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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 [78/7](#), 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 the report to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as from entities and organizations that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, to the request of the Secretary-General for information on the matter.

* [A/79/150](#).



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [78/7](#), 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-ninth session.
2. Pursuant to that request, in correspondence dated 2 January 2024, the Secretary-General invited Governments, as well as organs and agencies, to provide information on the implementation of the resolution. A reminder was sent on 1 April 2024.
3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as entities and organizations that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly that had been received as at 14 May 2024. Replies received after that date will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Albania

[Original: English]
[19 March 2024]

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 [78/7](#) and does not have or apply any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the above-mentioned resolution.

Algeria

[Original: French]
[20 March 2024]

The adoption, on 2 November 2023, by the General Assembly of resolution [78/7](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, for the thirty-first consecutive year and by an overwhelming majority, demonstrates, once again, the international community’s steadfast support for the Government and the people of Cuba and reaffirms the urgent need to lift the blockade unjustly imposed on Cuba for more than half a century.

Algeria is concerned about the disastrous consequences that this economic, commercial and financial blockade continues to have for the economic growth and socioeconomic development of Cuba and its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

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

In line with the principles that guide its foreign policy, Algeria has always reaffirmed its commitment to the rules of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular to developing friendly relations among States, achieving international cooperation and respecting the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Algeria also endorses the principled position adopted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, at the nineteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kampala, in January 2024, reiterating the call to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, in violation of international law.

In view of the difficult and complex situation facing Cuba, Algeria has always offered unfailing support and expressed sincere and steadfast solidarity with the people and the Government of Cuba in regional and international forums. It is in this spirit that Algeria decided to provide emergency assistance to Cuba in January and June 2023 to help it to cope with the considerable damage caused by the hurricanes in some parts of the country.

Andorra

[Original: English]
[30 January 2024]

The Government of the Principality of Andorra has never adopted or implemented any laws or measures of the type referred to in the preamble to resolution [78/7](#).

In this regard, the Government of the Principality of Andorra has always voted in favour of the above-mentioned resolution and reaffirms its commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Angola

[Original: English]
[3 April 2024]

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 prevailing world economic situation, coupled with the continuing unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo, is still negatively impacting 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 and to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a way to guarantee the well-being of its population.

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]
[5 April 2024]

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 [78/7](#), previous resolutions against the embargo and other relevant international treaties.

Furthermore, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution [78/7](#), 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, reaffirms 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 will 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 the 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]
[14 March 2024]

The Government of the Argentine Republic has fully implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolution 78/7 of 2 November 2023 and previous Assembly resolutions concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Act No. 24.871, enacted on 5 September 1997, establishes the legislative framework governing the scope of application of foreign legislation within Argentina. Article 1 of that Act provides that foreign legislation which, by imposing an economic blockade 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.

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 against Cuba. It has also voiced opposition to the blockade at every opportunity, both in regional forums and in other international organizations, as well as through other negotiating and coordination groups to which Argentina belongs.

Armenia

[Original: English]
[22 March 2024]

The national legislation of Armenia does not promulgate or apply any laws or regulations which, per General Assembly resolution 78/7, 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 Türkiye and Azerbaijan.

Australia

[Original: English]
[24 March 2024]

The Government of Australia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 78/7. Since 1996, Australia has voted in favour of the annual resolution on Cuba 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]
[25 January 2024]

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]
[26 March 2024]

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 interregional 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]
[1 February 2024]

The Kingdom of Bahrain, for 61 years, has consistently supported the resolutions of the General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, in keeping with the principles and purposes set forth in the Charter of the United Nations regarding cooperation among States. It continuously strives to strengthen friendly relations between States and to observe the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs. The Kingdom of Bahrain expresses its solidarity with the friendly people of Cuba and their right to enjoy fair opportunities for development, prosperity and sustainable development on an equal footing with

the other peoples of the world, as well as its support for General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), adopted on 2 November 2023.

