

On 29 January 2023, in more than 20 cities in the United States, including Miami, caravans were organized to call for an end to coercive measures against Cuba.

In January 2023, Minneapolis City Council in Minnesota urged President Biden and the United States Congress to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. In a letter addressed to the Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Julie Chavez Rodriguez, the activists recalled that the designation could be withdrawn by executive order of the President, who had promised during his election campaign to review it.

On 5 February 2023, members of Bridges of Love and its coordinator Carlos Lazo, together with Medea Benjamin of Code Pink, expressed in a meeting with representatives of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples their decision to maintain the call for the blockade to be lifted.

On 10 February 2023, the Council of the District of Columbia introduced a resolution in which it called on President Biden and the United States Congress to end the blockade imposed against Cuba and to remove that country from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 12 February 2023, Noam Chomsky and Vijay Prashad published an article in *People's Dispatch*, in which they stated that the Biden Administration should remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 14 February 2023, the International Committee of the Democratic Socialists of America reiterated its opposition to the United States blockade against Cuba and called on the Biden Administration to immediately remove the island from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 26 February 2023, caravans demanding an end to coercive measures against Cuba and the country's removal from the list of State sponsors of terrorism were organized in several United States cities, including Miami, Seattle and New York.

On 28 February 2023, following the publication by the Department of State of its annual report on terrorism for 2021, the National Network on Cuba condemned the continued inclusion of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism and called for an end to the blockade.

In February 2023, the Labor Councils of the American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations in the counties of Sacramento, Monterey and

San Diego-Imperial passed resolutions in which they condemned the blockade against Cuba. The Sudan has been removed from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 2 March 2023, the Board of Commissioners of Washtenaw County in Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed a resolution in which it urged the Government of the United States to lift the blockade and to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 6 March 2023, the United States senators Amy Klobuchar (Democrat, Minnesota), Jerry Moran (Republican, Kansas), Chris Murphy (Democrat, Connecticut), Roger Marshall (Republican, Kansas) and Elizabeth Warren (Democrat, Massachusetts) reintroduced the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act, a bipartisan bill that proposes the removal of United States regulations preventing United States exports to Cuba.

On 14 March 2023, 20 churches and denominational organizations, including the Presbyterian Church, sent a joint letter to President Biden in which they called for a change in Cuba policy and the removal of the country from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. The signatories included Church World Service, the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church-General Board of Church and Society.

On 15 March 2023, the senators Ron Wyden (Democrat, Oregon), Cynthia Lummis (Republican, Wyoming) and Chris Van Hollen (Democrat, Maryland) sent a letter to President Biden in which they called for the easing of the economic and financial restrictions of the blockade that have an adverse impact on the private sector in Cuba.

On 21 March 2023, the Washington Office on Latin America and the Center for Democracy in the Americas issued a joint statement in which they welcomed the reintroduction of the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act. In the statement, they referred to the blockade as the main obstacle to the development of the Cuban economy.

On 22 March 2023, Code Pink activists interrupted the speech being delivered by the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, during a hearing of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee to demand the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism and the lifting of the coercive measures in place.

On 26 March 2023, a day of caravans against the blockade was organized in Miami, with the participation of members of the Alianza Martiana, the José Martí Cultural Association, Bridges of Love and representatives of the Cuban and United States communities.

On 10 May 2023, 21 Democratic congresspersons, mainly from States on the southern border, sent a letter to President Biden in which they called for the easing of the maximum pressure policy affecting Cubans and Venezuelans. The congresspersons identified the stifling measures implemented by the Trump Administration as among the main reasons that have forced thousands of citizens of these nations to emigrate to the United States. With respect to Cuba, they highlighted the measures aimed at tightening the blockade and the inclusion of the country in the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 16 May 2023, the Council of the District of Columbia unanimously passed a resolution in which it urged the Biden Administration to lift the economic sanctions against Cuba and to remove the country from the unilateral and illegitimate list of State sponsors of terrorism. The text referred to the limitations imposed by the blockade on the development of health care, education and the economy in Cuba, as well as for cooperation between the two nations.

5.2 Opposition by the international community

The Cuba solidarity movement supporting an end to the blockade achieved major successes in 2022 and its activism was remarkable, with initiatives undertaken both in person and from digital platforms, through more than 1,649 friendship associations operating in 150 nations and 73 groups of graduates of Cuban educational institutions in 62 countries.

In all, 7,237 initiatives were undertaken to express solidarity with Cuba and to reject the blockade; they included statements by major personalities and Cubans living abroad, caravans against the blockade organized in many countries, public events, speeches at international events, the sending of open letters and the adoption of resolutions.

More than 400 statements were made against Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism.

There were also meetings organized by the “Bridges of Love” platform, the Latin American and Caribbean Continental Network of Solidarity with Cuba, Unblock Cuba and the “From Australia to Cuba with Love” initiative, as well as a media marathon against the blockade organized by the “Europe for Cuba” platform.

The following are some of the most important international initiatives undertaken between March 2022 and May 2023 to denounce the blockade:

- From 6 to 8 May 2022, the World Federation of Trade Unions held its 18th Congress in Rome, Italy, where it adopted a resolution in support of Cuba, in which it condemned the blockade and the inclusion of the country on the list of State sponsors of terrorism.
- On 18 May 2022, following its Twenty-Fifth Meeting, the Council for Foreign and Community Relations of the Caribbean Community issued a communiqué in which it once again condemned the blockade against Cuba and called for the immediate lifting of the blockade.
- On 27 May 2022, at their XXI Summit, held in Havana, the Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples’ Trade Treaty issued a declaration rejecting the imposition of unilateral coercive measures against Venezuela and Nicaragua as well as the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, actions which violated the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- From 6 to 10 June 2022, the IX Summit of the Americas was held in Los Angeles, United States. It was an anti-democratic and exclusionary meeting to which Cuba was not invited following an arbitrary decision of the Government of the United States. Civil society representatives were even denied visas so as to prevent them from participating in the People’s Summit, which was held at the same time. However, the voice of Cuba was present in the 20 countries that opposed the exclusions, the 11 heads of delegation that expressly denounced the blockade against the island, and others that also condemned the inclusion of Cuba on the arbitrary list of State sponsors of terrorism.

The “Let Cuba Live” panel discussion was held during the People’s Summit. Activists gathered in front of the Summit of the Americas headquarters and expressed their rejection of the exclusionary policy of the United States, their solidarity with Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela and their denunciation of the unilateral sanctions against those countries. They also delivered a letter against the Biden Administration’s policy of sanctions, exclusions and blockades.

- On 6 June 2022, the 31st Congress of the Communist Party of Norway, held in Bergen, issued a statement expressing solidarity with Cuba and denouncing the blockade.
- From 3 to 5 July 2022, during the 43rd Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Paramaribo, Suriname, the need to put an end to the blockade of Cuba was emphasized and the leaders of the Community were urged to continue to commit themselves to efforts to put an end to that policy.
- On 15 July 2022, the Secretary General of the South African Communist Party, Solly Mapaila, condemned the United States blockade against Cuba at the XV National Congress of the party. In one of the resolutions it adopted, the Central Committee of the party called for the lifting of that unjust policy.
- On 30 August 2022, the National Assembly of Ecuador adopted a resolution condemning the blockade.
- On 30 August 2022, during the visit of Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla to Serbia, President Aleksandar Vučić expressed his support for the Cuban resolution against the United States blockade adopted every year by the United Nations General Assembly.
- On 14 September 2022, the Jamaican Parliament adopted by consensus a motion condemning the blockade, its extraterritorial nature and the inclusion of Cuba on the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism.
- Between 20 and 26 September 2022, during the general debate at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, the heads of delegation of 40 countries condemned the blockade in their statements. In three of those statements, they denounced the inclusion of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism. The rejection of the blockade was among the 10 most discussed topics during the high-level general debate.
- On 21 September 2022, 83 Colombian members of parliament sent a letter to Kamala Harris, Vice-President of the United States and President of the United States Senate, Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and Csaba Kőrösi, President of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, requesting the removal of Cuba from the illegitimate list of countries sponsoring international terrorism.
- On 23 September 2022, at its XXII meeting, held in New York in the context of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America adopted a declaration in which it called for the immediate and unconditional end to the blockade against Cuba and demanded that the Government of the United States remove the country from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.
- On 12 October 2022, the Association of Cubans Residing in Panama sent a letter to Mari Carmen Aponte, Ambassador of the United States to Panama, denouncing the blockade of Cuba and requesting the immediate lifting of the blockade.
- On 26 October 2022, at their XXIII Meeting, held in Buenos Aires, the Foreign Ministers of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States issued a statement in which they reiterated the call of the United Nations General Assembly to put an end to the blockade against Cuba, which is not only contrary to international law, but also causes serious harm to the well-being of the Cuban people. They also rejected the unilateral lists and certifications which affect Latin American and Caribbean countries, and expressly requested that Cuba be removed from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism.

- On 27 October 2022, a public parliamentary hearing convened by the National Assembly of People's Power was held in Havana to call for a lifting of the blockade. The event was attended by national and foreign members of parliament, including the Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Colombian Senate, Gloria Flórez.
- On 27 October 2022, the National Assembly of Nicaragua issued a statement condemning the blockade.
- On 30 October 2022, the League of Palestinian Graduates of Cuban Universities and Institutes in Lebanon issued a statement demanding the lifting of the blockade imposed on Cuba.
- On 1 November 2022, civil society organizations and social movements in Trinidad and Tobago issued a statement entitled "End the illegal and illegitimate blockade of Cuba now!", in which they demanded the lifting of all the executive orders of the Trump Administration that reinforced the blockade of Cuba, as well as the removal of the country from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. They also called on Congress to repeal all laws that support the blockade of Cuba.
- On 2 November 2022, 18 former Presidents and Prime Ministers from the Latin American and Caribbean region sent a letter to the current President of the United States, Joseph Biden, requesting the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, the lifting of the restrictions of the blockade against Cuba and a return to the process of normalization of relations initiated during the Obama Administration.
- On 3 November 2022, the General Assembly adopted, for the thirtieth time, 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 and adoption of the resolution, 55 speakers spoke in favour of lifting the blockade, including representatives of 10 political consultation groups and regional and subregional organizations, namely the Group of 77 and China, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the African Group, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the European Union and, for the first time, the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations and the Central American Integration System.

Twenty-nine States and groups of countries also condemned the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of Cuba on the list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism.

- In November 2022, the State Duma and the Council of the Russian Federation adopted resolutions in support of Cuba and the need to put an end to the blockade. On 5 November, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a communiqué entitled "On the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution: Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".
- On 6 December 2022, at their Eighth Summit, held in Bridgetown, the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community and Cuba issued a declaration in which they called for an immediate and unconditional end to the blockade against Cuba, and reiterated the firm rejection of the enforcement of extraterritorial laws and measures such as the Helms-Burton Act, which grossly violate international law and undermine the sovereignty and interests of third parties. They also declared 6 October as the Caribbean Community-Cuba Day against terrorism in memory of the 73 people who died in the terrorist attack

against the Cubana de Aviación aircraft in the waters off Barbados on 6 October 1976. They also demonstrated their support for the battle against the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

- From 9 to 11 December 2022, the 7th Congress of the Party of the European Left was held in Vienna, where a motion was adopted in support of Cuba against the blockade and an appeal was made to the European Union to reject the extraterritorial measures of the blockade, which affect banks and companies of the community bloc.
- On 10 December 2022, at their 10th Summit, held in Angola, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States issued the Luanda Declaration, in which they rejected the increased application of unilateral and extraterritorial laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, which codifies the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.
- On 14 December 2022, at their 22nd Summit, held in Havana, the Heads of State and Government of ALBA-TCP issued a declaration in which they once again called on the Government of the United States to change its hostile policy towards Cuba and for an immediate and unconditional end to the blockade; the cessation of subversive, illegal and covert actions, including those carried out using information and communications technologies; and an end to the absurd and unjustified inclusion of Cuba on the spurious and arbitrary list of State sponsors of terrorism of the United States Department of State.
- On 16 December 2022, in his keynote speech at the 55th National Conference of the African National Congress, Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chair of the African National Congress, demanded an end of the blockade against Cuba. In one of the resolutions it adopted, the Conference called for the immediate lifting of the policy.
- In 2022, the spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry made 11 public statements in support of Cuba, 6 of which included explicit denunciations of the blockade policy. In the report entitled “The State of Democracy in the United States 2022”, published by the Chinese Foreign Ministry prior to the II Democracy Summit, held in March 2023, it was explicitly noted that, under the pretext of human rights and democracy, the United States has long used unilateral and extraterritorial sanctions against other countries, including Cuba. In the report on United States human rights violations in 2022, published annually by the State Council Information Office of China, the United States blockade against Cuba was once again cited as a policy that affects human rights in other nations.
- On 19 January 2023, during his official visit to the island, the Chancellor of Hungary, Péter Szijjártó, made statements to the press rejecting the blockade policy.
- On 24 January 2023, at their VII Summit, held in Buenos Aires, the Heads of State and Government of CELAC issued a declaration in which they supported the call of the United Nations General Assembly to put an end to the blockade against Cuba. They also rejected the unilateral lists and certifications that affect Latin American and Caribbean countries and requested the exclusion of Cuba from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism. They also adopted a special declaration on the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States of America against Cuba and a special declaration on support for the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They reiterated the demand that Cuba be removed from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

- On 19 February 2023, at the thirty-sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Assembly of the African Union adopted, for the fourteenth time, a resolution on the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States. It expressed serious concern about the continuation of the blockade and reaffirmed its support for the resolution on the matter adopted by the General Assembly each year. It also regretted the regression in relations between Cuba and the United States and called upon the United States to lift the unjustifiable and longstanding sanctions. It also expressed concern about the adverse effects of the extraterritorial application of the Helms-Burton Act, including the full implementation of its Title III, as well as the aggravated impact of the blockade in the context of the post-pandemic recovery.
- On 7 March 2023, the British Communist Party issued a statement rejecting the inclusion of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism.
- On 7 March 2023, the Portuguese Communist Party issued a statement in which it demanded the removal of Cuba from the illegitimate list of countries sponsoring terrorism.
- On 18 March 2023, Cuba solidarity organizations from the Nordic countries, meeting in Oslo, Norway, issued a declaration following the “Nordic Cuba Solidarity Event 2023”, where they demanded the immediate removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. They pointed out that “Cuba is a victim of terrorism, not a perpetrator”. They called the measure a false accusation, something acknowledged in serious political circles in the United States. They noted that the worst act of terrorism is the more than 60 years of inhuman blockade against Cuba, which they described as a crime against humanity and called for it to be lifted immediately.
- On 25 March 2023, at their XXVIII Summit, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the Ibero-American Heads of State and Government issued a special communiqué on the need to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America on Cuba, including the enforcement of the Helms-Burton Act, as well as a special communiqué in support of the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in which they rejected the unjustified inclusion of Cuba on the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism and requested the removal of the country from that list.
- On 2 May 2023, an international event of solidarity with Cuba took place in Havana, bringing together more than 271 political, trade union and social organizations from 58 countries. In their final declaration, the participants demanded the immediate removal of Cuba from the illegitimate list of State sponsors of terrorism imposed unilaterally, illegally and immorally by the Government of the United States. They agreed to mobilize throughout the five continents to put an end to the intensified blockade, which harms the development and well-being of the Cuban people.
- On 12 May 2023, in the final declaration of their IX Summit, the member States of the Association of Caribbean States requested the United States to remove Cuba from the spurious list of States that allegedly sponsor international terrorism and reiterated their call for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba.

Conclusions

No Cuban family escapes the effects of the United States blockade, the longest, cruellest and most comprehensive system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any nation.

As General Raúl Castro Ruz said on 16 April 2021 in his central report to the 8th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba: “The damage that these measures do to the standard of living of the population is neither accidental nor a collateral effect; it is the result of a deliberate attempt to punish the Cuban people as a whole”.

Between March 2022 and February 2023, the Government of the United States continued to disrupt fuel supplies to Cuba, pursued its campaign to discredit the medical assistance programmes that the island runs in numerous countries, and proposed to restrict by all means the recovery of the Cuban tourism sector, which was severely affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures are intended to deal a mortal blow to the country’s main sources of revenue.

Having to face the lingering consequences of COVID-19 and to live under conditions of veritable economic warfare has put additional pressure on our health-care system and on the short-, medium and long-term plans of a beleaguered economy. The Government of the United States opportunistically saw in the pandemic an ally to reinforce the blockade of the island and hasten its economic collapse. Today, as never before, that policy continues to severely affect national efforts to alleviate the economic, social and humanitarian impacts of COVID-19.

The Government of the United States has also intentionally set out to intimidate foreign investors and business entities by enforcing Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. It has also harmed the island’s private sector and compromised the ties with Cubans living in the United States. While it has taken very limited steps forward with regard to visas, regular migration, flights to Cuba and remittances, it has kept in full force the most severe provisions of the blockade and the maximum pressure measures that have been in place since 2017.

The financial persecution has been further reinforced by the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba on the State Department’s unilateral list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism. That was a measure imposed by the Republican Administration of Donald Trump only nine days before leaving the White House. The current President of the United States could correct the situation with just a signature. However, there has been no real political will to reverse one of the most damaging measures that affect all areas of the national economy, even when it is known that the reasons given for its enforcement are unfounded and dishonest.

That policy is also an affront to the principles of international law and to international trade rules, in that it provides for the application of economic pressure measures that undermine the sovereignty of Cuba and that of third countries. Washington wants to make all other countries and international organizations abide by its political decisions regarding Cuba through pressure and scandalously anti-democratic and interventionist practices.

From 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023, the blockade caused an estimated \$4,867 million in losses to Cuba, representing a shortfall of more than \$405 million per month, more than \$13 million per day and more than \$555,000 for each hour of the blockade. It is estimated that, without the blockade, the GDP of Cuba could have grown by 9 per cent in 2022.

At current prices, the losses accumulated over more than six decades of enforcement of the policy amount to \$159,084,300,000. Taking into account the performance of the dollar against the price of gold on the international market, the blockade has caused quantifiable losses of more than \$1,337,057,000,000, a figure lower than that contained in the previous report, which covered the period from August 2021 to February 2022, as the price of gold at the end of February 2023 had fallen by 4.2 per cent compared with the same month in 2022.

For 30 years, the Government of the United States has ignored the successive resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the voices in both society and government circles advocating an end to the blockade. It is an anachronistic policy that has ended up discrediting and isolating that nation.

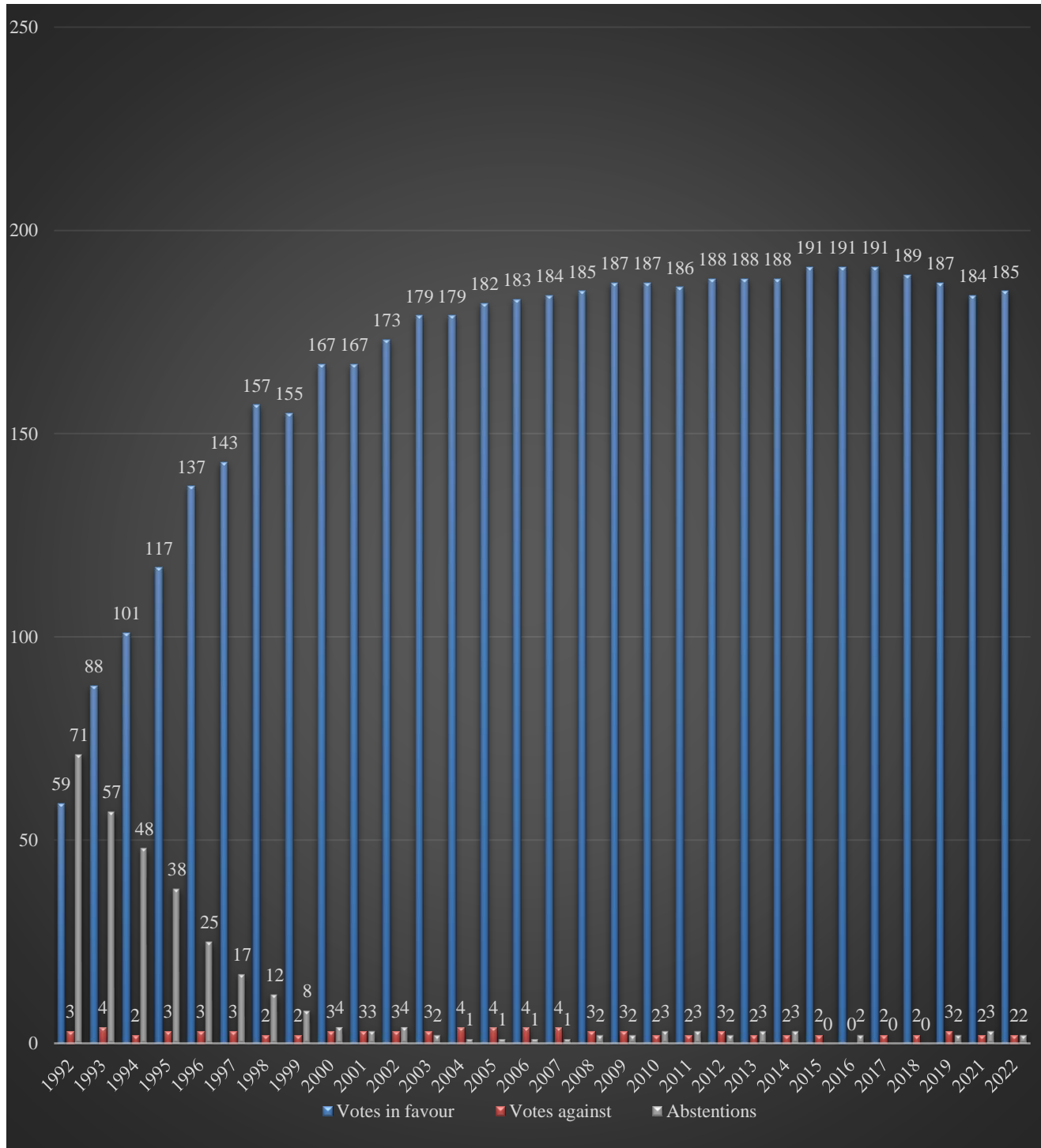
Cuba and its people are deeply grateful for the expressions of solidarity and support received, and trust in the support of the international community in its legitimate demand to put an end, once and for all and without any conditions, to that unjust, illegal and cruel system of unilateral coercive measures.