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[29 March 2024]

The Government of Bangladesh has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), 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]
[5 March 2024]

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. The support of Cuba to Barbados has been mirrored by support to countries across the entire Caribbean region.

The Government of Barbados reiterates its strong support for the most recent resolution on the issue, resolution [78/7](#), adopted by the General Assembly on 2 November 2023, and reaffirms its full implementation at the national level, since Barbados has no laws that in any way restrict freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba. 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]

[12 January 2024]

The Republic of Belarus categorically opposes unilateral restrictive measures against States Members of the United Nations. The pressure exerted through such measures is nothing more than direct interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States with the aim of inflicting maximum economic damage and overthrowing their Governments.

Unilateral restrictions are a gross violation of international law and cause irreparable damage to the entire system of international relations and the principle of multilateral cooperation by increasing the potential for conflict and animosity in intergovernmental relations.

The continuing economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba is a flagrant violation of the human rights of all inhabitants of the island. It constitutes an act of genocide within the meaning of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Restrictions on trade, currency, banking and tourism continue to have a negative impact on the well-being of the Cuban people. The restrictions imposed not only violate human rights, but also deprive the authors of the sanctions of any moral right to comment on the human rights situation in the countries on which they have imposed restrictions.

The effects of the economic blockade against Cuba limit the country's economic growth, discourage foreign investment and hamper trade relations with third countries, violating the legitimate rights of States to cooperate fully with Havana.

The Republic of Belarus once again calls on the United States Administration to reconsider its decision in favour of a full, unconditional and irreversible end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

Belize

[Original: English]

[16 February 2024]

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 consistently supports the resolutions denouncing the embargo against Cuba. Belize rejects the extraterritorial application of laws and measures. Belize also rejects the inclusion of Cuba in the United States list of State sponsors of terrorism. The ongoing attempts to isolate Cuba in disregard of the annually adopted resolutions which enjoy the overwhelming support of States Members of the United Nations are flagrant affronts to multilateralism and the political will of the international community.

Belize and Cuba maintain a constructive and mutually beneficial partnership which 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]
[14 February 2024]

On 2 November 2023, Benin voted in favour of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 78/7 entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, remaining 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 ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade 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 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 ending 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]
[7 February 2024]

The Royal Government of Bhutan has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 78/7 and has consistently supported similar resolutions in the General Assembly and voted in their favour.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

[Original: Spanish]
[4 March 2024]

As a nation committed to peace, the Plurinational State of Bolivia advocates a culture of peace and defends the right to live in peace while encouraging regional and international cooperation among peoples. It seeks to foster mutual understanding, promote equitable development and support interculturalism, while always respecting the sovereignty of States.

In this context, the Plurinational State of Bolivia once again firmly rejects any form of interventionism or interference, as well as unilateral coercive measures that undermine the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of nations. It is for these fundamental reasons that Bolivia has condemned and will continue to strongly condemn the implementation of interventionist policies. That is also why Bolivia has

consistently supported General Assembly resolutions and all multilateral efforts that seek to end the unjust and illegal blockade against Cuba.

Resolution 78/7, adopted by more than 96 per cent of the States Members of the General Assembly, succeeds 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, 76/563 and 77/7, which after almost 30 years remain ineffective given the persistence of the inhuman economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba for more than 60 years.

Despite repeated calls by the General Assembly to all States to abstain from promulgating and applying laws and measures contrary to the purposes and principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as the right to freedom of international trade and navigation, Cuba is still under a blockade that is in violation of international law and illegitimate. This illegal blockade is not only contrary to these fundamental principles, but also violates the inalienable right of the Cuban people to development.

The blockade hinders the access of Cuba to markets, international assistance and technology transfer, creating serious obstacles to its socioeconomic development. It impedes efforts to expand Internet connectivity, build people-to-people contacts and broaden cooperation in the areas of culture, sports and science. This embargo contradicts the ongoing efforts of Cuba to achieve sustainable development.