Annexes

I. Summary of the quantified losses by sector (March 2022–February 2023)

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Reported losses (in United States dollars)</i>
Health	239 803 690
Education	75 551 799
Sport	850 400.87
Culture	83 446 000
Biotechnological and pharmaceutical industry	142 896 200
Tourism	1 089 470 572
Agriculture	273 390 800
Information and communications technology, including telecommunications	41 270 050
Industry	23 098 100
Construction	89 134 500
Transport	202 420 140
Energy and mines	491 156 960
External sector	3 081 300 000
Banking and financial sector	280 200 000

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” (1992–2022)



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[20 March 2023]

Over 60 years have passed since the United States imposed an all-out economic embargo against Cuba for just a single reason, that the people and Government of Cuba had chosen its development way under the socialist system. It is definitely unreasonable and unjustified that the Cuban people have been subjected to immeasurable pain and suffering amid the brutal and prolonged blockade imposed by the United States.

The mere fact that Cuba has suffered a loss of hundreds of billions of dollars in damage owing to the United States economic embargo clearly shows the extent of how far the Cuban people have had to endure all of those sufferings. Since the year 2019, the blockades have reached qualitatively more harmful and inhumane proportions in all aspects of the economic development and social life of Cuban people and, furthermore, in the context of a global crisis, Cuba has had to face the unprecedented tightening of the United States blockades that still remains in force as a continuation of the United States maximum pressure policy against Cuba.

The lawsuits filed under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and the arbitrary and unilateral inclusion of Cuba in the list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism have become critical parts of the United States policy to isolate the Cuban Government and suppress its people by provoking and instigating its economic collapse.

It is the unanimous desire of the whole international community to withdraw all hostile policies and brutal inhumane sanctions and blockades against independent States that infringe upon their sovereignty in contravention of the ideals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, crimes against humanity and a violation of human rights.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government strongly requests the United States to lift immediately all its extraterritorial economic and financial embargoes against Cuba, as stipulated in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and, furthermore, to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, which strengthens the effects of the United States blockades.

The United States should abandon its anachronistic illusion that they could disrupt the Cuban socialist system and bring the Cuban people to their knees by dint of sanctions and pressure.

The approval of the General Assembly resolutions on the request to end the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba for 30 consecutive years clearly shows that the existence of the embargo is a flagrant violation of international law and the need for its immediate elimination.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government expresses its unreserved support to and solidarity with the people and Government of Cuba in their struggle to foil the United States sanctions and embargoes and to realize the independent development and prosperity of the country and calls upon all Member States to support the resolution as the unanimous desire of the international community.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Original: French]
[6 June 2023]

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 blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo remains greatly concerned by this problem and has not changed its long-standing position of support for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba by the United States of America.

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]
[28 March 2023]

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. Further, the Republic of Djibouti has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 77/7, and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the above-mentioned resolution and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

Dominica

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly as it relates to the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Thereby, in accordance with obligations under the Charter and international law, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has neither promulgated nor applied any law or measure that would in any way hinder the freedom of trade and navigation with the Republic of Cuba.

The Government of Dominica expresses deep concern about the 63-year-long economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba and all the associated measures that impede its full integration into the international community. The Government of Dominica regards such measures as contrary to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and customs, and the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, and as a result continues to call for cessation of such actions, and a 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 remains in solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba and continues to implore that due consideration be given to the unconditional end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, in order to see to the enhancement of peace, stability, prosperity and the full realization of the economic and social rights of the Cuban people.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]

[10 May 2023]

The Dominican Republic has repeatedly stated that it respects the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, as established in article 3 of its Constitution. Furthermore, article 50 of the Constitution recognizes and guarantees freedom of enterprise, commerce and industry. In addition, the 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 Government of the Dominican Republic has expressed its clear position in different international forums and is committed to respecting the rules of international law, such as the principle of self-determination of peoples and sovereignty of States enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, of which we are a founding member.

Therefore, the Dominican Republic stresses that it does not have laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution [77/7](#) of the General Assembly, 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: Spanish]

[31 March 2023]

Ecuador does not recognize as valid sanctions that have been imposed against a State unilaterally; it 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]

[30 March 2023]

The Arab Republic of Egypt voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), 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 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 60 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 30 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]
[23 March 2023]

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

El Salvador also declares that it has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of any kind that are contrary to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter or contrary to the freedom of international trade and navigation. On the contrary, El Salvador has supported various documents on the necessity of ending the unilateral

measures, not only to ensure compliance with international law but also because they have caused incalculable damage to the Cuban people.

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

El Salvador therefore reaffirms its support for resolution 77/7 and all previous General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Equatorial Guinea

[Original: Spanish]
[29 March 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, out of its deep respect for and commitment to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which reflect and recognize respect for the sovereignty and equality of States in the global community of nations, continues to support General Assembly resolution 77/7 and the previous resolutions on this issue.

Accordingly, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the above-mentioned resolution, no laws or coercive measures imposing economic, commercial or financial restrictions have been promulgated or applied against the sister Republic of Cuba.

Furthermore, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea reiterates its rejection of and strongly condemns any unilateral measure imposed by the United States of America that undermines the freedoms and socioeconomic development of the Cuban people. It joins the international call for the economic, commercial and financial blockade that has weighed on the Cuban people for decades to be lifted.

This will put an end to the enormous commercial, economic and financial difficulties that the Cuban people are currently experiencing in the midst of the major economic and financial crisis that the world is currently undergoing.

Eritrea

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

The Government of the State of Eritrea has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 77/7.

Eritrea remains strongly opposed to any continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which is inconsistent with the principles of international law, and undermines the efforts of Cuba and its people in the achievement of all the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard, Eritrea joins other States in calling on the United States for the immediate repeal or invalidation of all laws or measures that continue to adversely impact the livelihoods of the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

Eswatini

[Original: English]

[18 May 2023]

The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini applauded the giant steps taken by the Government of the United States of America in 2016 in working towards cementing a policy shift aimed at normalizing relations between the United States and Cuba, in line with the principles and aspirations of the Charter of the United Nations.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Eswatini fully supports such positive efforts and constructive engagement by the United States and Cuba. It is the Kingdom of Eswatini's hope and prayer that the United States of America favourably considers the appeal by the international community to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo, thus ensuring that Cuba enjoys all the freedoms, rights and privileges enjoyed by all sovereign nation States, without any hinderance or impediments.

Ethiopia

[Original: English]

[11 April 2023]

Unilateral coercive measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the basic principles under international law. The negative ramification of such measures on the enjoyment of human rights is recognized under Human Rights Council resolution [27/21](#).

The unilateral economic and financial embargo imposed on Cuba has affected the life of the Cuban people and constrained the Government's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The unilateral sanction has also prevented the Cuban economy from playing its rightful role in the international trade and economy. Ethiopia reiterates the decision of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union and urges for the lifting of the unilateral coercive measures against Cuba (Assembly/AU/Res. 2(XXXV)).

There is an increasing strain on the ability of States to fulfil the needs of their people that is exacerbated by global challenges, including climate change, pandemics and other local and global challenges. States need the maximum available cooperation to overcome these challenges. However, Cuba is compelled to face these problems on its own due to the embargo.

Ethiopia encourages open and constructive dialogue to bridge differences and to take steps in lifting the sanctions. Unilateral coercive measures are not only a violation of international law, they also curtail the efforts of developing countries to realize an adequate standard of living for their people and have a negative impact on international economic cooperation.

Therefore, Ethiopia reiterates the call by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government for the lifting of the long-standing economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

European Union

[Original: English]
[29 March 2023]

The European Union and its member States believe the United States unilateral measures 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 has restricted Cuba's ability to import pharmaceuticals, medical devices and other medical supplies needed against coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The measures directed against Cuba negatively affect the European Union's interests and violate commonly accepted rules of international trade. We welcome the measures announced by the United States Administration in 2022 to ease restrictions on family remittances and travel to the island, and to fully resume consular services. However, the designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism in January 2021 has introduced further obstacles to international financial transactions with the island.

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 May 2023]

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

Gabon

[Original: French]

[8 May 2023]

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 purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Gabon voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) 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 regarding 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.

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

Gambia

[Original: English]

[27 March 2023]

The Government of the Gambia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [77/7](#). Accordingly, the Gambia is opposed to the continued enactment or application of such laws, acts or measures against Cuba that 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]
[15 March 2023]

Georgia reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution [77/7](#). 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]
[27 March 2023]

In accordance with its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the established principles of international law, which underpin the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, the Government of the Republic of Ghana calls for the immediate and unconditional 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 untenable, especially at the current time, when multiple crises relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine and climate change have led to negative socioeconomic impacts globally, including elevated inflation, slow economic growth and fragilities that have disproportionately affected developing countries and continue to undermine their capacity to recover soon from the crises and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the remaining decade.

The unjustified embargo is of serious international concern, as reaffirmed by the resolutions adopted by the 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 immediate and unconditional lifting of the unilateral embargo and refrain from promulgating or enforcing laws or measures of the kind referred to in Assembly resolution [77/7](#). 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 call of the broader 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]
[13 March 2023]

Grenada, as a sovereign, independent State with the firm conviction of the sovereign equality of States, continues to recognize, uphold and adhere to the principles of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States.

Consequently, Grenada reiterates 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 and/or navigation by any State.

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

The consistent effects of this embargo, particularly with the additional restrictive measures imposed a few years ago and which are still in effect, are impediments to the goal of human development, as they undermine the fundamental principles of humanity. As the Cuban people suffer from their implementation, Grenada continues to view their application as counterproductive and in contravention of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

As a consequence, Grenada unreservedly supports General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), which calls for conformity with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and adds its voice to the international community for an immediate end to the embargo.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[9 February 2023]

Since 1997, the Republic of Guatemala has supported the resolutions on the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba, in accordance with its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

On 1 November 2018, the country joined the efforts of the United Nations system by adopting General Assembly resolution [73/8](#), 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 contravene 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 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 affect the development and well-being of the Cuban people.

For that reason, the Republic of Guatemala reiterates and makes a strong call for the restoration of a fruitful dialogue between both parties to ensure the rapid re-establishment 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]
[15 May 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Guinea reiterates its long-standing support for the cause of Cuba, given the economic, commercial and financial embargo of which its people have been the principal victims since 3 February 1962.

Guinea-Bissau

[Original: French]
[27 March 2023]

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 principles and purposes 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 60 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, banking, trade, investment and tourism.

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 77/7.

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

Guyana

[Original: English]
[8 March 2023]

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 enunciated in General Assembly resolution 77/7. To this end, and in compliance with paragraph 2 of resolution 77/7, Guyana has not promulgated nor applied laws and measures, of the kind referred to in the preamble of the aforementioned resolution, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, including Cuba.

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana maintains its call for the end of the embargo and for the normalization of relations between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America. Guyana is of the conviction that the normalization of relations between the two countries would contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the Americas. Furthermore, we underscore that developing countries such as Cuba need the full support of the international community as they seek to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the consolidation of the post-pandemic recovery.

The Government of Guyana recognizes the active and selfless contributions that Cuba has made over several decades, in areas such as human resource development, health, agriculture, sports and culture, despite the ongoing embargo, and which have been integral to socioeconomic progress in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), many of the countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region and further afield.

In December 2022, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in concert with CARICOM member States, marked 50 years of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba. Guyana takes this opportunity to reiterate its appreciation to the Government of Cuba for the substantial support provided in the area of health and the thousands of scholarships awarded to Guyanese in various fields over many years.

Haiti

[Original: French]
[22 March 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Haiti has never promulgated any laws, legal provisions or measures of the kind referred to in resolution 77/7, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 2022.

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 embargo 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 of America are normalized, leading to an end to the economic and financial embargo against Cuba.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[30 March 2023]

Honduras reaffirms its respect for the values and principles on which contemporary international law and the United Nations are based. It objects to all forms of unilateralism, including the threat or application of sanctions or blockades, especially those that have existed for decades without yielding any positive results. Accordingly, Honduras rejects the extraterritorial application of laws and/or the unilateral imposition of economic, commercial and financial blockades and recalls that multilateralism must once again become a shared commitment of the members of international society, so that it can contribute to the development of peoples.

Iceland

[Original: English]
[6 February 2023]

The Government of Iceland reaffirms its position in favour of General Assembly resolution 77/7. Iceland neither promulgates nor applies any laws or measures referred to in resolution 77/7. Iceland does not apply trade or economic legislation against Cuba that restricts or discourages trade or investment to or from Cuba. Iceland opposes the extraterritorial extension of unilateral measures against a third country.

India

[Original: English]
[29 March 2023]

India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 77/7 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 of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in Baku, on 25 and 26 October 2019 on this subject, 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 the Non-Aligned Countries, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

Indonesia

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

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 of America 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.

As we enter the decade of action for the 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.

As the world continues its recovery measures from the hardship of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a prolonged economic, commercial and financial embargo would prevent seamless access to vaccines and medical supplies, and directly expose millions of lives to the threat of infection. The delay of an overdue policy shift has regrettably continued to limit Cuba's economic and financial capacities which consequentially hampers Cuba's economic recovery strategies.

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]

[30 March 2023]

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its strong position regarding the rejection of imposing of and obedience to any kind of unilateral coercive measures or economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Member States of the United Nations. Given the devastating effects of unilateral coercive measures, in particular on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, we have consistently called for the earliest repeal of this embargo and in general for the rejection of political pressure and coercion that exacerbates a confrontational approach to international relations.

In line with this principled position, and in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Islamic Republic of Iran has neither applied nor promulgated any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

During the past half century and in defiance of international law and commitments under the Charter, the United States has imposed economic, commercial and financial embargoes against the Republic of Cuba, with the sole aim of economic suffocation of the Cuban people.

On 3 November 2022, recalling its preceding resolutions, the General Assembly adopted its annual resolution to end the United States embargo against Cuba (resolution [77/7](#)). Nevertheless, the United States has continued promulgation of the

economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba in blatant breach of its obligations and insubordination to the collective will of the international community, which has been declared in the aforementioned resolutions.

The economic, commercial and financial embargoes imposed on Cuba continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and will hamper the efforts of the Government of Cuba to achieve sustainable development.

It is a matter of great concern that the imposition of unilateral coercive measures against Member States by the Administration of the United States, with vast extraterritorial effects, has reached an unprecedented level. These measures have been taken with the whole intention of pursuing political agendas through inflicting tremendous hardship and suffering on the nations not only by affecting freedom of trade but also, in particular, trade in humanitarian goods and commodities, such as foodstuffs, medicine and agricultural and animal products.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the increasing number of unilateral acts in international relations, including the unilateral use of force, the threat of the use of force and unilateral coercive economic measures have grave and adverse consequences for multilateralism, international law, the Charter, human rights and the right to development.

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

In the same vein and as done in the annual resolution titled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", we call upon 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 other international bodies, the annual reports should contain substantive analysis and propose practical arrangements to ensure its full implementation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran shares the concerns of the Government and people of Cuba and emphasizes the urgent need to put an end to such measures and to fully implement General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

Iraq

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Iraq is committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Charter of the United Nations and international law, especially the principles of the sovereign equality of States.

Iraq consistently supports the resolutions of the General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Iraq has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the resolution on Cuba.

Iraq supports diplomatic mediation endeavours to encourage negotiations and dialogue to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Furthermore, Iraq welcomes all efforts and steps to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba, to lift all restrictions and enable the Cuban people to 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]
[16 March 2023]

The Government of Jamaica remains fully committed to the Charter of the United Nations, 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 its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), 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 that would infringe on the sovereignty of any State or its lawful national interests.

Jamaica views economic sovereignty as a cornerstone of a State’s development. On 14 September 2022, Parliament passed a resolution supporting meaningful action on ending 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 the Charter of the United Nations 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 as countries aim to bolster their recovery after the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the additional strain that this will have on the Government and people of Cuba in navigating the new normal that 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 Cuban Entities and Subentities” to subject them to additional tax sanctions, are particularly harmful. Additionally, the designation by the United States of America of Cuba on the list of countries responsible for State-sponsored terrorism is without basis in the objective criterion used for such designation. This classification deepens the challenges Cuba has with third parties, and Cuba ought to be removed.

Jamaica’s strong advocacy 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 it is also an impediment to our shared regional development.

Jamaica has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions, including resolution [77/7](#), which call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and urge all Member States to uphold the Charter of the United Nations 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 to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba. Most

recently, in July 2022, the Community reiterated its call for the immediate lifting of sanctions against Cuba.

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]
[31 March 2023]

The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind that are referred to in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 77/7.

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 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 77/7.

Jordan

[Original: English]
[31 January 2023]

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has not applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 77/7. 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]
[30 March 2023]

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]
[22 March 2023]

The Government of Kenya has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 77/7.

The Government of Kenya believes in a rules-based multilateral system and, as such, 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 embargoes in perpetuity, particularly when these have undermined Cuba's overall objectives of national ownership, sustainable peace and sustainable development.

It is for these reasons that Kenya always votes in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of eliminating 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]
[7 June 2023]

The Government of Kiribati continues to reiterate its support for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 77/7 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]
[10 May 2023]

The State of Kuwait expresses its support for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 77/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, and reiterates its strong commitment to international law and to the principles and purposes 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, peaceful coexistence and the settling of disputes by peaceful means.

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

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: English]
[29 March 2023]

The Kyrgyz Republic reaffirms its commitment to the fundamental norms and principles of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and also advocates respect for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and shipping. The Kyrgyz Republic consistently supports the efforts of the 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]
[28 March 2023]

The Lao People's Democratic Republic reaffirms its position that the embargo with its extraterritorial implications does not only hinder 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 as well as freedom of international trade and navigation. As such, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has neither promulgated nor applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

The imposition of the economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America and the redesignation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism by the previous United States Administration have increased obstacles to international financial transactions with the country, which not only violates the principles of international law, but also imposes severe restrictions and obstacles to the socioeconomic development of Cuba. In this connection, the Lao People's Democratic Republic calls for the immediate lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[28 February 2023]

The Government of Lebanon fully complies with General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), 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 long-standing position of Lebanon, based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law that stress the need to respect the sovereignty of States.

Lesotho

[Original: English]
[26 April 2023]

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 the 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. In this regard, Lesotho calls upon the United States of America to lift the embargo imposed against Cuba.

Liberia

[Original: English]
[12 May 2023]

The Government 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 consonance 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 cooperates with other Member States of the United Nations to support the call to end the embargo and the resolution on that matter.

Libya

[Original: English]
[9 May 2023]

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 [77/7](#).

Libya, in keeping with its principled position, voted in favour of resolution [77/7](#) 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]
[11 May 2023]

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 continues to support, for this purpose, the measures aiming to lift the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

Malawi

[Original: English]
[5 May 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Malawi, which has diplomatic relations with Cuba, has never promulgated country-specific targeted legislation or instructions barring trade or cooperation with Cuba. As such, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/7, there is not much done to comply with it in terms of the law.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[29 March 2023]

Malaysia remains strongly opposed to all forms of unilateral economic, financial and commercial embargoes that contravene the norms of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Malaysia has consistently voted in favour of the annual General Assembly resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” including the recent General Assembly resolution 77/7, adopted on 3 November 2022.

Malaysia firmly believes that no State should impose unilateral economic, commercial and financial sanctions on other States. Such sanctions not only threaten the economic development of the targeted country, as they restrict free and unfettered business across borders, but also hamper social development, such as by limiting employment opportunities and worsening the living conditions of civilians.

Malaysia supports the immediate end to the unilateral embargo against Cuba, which has caused significant suffering for the Cuban people.

Maldives

[Original: English]
[22 March 2023]

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 77/7, in favour of which the Republic of Maldives has voted.

Mali

[Original: French]
[13 March 2023]

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 embargo imposed against Cuba.

The Government of the Republic of Mali, which fully supports General Assembly resolution 77/7, adopted on 3 November 2022, 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 embargo against Cuba should be lifted.

Mauritania

[Original: French]

[28 April 2023]

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]

[9 February 2023]

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 Cuba and remains open to developing its trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

[20 March 2023]

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.

The relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean is a priority for the Government of Mexico, as expressed by the President of our country, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, which has led to the strengthening of integration processes and the expansion of dialogue and cooperation with the countries of this region.

Cuba is a particularly 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.

On 11 February 2023, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador received his Cuban counterpart, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, in the State of Campeche, Mexico, on what was his fourth visit to our country.

With this visit, Mexico and Cuba reaffirm the ties of friendship, fraternity and solidarity between their peoples and Governments, a relationship that is going through one of its most significant periods of understanding and closeness in over 120 years of uninterrupted relations.

Mexico also reiterated the urgent need for Cuba to be removed from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, which impedes international financial transactions and hampers the operations of foreign companies, thus causing shortages of basic products.

There is recognition that a new world geopolitical reality exists that makes it advisable to seek unity and multilateralism to face current global challenges. Consequently, and in keeping with the historical relationship between our country and Cuba, the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States for the past six decades is unacceptable, not only in terms of human rights but also because it is an impediment to economic and social development, with incalculable consequences for the economy of Cuba.

In addition, this embargo has had adverse effects by preventing Cuba from engaging in international trade and finance, which translates in particular into the withdrawal of contracts, the loss of relations with banking establishments and indebtedness.

The economic conditions on the island caused by the embargo are having an impact on bilateral trade activity as well as on possible benefits both for companies (in the form of financing programmes, technical cooperation, training and financial services) and citizens of both countries.

Ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo would promote the restructuring of the economy, thereby facilitating trade and investment flows in a natural way in the region, and could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and comply fully with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Monaco

[Original: French]
[16 March 2023]

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 [77/7](#), adopted on 3 November 2022.

Mongolia

[Original: English]
[21 March 2023]

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 the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Developing countries continue to fight with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and its consequences are expected to be long-lasting. The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the embargo, has a negative impact on the social and economic development of the country, affecting the lives of the Cuban people.

Montenegro

[Original: English]
[26 January 2023]

The Government of Montenegro has supported General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), 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 General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

Mozambique

[Original: English]
[24 March 2023]

The Republic of Mozambique has never promulgated, applied, collaborated on or contributed to the application of any laws or regulations contravening General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

This position is consistent with the favourable vote of the Republic of Mozambique in support of resolution [77/7](#) in 2022.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation takes this opportunity to reiterate the unconditional support of the Republic of Mozambique for the provisions of resolution [77/7](#) and calls for the unconditional lifting of the embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[6 March 2023]

The Republic of Namibia fully supports General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) and previous Assembly resolutions and decisions concerning Cuba’s economic, commercial and financial blockade. Namibia has also been unequivocally opposing the embargo at all levels at international and regional multilateral forums. Namibia further requests that the embargo against the Republic of Cuba be lifted immediately and unconditionally.

Based on a number of bilateral agreements, the Government of the Republic of Namibia maintains cordial and mutual relations and long-term collaboration with the Government of Cuba. Both countries convene joint commissions on bilateral cooperation covering various sectors, every two years. Namibia and Cuba hosted virtually the fifth session of the Namibia-Cuba Joint Working Group, on 8 and 9 September 2022. The Joint Working Group included sectors such as health, urban and rural development, fishing, education, works and transportation, arts and culture,

mining and energy, justice, trade and sports in order to strengthen links between Namibia and Cuban firms and organizations.

In addition, the following Namibia-Cuba events occurred in 2022:

- In support of the intensification of the 60-year-long United States economic blockade on Cuba and the escalation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Namibia, through the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, secured cooking oil, as part of humanitarian aid to the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba. The cooking oil was officially handed over on 15 September 2022.
- In the area of health, there are currently 90 Cuban health professionals extending their services across various regions in Namibia.
- Fifty-four Namibian students of dentistry and four of medicine graduated, in July 2022, from different universities in Cuba.
- The Cuban Government granted two scholarships in medical sciences to the Government of Namibia for the 2023 academic year.
- 20 Cuban engineers and architects are providing technical assistance in 13 of Namibia's 14 regions.

Nauru

[Original: English]
[8 May 2023]

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.

The most recent Secretary General's report on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba shows that the multidimensional global crises in the energy, food, environmental and transportation sectors combined with the cumulative impacts of two years of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have put the Cuban economy under extraordinary pressure leading to a decline in consumption levels and the general welfare of the population.

Therefore, it is imperative today more than ever to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo.

The Government of Nauru reiterates its full support for, and observance of, General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Nepal

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

The Government of Nepal has firmly adhered to the provisions of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) and has not enacted or applied any laws or measures contrary to the resolution.

New Zealand

[Original: English]
[15 March 2023]

The Government of New Zealand reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 77/7. The Government of New Zealand has consistently supported 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]
[28 March 2023]

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.

Nicaragua advocates the defence of sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and the right to self-determination of our peoples.

Nicaragua, like all developing countries and the international community as a whole, notes with concern that illegal unilateral coercive measures and the blockade imposed even during the pandemic are becoming a crime against humanity.

Nicaragua considers that the international community as a whole must continue to condemn the criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade against the people and Government of Cuba, which are being subjected by the United States to an inhumane economic, commercial and financial blockade that has for decades presented obstacles to a people who have, nevertheless, managed to resist and move forward despite those attacks and the blockade.

Nicaragua demands that the Government of the United States end the inhumane, illegal, immoral and unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the solidary people and Government of Cuba.

The Government of the United States, by failing to comply with the 30 relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted in 30 consecutive years, has demonstrated its lack of respect for international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the universal political will of the international community, which is demanding an end to the anachronistic United States policy against Cuba. This is an irrational posture that clearly demonstrates the supremacy and exclusive exceptionalism of the United States power elite.

Nicaragua condemns all aggressive policies against Cuba, the claims filed under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act; the targeting of businesses, ships and shipping companies that send fuel supplies to the country; the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of Cuba in the State Department's list of State sponsors of terrorism; the attack on all sources of income and flows of foreign currency into the country; the

intimidation of third parties; and the strengthening of pressure on Governments, banking institutions and businesses around the world.

The universal consensus of the peoples and Governments of the world has demanded an end to the inhumane, illegal and criminal blockade, which affects the Cuban health system and has a cruel and genocidal nature. It is aimed at suffocating the economy of this brother country, violating all human rights and undermining the efforts of the courageous Cuban people to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This immoral, illegal and inhumane blockade has caused cumulative damage in the amount of \$154,217.3 million over nearly six decades of anachronistic policies, causing the Cuban economy to undergo extraordinary pressures that have affected industry, the service sector and retail trade as well as causing food and medicine shortages and leading to the decline of the level of consumption and the general well-being of the population.

It has been proven beyond a doubt that all these aggressions are an essential part of the United States strategy to isolate Cuba and bring about its economic collapse. As amply demonstrated in the various reports drafted by the Secretary-General on the subject, they have caused irreparable and irreversible damage to the Cuban people in terms of the enjoyment of human rights, the right to development and the right to live in peace.

It is admirable that Cuba – as a result of its conscience, its revolutionary fighting spirit, its conviction and its socialist commitment to the world – has miraculously managed to be on a par with the developed countries that punish, block and attack it, and to produce vaccines to help developing peoples and even developed countries.

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 with a view to punishing peoples and Governments that do not submit to its interfering measures or agree with the imposition of such measures.

Nicaragua rejects and condemns any interference, intended or actual, in the internal affairs of Cuba. We call upon 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. Nicaragua also rejects the campaign of disinformation and fake news discrediting the sister Republic of Cuba.

The United Nations must fulfil its historic purpose of promoting, on the basis of sovereign equality, a multilateralism 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.

We demand that the United Nations stop encouraging, backing and supporting aggressions, invasions, terrorism and blockades targeting peoples and insulting, slandering and condemning heroic peoples that defend their dignity – namely, the Cuban people and other peoples of the world that are not willing to submit to the United States.

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.

It once again urges the United States to initiate a respectful dialogue aimed at resolving the pending bilateral issues with Cuba, on the basis of the equality of States, reciprocity and respect for the sovereignty and independence of Cuba.

Niger

[Original: French]
[23 March 2023]

The United States embargo against Cuba, which was enacted in February 1962 following nationalizations involving the expropriation of United States companies, and is still in force, remains one of the longest-standing unilateral sanctions regimes in the world.

The Government of the Niger is deeply committed to respecting the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and reiterates that it has no intention of applying any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 77/7 entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, whereby embargoes are imposed against a State.

In addition, the Niger reaffirms its principled position in support of that resolution and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as its adherence to the relevant positions affirmed by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 and China, among others, calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

This economic, commercial and financial embargo is causing great suffering for the Cuban people, hindering their economic and social development, and must therefore be urgently lifted.

Nigeria

[Original: English]
[22 March 2023]

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]
[23 March 2023]

The Government of Norway reaffirms its position in favour of General Assembly resolution 77/7. 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]
[9 February 2023]

The Government of Oman complies with and implements the above-mentioned resolution and does not apply any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the said resolution.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

Pakistan is fully in observance of General Assembly resolution 77/7, on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[24 March 2023]

Panama reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution 77/7 on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, bearing in mind the harm it is causing to the well-being of the Cuban people. It also reiterates the call contained in the Buenos Aires Declaration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States of 24 January 2023.

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

Panama also reiterates its concern over the application of unilateral coercive measures against the Republic of Cuba, particularly measures that affect its normal economic and social development and the health of the Cuban population, made even worse by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and that hinder the achievement 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 embargo 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 77/7.

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

Papua New Guinea

[Original: English]

[12 May 2023]

Papua New Guinea recalls its support for General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

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

Currently, Papua New Guinea has no restrictive legislative, policy or other measures against Cuba. On the contrary, Papua New Guinea encourages constructive and friendly relations between both countries consistent with the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international law.

Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]

[16 March 2023]

Paraguay fully supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) in accordance with our historical position of refraining from promulgating or 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 unconditional respect for the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and for international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, and freedom of international trade and navigation, among other principles established in various international legal instruments.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]

[29 March 2023]

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.

Peru considers that the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba is incompatible with the political dynamics of the region and contrary to the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of other States, as stated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Raúl Porras Barrenechea, in his historic speech delivered

at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of American States in 1960.

Since 1992, when Peru voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [47/19](#), on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, the Government of Peru has been consistent in its foreign policy, maintaining uninterrupted diplomatic relations with Cuba for more than 50 years, and has voted in favour of all the resolutions on this matter in the General Assembly. This principled stance has been reflected in regional forums, such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Ibero-American Conference.

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 about the adverse effects that these measures have 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, by consistently opposing the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, will continue to promote trade and economic exchanges with that country, within the framework of the Economic Complementarity Agreement that has governed bilateral trade relations since 2001.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[16 May 2023]

The Philippines fully supports and reiterates its commitment to adhere to General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

The Philippines has not imposed and does not intend to impose any laws, regulations or measures that are contrary to General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[4 May 2023]

The position of the State of Qatar remains unchanged with regard to the resolution, which it fully supports. 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]
[1 May 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Korea has consistently supported 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 or administrative measures of the kind which are referred to in General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

Republic of Moldova

[Original: English]
[25 January 2023]

The Republic of Moldova fully upholds the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and has never promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) regarding the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Republic of North Macedonia

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

The Republic of North Macedonia has neither applied nor promulgated any unilateral sanctions or embargo and reiterates that it fully implements General Assembly resolution [77/7](#).

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[30 March 2023]

The Russian Federation, together with the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations, has consistently supported the General Assembly resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The sanctions campaign against Cuba is a clear example of Washington elevating illegitimate measures of intimidation to the level of official United States government policy. The uncontrolled use of unilateral sanctions by the United States to achieve its own opportunistic goals has posed a challenge to the sovereign development of many States and the prosperity of their citizens. The grave humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences of their use are impeding the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and leading to long-term detrimental effects on the state of the world.

The situation arising from the illegal embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba clearly demonstrates the viciousness of this harmful practice, which is contrary to the fundamental principles and rules of international law, including human rights law. The embargo is causing enormous economic damage to the island. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, in the period from January 2021 to February 2022, the damage caused by the sanctions against Cuba amounted to \$6.3 billion. The total damage to the national economy since the imposition of the embargo had risen to \$154 billion as of October 2022.

The Administration of the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, notwithstanding election pledges to relax foreign policy towards Cuba, continues to pursue an unlawful, unjust and destructive policy against the Cuban people. The superficial easing of restrictions announced by the United States has not fundamentally changed its discriminatory attitudes. This is clearly evidenced by the fact that, even under Biden, Cuba is still included by the United States in its list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism, which prevents Havana from carrying out foreign trade and financial transactions. In addition, Cuba is included by the United States Department of State in its list of States that allegedly engage in trafficking in persons and forced labour or pursue related policies. This measure also undermines the island's trade and economic relations with its partners.

Russia believes that finally lifting the embargo not only would 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 and to build a multipolar, just world order based on equality, mutual respect and adherence to international law.

Rwanda

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

Rwanda has consistently voted in favour of the General Assembly resolutions entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted by the General Assembly every year.

The position of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda remains unchanged. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implements General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), reaffirms its support for said resolution and has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of 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]
[25 April 2023]

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has the honour to reiterate its support for the Republic of Cuba in its quest to eradicate the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on the island State by the Government of the United States of America over six decades ago.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), Saint Kitts and Nevis condemns the embargo as an act of sequestration to impede the economic growth and development of Cuba – a direct violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law which promotes free trade.

While we acknowledge the fact that the current United States administration has taken subtle steps to relax restrictions on remittances and flights to Cuba, these policies do not reverse the blockade nor do they modify the main measures of economic siege which continue to have adverse effects on the Republic of Cuba as it grapples with the convergence of a post-pandemic world.

It is against this backdrop that Saint Kitts and Nevis is pleased to apprise that despite these economic sanctions, Cuba has remained one of our closest allies, aiding in the advancement of our health sector as evidenced through the deployment of medical practitioners under the Cuban medical brigade and the Cuban Government scholarship programme.

Considering the aforementioned, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis thereby restates the urgency of meaningful dialogue between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America within a contextual nuance of this outdated embargo.

As such, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis joins the vast majority of nations that vote in favour of the resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against

Cuba” and is affirmed in its stance of solidarity with the Cuban people against this longstanding matter.

Saint Lucia

[Original: English]

[28 March 2023]

The Government of Saint Lucia, in compliance with international legal obligations, and in compliance with the 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 affirms 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 that the extraterritorial application of national legislation runs contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among nations.

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

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

[Original: English]

[22 March 2023]

Since 1992, by virtue of the adoption of General Assembly resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the membership of the United Nations has condemned the ongoing blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States. In November 2022, the General Assembly adopted, with near universal approval, resolution [77/7](#), in which Member States called for steps to be taken to repeal or invalidate the aforementioned measures. The overwhelming support for this resolution is indicative of the international community’s opposition to the continuation of the embargo and should serve as encouragement to the United States to abandon its debilitating policy and work with the people of Cuba to forge a new, constructive and positive path forward.

At the centre of this opposition are the foundational principles that underpin the Charter of the United Nations and the multilateral order, namely the sovereign equality of all States, non-intervention and non-interference, each of which are rightfully expected to be respected by all States Members of the United Nations. In that regard, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines rejects the notion that any State can unilaterally impose on another such illegal and counterproductive measures, the consequences of which are borne by the people of the nation.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines underscores that the possibility for any rapprochement between the United States and Cuba is predicated on the removal of this embargo. That is the only way to create an environment conducive for dialogue that can engender a relationship that is mutually beneficial to both countries and further strengthen hemispheric relations, integration and diplomacy.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to stand in solidarity with Cuba and its people and echoes the calls of the majority of the membership of the United Nations for the lifting of the unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade, which we underscore constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Samoa

[Original: English]
[16 May 2023]

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 [77/7](#) and has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures that are contrary to that resolution.

San Marino

[Original: English]
[14 February 2023]

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 pressure and because of the serious repercussions on the population.

Sao Tome and Principe

[Original: English]
[6 March 2023]

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe once again fully endorses the content of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted on 3 November 2022.

Once again, 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 that resolution.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]
[8 May 2023]

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]
[20 March 2023]

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

Serbia

[Original: English]
[13 March 2023]

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 [77/7](#) 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 aforementioned resolution 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 States Members of the United Nations.

Seychelles

[Original: English]
[20 February 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles stands with the international community in endorsing the content of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted on 3 November 2022.

Seychelles believes in the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal matters of other States. In adherence to these principles, Seychelles is

against the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impacts and other forms of unjustified, unilateral coercive economic measures.

As such, Seychelles underscores the importance of the human rights and economic welfare of all peoples and recognizes the encroachment on these tenets that the United States embargo imposes upon the people of Cuba. Seychelles supports efforts on both sides to end the embargo and its repercussions on Cuba so as to fully integrate into the wider global community.

The Government of Seychelles reaffirms its solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba and supports the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States.

Sierra Leone

[Original: English]
[15 March 2023]

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.

The Republic of 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.

The Republic of 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 to 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.

The Republic of Sierra Leone therefore reiterates its full and unreserved support for General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), 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]
[23 February 2023]

The Government of Singapore reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution [77/7](#). 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]
[14 May 2023]

Solomon Islands, in its support for General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), 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]
[30 March 2023]

In adopting General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, South Africa joined 185 countries voting in favour to 2 against (Israel and the United States), with 2 abstentions (Brazil and Ukraine).

The South African Government remains concerned about the destructive 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, and amid the mounting global food and fuel crises. The United States embargo has had widespread implications and consequences and is stifling not only Cuba’s growth, but that of the entire region. The United States designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism and the enforcement of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act further entrenches the embargo.

South Africa reiterates its unwavering call to the United States to remove this unjust burden of sanctions and to opt for constructive dialogue with Cuba, not further isolation. South Africa joins the majority of United Nations Member States in calling for a new chapter of hope for Cuba and its people. There are some encouraging developments in that the United States has taken some positive steps to alleviate certain restrictions on Cuba, but the embargo continues to be the central element defining Cuba-United States relations.

South Africa is in full agreement with the Group of African States, the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement that the United States embargo and other punitive measures have caused immeasurable damage to Cuba. The South African Government and people acknowledge with deep humility the sacrifices 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 undeniable right to develop and prosper.

United States sanctions are major impediments for South African companies in conducting business with Cuba. Nevertheless, relations between South Africa and Cuba continue to serve as a successful model of South-South cooperation and South Africa has recommitted to existing bilateral cooperation programmes with Cuba, as well as to pursue new areas of cooperation such as in infrastructure development, agriculture and 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. United States sanctions have caused major socioeconomic difficulties for Cuba, including shortages of essential items such as food, energy, medicines and other necessities. South Africa commends 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. The global commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda remains in jeopardy when the

embargo prevents a Member State from fairly participating in its own socioeconomic development.

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 United Nations on the matter and to ensure the sustainable further progress of the people of Cuba.

South Sudan

[Original: English]

[3 May 2023]

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 with 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. In this regard, the Republic of South Sudan calls for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 77/7, 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 3 November 2022.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]

[28 March 2023]

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 and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 77/7.

Sri Lanka has continuously supported the adoption of the resolutions on this item at the General Assembly and has taken the position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba needs to end.

Suriname

[Original: English]
[15 February 2023]

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 of Cuba's economic and health-care sectors, deprives the Cuban people of using the full 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 [77/7](#).

Switzerland

[Original: French]
[20 March 2023]

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 2022. 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 March 2023]

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 [77/7](#).

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 resolution 77/7. It disregards and does not consider itself bound by any of the illegal unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Cuban people by successive American administrations since 1962. It stresses that the relations between Syria and Cuba represent a model of bilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs, with the two countries constantly seeking out new areas of cooperation to further the interests of the two peoples.

The adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution to lift the unjust United States embargo by an overwhelming majority for the thirty-first time in a row reaffirms the validity and justice of this cause and the support of the international community for it. In the light of deteriorating conditions 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 the lives of the Cuban people, their right to self-determination and their ambitions for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the exclusionary policies pursued by the United States of America towards a number of developing countries, the forced embargo it has imposed on the Cuban people for more than 50 years, and its implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996, also known as the Helms-Burton Act. The Syrian Arab Republic believes that implementation of these hostile policies constitutes the main factor that increases the suffering of the Cuban people and regards them as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. They also run counter to human rights principles and international humanitarian law, restrict freedom of international trade and navigation, and obstruct realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As the United States persists with its hostile policies against the Cuban people, the Cuban economy suffers huge losses on a daily basis because of the unjust United States embargo. The damage has exceeded the trillion-dollar mark and has a direct negative impact on the daily lives of Cubans. Constant power outages, lack of medicines, difficulty securing medical supplies, shortages of basic commodities and food needs, and restrictions on the import and exchange of goods are just some examples of systematic human rights violations being perpetrated by the United States through its continued imposition of the embargo against Cuba.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United States to immediately rescind its deployment, in 2020, of a new instrument of war, namely, putting Cuba back on the list of States that it claims are sponsors of international terrorism. Being put on that list compounds the difficulties Cuba faces in engaging in international trade and conducting financial or banking transactions. It has precipitated the suspension of numerous commercial, economic and services contracts with various international parties. That, in turn, has exacerbated the debt crisis and obstructed the movement of goods, with incalculable consequences for the Cuban people.

Like Cuba and several other developing countries, the Syrian Arab Republic remains to this day the target of numerous unilateral coercive measures by Western States, above all the United States and the European Union. These measures are being imposed unilaterally and illegally outside the framework of the United Nations and international legitimacy, and are obstructing efforts by the Syrian Government to respond to humanitarian needs, restore security and bring about peace and prosperity.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its unwavering commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, its respect for the rules of international law, and its demand for an immediate and definitive end to the imposition of unilateral

coercive measures. It renews its call on the United States Administration to comply immediately and unconditionally with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions, including the recent resolution [77/7](#); to put an immediate end to the criminal and illegal economic, commercial and financial embargo it has imposed against Cuba; and to respect its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations towards the peoples of Member States.

Tajikistan

[Original: English]
[20 April 2023]

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan reaffirms its position in support of General assembly resolution [77/7](#) of 3 November 2022.

Tajikistan, as part of international community, advocates adherence to the principles of international law and asserts that to freely determine its own ways of development is the fundamental right of every nation.

We believe that economic, commercial and financial restrictions always harm the economy of a country, thereby affecting people's welfare and well-being, and that such restrictions are contrary to the principles of the United Nations and create obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[13 April 2023]

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 suffering for its people.

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

Timor-Leste

[Original: English]
[20 March 2023]

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste fully adheres to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the principles of freedom of international trade and navigation. Timor-Leste reaffirms its position of support for General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) 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]
[8 May 2023]

In keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Togo has always strived 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 Government of Cuba 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]
[28 March 2023]

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 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 77/7. The Kingdom of Tonga maintains friendly and diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

The principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, are considered to be sacrosanct by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws are considered by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to be inconsistent with the purposes and principles enshrined in 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, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter and international law.

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba have shared cordial and productive relations for many years. An important dimension of this interaction is economic in nature, beginning in 1972, when diplomatic relations were established. Trinidad and Tobago has consistently supported regional and international efforts to promote constructive dialogue with the objective of the cessation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo in place against Cuba, which significantly challenges the achievement of sustainable development in that country.

Trinidad and Tobago has welcomed direct, frank dialogue involving Cuba concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo.

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: French]
[10 May 2023]

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 [77/7](#) and all of the previous Assembly resolutions calling for the lifting of the blockade imposed against 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.

Türkiye

[Original: English]
[13 March 2023]

The Republic of Türkiye does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [77/7](#). Türkiye expresses concern at such measures, which adversely affect the living standards of people and free trade between States.

Türkiye 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 Türkiye maintains its stance that differences and problems between States should be settled through dialogue and negotiations.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[15 February 2023]

The Government of Turkmenistan supports the adoption of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

The unilateral embargo against the Republic of Cuba hinders the development of the Cuban economy and creates difficulties for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Turkmenistan reaffirms the importance of the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments.

The Government of Turkmenistan believes that issues between the parties should be resolved through constructive dialogue as a mechanism that promotes peace.

The relevant United Nations agencies should take appropriate steps to prevent the use by individual States of economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures against other independent States, including Cuba.

Tuvalu

[Original: English]
[25 April 2023]

The Government of Tuvalu firmly reasserts its stance that the long-standing economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed on Cuba contradicts the fundamental objectives of fostering open dialogue and cooperation and promoting the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. These principles include solidarity, collaboration and the establishment of amicable relations among all nations, irrespective of their political or economic systems.

The prejudiced trade practices arising from this blockade persistently and negatively impact the living standards and human rights of the Cuban people. Moreover, these practices hinder the Cuban Government's efforts and commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby affecting the overall progress and development of the nation.

The Government of Tuvalu proudly declares that it has not enacted or enforced any legislation or measures that target or adversely affect Cuba. Furthermore, Tuvalu wholeheartedly endorses the termination of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. This endorsement is in accordance with the consistent and unwavering demand put forth by the majority of the States Members of the United Nations.

With the lifting of the blockade, the Republic of Cuba will be able to further strengthen and expand its collaboration and cooperation with small island developing nations like Tuvalu. This move would greatly contribute to their mutual growth and development, fostering greater understanding and partnership between nations.

The Government of Tuvalu, therefore, emphasizes the significance of repairing and rebuilding the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cuba. Taking this commendable step is in accordance with the Charter and adheres to the principles of sovereignty and equality among all nations and peoples. The improved relations will ultimately contribute to a more stable and prosperous global community.

Lastly, the Government of Tuvalu would like to express its sincere gratitude for the scholarships generously provided by Cuba to Tuvaluan medical students. This educational support significantly contributes to the development of Tuvalu's health-care system and the improvement of the overall well-being of its citizens.

Uganda

[Original: English]
[16 March 2023]

Uganda has cordial bilateral relations and close diplomatic ties with the people and Government of Cuba, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

In the spirit of friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the people of Cuba, Uganda is concerned about the negative impact of the decades-old extraterritorial economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States against Cuba, which have caused great economic hardships to the country.

While all economies are seeking recovery in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the United States embargo curtails the quick recovery of the Cuban economy, further retarding the development and well-being of the Cuban people.

In that regard, Uganda commends the resilience of the people of Cuba and calls upon the United States of America to lift, unconditionally, the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Republic of Cuba, in line with the request made by the clear majority of States Members of the United Nations.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

The United Arab Emirates voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), which was adopted with 185 votes in favour.

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 and 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]
[13 March 2023]

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. While it is not the cause of all of the problems that Cuba faces, the embargo negatively affects the living standards of the Cuban people and impedes the political and economic development of the country.

In particular, through restrictions on remittances, tourism and travel to and from the United States, the embargo is having a negative impact on Cuba's nascent private sector, 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.

United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]
[26 February 2023]

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania expresses, once again, its solidarity with like-minded Member States to denounce the application of unilateral trade measures against Cuba, with extraterritorial effects on peoples and economies of other States, Tanzania being one of them. Tanzania perceives these unilateral measures as being contrary to the spirit of multilateralism and against the Charter of the United Nations.

Tanzania supports General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) and joins others to call for the lifting of these unfair embargoes to allow the people of Cuba to enjoy the full potential of their economy.

Tanzania is confident that there is room for discussion between the two parties.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[1 February 2023]

With regard to General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) 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, the sole exception being those that form part of international law, primarily in relation to protective jurisdiction and universal jurisdiction.

Our country 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]
[22 February 2023]

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports General Assembly resolution [77/7](#), 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 the resolution and has never promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in its preamble.

Vanuatu

[Original: English]
[25 May 2023]

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]
[27 March 2023]

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers the Charter of the United Nations a fundamental norm of international law governing relations between States and ensuring the prevalence of peaceful relations. No State is empowered to impose any type of measure to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights. Based on this central idea, in compliance with the tenets and values expressed in its Constitution, such as humanism, cooperation, solidarity among peoples and staunch pacifism guided by unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law, Venezuela rejects, once again, the application of unilateral measures for extraterritorial purposes that violate the rights of sovereignty and political independence of States and human rights.

It has been 61 years since the entry into force of the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba, which deliberately and systematically violates the human rights of more than 11 million Cubans and which today represents the main obstacle to the attainment of their inalienable right to development, and the United Nations General Assembly –

the most representative organ of our Organization – has been calling for its repeal for more than 30 consecutive years.

The illegal measures of the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba are an anachronism that violate the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments and also impinge upon the freedom of trade and navigation and violate the norms of the international system of trade.

Venezuela 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, in terms of its economic relations with third countries and with the subsidiaries of United States companies.

That policy of confrontation, promoted and implemented by the United States of America, has affected the well-being of the Latin American and Caribbean sister nation, whose human rights have been violated by the implementation of these illegal measures.

As a consequence of the illegal embargo upheld against the Republic of Cuba for more than six decades, the country has suffered damage in excess of \$154,217.3 million at current prices, demonstrating the pernicious effects of the unrelenting continuation of the embargo.

Even in the midst of the worst pandemic in recent decades, despite calls from authorities, organizations and Governments around the world to lift and suspend these measures, the United States of America has intensified the embargo against the Republic of Cuba, thereby hindering the response to the emergency and making it even more harmful and inhumane.

Venezuela has supported the resolutions on this subject that have been adopted by an overwhelming and exceptional majority of the General Assembly since 1991. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela urges the United States of America to immediately comply with 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](#), [67/4](#), [68/8](#), [69/5](#), [70/5](#), [71/5](#), [72/4](#), [73/8](#), [74/7](#), [75/289](#) and [77/7](#), which when adopted set all-time records in terms of votes in favour at the United Nations.

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 Republic of Venezuela also 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 Summit of 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 that have been consistently ignored by the Government of the United States of America.

Venezuela would like to highlight the regional support for the General Assembly resolutions on this issue as expressed in the Declaration of the XXII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement, held in Havana on 14 December 2022, in which the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance demand that the Government of the United States of America change its hostile policy towards the Republic of Cuba by lifting the economic, commercial and financial embargo immediately and unconditionally

and halting subversive, illegal and covert actions that violate sovereignty and the right of peoples to self-determination.

A similar call is made in the Special Declaration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo of the United States of America against Cuba, approved by the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean on 24 January 2023 in Buenos Aires, reaffirming their rejection of coercive economic measures not based on international law, including all unilateral actions taken against sovereign countries that affect the welfare of their peoples and are designed to prevent them from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, and urging the President of the United States of America to end the embargo against Cuba and the Congress of the United States to support that step.

The imposition of unilateral measures and embargoes contrary to international law affects the entire international community because of their extraterritorial repercussions and because they flagrantly violate political sovereignty, territorial integrity, the legal equality of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, multilateralism, and the principles and foundations on which the existing rules-based international system has been built for the purpose of ensuring the peaceful coexistence of nations.

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.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela condemns the continuation of this illegal, obsolete, criminal and inhumane measure and stresses that such actions do not foster the 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.

As it denounces the criminal measures of the United States against Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela continues to comply with General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) out of an ongoing commitment to international law, based on which Venezuela reiterates to the United States of America that it must put an end to all measures that threaten international peace and security, including the criminal application of embargoes and other arbitrary and unilateral measures and must comply with the 30 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this issue and end the merciless and criminal economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been illegally maintained against Cuba for more than 60 years, causing harm to the Cuban people and, owing to its extraterritorial effects, to all States that have economic, financial and commercial relations with Cuba.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[8 March 2023]

The General Assembly has for many consecutive years adopted, with an overwhelming majority, resolutions demanding that the United States of America end its economic, trade and financial blockade and embargo policies and laws against the Republic of Cuba, the most recent of which is resolution [77/7](#), adopted on 3 November 2022 with 185 votes in favour.

Viet Nam is concerned over the enormous damages inflicted by the United States blockade and embargo to all sectors of the Cuban economy, which has caused untold hardship for generations of Cuban people over decades. We share the view that this unjust and prolonged system of unilateral sanctions is a violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and runs counter to the common desire of nations to develop equal international relations, regardless of political system and based on respect for each nation's right to choose its own path of development.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the related General Assembly resolutions and believes that the United Nations will soon materialize 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 dialogue and exchanges, with a view to strengthening the relationship between the two countries, based on the spirit of mutual understanding, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and non-interference in the other's internal affairs. Viet Nam also calls upon the United States to put an early and complete end to the blockade and embargo against Cuba. This would 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 brotherly Cuban people and resolves to do its utmost with other peace, freedom and justice-loving peoples in the world to help the Cuban people overcome the consequences of the above-mentioned illegal blockade and embargo policy. In 2022, Viet Nam provided support, including \$500,000, 5,000 tons of rice and a number of items of equipment to assist Cuba's efforts in addressing socioeconomic difficulties, including the industrial incident in Matanzas.

Yemen

[Original: English]
[22 March 2023]

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 [77/7](#), 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 more than 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]
[8 June 2023]

The Republic of Zambia reaffirms its support for resolution [77/7](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

The Government of Zambia is opposed to the economic, commercial and financial embargo unilaterally imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. The sanctions, which have been in place for many years, have signified illegal and unjust infliction of suffering on a nation by another through unilateral coercive measures that have caused detrimental effects on development progress for Cuba.

It is also regrettable that rather than the sanctions being eased, there is evidence of them being tightened instead.

Zambia therefore continues to express 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.

Zimbabwe

[Original: English]
[10 May 2023]

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 [77/7](#) of 3 November 2022, 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.

Holy See

[Original: English]
[15 May 2023]

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.

The Holy See believes that the end of the embargo will contribute to more harmonious and fraternal relations between the people of Cuba and those of 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]
[3 May 2023]

The State of Palestine stands in unwavering solidarity with the Republic of Cuba against the economic, commercial and financial embargo that continues to be 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 that has caused so much loss and distress to Cuba and the Cuban people.

The State of Palestine – which continues to suffer the vast socioeconomic, humanitarian, developmental, political, security and environmental impact of 56 years of an illegal colonial occupation, compounded by a 16-year inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip, imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, in grave breach of international law and with dire consequences for our people and all dimensions of our society – reiterates its firm opposition to the punitive embargo and unilateral coercive measures imposed on Cuba. We reaffirm our unequivocal support for the global calls and diplomatic efforts to bring an end to this embargo, which continues to detrimentally affect Cuba and undermine the rights of the Cuban people, including their rights to self-determination and to development.

As such, the State of Palestine reaffirms its principled position in support of General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as its adherence to the relevant positions affirmed in this regard 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 on Cuba. We call for the mobilization of serious efforts towards fully implementing resolution [77/7](#), consistent with, and aimed at upholding, international law and respect for the sovereignty and independence of States and the freedom of commerce and navigation.

We regret that the positive developments of recent years have been reversed and that the United States embargo against Cuba persists in the absence of a credible and good-faith political dialogue that is necessary for advancing critical steps towards bringing the embargo to a swift end. We thus once again 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 promote the prosperity and ensure the stability of their peoples and countries, objectives that have become even more urgent in light of the increased instability and vulnerability being experienced by all nations as a result of proliferating global shocks, such as the enduring impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, international economic turbulence, rising food insecurity and climate change, in addition to protracted and emerging conflicts and other challenges and crises.

The State of Palestine, guided by and fully adherent to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, affirms that it has never promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in resolution 77/7. Moreover, the State of Palestine, which enjoys full diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba, remains in solidarity with the Cuban people and Government and will continue working to strengthen the political, economic, social and cultural relations and cooperation and friendship between our countries and peoples.

III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

The most recent report of the Government of Cuba, for the period August 2021–February 2022, states that the embargo cost the country \$3.807 billion in losses in that period, which is 49 per cent more than figures for the prior seven-month period between January and July 2021. This is equivalent to a monthly loss of \$543.7 million, or \$18 million per day. If this figure is extrapolated for the whole of 2022, the embargo would have cost Cuba \$6.542 billion, corresponding to just over 25 per cent of gross domestic product and 75 per cent of estimated total exports for that year.

The embargo inflicts direct damage on the Cuban economy owing to the comprehensive nature of its measures, and at the same time deprives the country of foreign exchange earnings that are indispensable for the purchase of supplies, equipment, parts, technology, software and other critical inputs for the functioning of the country's production apparatus. In general terms, the embargo denies the country access to external financing; Cuba is unable to tap into international capital markets owing to its high country risk. It is also unable to access the main international financial institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Inter-American Development Bank) and therefore cannot obtain soft financing for development or last-resort lending, nor can it benefit from debt relief initiatives or technical assistance programmes from these institutions. The embargo has forced the Caribbean island to depend heavily on current foreign exchange earnings, leaving it highly vulnerable to external shocks and faced with severe restrictions on financing for development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The advent of the Trump Administration (2017–2021) in the United States saw a tightening of the embargo that further weakened Cuba’s economic performance.³ In response, the Government of Cuba adopted an expansionary spending policy,⁴ which is not sustainable given the characteristics of the Cuban economy and the internal difficulties it faces. The large fiscal deficits have been a major source of inflation in Cuba in recent years.

In May 2022, President Biden announced the end of some of the many measures implemented under the embargo during the Trump Administration. Regular and charter flights to Cuba’s provinces (and not only to the capital) from the United States were authorized; the restriction on sending family remittances was lifted; and remittances of donations to Cubans were allowed. Requirements for travel to Cuba for United States citizens were relaxed under certain agreements. However, the measures do not authorize tourism or individual “people-to-people” educational travel, an important limitation that requires travel in groups and under the sponsorship, supervision and legal responsibility of a United States organization. While these measures are positive steps in the right direction, their scope is very limited.

Furthermore, President Biden has not removed Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, on which it has been included since 12 January 2021. This listing severely impedes the Caribbean island’s participation in international trade and financial operations and is a major barrier to attracting foreign direct investment, as it considerably increases the country’s risk.

The designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism also exacerbates other negative effects of the embargo. It has led several banks to suspend their operations in the country, including transfers for the payment of purchases of food, medicines, spare parts and goods for the population. This has made the management of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery even more difficult, with the consequent impact on the right to food and health of all Cubans.

Year after year, the United States adds Cuban companies and banks to the list of entities restricted by its Government. For example, the financial entities Financiera Címex S.A. (Fincimex) and its subsidiary company AIS have been included on that list since 2020, which has effectively eliminated the main formal channels for remittance transfers.

In the period between January 2021 and February 2022, there were a total of 642 instances of foreign banks refusing to provide services to the country as a direct result of the embargo. These included the closing of bank accounts and termination of established banking contracts, rejection of transactions, refusal to open accounts and cancellation of keys for the exchange of financial information through the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

At the height of the pandemic in 2021, this policy hindered the delivery of donations; the procurement of cylinders, spare parts and other components required for the supply of medical oxygen; and the purchase and transport of indispensable materials for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, as well as for the research, production and evaluation of vaccine candidates and Cuban vaccines against the virus.

³ Sanctions imposed by the United States on Cuba’s allies (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Russian Federation, China and Nicaragua) have also negatively affected the Caribbean nation’s economy.

⁴ Pavel Vidal Alejandro, “El impacto económico de las sanciones estadounidenses a Cuba, 1994–2020”, Documento de trabajo, No. 1/2022 (Elcano Royal Institute, 2022).

Sanctions by the United States on private companies operating in Cuba continue unabated. By way of example, the online hosting platform Airbnb was sanctioned by the Office of Foreign Assets Control and ordered to pay a fine of \$91,172 for accepting payments from United States citizens who travelled to Cuba but did not fall into the categories authorized by the Government of the United States.

The Biden Administration has not suspended Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996 (Helms-Burton Act), which was activated for the first time⁵ during the Trump Administration. Title III provides for legal action in United States courts to be brought against companies or persons using in any way property that was nationalized in 1959 by claimants or their descendants who allege they were the owners. In this sense, it creates a supposed right of action in United States courts in the form of a civil remedy with corresponding monetary damages.⁶ Thus, in late December 2022, a federal judge in the Southern District of Florida ordered four cruise lines based in that State and which operated cruises to Cuba to pay more than \$400 million for supposed damages to the United States company that had held a concession to operate docks in the port of Havana prior to the triumph of the Revolution.⁷ The continued enforcement of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act substantially inhibits foreign investment inflows and undermines the effective marketing of Cuban brands internationally.

The country's production capacity for medicines has also been hard hit by the embargo. While Cuba produces 60 per cent of the pharmaceuticals it needs, the embargo prevents the country from obtaining the financing, raw materials and parts required to maintain this production.

In addition to the above, obstacles associated with maritime transportation affect the country's entire logistics chain. The shipping line Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), which transported a considerable volume of cargo – mainly for the Cuban Enterprise for Food Imports (ALIMPORT) – is still not providing services, hindering transactions with traditional markets.