Between March 2022 and February 2023 alone, Cuba suffered \$4,867 million in losses, with accumulated losses to its economy of more than \$159,000 million over the six decades of the embargo.¹

Such measures are in clear violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. These unilateral and illegal measures imposed by the United States are patently neocolonial and are part of its systematic efforts to persecute and suppress unwanted regimes around the world. The embargo against Cuba is antithetical to sustainable development.

Furthermore, the continued full application of the Helms-Burton Act, which includes the authorization to file lawsuits in United States courts under its Title III, has further exacerbated the difficulties faced by Cuba in its economic, commercial and financial relations with third countries. As of July 2022, 37 lawsuits were ongoing in United States courts under this extraterritorial Act. The continued inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism has reinforced the dissuasive and intimidating impact of the blockade, hindering the country's efforts to engage in international trade and conduct financial transactions.

This has given rise to challenges such as the cancellation of contracts, the loss of relations with banking institutions that used to work with Cuba, indebtedness and delays in the transfer of funds and goods. Such challenges have led to incalculable costs and consequences for the Cuban people and economy.

The illegal nature of unilateral coercive measures has been confirmed not only in Human Rights Council resolutions,² but also in several General Assembly resolutions,³ and both bodies have unequivocally agreed that the extraterritorial application of the law in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law is unacceptable, especially when such measures irreparably undermine the right

¹ See A/78/84.

² Human Rights Council resolutions 15/24, 19/32, 24/14, 27/21, 30/2 and 34/13.

³ General Assembly resolutions 69/180, 70/151 and 71/193.

to development, which was recognized by the Assembly as an inalienable human right.⁴

The response of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to this inhuman blockade has been loud and clear. In the framework of the solid relations of friendship and fraternity between Cuba and Bolivia, and in the light of the damage caused by the United States blockade, the Government of President Luis Arce Catacora has made significant donations over the past three years to support the brotherly Cuban people.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia reaffirms its strong conviction that the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba must be ended unconditionally and immediately. It also hopes that this new report of the Secretary-General will serve as a new call by the international community to the United States to comply with the resolutions of the General Assembly, given its importance as the most democratic body within the international organization.

Regarding compliance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 78/7, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia reiterates that it will not implement, nor will it consider implementing 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 78/7. In this context, the Bolivian Government reiterates its rejection and condemnation of States that engage in illegal, arbitrary practices that violate human rights.

It is worrying that some States choose to adopt such practices on the basis of criteria of exceptionality, thus posing a constant threat to multilateralism and undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nations concerned. In this regard, Bolivia seeks to uphold the norms and principles of international law, as well as to promote human rights, preserve multilateralism and ensure compliance with international regulations, with a view to maintaining peace and stability in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Regarding compliance with paragraph 4 of resolution 78/7, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in the interests of upholding the principles of international law and promoting solidarity among nations, takes this opportunity to call upon the Secretary-General to continue to submit detailed reports to the General Assembly, as requested in paragraph 4 of resolution 78/7, which succeeds the more than 31 resolutions adopted on this issue. Such reports should address both compliance with the resolution and the impacts and adverse effects of the policies and practices under the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States against Cuba.

This request is based on the conviction that these unilateral measures not only undermine the sovereignty of Cuba but also constitute a direct threat to the sovereignty of the rest of the international community. The global community must be duly informed about the harmful consequences of these coercive measures, which are contrary to the fundamental principles of sovereign equality between States and the right to self-determination.

It is crucial for the reports to highlight the need to put an end to these practices under the blockade to ensure not only the well-being of Cuba but also respect for the autonomy of all States. Bolivia advocates an approach based on dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect and rejects any form of unilateralism that threatens international peace and stability. The information gathered and presented by the Secretary-General will be essential for raising awareness among the international community of the

⁴ General Assembly resolution 41/128.

negative effects of these policies and fostering consensus in favour of a more just and equitable world.

Botswana

[Original: English]

[21 March 2024]

The Republic of Botswana has not promulgated, applied or enforced any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 78/7 of 2 November 2023.