According to the report published by the Government of Cuba, between August 2021 and February 2022, the effects on production and services in the agricultural sector, challenges to monetary and financial operations, additional costs resulting from the geographic relocation of trade and other obstacles to acquiring technology and fuel gravely affected the production and acquisition of food in Cuba, generating losses of \$271 million in the agricultural sector.

It is well known that, in recent years, providing an uninterrupted electricity supply has been a major challenge for Cuba owing to the tense situation imposed by the embargo. The events pertaining to the Antonio Guiteras thermal power plant are proof of this. On 5 February 2019, the Centennial Bank of the United States informed Cuba that pursuant to the activation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, it would not finance a significant contract. That same year, the company Clyde Bergemann, manufacturer of the blowers and boilers used by the Antonio Guiteras plant and other Cuban thermoelectric plants, stopped working with the Caribbean island after part of its shares was acquired by United States capital. Later, in 2021, French supplier Constructions industrielles de la Méditerranée (CNIM) announced that it would no

⁵ Although the Helms-Burton Act has been in effect since 1996, Title III had been suspended by all presidents since the Act was signed by President Clinton, before being activated in 2019 by former President Trump.

⁶ Jorge Luis Silva González and Lisett Daymaris Páez Cuba, “La aplicación de medidas coercitivas unilaterales en contextos excepcionales: el caso del bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial hacia Cuba”, *Oñati Socio-Legal Series* (Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, 2022).

⁷ “Bloqueo: Jueza de la Florida dictamina multas millonarias a compañías de cruceros estadounidenses por atracar en puerto de La Habana”, *Cubadebate*, 31 December 2022.

longer be able to honour its contracts for spare parts for the Antonio Guterres plant following an internal restructuring. The unfortunate explosion of 5 August 2022 in the oil depots at the Matanzas Supertanker Base (very close to the country's capital), following a lightning strike, illustrates how the United States embargo against Cuba hinders expeditious procedures for the replacement and maintenance of capital goods.

For 30 years, the General Assembly, the highest deliberative body of the United Nations, has been calling for an end to the economic embargo that the United States has imposed on the Caribbean country since 1962. In the General Assembly's most recent vote in 2022, the resolution calling for an end to the economic embargo (77/7) received 185 votes in favour and 2 against (United States and Israel), with 2 abstentions (Brazil and Ukraine). The Assembly expressed deep and widespread concern about regulations, such as the Helms-Burton Act, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the freedom of free trade and navigation, as well as the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of Cuba on the United States Department of State's list of State sponsors of terrorism.

Lastly, the United States continues to exert pressure on countries to suspend or to refrain from signing bilateral agreements to hire Cuban doctors. Since 2018, the United States has been pressuring the Governments of Brazil, Ecuador, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and, more recently, Mexico, to suspend agreements with Cuba on the recruitment of Cuban doctors. Those efforts were successful in all countries except Mexico. In this regard, the Department of State has, since 2019, placed Cuba in the tier 3 ranking in its *Trafficking in Persons* report, which refers to countries whose Governments do not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and are not making significant efforts to do so. In short, the Government of the United States considers that cooperation agreements with Cuban doctors amount to trafficking in persons. As such, a bill was introduced in the United States Congress to require the Department of State to publish the list of countries that host Cuban medical missions and to determine whether those doctors are subjected to conditions that may qualify as severe forms of trafficking in persons. The foregoing disregards Cuba's long history of sending medical missions around the world to help countries in various emergency situations.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]
[28 March 2023]

Overall situation: effects of the embargo on the sectors of food security, agriculture, fisheries and the food industry

The main updates since the previous reporting period are summarized below.

The main effects of the embargo on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and the food industry should continue to be viewed from the following two different perspectives:

(a) The impossibility of taking full advantage of export potential (i.e. of coffee, honey, tobacco, live lobsters and aquaculture products) to the nearest market (the United States of America) has implied major losses, since it has been necessary to sell to markets located further away, with the resultant higher marketing and distribution costs, thereby negatively impacting the foreign exchange earnings of Cuba and its capacity to purchase basic products, especially food;

(b) The high costs of inputs needed for agricultural, fisheries and livestock production (fuel, spare parts for agricultural machinery, animal feeds, phytosanitary and zoosanitary products and fertilizers, products such as herbicides, low toxicity insecticides and other highly effective pesticides and veterinary pharmaceuticals and

disease diagnostic kits that, in many cases, are produced only by United States firms) reduce profitability and lower the ability of Cuba to satisfy local food requirements.

Overall, the embargo has had very negative implications for the balance of trade and foreign exchange earnings of Cuba, as well as for the country's supply of food and agriculture products. One of the bottlenecks that the Government of Cuba has been facing in its ongoing economic actualization process is the acute shortage of foreign exchange. The main source of foreign exchange expenditure is the purchase of agricultural products, accounting for around \$800 million per year.

The embargo affects the import of food products for human consumption, in particular those destined to meet social programmes, as restrictions limit their quantity and quality, thus having a direct effect on the food security of the vulnerable segments of the population.

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 cooperation in 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.⁸ However, the tightening measures of the embargo adopted in 2019 by the United States Government have deepened the negative impacts on agricultural production in Cuba.

Even the operations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are directly affected, although FAO is officially exempted from the embargo. For example, delays in or blockage of payments to FAO staff (even if made in euros) and to service providers for project procurement reduce the willingness of suppliers to sell to FAO-Cuba and can increase the cost of the few remaining suppliers.

Technical assistance to Cuba by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

FAO 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 also are affected by the embargo.

FAO 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

⁸ Congressional Research Service, "Cuba: US policy overview", 5 March 2019.

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 and the development of sustainable intensification programmes. 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.

Effects of the embargo on projects implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 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 provided by FAO 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 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 solve 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 is 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 processes 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 or 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.

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

Cuba has been a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since 1 October 1957. IAEA assistance activities to all its member States, including Cuba, are governed by its Statute, in particular article III/C, which provides that “[i]n 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.”

In addition, the Board of Governors of IAEA approved, on 21 February 1979, the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (reproduced in document INFCIRC/267). These Guiding Principles provide, inter alia, that “[t]he technical assistance activities of the Agency shall be carried out with due observance of the sovereign rights of States, the provisions of the Agency’s Statute and the terms of agreements concluded between the Agency and the State or group of States requesting technical assistance. The Agency shall not make technical assistance subject to any political, economic, military or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of the Agency’s Statute.”

However, the existing embargo continues to pose certain difficulties for the implementation of the Agency’s technical cooperation programme for 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) is affected owing to the limited number of vendors willing to supply and/or ship such items to the country. Restrictions are also applied to the participation of Cuban nationals in IAEA-organized training activities, fellowships and meetings that take place in certain Member States.

In recent years, some challenges also occurred with respect to the participation of Cuban nationals in virtual trainings, as difficulties persisted in the use of information technologies due to poor Internet connection and limited access to some information technology platforms.

In accordance with its statute and the Guiding Principles mentioned above, IAEA tries to overcome these difficulties, to the extent possible, to facilitate the implementation of its technical cooperation programme for Cuba.

International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

During the forty-first session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), held from 27 September to 7 October 2022, the Economic Commission reviewed an information paper (A41-WP/404) submitted by Cuba on unilateral actions imposed by the United States. Cuba, in its submission, reported that the decision of the United States to activate Title III of the Helms-Burton Act has adversely affected the development of civil aviation in Cuba, in particular foreign firms intending to establish businesses connected with investments in the modernization of Cuban airports and the operations of various countries’ airlines that link Cuba to the world. The paper reaffirmed that unilateral and extraterritorial actions had a great impact on developing countries, and in particular, impeded international air transport.

Since the paper submitted by Cuba was an information paper, the Economic Commission merely noted the submission and consequently reflected this in its report to the plenary meeting. However, in its resolution A41-27 (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.”

During the reporting period, Cuba continued its active participation in:

- Three regional projects implemented through the ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau. These 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;
- The regional telecommunication network for the North America, Central America and Caribbean Collaboration Project as lead;
- All the regional aviation working groups, such as the Caribbean and South America Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group, the Caribbean/South American Regional Planning and Implementation Group, the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group task forces, the North American/Caribbean and South American Regional Aviation Safety Group, the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Pan America and the ICAO/Latin American Civil Aviation Commission North American, Caribbean and South American Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group, ensuring coordination and collaboration for the continuous development and growth of aviation in the region;
- The air traffic management and aviation contingency and crisis management technical groups;
- Developing regional collaboration initiatives for aeronautical meteorology, cybersecurity, aeronautical information management, etc.
- ICAO environmental protection activities and supporting actions on the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation and the ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels Programme;
- The air navigation planning and implementation activities with the rest of the North American, Central American and Caribbean States;
- The safety and air navigation capacity-building initiatives for States’ civil aviation authority inspectors, service providers and regulators;
- Providing of systems and services, like monitoring and surveillance systems, to support other States, as well as providing subject matter expert support to other States;
- Several bilateral projects between Cuba and other States (i.e. Central American States), which were established and implemented during the reporting period.

Cuba hosted the first training session for the ICAO Civil Aviation Master Planning Training Course in the North American, Central American and Caribbean

region from 30 January to 3 February 2023. As the host of this course, which is specifically designed to support States in their pandemic recovery efforts and help build a more resilient aviation system for future growth, Cuba took a significant step towards promoting regional technical cooperation in the civil aviation sector. High-level participants from eight States in the region, along with 24 government and industry professionals gathered to enhance their understanding and knowledge of the civil aviation master planning methodology. The event served as an important platform for sharing knowledge, best practices and innovative approaches to master planning in the civil aviation sector. Through these efforts, Cuba contributed to the promotion of regional cooperation and technical assistance in the region.

Furthermore, Cuba will host the twenty-first meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation, which is their annual regional forum to discuss civil aviation matters. During this event the annual report of performance and achievements of States is provided, and directors conduct a high-level regional discussion and agree on solutions and support related to actions and agreements for aviation recovery; enhanced regional collaboration among States and aviation partners; political will for continuity of air navigation service; safety, security and facilitation of international air transport implementation targets; status of implementation of regional connectivity and safety, security and environment plans; long-term aspirational goals; the enhancement of States' ratification of international air law instruments; and other critical aviation-related topics.

The ICAO secretariat continued to assist the Cuban participants to enable them to join ICAO virtual or hybrid meetings and conferences organized at both ICAO headquarters and the North American, Central American and Caribbean Regional Office, through technical solutions identified by ICAO and the videoconference provider. Finally, the ICAO Multi-Regional Civil Aviation Assistance Programme Technical Cooperation Bureau project has permitted the travel and exchange of Cuban technical personnel to participate in person in ICAO events promoting a stronger aviation recovery for Cuba and States in the region.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

[Original: English]
[26 May 2023]

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is currently co-financing two projects in the Republic of Cuba: the Livestock Cooperative Development Project in the central-eastern region (PRODEGAN) and the Agroforestry Cooperative Development Project (PRODECAFE), approved by the IFAD Executive Board in December 2016 and September 2019, respectively. Furthermore, IFAD is supporting a joint project, together with the World Food Programme, focused on boosting resilient agrifood systems under its South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility, funded by the Government of China. These projects are implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture of Cuba 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.

Projects supported by IFAD in Cuba continue to face delays in their implementation because 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 of America against Cuba, such as those taken against shipping companies from third countries ferrying cargo to Cuba, impede the flow of oil, foodstuffs and other commerce critical to the daily needs of Cuban citizens and residents, in particular the poor and

vulnerable. Lastly, United States sanctions have a further impact on the financial transactions of Cuba and its ability to export and import needed materials that support opportunities for agricultural and rural development and human development in general.

In the agricultural and rural sectors, the following limitations are observed: (a) obsolete agricultural equipment (e.g. tractors, irrigation systems and water pumps) and lack of spare parts; (b) high cost and lack of inputs required for agricultural and livestock production, processing and distribution (e.g. fuel, animal feeds, seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and veterinary pharmaceuticals); (c) insufficient access to hard currency financing for the import of equipment and inputs; (d) limited access to providers of new agricultural technologies; and (e) 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 and likely contributed significantly to the limited results in terms of agricultural productivity of the Cooperative Rural Development Project in the oriental region (PRODECOR, closed in 2022). Under the project, modern grain processing plants were built, but owing to the limited access to fertilizers and pesticides, production was very limited. In addition, the utilization rate of the plants is much lower than their productive capacity; in December 2022, the plants were operating at only 15 to 30 per cent of their productive capacity.

Despite these challenges, over the past years, the country has continued to honour its debt payment to IFAD, albeit with important delays. As of May 2023, Cuba has an outstanding debt payment of \$1,482,775 million. The ability of Cuba to honour that debt payment to IFAD under the current conditions is uncertain.

International Labour Organization

[Original: English]

[9 March 2023]

The embargo has intensified in recent years, significantly constraining development possibilities in Cuba, causing a great impact and harder life conditions for the Cuban population. Among the effects, just to name a few:

- Limitations on commerce and financial transactions still represent a serious bottleneck and an additional cost burden 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 and 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 by third-country investors, the creation of new job sources and decent work in Cuba. Despite some measures announced on 16 May 2022, especially to ease restrictions on remittances, help Cuban businesses to access technology, facilitate family reunification and expand authorized travel, the embargo and the fact that Cuba is still listed as one of the countries financing terrorism still have effects on the Cuban economy, people and businesses.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is particularly concerned about the impact on children and workers, especially women, youth and elderly people. A complete lifting of 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 el 2030 and other expanding reforms aimed at improving the economic and social system, such as, 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 a very active member of ILO and is a 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]
[15 March 2023]

As a State member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Cuba benefits from participation in the meetings of IMO bodies and is a recipient of the technical cooperation programmes available (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 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 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. In that context, and in pursuance of the decentralization policies adopted by IMO, most of the support of IMO is channelled through the Operative Network by virtue of a memorandum of understanding signed with the secretariat of the Operative Network. Through that instrument, the Operative Network is assigned responsibility for the management and execution of regional technical cooperation activities identified by the respective countries, including Cuba, as priorities in building capacities for the effective implementation and enforcement of the global maritime standards of IMO.

Cuba also receives technical assistance from the Regional Activity Centre for Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training for the Wider Caribbean Region, based in Curaçao, which aims to assist countries in implementing international conventions established to reduce pollution from shipping.

IMO has not encountered difficulties in delivering any of the activities in the above-mentioned projects as a result of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

On 8 December 2021, Cuba informed the Secretary-General of IMO that the tightening of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba and the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had had an impact on the country's ability to pay its contributions and requested that article 61 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization be waived so as to allow it to participate in voting, despite not having discharged its financial obligations. The IMO

Assembly decided, at its thirty-second session, in December 2021, to grant Cuba a waiver of the application of article 61 of the Convention for the biennium; accordingly, Cuba has participated in IMO meetings during the current biennium (2022–2023). Cuba was subsequently able to discharge its financial obligations.

On 28 February 2023, Cuba informed IMO that, since users in Cuba are currently unable to access Zoom services, delegates from the Cuban maritime administration are unable to participate in IMO meetings remotely, as the hybrid meeting system of IMO is Zoom-based.

International Organization for Migration

[Original: English]
[7 March 2023]

Cuba joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as a member State in 2017.

Cuba has adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration 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. In July 2022, the United Nations Network on Migration and Human Mobility was established in the country.

IOM participates in three 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. Effective government;
2. Natural resources and environment;
3. Human development, equity, and social justice.

In addition to the activities of IOM, joint activities involving the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Population Fund have been included in joint workplans.

Regarding technical assistance, IOM continues the implementation of a project on border migration management with the Ministry of Interior.

Lastly, IOM continues to provide assisted voluntary return services to stranded migrants, as well as resettlement assistance for refugees.

International Telecommunication Union

[Original: English]
[27 March 2023]

Since June 2022, the Administration of Cuba has not submitted to the Radiocommunication Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union any reports of harmful interference to its broadcasting services.

Office for Outer Space Affairs

[Original: English]

[3 April 2023]

Cuba has been 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. Over 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 26 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 the Latin American and Caribbean region: 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, 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 on 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 with 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 2024 or 2025, 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]
[18 April 2023]

The Cuban national authorities have expressed their commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Cuba is considered to have a high level of development according to the United Nations Development Programme human development index for 2021–2022, ranking eighty-third out of 189 countries worldwide.

The country implements development programmes and policies aimed at achieving the Goals, improving access to health care and education, promoting gender equality and reducing inequality and has made significant progress in social areas such as health care, education and environmental sustainability. The country also places a strong emphasis on science and technology education and has developed several world-class research institutions, as well as innovative medical treatments and technologies.

Despite these achievements, Cuba faces several challenges in terms of economic development which, in turn, affect the achievement of sustained progress in human development as well. After a decade of low economic growth, the country has been affected by multiple, consecutive and severe shocks over the last three years. These have included coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the effects of the current conflict in Ukraine and increased United States sanctions, which have had severe impacts on key economic dimensions such as financing, trade, investments, access to technology, tourism and family remittances. These restrictions place the country in a disadvantaged position, making it difficult to manage complex development and emergency contexts.

In 2022, the devastating Hurricane Ian hit the western territories of the country, impacting the living conditions of vulnerable groups there. Despite the related humanitarian context and need to respond, the United States embargo continues to restrict Cuba's ability to do so. The lack of access to financing, medical resources and supplies, food, infrastructure and other basic consumer and intermediate goods, among other factors, has hindered disaster recovery and economic reactivation even in the private sector.

These restrictions are caused by the embargo prohibiting United States companies from conducting business with Cuba and which imposes limitations on transactions involving United States dollars. This can make it difficult for foreign companies to do business with Cuba and affects trade and commercial operations as well. It also restricts the export of goods and services from the United States to Cuba, as well as imports from Cuba to the United States. It further keeps United States companies from investing in Cuba and limits the ability of Cuban entities to access financing from United States banks.

Cuban or foreign companies established in Cuba may not access, use or purchase goods, services (including patents) or products or technologies comprised of more than 10 per cent United States-linked components, even though the United States is the most competitive and diversified market closest to Cuba.

In addition, the embargo places restrictions on shipping lines with vessels docking in Cuban harbours. This not only limits tourism; it also has an extremely

negative impact on trade and the availability of key items such as the health and humanitarian goods and services needed by vulnerable groups, particularly women, adolescents and youth.

The implementation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act reinforces the general conditions of the embargo against Cuba by allowing legal claims to be made in relation to confiscated property in the country.

The exclusion of Cuba from international financial institutions may be the most significant obstacle to the country's development and meeting its 2030 Agenda goals. Sanctions limit access to the credit and other development and emergency resources granted by international financial institutions like the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. They also concurrently ban international banks from operating with Cuban institutions when transactions using United States dollars are involved. These restrictions not only hinder national development directly, they also increase the country's risks on capital markets. This threatens access to external credit, creates disincentives for foreign investment in Cuba, affects the means for implementing the 2030 Agenda and limits business development and job creation.

The embargo imposed by the United States has had a significant impact on the human rights of the Cuban people as well. It has contributed to economic hardship and shortages of basic necessities in Cuba, which has had a negative impact on the health and well-being of Cubans. In the educational sector, the embargo limits access to educational resources, hindering the ability of students and educators to access specialized literature, software programmes and school and artistic materials. In the health sector, the embargo has limited access to essential medical supplies, including medicines, reagents, spare parts for diagnostic and treatment equipment, and medical and surgical instruments. The obstacles it presents to importing agricultural equipment and inputs have also had a significant impact on agricultural productivity in Cuba, placing a considerable strain on the country's budget and potentially affecting those who rely on social safety nets. Furthermore, this situation poses a significant threat to food security in the country.

Since January 2021, Cuba has been included on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism. This has only served to reinforce existing prohibitions on carrying out any type of commercial operations with Cuba and in relation to any product controlled by the Export Administration Regulations, and which require applying for a licence in all cases. These licences are often denied except in the case of agricultural products, some medical items and travel-related ones, which already have general licences. Concurrently, high-technology products are also banned.

In 2022, the current United States Administration announced the relaxation of certain sanctions as well as the expansion of communication, travel and commerce with Cuba. The Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program and select consular services were reinstated to facilitate family reunification. Travel by scheduled and charter flights to other provinces besides Havana was authorized (this was restricted before, in 2019). People-to-people and other categories of group educational travel were also allowed again. Steps were taken to enable increased remittance flows to the Cuban people and further support was announced to enhance access to United States Internet services, applications and e-commerce platforms, as well as to provide entrepreneurs with access to microfinancing and training.

However, these changes did not modify the core restrictions imposed by the United States embargo against Cuba or its designation as a State sponsor of terrorism, which was ratified in 2023.

Impact on United Nations programmes and operations

Since 2020, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have been implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020–2024 which was agreed upon with the Government and aligned with national development priorities. The Framework brings together the work of 22 resident and non-resident entities. In addition, in 2022, the United Nations system implemented the United Nations system plan of action in response to Hurricane Ian, which had a significant impact on the western provinces of the country.

Amid the complex context described above, the embargo has had negative effects on the implementation of United Nations programmes and initiatives in Cuba, in particular in terms of its development and humanitarian dimensions.

Restrictions on the acquisition of essential supplies and increased transaction costs have delayed operations and affected the efficiency of United Nations projects and the implementation of the United Nations cooperation programme in Cuba. This has been the case for both the regular programme and humanitarian response initiatives in the face of particularly challenging events in 2022, including the persistence of COVID-19 and Hurricane Ian. Additional logistical difficulties and transaction costs have arisen in procurement processes owing to the lack of access to the United States market, despite its close proximity. Goods, services and technologies produced in the United States and those covered by United States patents or containing components produced or patented in the United States are not available to United Nations projects. This has resulted in acquisitions having to be made via third-party countries and secondary suppliers and at prices significantly higher than those for comparable products sold on the international market. This challenge has been particularly clear in the case of acquiring highly specialized items like information technology equipment. Costs associated with intermediaries and long-distance transportation negatively impact access to the key inputs needed for implementing development projects, the final cost of imported project goods and equipment, and the provision of goods and services to vulnerable groups. This was the case in 2022 for sensitive items, such as dengue diagnostic kits and ambulances for the maternal care system, which had long and expensive procurement processes.

Shipments of food and non-food commodities purchased by United Nations projects are frequently delayed owing to the difficulty of finding a company willing to operate in Cuban ports, even in the context of higher freight levels in 2022. This occurs since shipping companies with vessels that dock in Cuban ports are subject to restrictions. International transport bottlenecks have additionally increased with the Ukraine war, which has further reduced the availability of vessels entering Cuba, sometimes forcing them to make stopovers for trans-shipment, which causes delays and increases costs.

Some suppliers with regular commercial relationships with Cuban companies and United Nations agencies have had their accounts blocked owing to the policies linked to the United States sanctions against Cuba and which have been implemented by many banks in the region. This has affected the ability to honour payments to suppliers within agreed time frames, resulting in additional transaction costs and affecting project budgets.

In addition, United Nations offices in Cuba have restricted access to practically all international e-commerce sites in the procure-to-pay cycle. Many websites and services accessed from Cuban Internet service providers are blocked owing to the embargo, including sites that provide technical information, technical support, studies, price analyses and other resources required for standard operations. Operations

conducted through national Internet service providers are also penalized, resulting in limited access to key United Nations corporate platforms.

The extraterritorial nature of the embargo, which restricts banking transactions to and from Cuba, also applies to international cooperating agencies in Cuba. United Nations offices in the field are unable to use corporate accounts with United States banks or that use United States dollars as the currency of payment. Banks constantly request additional information to comply with the Office of Foreign Assets Control before proceeding with payments and transfers linked to project operating or financial transactions. Even if payments are made in other currencies, bank withholdings have still significantly increased. Agencies use a third-party bank with a currency exchange to replenish funds in their local accounts in United States dollars on a monthly basis, which involves extra costs due to exchange rates and bank and transaction fees.

These adverse effects persist and continue to impede financial transactions by United Nations international and national staff for personal matters as well. Officials encounter challenges when attempting to make wire transfers between personal accounts and make payments to United States-related institutions, such as the United Nations Federal Credit Union. Furthermore, Cuban bank accounts cannot be used to make reservations or payments for airline tickets, hotel accommodations and other related services, impacting the implementation of official missions and United Nations operations in the field. United Nations officials who require travel on missions to the United States or other countries with flight routes through United States territory must follow specific mandatory visa application procedures. These procedures involve extra requirements in terms of documentation and time, hindering staff participation in regional and global exchanges.

Another negative impact of the embargo on United Nations operations in Cuba relates to voice and data communications, which are extremely expensive as they have to sidestep the United States telecommunications infrastructure.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

[Original: English]

[16 May 2023]

Introduction

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continues to express concern over the negative impact that extraterritorial sanctions have on human rights. During the reporting period, from June 2022 to March 2023, the former and current High Commissioners for Human Rights addressed the issue of unilateral sectoral sanctions on country situations, noting their impact on humanitarian assistance and assistance related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), as well as on those living in vulnerable situations.⁹ OHCHR received information indicating that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba continues to negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights of persons in the country, in particular the most vulnerable. Therefore, OHCHR encourages the relaxing of such measures to relieve the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

In May 2022, the Government of the United States of America announced several changes to its policies towards Cuba that eased the impact of some unilateral

⁹ See “Oral update on global human rights developments and the activities of OHCHR”, 13 June 2022; “Afghanistan: Update to the Human Rights Council urgent debate: High Commissioner’s statement”, 1 July 2022; “Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner’s report on Venezuela: High Commissioner’s statement”, 29 June 2022; “High Commissioner updates the Human Rights Council on the situation in Venezuela”, 21 March 2023.

coercive measures against Cuba, namely changes related to facilitating family reunification, expanding authorized travel, easing restrictions on family and donative remittances and supporting the private sector in Cuba.¹⁰ Such measures, in particular the lifting of limits on family and donative remittances, are an important step towards relieving the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population living in Cuba.¹¹

However, the majority of the coercive unilateral measures activated against Cuba under the framework of the United States embargo remain in force. Such measures include¹² trade and financial sanctions with extraterritorial reach, such as the ban on international “U-turn” transactions, the requirement that banks with a presence in the United States freeze and report any transaction connected to Cuba¹³ and the imposition of the 10 per cent *de minimis* rule,¹⁴ according to which cumbersome licensing requirements are imposed on third country companies if more than 10 per cent of a good exported to Cuba originates in the United States. Another measure with extraterritorial reach still in force is the continued inclusion of Cuba on the “list of State sponsors of terrorism”. The inclusion of Cuba on that list¹⁵ leads to overcompliance at international financial institutions, which are unwilling to receive, convert or process cash in United States dollars for payments in Cuba for fear of being fined, even in cases of permitted humanitarian activities.¹⁶

During the reporting period, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights also addressed concerns related to secondary sanctions and overcompliance with sanctions.¹⁷ According to the Special Rapporteur, secondary sanctions and overcompliance affected all areas of human rights for every individual and constituted serious

¹⁰ Immigrant visa processing resumed in early 2023 at the United States Embassy in Havana, and the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program, which had been suspended in 2017, was reinstated. The Government also: (a) allowed group “people-to-people” educational travel and other educational activities, subject to certain restrictions, as well as attendance at or organization of professional meetings or conferences in Cuba; (b) removed the \$1,000 quarterly limit on remittances to Cuban nationals who are close relatives and authorized donative (non-family) remittances to Cuban nationals who are not prohibited officials of the Government of Cuba, prohibited members of the Cuban Communist Party or close relatives of a prohibited official of the Government of Cuba or prohibited member of the Cuban Communist Party; and (c) facilitated access to e-commerce (Internet access and access to cloud technology, application programming interfaces, e-commerce platforms, and electronic payments) and business engagement to expand entrepreneurs’ access to microfinance and training. See United States, Department of State, “Biden Administration measures to support the Cuban people”, 16 May 2022.

¹¹ See A/76/405, section III, International Labour Organization: “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”.

¹² *Ibid.*, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹³ United States, Congressional Research Service. “Cuba: United States Policy in the 117th Congress”, p. 11.

¹⁴ United States, Bureau of Industry and Security, *Restricting Additional Exports and Re-exports to Cuba* (Washington, Federal Register, 2019).

¹⁵ Inclusion of Cuba on the “list of State sponsors of terrorism” is qualified and analysed as a unilateral coercive measure because the United States includes it as an element of the sanctions policy. See Congressional Research Service, “Cuba: United States Policy in the 117th Congress”, updated 28 December 2022, p. 11. According to the provisions of relevant United States laws, that status *per se* includes the application of sanctions that restrict foreign assistance and non-emergency food aid, ban defence exports and sales, and impose certain controls over exports and financial restrictions. See Congressional Research Service, “State sponsors of acts of international terrorism: legislative parameters – in brief”, updated 4 May 2021, pp. 2–3.

¹⁶ See A/76/405, section III, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹⁷ A/HRC/51/33, para. 12.

constraints on the delivery of humanitarian aid, even in the most critical situations.¹⁸ She noted that many banks around the world had suspended operations involving Cuba due to United States sanctions, “including legitimate transfers for purchases of food, medicines and goods for the population”. According to the Special Rapporteur, those banks also had refused to carry out transactions to support broader distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and had ended relationships with Cuban diplomatic missions around the world due to the fear of reprisals by the Government of the United States. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur observed that “Cubans living abroad are prevented from opening bank accounts, using certain credit cards or carrying out transactions normally, just because they are Cuban nationals”, a situation that affects, *inter alia*, Cuban medical personnel sent abroad to ensure the right to health in many countries.¹⁹

According to the Special Rapporteur, secondary sanctions and overcompliance had made States, businesses, humanitarian organizations and individuals look for alternative means to procure necessary goods, which had resulted in growing costs, delays in delivery, growing risks of corruption and other types of transboundary crimes and had endangered the status of humanitarian organizations. According to information shared with the Special Rapporteur, a non-governmental organization (NGO) undertaking humanitarian work in Cuba could not access foreign public-sector funds because banks refused to transfer them to Cuba, while funds that the NGO held in a European bank were frozen by the bank because it feared a “backlash” from the United States. The Special Rapporteur stressed that such situations reduced the amount of donor funds that could be devoted to humanitarian work while causing delays in carrying it out.²⁰

The Special Rapporteur also stressed that in addition to the inability of humanitarian NGOs to access donations already made, they might lose potential donations because of the fear among some donors that secondary sanctions could be applied to them if the funds were used in a sanctioned country or because the donors themselves had been prevented from making the donations by banks that had declined to provide services to NGOs working in sanctioned countries. One NGO reported to the Special Rapporteur that some donors were unable to transfer funds, or were reluctant to do so, amid concerns that the funds would be frozen. Another NGO that sought to send a delegation to a briefing on the COVID-19 vaccine development programme in Cuba, having taken the steps to ensure that it complied with United States sanctions regulations, found that donations for the project were blocked by several banks and by PayPal.²¹

As OHCHR has indicated in the past, when unilateral sanctions target an entire country or address entire economic sectors, the most vulnerable people in that country – those who are least protected – are likely to be the worst harmed.²² The people of those countries are in no way responsible for the policies targeted by the sanctions and, to varying degrees, have already been living in a precarious situation for prolonged periods through no fault of their own.²³ Due to overcompliance, in some cases even the import of basic food items, health-care equipment and other forms of

¹⁸ OHCHR, “Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures says guiding principles need to be drafted to protect the rights and lives of people”, press release, 14 September 2022.

¹⁹ [A/HRC/51/33](#), para. 35.

²⁰ [A/HRC/51/33](#), para. 57.

²¹ [A/HRC/51/33](#), para. 58.

²² OHCHR, “High Commissioner calls for critical re-evaluation of the human rights impact of unilateral sanctions”, panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures, 16 September 2021.

²³ *Ibid.*

humanitarian aid into sanctioned countries becomes difficult despite the existence of applicable exemptions.²⁴

The Special Rapporteur has urged States and international organizations to review and minimize the scope of unilateral sanctions and to guarantee that sanctions do not affect goods or services necessary for the survival of a population.²⁵ Since the embargo also prohibited ships from loading or unloading cargo in United States ports for 180 days after delivering cargo to Cuba, shippers felt strongly discouraged from delivering medical equipment to Cuba, which raised shipping costs and further constricted the flow of food, medicines, medical supplies and even gasoline for ambulances.²⁶

Right to health

A scientific delegation led by United States health professionals who visited Cuba in June 2022 found that current restrictions on trade and investment with Cuba that hamper development, production, use or cost recovery of Cuban biotech and pharmaceutical products or international collaboration with Cuban research institutions, biotech firms and public health professionals should be removed to aid in the global fight against existing and emerging threats and support equitable access to medical innovations.²⁷

The Special Rapporteur also noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuban authorities had related that the fear of secondary sanctions was making medicine and medical equipment manufacturers reluctant to ship supplies and causing reticence on the part of banks to handle related transactions.²⁸ According to the United Nations system, in Cuba sensitive items, such as dengue diagnostic kits and ambulances for the maternal care system, have long and expensive procurement processes associated with the use of intermediaries and long-distance transportation.

According to a report of the United Nations Children's Fund, a macroanalysis of health indicators in Cuba showed that the country was delivering on the essential levels of the right to health, namely with regard to health indices such as those related to the disease prevention and immunization system;²⁹ life expectancy;³⁰ neonatal, infant,³¹ under-5³² and maternal mortality³³ rates and per capita health expenditures.³⁴ With regard to health services, the free coverage of services, the high rates of medical doctors per capita,³⁵ State programmes and the primary health-care system were also signs of the country's efforts to provide an adequate level of health care despite the impact of unilateral measures. According to the World Health Organization, 66 per

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ OHCHR, "Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures".

²⁶ United States of America, Office of Foreign Assets Control, "Cuba sanctions". See also [A/76/405](#), section III, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

²⁷ Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba, "Insights from Cuba's COVID-19 vaccine enterprise: Report from a high-level fact-finding delegation to Cuba – Executive summary", 31 October 2022.

²⁸ [A/HRC/51/33](#), para. 12.

²⁹ Cuba became the first country in the world to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. See United Nations Children's Fund, "Situation of children in Cuba". Children are vaccinated (99 per cent coverage) against 13 diseases.

³⁰ Life expectancy is more than 78 years, according to World Bank data. According to the United Nations Population Fund, it is 69 years.

³¹ The infant mortality rate has dropped below 5 per 1,000 newborns.

³² The under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births went from 58 in 1960 to 5 in 2021.

³³ The maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births went from 46 in 2000 to 36 in 2017.

³⁴ Health-care spending per capita has posted sustainable growth, rising from 6.58% in 2000 to 11.34% of the GDP in 2019. See Macrotrends, "Cuba healthcare spending 2000–2023".

³⁵ According to data from the World Health Organization, there were 84.27 medical doctors per 10,000 population in 2018.

cent of medicines on the essential medicines list were produced by the Cuban pharmaceutical industry.³⁶ However, medical equipment and medicines imported to Cuba from the United States were subject to regulatory licensing under the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act.³⁷ In that regard, the Special Rapporteur has urged States and international organizations to review and minimize the scope of unilateral sanctions and to guarantee that sanctions do not affect goods or services necessary for the survival of a population.³⁸ Out of the concern that it would not be able to procure vaccines from global suppliers during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba had pursued a completely independent COVID-19 vaccine development programme, taking two vaccine regimens through phase III trials and emergency use authorization.³⁹ Those vaccines were then distributed by means of the Cuban health system, with the country achieving one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in Latin America (88 per cent of its population according to statistics from 2022).⁴⁰

Right to adequate food

According to a 2022 report of the World Food Programme, Cuba has made progress in eradicating poverty and hunger, but 50 per cent of the subsidized monthly food basket for the entire population is imported. The report further noted that the country faces a challenging economic and financial situation that has been impacted by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against it.⁴¹

According to a 2022 country report of the World Food Programme, the country's high dependence on imports and limited access to foreign currencies significantly reduced the availability of domestic and imported food commodities. In 2022, the country experienced shortages of major food staples and protein-rich foods, including cereals, vegetables, dairy products and meat, as a result of a monetary reform initiated in 2021. That reform led to higher prices of basic goods and services and impacted households' vulnerability to food insecurity.⁴²

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.⁴³ According to information shared by the United Nations country team in Cuba, those obstacles have also had a significant impact on agricultural productivity in Cuba, placing considerable strain on the country's budget and potentially affecting those who rely on social safety nets.

Right to education

The Special Rapporteur has indicated that Zoom and some other platforms were not available to residents and citizens of a number of countries under sanctions, including for teaching purposes or even for communication among doctors to discuss symptoms, diagnostics and treatment methods, including in relation to COVID-19. The Special Rapporteur further noted that Cuba, in particular, reported that it was

³⁶ World Health Organization, *Cuban Experience with Local Production of Medicines, Technology Transfer and Improving Access to Health* (Geneva, 2015).

³⁷ United States, Cuban Democracy Act, Public law 102-484, Title XVII.

³⁸ OHCHR, "Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures".

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⁴⁰ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Mortalidad y salud: Vacunación contra el COVID-19 – Situación en América Latina y el Caribe".

⁴¹ World Food Programme, "Evaluation of Cuba World Food Programme Country Strategic Plan 2021–2024", November 2022, paras. 5, 6 and 9.

⁴² World Food Programme, *Cuba: Annual Country Report 2022*, p. 7.

⁴³

unable to participate in a Zoom summit meeting of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States in 2020 to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴ According to information received from the United Nations country team in Cuba, the embargo was restricting access to computer tools necessary for the production of educational multimedia and to equipment necessary to ensure adequate learning for children with special needs, for example, mechanical Braille writing machines. OHCHR also received information from academics in Cuba who indicated that the embargo had reduced their academic exchanges with other universities and their access to scientific information and computer tools.

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 persons in Cuba. The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights carried out an academic visit to the country in May 2023. OHCHR reiterates its call to Cuba to extend invitations to special procedures mandate holders,⁴⁵ 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]
[28 March 2023]

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 protect and find solutions for refugees for over three decades.

Cuba has maintained its *de facto* policy of non-refoulement for all refugees recognized under the mandate of UNHCR. 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.

In 2022, only two new applications for refugee status were lodged in Cuba. 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 7 in 2021) and most likely results from a combination of the lingering effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, limited solutions for refugees and difficult economic circumstances affecting refugees and Cubans alike. In addition, basic products, such as food, medicine, clothing and hygiene items, have become increasingly hard to find on the local market, adding to the challenges faced by refugees and many locals. In 2022, Hurricane Ian further exacerbated the situation and UNHCR supported the humanitarian response with the provision of core relief items that otherwise were not available.

Despite the relatively low number of refugees and asylum-seekers, solutions for them have remained elusive. At the end of 2022, 185 recognized refugees were in need of a durable solution and, for most, resettlement to a third country continues to be the only viable option. However, in recent years, resettlement countries have offered a limited number of places for refugees in Cuba.

⁴⁴ A/77/296, para. 32.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Although Cuba has not yet developed a local integration policy, a certain number of refugees have been granted permanent residence permits on the basis of close family relationships to Cuban nationals, in accordance with the national legislation. Such individuals were given a legal status that grants them some of the same rights and opportunities that Cuban nationals have, although they also face some of the same challenges with respect to the economic situation. While most recognized refugees are not granted work permits, they have access to free health care and educational opportunities. Cuba also grants government scholarships covering the costs of tertiary education for selected refugees, including those from Western Sahara.

Cuba continues to contribute 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 in December 2018. Cuba also participated in the high-level segment on statelessness during the seventieth session of the Executive Committee of UNHCR, in October 2019, and in the first Global Refugee Forum, in 2019, sharing recent policy and legal developments in this area as good practices.

Should the embargo against Cuba end, more favourable conditions in the country would benefit persons of concern to UNHCR. Such a situation could even pave the way for meaningful discussions on 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 not only encourage accession to those conventions, but also help to promote the highest protection standards for refugees and stateless persons in Cuba.

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

[Original: English]
[16 March 2023]

Cuba signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 4 February 2021, thus 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 Preparatory Commission, it is a recipient of equipment and technical support related to the establishment of a national data centre that provides it with access to the data collected by the International Monitoring System and the products created by the International Data Centre Division of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission. Cuba is also entitled to participate in capacity-building or training programmes of the Preparatory Commission.

The Provisional Technical Secretariat has encountered some challenges and a heightened administrative burden associated with the implementation of its initial projects and activities in Cuba. There have been difficulties with the Internet and the satellite connections needed for the establishment of a national data centre. There have also been challenges in supporting the participation of Cuban experts in some virtual training sessions and meetings, owing to access limitations that impede the effectiveness of information and communication technology platforms. The implementation of the Preparatory Commission's activities in Cuba remains at an early stage, and work to assess and address the above-mentioned issues continues.

United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: Spanish]

[16 March 2023]

Restrictions on the procurement of essential supplies and increased transactional costs affect the efficiency of operations of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the implementation of its cooperation programme with Cuba, in terms of both the regular programme and the humanitarian response; the effects were especially severe in 2022 owing to the continued presence of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, the resurgence of dengue fever and the impact of Hurricane Ian.

Procurement processes are burdened with logistical difficulties and added transactional costs owing to the lack of access to the United States market, despite the fact that it is the closest market to Cuba. Goods, services and technology produced in the United States covered by United States patents or containing components produced or patented in the United States are not available to the Cuban market. This creates a need to seek supplies in more distant markets and to contract the services of freight forwarding agencies at higher costs, increasing the cost of providing social services to women and children, which affects the quality of education, universal health coverage and protection services.