The unwavering solidarity of Botswana with Cuba is reflected by our vote in favour of the above-mentioned resolution, which has near-universal support in the General Assembly (187 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention).

Botswana is opposed to the continued application of these extraterritorial measures and supports the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, which gravely threatens the livelihood of the people of Cuba. In the same vein, Botswana calls for the immediate removal of Cuba from the unilateral list of States that allegedly sponsor terrorism.

Notwithstanding the devastating impact of the embargo and additional measures, Cuba has made strides in various sectors, particularly in health and education, and actively engages in South-South cooperation in these areas. Therefore, it is our considered view that the elimination of the blockade will unleash the full potential of Cuba.

Brazil

[Original: English]

[22 March 2024]

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 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 short of a virtual 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.

The leaders of the Latin American and Caribbean region who gathered at the eighth summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on 1 March 2024 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines gave a clear message against the embargo. The Kingstown Declaration called for the end of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. In addition to condemning the embargo, the statement requested the exclusion of Cuba from the unilateral lists of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism.

Intensifying economic ties with Cuba is the right 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 Cubans. The embargo harms the Cuban people, mainly the poorest ones, who suffer the impact of such unilateral measures through economic uncertainty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities.

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]
[21 March 2024]

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 [78/7](#).

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[15 April 2024]

Once again, Burkina Faso categorically rejects all unilateral coercive measures that have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and the well-being and prosperity of the peoples concerned.

For that reason, the Government of Burkina Faso continues to maintain 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”.

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 and 3 of resolution [78/7](#), adopted on 2 November 2023.

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 of America against Cuba, which constitutes a major obstacle to achieving the objectives of economic and social development and promoting the values of peaceful coexistence.

Burkina Faso believes in multilateralism and therefore calls on the two parties to prioritize dialogue and negotiation to settle their dispute, in accordance with Article 33 of the Charter.

Burundi

[Original: French]
[20 March 2024]

The position 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]
[2 April 2024]

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 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted on 2 November 2023.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[14 February 2024]

The adoption of resolution 78/7 by the General Assembly with the overwhelming support of 187 Member States, including Cambodia, proved that the international community stands with the people and Government of Cuba against the unjust embargo placed by the United States of America.

As a consequence of over six decades of the economic, trade and financial embargo, the quality of life of the Cuban people is deteriorating, the realization of human rights and well-being is hindered, and socioeconomic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 are not reachable.

The Royal Government of Cambodia rejects the imposition of such unilateral coercive measure and is fully committed to upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Royal Government of Cambodia urges the United States of America to fully respect the General Assembly resolutions to put an end to the illegal sanctions against Cuba.

Cameroon

[Original: English]
[6 May 2024]

Cameroon is committed to respecting the purposes and principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of trade and navigation enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and numerous international legal instruments.

In line with the provisions of resolution 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, as well as previous resolutions on the subject, and in accordance with the aforementioned principles, Cameroon has never adopted

legislative or other measures intended to reinforce or expand the blockade imposed on Cuba.

Cameroon, which has always voted for the lifting of this embargo, maintains excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with Cuba.

Canada

[Original: English]
[27 March 2024]

The Government of Canada confirms its support of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#). 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 of 1996, 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]
[30 April 2024]

The Central African Republic, together with the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations, has maintained a consistent position regarding the complete lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba for more than 60 years.

The blockade, which has caused incalculable harm to the Government and people of Cuba, is contrary to international law and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including freedom of trade and international navigation.

The Government of the Central African Republic continues to support the Cuban Government in its efforts to have the embargo lifted completely.

Chad

[Original: French]
[2 April 2024]

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 [78/7](#) 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 2 November 2023. 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 refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with

international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly 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]
[18 January 2024]

Chile has not adopted any measures aimed at restricting 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]
[26 February 2024]

For 31 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 of the United Nations 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.

At present, the world is undergoing profound changes in terms of multi-polarization and economic globalization. Countries are interconnected and interdependent, and their relevant influences are becoming more close.

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 of the United Nations 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]

[4 March 2024]

In accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of the Republic of Colombia 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.

In addition, Colombia rejects the classification of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism, a classification which has been used in disregard of that country's commitment to peace in Colombia and the world, and which also has negative impacts on its people and ultimately compounds and exacerbates the unilateral sanctions already imposed under the blockade.

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]

[26 April 2024]

The Government of the Union of the Comoros wishes to express its deep concern about the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. It wishes to highlight the following points for the report.

Since 2019, the blockade has intensified, becoming qualitatively more harmful and inhumane, including through the very aggressive measures imposed during the previous Administration of Donald Trump, most of which have remained in force as the United States continues its policy of applying maximum pressure against Cuba.

The most severe aspects of the policy that Washington currently maintains towards Cuba include the possibility of filing claims in United States courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act; the inclusion of Cuba on the arbitrary list of State

sponsors of terrorism; the persecution of the country's financial and commercial transactions; the inability to process non-immigrant visas in Havana; the intimidation of companies that send fuel supplies; the 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.

The tightening of the blockade has been accompanied by heightened aggression on the political, media and communications fronts and by an increase in disinformation campaigns financed with federal funds from the United States budget.

The inclusion 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.

Dozens of banks suspended their operations with Cuba, including transfers for the purchase of food, medicines, fuel, materials, parts and other goods. Likewise, dozens of Cuban diplomatic missions around the world have had their ties cut with the banks that traditionally provided them with services, including for the payment of dues to international organizations.

From March 2022 to February 2023, 267 cases of foreign banks refusing to provide services to the country were reported.

From March 2022 to February 2023, the blockade caused an estimated \$4.8 billion in losses, representing more than \$405 million per month, more than \$13 million per day and more than \$555,000 for each hour of the blockade.

At current prices, the losses accumulated over more than 60 years of the application of the policy amount to around \$159 billion. Taking into account the performance of the dollar against the price of gold on the international market, the blockade has caused quantifiable losses of around \$1.3 trillion.

While COVID-19 claimed millions of lives around the world and strained the Cuban health system, the Government of the United States did not implement a single measure to ease the blockade. Instead, the inhumane policy was intensified, causing difficulties and delays in the arrival of essential medical supplies, including for the industrial scale-up of Cuban vaccines. Even the procurement of medical oxygen in third countries and the supply of respiratory ventilators were hindered.

The blockade is an openly extraterritorial policy that affects the sovereignty of other States, violates their national laws, subjects them to the decisions of United States courts and is detrimental to the interests of their companies that wish to form ties with Cuba, all in violation of international law.

The blockade constitutes a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of Cubans. It is the main obstacle to the development of the Cuban economy to its fullest potential, the implementation of the country's National Plan for Economic and Social Development and the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

In its efforts to have the blockade lifted, Cuba has traditionally enjoyed the support of the vast majority of the international community.

We urge the international community to take immediate and effective action to bring an end to this oppressive and inhumane policy that severely harms the Cuban people and hinders the country's development.

Congo

[Original: French]
[3 May 2024]

The Republic of the Congo reaffirms its steadfast commitment to respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and all other relevant international legal instruments.

Pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the Republic of the Congo, a peace-loving nation, has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States or the freedom of trade and navigation.

The Republic of the Congo strongly rejects the imposition of unilateral laws and decisions and all unilateral coercive measures that contravene the exercise of human rights and the well-being and prosperity of peoples, and reiterates its steadfast support for, and legendary solidarity with, Cuba, a country with which it maintains excellent relations on multiple fronts.