In the education sector, the embargo negatively affects the ability to access study materials, such as specialized literature, computers and software, school supplies and art materials.

In the health sector, the results achieved in reducing infant mortality are being lost, while restrictions on access to essential medicines, reagents, spare parts for equipment used for diagnosis and treatment, and medical and surgical instruments continue to increase and, when these items are acquired, cause delays in their arrival and long waits for those who need them.

In 2022, the office was unable to procure dengue diagnostic kits through the UNICEF Procurement Unit because the basic components were of United States origin. This affected the ability of the health system to detect and treat cases in a timely manner. Similarly, for the acquisition of an ambulance for the maternal care system, the office went through a lengthy procurement process with high transactional costs because it was unable to obtain the equipment in the United States from vendors that offered leading American brands at lower costs.

In contracting for the provision of services, there were delays in the issuance and management of contracts (about 20 additional days compared to the regular process) due to the modification or cancellation of accounts (by international banks) for some vendors that send cargo to Cuba, even with contracts issued by international organizations. Bottlenecks also arose in the management of vendor contracts by the Cuba office. Contracts processed by the office had to be issued in euros. This resulted in exchange rate losses of about 0.2 per cent per contract for exchanges from dollars to euros.

The office in Cuba was unable to benefit from savings in transactional costs represented by global corporate agreements between UNICEF and companies located in the United States for the procurement of supplies and services, specifically those related to information and communications technology, software licences and Internet service. The procurement of information technology supplies through local bidding with intermediary vendors resulted in an average cost increase of 20 per cent per item in 2022.

Moreover, logistics operations with global freight forwarders hire by UNICEF were delayed due to the coordination of shipping documentation and end-user

certifications associated with the embargo. The contracts entered into with global freight forwarders for the shipment of supplies were issued in euros, resulting in a cost owing to the exchange rate of United States dollars to Euros. The UNICEF Cuba office handled a volume of approximately 43 containers (not including global freight forwarders), at a cost of \$387,000 per container, with cargo managed from distant markets through contracts with freight forwarders involving higher costs and longer delivery times. There was also a decrease in the frequency of ships entering Cuban ports, leading to a backlog of cargoes in trans-shipment ports, with especially serious effects on the humanitarian response. Had procurement and freight logistics been managed from the United States market, UNICEF estimates that the cost could have been reduced by an average of 50 per cent.

Restrictions on monthly bank transfers in dollars to Cuba have remained in place over the last year. The UNICEF Cuba Office has to use a third party bank with currency exchange to replenish funds in its local dollar account on a monthly basis. This involved exchange rate costs and bank and transactional fees leading to a loss of approximately 15 per cent of the total value transferred.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

Introduction

Paragraph 99 of the Bridgetown Covenant ([TD/541/Add.2](#)), adopted at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in October 2021, provided as follows:

The challenges to multilateralism need to be addressed through enhanced international cooperation underpinned by full respect for international law and the purposes and principles enshrined under the Charter of the United Nations. 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, in light of concerns over the constraining nature and developmental implications of such measures that negatively impact the well-being of the populations and can impede the full achievement of economic and social development in the concerned States, as well as impair their trade relations.

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 2017.⁴⁶ 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, measures were taken to further strengthen restrictions, including by enforcing all provisions of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (Libertad) Act of 1996, known as the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

Despite the policy review announced in 2021, a series of financial sanctions on Cuban entities, as well as visa restrictions, were imposed following the July 2021 protests that took place in Cuba. In 2022, steps were taken on easing immigration and financial restrictions affecting Cuban nationals. Immigrant visa processing was

⁴⁶ United States of America, Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 202. 20 October 2017.

increased in the United States Embassy in Havana, travel restrictions eased and flights expanded. In addition, financial restrictions on remittances have been eased, eliminating monetary and frequency limits for family remittances and allowing donation remittances to Cuban people.⁴⁷ The Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program is being revamped, allowing up to 20,000 visas for entry into the United States every year. Nonetheless, the embargo against Cuba is still in force as of March 2023.

Overall economic trends⁴⁸

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic strongly impacted Cuba's economic performance in the last three years. Restrictions on the movement of people and lockdowns worldwide affected international trade and tourism, two sectors that provide vital external revenues for Cuba. After a sharp contraction in its gross domestic product (GDP) by 10.9 per cent in 2020, the economy recovered only moderately in 2021, registering an annual growth rate of 1.3 per cent. This outcome is low as compared to the average growth rate of the Latin America and the Caribbean region of 6.6 per cent, as well as that of the Caribbean region of 6.4 per cent. Cuba is estimated to register a positive growth rate of 2.0 per cent in 2022 and forecasted to grow by 1.5 per cent in 2023.⁴⁹

Given the pandemic shocks and slow recovery, Cuba's GDP is still lower than it was in 2015. From 2015 to 2021, the country's real GDP decreased on average by 1 per cent annually, as compared to the positive annual average growth rate of 2.7 per cent registered during the previous five-year period (2010–2015). It is particularly notable that inflation reached unprecedented levels in 2021, with consumer prices rising by 255 per cent following the unification of dual currency system. Cuba's economic performance continued to be affected in 2022 from other adverse shocks, such as reduced levels of tourism, fuel and food price hikes following the war in Ukraine, as well as Hurricane Ian which hit the country in September 2022.

Current geopolitical tensions – and the consequent rise in food and energy prices, interest rates and public debt – are expected to heighten economic hardship in Cuba. For instance, food prices rose by 28 per cent between January 2020 and January 2023 before subduing subsequently.⁵⁰ Rising interest rates and the consequent rising cost of borrowing made financing budget and external trade deficits more difficult to sustain. Real household incomes decreased by 1.6 per cent in 2022 in developing countries as a consequence of price rises.⁵¹ Higher energy prices have the potential to severely impact Cuba owing to its position as net energy importer and its reliance on a handful of suppliers. Stabilizing commodity prices will be important in alleviating the economic burden on Cuba.

As a small island economy with a GDP worth of \$107 billion (2020), Cuba has a small and labour-intensive agricultural sector that generates 3.7 per cent of GDP but absorbs 18 per cent of the workforce,⁵² and an industrial sector that contributes 25 per cent to GDP but employed just 17 per cent of workers in 2020. In contrast, services are the dominant sector of the economy, contributing 71 per cent to GDP and 65 per

⁴⁷ United States of America, Congressional Research Service, “[Cuba: U.S. Policy Overview](#)”, 2022.

⁴⁸ The source of all data referred to in the text hereafter is UNCTADStat (available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/>) unless otherwise specified.

⁴⁹ *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023* (United Nations publication, 2023).

⁵⁰ UNCTAD, “[Pulse of the global crisis](https://unctad.org/global-crisis/dashboard)”. Available at <https://unctad.org/global-crisis/dashboard>. Based on data of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

⁵¹ Rijkers and others, “War-induced food price inflation imperils the poor”, Centre for Economic Policy Research, 1 April 2022.

⁵² International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database. Available at <https://ilostat.ilo.org/>.

cent to employment.⁵³ Women make up 38 per cent of the workforce, with 81 per cent of them occupied in the services sector.⁵⁴

Trade pattern and trends

Cuba's trade pattern has been marked by a deficit in merchandise trade. Despite a reduction of the deficit in 2019 and 2020, the level of deficit increased in 2021, reaching almost \$7 billion, or 82 per cent of imports. As a country relying heavily on international markets for natural resources, capital and technology, access to international markets is fundamental for Cuba both to sell its products and to meet the domestic demand.

Cuban merchandise exports substantially fell from 2011 to 2021, passing from \$6.4 billion in 2011 to \$1.5 billion in 2021. The value of Cuba's exports decreased on average by 8 per cent annually between 2010 and 2015 and by 10 per cent between 2015 and 2020. In 2021, exports fell by 12 per cent. This marks a stark contrast with world exports, which grew on average by 1.5 per cent and by 2.7 per cent during the two corresponding periods of 2010 to 2015 and 2015 to 2020, respectively, and rebounded strongly in 2021 by 26.5 per cent. Consequently, the share of Cuba in world merchandise exports decreased from 0.035 per cent in 2011 to 0.007 per cent in 2021.

Cuba's main export items are beverages and tobacco, representing 18.6 per cent of total goods exports in 2021. These are followed by ores and metals (16.2 per cent) and food basics (15.8 per cent). At a more disaggregated level, tobacco, chemical products, sugar, metalliferous ores and medications figured prominently among the major export products. Despite their diminishing role in the economy, traditional cash crops – sugar and tobacco – remained important foreign exchange earners.

Cuba's main export markets in 2021 were the European Union (representing 26.4 per cent of total exports) and Latin America and the Caribbean (25.1 per cent). At the individual country level, Canada (20.1 per cent), China (16.6 per cent), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (14.8 per cent), Spain (8.2 per cent) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (4 per cent) are among the main merchandise export partners. As Cuba's merchandise exports contracted, exports to these main markets also decreased over the years. In the world markets, Cuban exports faced weighted average most-favoured-nation tariffs of about 15.8 per cent and applied tariffs of 15.6 per cent in 2021. Among its five main exports, the highest weighted average applied tariffs are imposed by the European Union (21.5 per cent) and the lowest by the Latin America and Caribbean region (2 per cent).⁵⁵

Estimated at \$8.5 billion in 2021, merchandise imports were more than five times larger than merchandise exports, as the country relies on imports for the supply of machinery and transport equipment, essential foodstuffs, fuel and chemical products. Imports to Cuba contracted by 27 per cent in 2020, and the import rebound that followed in 2021 was 17.4 per cent lower than the Caribbean regional average of 28 per cent. "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. As to fuels, there is a high concentration of import sources. Some 66 per cent of Cuba's imports in 2021 were sourced from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and 20.5 per cent from Algeria.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ World Integrated Trade Solution, UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System database.

Bilateral trade between Cuba and the United States

Bilateral trade between Cuba and the United States has been heavily influenced by the embargo, thus holding a vast untapped potential in view of the size, economic complementarities and geographical proximity of the two economies. Existing Cuban exports to the United States were estimated at \$1.5 million in 2021, about 0.12 per cent of Cuba's total exports to the world.

By contrast, Cuba's imports from the United States were far greater and substantial. In 2021, Cuba's bilateral imports reached \$540 million, a 42 per cent increase from the previous year, passing from 5.3 per cent of its total imports from the world to 6.4 per cent. These imports mainly consisted of basic food items (93 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 United States commercial exports of specific agricultural commodities have been authorized, albeit subject to numerous restrictions and licensing requirements. Other exempted items include, among others, specific medicines and medical devices, items necessary for the environmental protection of United States and international air quality, waters, or coastlines (including items related to renewable energy and energy efficiency), items to ensure the safety of civil aviation and the safe operation of commercial aircraft engaged in international air transportation, telecommunications items that would improve communications to, from, and among the Cuban people, and items to meet the needs of the Cuban people.⁵⁶

Services and remittances

Cuba has developed important export capabilities in the services sector. In 2020, Cuba's services exports amounted to \$7 billion, as compared to imports of \$1.5 billion. Yet, compared to 2019, that still represented a 31.8 per cent decrease for exports and a 24.2 per cent decrease for imports. Key export activities are travel services and other non-specified services.

Tourism represents one of the most important sectors in the country, accounting for 6.5 per cent of GDP in 2020. This sector suffered a major setback due to the international conjuncture, passing from a peak of more than 4.7 million overnight visitors in 2018 to only around 356,000 arrivals in 2021.⁵⁷ As a consequence, total travel revenue decreased from \$2.7 billion in 2018 to \$417 million in 2021.

Remittance flows to Cuba sent by migrants and workers abroad were valued at \$2.0 billion in 2021, a 30 per cent decrease compared to 2020, and almost half of the value of remittances in 2019. Owing to a prohibition on processing remittances through entities included in the so-called Cuba restricted list, Western Union terminated its operations in Cuba in 2020.⁵⁸ Since June 2022, the United States has authorized donative remittances to Cuban nationals and lifted limits on family remittances.⁵⁹

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic, climate shocks and geopolitical tensions have caused damage to the Cuban economy and people's lives, which highly depend on international trade, tourism revenues and remittance inflows. The country appears to

⁵⁶ United States of America, Code of Federal Regulations, title 15, subtitle B, chap. VII, subchapter C, part 746, para. 746.2 (1996).

⁵⁷ World Tourism Organization.

⁵⁸ United States of America, Congressional Research Service, "Cuba: U.S. Policy Overview", 2022.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

suffer continued hardship on account of tepid growth, falling exports, rising external deficit and higher cost of living. Healthy flows of international trade and finance in the Cuban economy have the potential to support Cuba's economic recovery, as well as to help the country to increase its resilience against external shocks and prepare its economy for a sustainable future.

Despite recent steps taken by the United States to ease restrictions 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 most recent shocks. To date, the embargo has frustrated the country's efforts to use trade as an instrument of sustainable development.

United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]
[29 March 2023]

Cuba has ratified its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while maintaining the introduction of changes in its development model.

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 current decentralization framework. In recent years, new measures were adopted, such as the creation of a regulatory framework for the approval and consolidation of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, a novel aspect in the Cuban context. In this context, Cuba faces important challenges, and universal social services 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 was 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 socioeconomic 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;⁶⁰ 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

⁶⁰ See list of restricted entities at www.state.gov/cuba-sanctions/cuba-restricted-list/list-of-restrictedentities-and-subentitiesassociated-with-cuba-effective-as-of-november-19-2019.

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 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 Government announced the inclusion of Cuba in the list of countries that are 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, although the main sanctions remain, there have been signs of flexibility. A group of measures have been adopted, such as: suspension of the limit of \$1,000 per quarter on remittances, as well as allowing remittances to be sent to people who are not family members; reactivation the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program and an increase in consular services and visa processing, including educational trips, professional and research meetings; and an increase in flights between the United States and the island. Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the measures as a limited step in the right direction.

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 due to the embargo from the early 1960s until February 2022 amount to \$154.2 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 within 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.

At the 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 2022, 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, with 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. For example, European suppliers that have advanced biomethane plant technologies have limited themselves from submitting offers to a procurement process open from the headquarters for Cuba, given that they are expanding their market to the United States or because they have parts/pieces of

American origin. As a result, the implementation and achievement of the project's expected impacts have experienced a delay of two years.

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 severely 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 28,044 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.

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 remains 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. Many websites and services, such as Adobe, Amazon, Cisco and VMware, are blocked for Cuban Internet service providers. Likewise, 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 DocuSign, among others, when trying to connect from national Internet service providers. Access to online training and webinars is also limited.

Consequently, the country office obtains access to the Internet primarily 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 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.

The UNDP office in Cuba is currently facing delays of shipments due 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 been forced 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 constitute 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 was 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 with 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 within 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 on 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, etc., 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 UNDP bidding processes.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]

[27 March 2023]

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 (UNESCO), as well as its activities.

In the field of education, limitations remain with regard to the technological development of educational institutions and the acquisition of teaching-learning instruments, in particular those necessary for developing artistic, physical and technical-professional education. The embargo has also had an impact on academic exchanges between students and scientists.

Related to education, the embargo also limits the possibilities of accessing technological platforms owned by companies subject to the laws of the United States. According to reported statistics, over 60 software programs, websites and services are restricted, including educational sites and videoconferencing service platforms, such as Zoom and Webex.

Sports in Cuba have also been 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. Financial transactions for purchases abroad and payments to coaches and athletes and for services rendered are still affected.

The embargo has also had an impact on educational and academic exchanges between students and scientists in relation to Cuban and United States sports. The difficulties in obtaining visas to participate in international competitions in the United States have persisted. This also affects persons with disabilities who practise sports.

In the field of culture, limitations remain on the promotion, dissemination and marketing of Cuban artistic talent, notably to the United States market, with which direct transactions, such as to provide cultural goods and services, are not allowed. Cuban musicians cannot take advantage of United States market opportunities and, in many cases, are forced to sell their music in markets where there is a lower demand for musicians.

Obstacles to accessing Internet sites and procuring technologies and supplies have increased the cost of Internet services on the island, thus constituting a barrier to the right of citizens to gain access to information and knowledge.

The embargo affects communications and has a direct impact on the development of the computerization of Cuban society, notably owing to the increase in procurement costs, the impossibility of upgrading technology, the lack of access to the fibre-optic cables surrounding Cuba and the increase in international connectivity costs.

The prohibition on the procurement of technological inputs that contain more than 10 per cent of United States components remains in force, as do 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 a significant impact on procurement by the United Nations

system, complicating and delaying procurement processes and severely restricting the use of the goods and technology procured by end users.

In the case of the UNESCO office in Havana, the organization has had to request a special licence for use of the Zoom platform in Cuba. It should be noted that, while access is possible to meetings organized by UNESCO, access to its website to generate meetings or download client information is blocked.

United States-based information technology companies with which UNESCO has signed global supply agreements are required to apply for special licences 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.

Procurement processes are hampered by the increasing time spent on needs analysis, market research and the arrival of goods and services in the country, affecting UNESCO operations. Some of the companies that 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 must pay much higher freight costs because imports need to be made from third countries more distant from the island.

The nature of the embargo has led to other financial restrictions that affect banking transactions, including activities relating to the permanent delegation to UNESCO and the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO, in currencies other than the United States dollar. This has an impact on financial transactions by UNESCO and its staff, including with regard to the implementation of official missions and the implementation of activities.

Lastly, the embargo makes it difficult to ensure health services for UNESCO staff because many health insurance companies are unable to work directly with Cuban health service providers owing to the restrictions.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

From an environmental perspective, the embargo imposed by the United States affects both Cuba and the Caribbean subregion, including parts of the United States.

Addressing the triple planetary crisis and achieving the strategic objectives of climate stability, prosperity in harmony with nature and a pollution-free planet in the Caribbean subregion and in Cuba is only possible through regional cooperation and dialogue, information-sharing, and the development of common strategies and agreements. All these aspects are affected by the embargo imposed on Cuba. This situation has detrimental impacts on the ability of Cuba and other countries in the Caribbean subregion to manage shared coastal and marine ecosystems and to tackle common environmental and climate-related issues.

The embargo also hinders 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, particularly through training events, capacity-building activities and workshops. There are cases in which bringing experts from the United States to Cuba for specific scientific or technical topics is not possible, as permission to enter the country is not granted. If the person is Cuban, they cannot go to a regional event that implies flight connections through the United States if they do not have a United

States visa. It is practically impossible to obtain transit visas through the United States for Cubans.

In the implementation of projects, limitations in financial transparency with Cuba make it difficult to hire and pay experts. For example, if a consultant is paid via direct transfer and the transit bank is located in the United States, the bank can withhold the payment. Likewise, the embargo is also posing significant challenges for UNEP in supporting Cuba on its environmental agenda owing to the limitations that UNEP-hired specialists face in order to meet with government officials and organize official consultations to carry out their duties.

Another aspect that affects project implementation in Cuba is the acquisition of goods and services, which are also affected by the embargo. All equipment that has any component or material associated with the United States is linked with the embargo, therefore increasing the procurement costs and forcing the acquisition of goods and services from more expensive and far-reaching markets.

The embargo impedes the mobilization of resources and implementation of environmental protection projects in Cuba. This challenge has, for instance, impacted 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. In addition, no funds from the World Bank can be accessed, and philanthropists from the United States have many limitations on what they can fund, and how.

With the transition to online meetings and virtual modalities of work, left as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, lack of connectivity on the island and difficulties in accessing virtual platforms that rely on the United States have impeded Cuban participation in multiple intergovernmental meetings. Often, Cuban representatives are either excluded or resort to additional technological solutions at their own expense.

UNEP supports Cuba within its possibilities. However, ending the embargo would significantly facilitate the possibility to support Cuba in addressing environmental and climate challenges, and would enable Cuba's effective and proper participation in regional intergovernmental and technical cooperation processes.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been working in Cuba since 2001 and established a UN-Habitat Office in Cuba in 2007. The main objective of its presence is to support the Government of Cuba in the implementation of its development agendas and priorities in line with the mandate of UN-Habitat.

During the past years, UN-Habitat has supported the country in the implementation of several projects whose priorities are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the UN-Habitat country programme with the Government of Cuba. The projects focus on urban and territorial planning at the national and municipal levels; housing and urban recovery after hurricanes; support for changes in the housing and habitat sector; promotion of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and capacity-building to support the process of strengthening local governments to contribute to decentralization and territorial development.

There have been some limitations and obstacles in their execution due to the international implications of the economic, commercial and financial embargo, which places a limit on financial transactions and access to international markets. These are of great importance to guarantee the acquisition of supplies, equipment and technologies for Cuba's urban and territorial development and the gradual improvement of the quality of life of the Cuban people.

Cuba faces the effects of the embargo daily. In addition, the effects of the pandemic intensified the consequences of the embargo on the Cuban population and the operations of UN-Habitat on the ground.

From the perspective of UN-Habitat, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 77/7 will allow Cuba to contribute more effectively to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which will considerably contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the Cuban population.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

[Original: English]
[31 March 2023]

Currently, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is supporting the efforts of the Government of Cuba to promote and develop a competitive industry that meets the needs of the population and which provides welfare and a better quality of life for all through the Country Programme Cuba 2021–2025.

The Country Programme is built around four components, namely: (a) innovation and availability of information; (b) productive transformation; (c) investment and technology transfer; and (d) sustainable management of natural resources and improvement of environmental quality.

The Country Programme includes various projects in strategic sectors for Cuba's economic, environmental and social development, such as sustainable food systems, the development of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, the use of renewable energies, the formulation of value chain development programmes and the development of industrial parks and special economic zones.

UNIDO is implementing a portfolio of five national projects, two regional projects and one interregional project in Cuba, with a total budget of over \$6.5 million. Furthermore, several project proposals are being negotiated under the Country Programme 2021–2025.

UNIDO is convinced that without the restrictions caused by the embargo, efforts to promote and develop a competitive and sustainable industry that meets the needs of the population could bring more benefits.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

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. UNDRR facilitates Cuba's participation in disaster risk reduction knowledge-sharing processes and initiatives through the Regional Platform for

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean. It also engages Cuba in subregional projects in the Caribbean, which aim to increase capacities in disaster risk reduction, disseminate good practices in risk-sensitive investment and strengthen and streamline early warning systems in the region.

UNDRR acknowledges Cuba's expertise in reducing disaster risks. It commends Cuba for its sustained efforts to implement the Sendai Framework, as well as its support for the renewal of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas during the recent Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 February to 2 March 2023. UNDRR also appreciates Cuba's contribution to the Sendai Framework implementation Midterm Review, including its national midterm review report submission, and looks forward to Cuba's representation in the High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, convened by the General Assembly on 18 and 19 May 2023 in New York.

Cuba's cooperation and sharing of expertise within the region is of great importance for the advancement of the disaster risk reduction agenda. UNDRR notes that Cuba was among the first countries to offer technical assistance to Caribbean countries to cope with coronavirus disease (COVID-19). It is also one of the countries with expertise in providing early warning systems, which can be an asset for the implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative and the response to the Secretary-General's call for global early warning system coverage in the next five years.

UNDRR recognizes that reducing human and economic impacts of disasters will require access to current scientific and technical advances and optimal technology. Owing to the increased intensity and frequency of natural hazards in the Caribbean and the need to recover from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba would benefit from access to resources from donors and international finance institutions to achieve further progress. In addition, current efforts to protect the population against different hazards (biological, environmental, technological, hydro-meteorological and geological, among others) will need to be further complemented and enhanced by access to disaster response, health and early warning equipment, risk modelling, adapted infrastructure and other information technology.

In line with the above, UNDRR considers that the achievement of disaster risk reduction goals in Cuba is hampered by the repercussions of the embargo, which limits the country's access to key information, knowledge, technology (including virtual platforms and software critical to function in current times) and assets that are of utmost importance for delivering on the commitments of the Sendai Framework and increasing resilience in the country.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[23 March 2023]

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 from 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 owing to climate change have affected the region heavily. Consequently, UNODC is attempting to expand the implementation of its mandate in the Caribbean and to be proactive in addressing emerging crises so as to support member States in their efforts

to address those challenges. UNODC is aiming 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 is present in Barbados and the Dominican Republic. From those locations, UNODC supports Cuba as part of its extended presence in the Caribbean region, in close coordination with key regional and national counterparts. UNODC does not have a presence in Cuba, nor does it 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 actively participates 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. The executive summary of the country review report has been published, as required by the mechanism. Cuba is reviewing the implementation of the Convention in Equatorial Guinea, together with Guinea-Bissau, and in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, together with Ireland. In addition, Cuba has completed the review of implementation of the Convention in Peru, together with Fiji.

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. In June 2017, UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the General Directorate of Customs to implement the programme. Under the programme, one port control unit in the port of Mariel and one air cargo control unit at the International Airport of José Martí in Havana were established. In October 2022, an additional port control unit was established in Santiago. The port control unit at the port of Mariel is composed of customs and anti-narcotics police officers, all-female, working jointly in daily 12-hour shifts. The units received basic theoretical, practical and specialized training, as well as mentoring on air cargo and sea cargo. During 2020 and 2021, the port control units in Cuba reported two seizures of cocaine totalling 2.9 kg and one case of undeclared goods. In 2022, the port control unit in Cuba reported one case totalling 1 kg of cocaine.

The greatest impact of the sanctions on delivery of the Container Control Programme 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 as limited procurement opportunities affected by trade controls and sanctions. Throughout 2020 and 2021, training, meetings and equipment provision have been difficult if not impossible, owing to COVID-19.

Another important multi-agency programme is the Airport Communication Programme of UNODC, the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), which is aimed at strengthening the capacities of participating international airports to detect and intercept drugs, illicit goods and high-risk passengers in origin, transit and destination countries with the overall objective of disrupting illegal criminal networks. UNODC secured funding to support the implementation of the programme in Cuba. It has been implemented at the José Martí International airport, in Havana, since 2019, funded by the Anti-Crime Capacity-building Programme of Canada and with a large joint airport interdiction

task force set-up. It is composed of 30 agents, a majority of whom are women, and began to be operational in 2021. National authorities have also expressed interest in implementation of the programme at Varadero airport and UNODC is carrying out fundraising efforts to respond to that request.

It is worth noting and reiterating the impact of the embargo on the communications sector, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cuba has 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.

UNODC is committed to sustaining and strengthening its collaboration and operational partnership with Cuba to address challenges related to drugs and crime. The UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America for the period 2022–2025 provides an opportunity to potentially expand and diversify its technical assistance to the Caribbean region, including to Cuba. 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]
[20 March 2023]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to have an impact on the situation and fundamental rights of the population, particularly women, adolescents and youth, in Cuba. Its adverse effects were felt in the shortage of medicines, supplies and services for sexual and reproductive health, including contraceptives, produced nationally with materials purchased from other continents, as well as in procurement processes related to national surveys and census and the provision of essential services for care of victims of gender-based violence and older persons in nursing homes, 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 in the procurement processes, such as payment restrictions and delays, 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 continents at high transportation and freight costs. This also hinders the capacity of UNFPA to work with national and/or international providers. Not only are development programmes affected, but also the UNFPA response to emergencies, such as the one caused by Hurricane Ian, as it is even more difficult to mount a quick, efficient, high-standard and inclusive response to emergencies owing to the aforementioned limitations.

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. In this regard, the programme had to align the approved interventions to other needs and reallocate financial support in order to ensure the critical supplies for the sexual and reproductive health services. The impact has been intensified after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

UNFPA reaffirms the commitment 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. 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 and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

Universal Postal Union

[Original: English]
[30 March 2023]

Cuba is a fully fledged member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU); as such, Cuba enjoys the same rights and obligations as any other UPU member country.

Accordingly, 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 any relevant developments since our previous submission (dated 7 October 2021), the following activities may be highlighted:

- Cuba participates in the UPU Operational Efficiency and E-commerce Development regional project taking place over the 2022–2025 period;
- The designated operator of Cuba (Correos de Cuba) receives support from the UPU Quality of Service Fund a project on improving the quality of service of the Cuban postal network;
- Building on the results of an assessment conducted in 2021 within the framework of the UPU Financial Inclusion Technical Assistance Facility initiative, UPU and Correos de Cuba are currently in the process of concluding a formal agreement under which UPU will support Correos de Cuba with the development of digital financial services, in order to enable the electronic disbursement of social security benefits (including pensions).

In that context, we may also reiterate that the 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]
[7 February 2023]

Over the past 60 years, the comprehensive social protection programmes of Cuba have largely eradicated hunger and poverty. Cuba was one of the most successful countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and is still ranked eighty-third (seventy-third in 2020) on the 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 of America have further exacerbated the food security situation in the country. Over the past two years, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has generated a very significant health cost and has had disastrous consequences on the last substantive source of income for the country: tourism.

In 2022, the Government of Cuba voted in two very important measures: the monetary reform and the Food Sovereignty and Security Act, with the objective of redynamizing a weak economy and production, aiming, among other goals, at increasing the sustainability and efficiency of social protection programmes, food security being 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 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 countrywide on preparedness and response programmes, together with the Cuban Civil Defence, in order to better prepare for extreme weather events (e.g. droughts, hurricanes) to which Cuba is extremely exposed. WFP activities are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Cuba for the period 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 2022, and despite some discreet measures to reduce its weight, 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 difficulty in finding a shipping company willing to enter Cuban ports. The shipping situation has worsened since February 2022 and the sanctions against the Russian Federation regarding the Ukraine war that have reduced further the shipping options, mainly from Central Asia. 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 the United Nations Development Programme, are also vulnerable to these limitations.

World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization

[Original: English]
[23 March 2023]

This submission, prepared by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas, in response to General Assembly resolution 77/7, 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 in 2022.

According to the Government of Cuba, the embargo has a negative impact on the Cuban health sector, mainly due to difficulties in acquiring medicines, raw materials for the preparation of priority medicines, instruments, spare parts for medical equipment and other supplies necessary for the operation of the sector. This includes an impact on the efficiency of the global medicines and technology purchasing mechanisms operating in Cuba.

According to the Cuban Government, there are other negative effects, such as difficulties in acquiring reagents for diagnostic equipment that require a licence for sale to Cuba. Although the Government of the United States of America has stated that the embargo permits humanitarian goods to be shipped to Cuba and that the Government of the United States expedites such requests, in certain pending cases for PAHO/WHO the necessary licences have not yet been granted. Similar licensing issues have occurred with regard to donations of medical equipment during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

In addition, the Government of Cuba has noted an increase in shipping costs to transport goods to and from Cuba. The situation also causes delays in the transfer of equipment and supplies acquired for Cuba.

The fact that certain online communication platforms (e.g. Zoom and Microsoft Teams) are in some cases not available in Cuba does not allow Ministry of Public Health officials to access virtual meetings convened by PAHO and WHO, thereby affecting the effectiveness of technical cooperation to the country. This also affects other institutions, such as the nine PAHO/WHO collaborating centres, health institutions in the provinces and 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]

[20 February 2023]

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 have 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 on American soil. As a result, specialized professionals from Cuba may not fully benefit from higher specialization opportunities in the field of intellectual property, especially those available in the United States. These include, notably, aspects of intellectual property asset management and issues regarding intellectual property 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 enormously restricted the participation of Cuban representatives in many of the virtual meetings and capacity-building activities organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the time of 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.

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), the Global Brand Database and others, 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 field of 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 owing to 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. As such, 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. Likewise, 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 Cuban and United States collective management societies is not possible.

World Meteorological Organization

[Original: English]
[24 February 2023]

In the framework of the activities of the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Meteorological Organization, Cuba is very often present through its representatives in meetings, training courses and workshops, exchange of meteorological and hydrological data, as well as projects covering the Caribbean area and Central America. Except for the inability of Cuba to use the Zoom platform for virtual meetings with Regional Association IV members (North America, Central America and the Caribbean), which limits their participation in common work, during the year 2022 the World Meteorological Organization has not encountered any inconvenience or limitation regarding Cuba on regional scientific collaboration.

World Tourism Organization

[Original: English]
[14 February 2023]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba persists in general activities, including restrictions on travel by United States citizens to Cuba, which has a direct effect 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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) 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 also be at risk.

According to the latest *World Tourism Barometer*, issued in January 2023, the performance of the tourism sector worldwide has improved significantly. Nevertheless, the situation of the Cuban tourism sector notably differs from that of other Caribbean destinations, with arrivals for 2022 still 65 per cent down on 2019 levels.

As result, the current performance of the tourism sector and the post-pandemic recovery of the Cuban sector could be improved significantly if the measures affecting tourism were lifted or softened.

World Trade Organization

[Original: English]
[20 March 2023]

The scope and functions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are defined in the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization. The preamble of said agreement recognizes that trade and economic endeavours should be conducted with a view to, among others, raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and allowing for the optimal use of the world's resources, in accordance with the objectives 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 arrangements directed at eliminating discriminatory treatment in international trade relations.

For the period covered, the issue referred to in General Assembly resolution [77/7](#) was raised orally in the context of the WTO General Council Meeting, held on the 25 and 26 July 2022; in the annual report of Cuba to the General Council, dated 1 November 2022; and during the trade policy review of the United States of America, conducted on the 14 and 16 December 2022. At the General Council Meeting (WT/GC/M/200), Cuba mentioned that the restrictive measures imposed by the United States Government as part of an embargo continued to have a negative impact on trade, banking and foreign investment. Cuba reported that the measures, which have been tightened since 2017, restrict access for Cuban companies to international markets. Cuba also emphasized that, because of these measures, its efforts to contain the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its associated economic and social consequences had been hindered.

The issue was also referenced in the annual report of Cuba to the General Council on a waiver extension granted under the decision of 23 November 2021 (WT/L/1128). The waiver was originally granted to Cuba under the decision of 14 October 1996 in relation to article XV, paragraph 6, of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In the report, Cuba noted that the circumstances that justified the waiver extension in 2021 had worsened, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. It expressed regret that the United States continued to apply the 243 measures that had been imposed by previous Administrations.

During the Trade Policy Review of the United States, held on 14 and 16 December 2022, the issue was again raised. Cuba acknowledged that the United States continued to sponsor a draft decision on procedures to enhance transparency and improve compliance with notification requirements under WTO agreements, but questioned whether the United States had submitted detailed notifications to the various WTO bodies on the regulations that underpinned the referenced embargo against Cuba. Furthermore, Cuba alleged that there was a sustained pattern of non-compliance of the United States with its obligations as a WTO member (WT/TPR/M/434).

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]
[28 March 2023]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo makes it impossible for the International Civil Defence Organization to fulfil its mandate of helping its member States such as Cuba with emergency preparedness and capacity-building to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

The International Civil Defence Organization considers this inhumane and unfair to the innocent, ordinary people of Cuba, who are the most vulnerable in any disaster. It therefore supports ending the economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba immediately and without reservation.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

[Original: English]
[8 February 2023]

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. In accordance with that resolution, IPU reiterates that unilateral sanctions inflict unwarranted suffering on the people of the countries concerned and reaffirms its opposition to the adoption, by a State (or group 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.⁶¹

Moreover, in line with the IPU resolution entitled “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, 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.⁶²

Through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action, IPU works for peace, democracy, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, climate action and sustainable development. It has continued to serve as the premier multilateral forum for parliamentary dialogue, convening several international gatherings, including the 144th IPU Assembly, held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, in March 2022, and the 145th IPU Assembly, held in Kigali, in October 2022. During those meetings, national parliaments discussed a wide variety of international issues that called for multilateral solutions and forged new bonds of dialogue and cooperation.

In prior years, IPU has applauded Cuban and American legislators’ attempts to normalize relations through dialogue. IPU believes that parliamentary diplomacy can

⁶¹ Inter-Parliamentary Union resolution adopted at the 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Jakarta, 20 October 2000.

⁶² Inter-Parliamentary Union resolution adopted at the 136th IPU Assembly, Dhaka, 5 April 2017.

serve as a tool to foster cooperation and is hopeful that, through diplomacy, the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba can finally be lifted.

IPU reaffirms its support for the end of the United States embargo on Cuba and expresses its sympathy with the Cuban people, who continue to suffer from its effects.

South Centre

[Original: Spanish]
[17 March 2023]

The South Centre is an intergovernmental organization of developing countries established in 1994 pursuant to the 1994 Agreement to Establish the South Centre, deposited with the United Nations, following the recommendations of the report *The Challenge to the South*. The report was prepared by the South Commission and its outcomes were considered by the General Assembly in its resolution [46/155](#). The South Centre holds observer status in the General Assembly and currently has 55 developing countries as members, including Cuba. The Centre supports developing countries in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and promote their common interests in the international arena. It undertakes policy-oriented research in various international areas with a view to contributing to the strengthening of the United Nations system and multilateralism. The South Centre joins the international community in condemning the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States of America, which impinge on the principles of self-determination and international cooperation.

The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted the resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” ([A/RES/77/7](#)) on 3 November 2022 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

This was the thirtieth consecutive year in which a resolution on the United States embargo against Cuba, which is rooted in the Cold War. The resolution reiterated and reflected the content of previous resolutions, reports and declarations adopted by the United Nations and other intergovernmental forums 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”. The combined effects of the global energy and environmental crisis, and the cumulative impact of three years of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, have compounded the consequences of the United States embargo against Cuba.

The arbitrary and unjustified reinclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism by the Trump administration on 11 January 2021, just a few days before the end of its term, is reinforcing the negative consequences of the embargo and intensifying the difficulties faced by Cuba in many areas. For example:

1. It affects participation in international trade and the conduct of financial transactions.
2. It creates fear and a deterrent effect for third parties, which refrain from conducting financial transactions and engaging in trade and investment activities with Cuban entities and citizens in order to avoid the possibility of being subjected to punitive measures by the United States of America.
3. The coercive and intimidating effect has an impact on all areas of the Cuban economy.

4. As a result of the measure, many banks have suspended operations with Cuba, including transfers for purchases by the general public of food, medicines, spare parts and other goods.
5. 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 Government of the United States.
6. As a result of the inclusion of Cuba in the list, people who have visited Cuba since 1 March 2011 are unable to participate in the United States visa waiver programme through the country's electronic system for travel authorization. This is a threat to the Cuban tourism sector, which represents one of the country's main industries.

It should be recalled that Cuba had been removed from the list on 29 May 2015, during the term of President Barack Obama.

Repercussions of the embargo

As stated in previous reports submitted by South Centre to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the embargo imposed against Cuba reached new levels under the 1996 Helms-Burton Act of the United States. This Act is clearly incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, pursuant to which all States must 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.

As noted by the first Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, the use of economic sanctions for political purposes violates human rights and the norms of international behaviour, and the extraterritorial application of unilateral sanctions is clearly contrary to international law. He has stated that “the resort by a major power of its dominant position in the international financial arena [...] to cause economic hardship to the economy of sovereign States is contrary to international law, and inevitably undermines the human rights of their citizens”.⁶³

The deleterious effects of unilateral coercive measures only worsen in times of a pandemic. As 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”.⁶⁴ The Cuban population has been victim of such measures. The United States blockade has negatively affected the life of every Cuban for almost 60 years.

No humanitarian or solidarity-based considerations led to the easing of the United States embargo even during the most critical periods of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19 pandemic). One example was the blocking “of the entry of sanitary materials donated to Cuba by Jack Ma – the founder of Chinese company Alibaba – which included masks, diagnostic reagents and ventilators, all vital tools for combating COVID-19”.⁶⁵ It has been claimed that “the United States company

⁶³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “US sanctions violate human rights and international code of conduct, UN expert says”, 6 May 2019.

⁶⁴ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Unilateral sanctions impinge on right to development – UN experts”, 11 August 2021.

⁶⁵ Oxfam, “El bloqueo de Estados Unidos contra Cuba agrava la crisis por COVID-19 en la Isla”, 3 April 2020, available at: <https://www.oxfam.org/fr/node/12203>.

that was going to transport the materials from China used the Helms-Burton Act as a reason not to carry out the shipment to the island”.⁶⁶

In his statement delivered to the United Nations on 3 November 2022, presenting draft resolution [77/7](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez, said that “during the first 14 months of Joseph Biden’s Administration, the damages caused by the blockade were estimated at \$6,364 million, that is, over \$15 million per day”.

In previous reports, the South Centre has highlighted the progress made by Cuba – despite the obstacles and limitations imposed by the blockade – with regard to the development and production of pharmaceutical products, including new vaccines and other biological products. 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.

Similarly, despite the obstacles and hardship caused by measures taken by the United States against Cuba, including their extraterritorial effects, the strong commitment of Cuba to South-South cooperation has remained unchanged. It has been demonstrated by countless acts of solidarity with other developing countries (and even some developed countries) during the current pandemic, through which it has provided medical assistance to 40 countries and territories. Cuba should be the recipient of similar solidarity to dismantle the illegal United States blockade.

Conclusion

The continuation of the United States financial and commercial blockade against Cuba for more than 60 years and the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism are incompatible with an international system grounded in law and are a blatant manifestation of the exercise of political and economic power in clear violation of human rights, including the right to development. The negative effects of these measures are as obvious as they are inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. Despite this, Cuba has continued to demonstrate its commitment to solidarity through South-South cooperation and also, in the critical time of the pandemic, its ability to contribute to addressing global problems such as access to medical treatment and vaccines.

The situation in Cuba only confirms 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 [77/7](#) should continue to cooperate to put an end to the unjust denial of the right of Cuba to self-determination and development.

⁶⁶ Ibid.