For that reason, the Republic of the Congo has, for 31 years, always voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the lifting of the damaging embargo of Cuba, and it urgently calls upon the parties concerned to prioritize dialogue to bring an end to this ongoing crisis.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[27 March 2024]

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 78/7, as well as previous 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 78/7, 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 economic, commercial or financial freedoms or the freedom of 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 impacts 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, constitute a real obstacle that is undeniably having an ongoing 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 bilateral agreements in specific areas of mutual interest and through triangular cooperation.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]
[8 March 2024]

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 are 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 [78/7](#), 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]
[12 July 2024]

The blockade of the United States against Cuba in figures

25 days of blockade are equivalent to the financing required to cover the country's essential medicine needs for one year (approximately \$339 million).

9 days of blockade are equivalent to the financing required to import the medical consumables (cotton, gauze, syringes, needles, suture materials, catheters and serum equipment, among other supplies) and reagents necessary for the national health system for one year (approximately \$129 million).

21 hours of blockade are equivalent to the cost of purchasing the insulin needed to meet the country's demand for one year (approximately \$12 million).

18 days of blockade are equivalent to the annual maintenance cost (excluding fuel and investments) for the national electric power system (approximately \$250 million).

4 months of blockade are equivalent to the financing necessary to guarantee the delivery of the standard family basket of products to the population for one year (approximately \$1.6 billion).

38 hours of blockade are equivalent to the cost of producing or purchasing the basic study materials required by the country to meet the needs of the educational system for one year (approximately \$21,789,000).

8 hours of blockade are equivalent to the cost of purchasing toys and teaching aids for all the childcare centres in the country (approximately \$4.5 million).

30 minutes of blockade are equivalent to the cost of the electric and conventional wheelchairs required to meet the needs of the country's special education system (approximately \$256,363).

44 hours of blockade are equivalent to the funding needed to ensure the provision of computers in the country's educational centres (approximately \$25.2 million).

15 minutes of blockade are equivalent to the funding needed to meet the demand for hearing aids for children and adolescents with disabilities in special education in the country (approximately \$144,000).

7 months of blockade are equivalent to the financing required to purchase the buses needed for the country's public transportation system (approximately \$2.85 billion).

3 days of blockade are equivalent to the annual maintenance cost for public transportation in the country (approximately \$40 million).

9 months of blockade are equivalent to the financing estimated to meet the country's new housing construction needs (approximately \$3.893 billion).

Introduction

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the Government of the United States maintained the policy of maximum pressure against Cuba, with the rigorous application of the economic, commercial and financial blockade as its cornerstone. The unilateral measures with the greatest impact on the Cuban people and economy remained unchanged, which continued to reproduce and aggravate the devastating effects of this unilateral coercive system, the longest and most comprehensive in history.

The inclusion of Cuba in the United States State Department's unilateral list of countries alleged to be sponsors of terrorism, the possibility of bringing actions in United States courts under Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996 (the Helms-Burton Act), sanctions or threats of sanctions against shipping, transport, insurance or reinsurance companies involved in the supply of fuel to Cuba, intense and meticulous interference with Cuban financial transactions and the consequent obstacles to the supply of top-quality resources, and the fact that the country continued to be included in other unilateral lists were confirmed as the most severe measures.

In May 2024, the Government of the United States ceased the arbitrary and unjustified practice of classifying Cuba as a State that does not fully cooperate with United States counter-terrorism efforts. That unilateral classification had been yet another slander but had had no practical impact, since it had not entailed unilateral coercive economic measures. Consequently, the withdrawal of the classification did not result in the easing or lifting of any of the measures that are part of the blockade or of the additional coercive measures stemming from the inclusion of Cuba in the spurious unilateral list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism. It was a limited decision, which makes the retention of Cuba in that list, in which it should never have been included, even more incongruous, confusing and unjustifiable.

The announcements by the Government of the United States on 28 May 2024 regarding changes in the blockade regulations related to the private sector did not modify the core of that policy either. They did not eliminate or modify the coercive measures that most affect the Cuban economy and public services today and that cause

severe harm to the well-being of the entire population. They are aimed at fragmenting Cuban society, using the private sector for political purposes against the Revolution, to achieve the United States objectives of changing the regime and punishing the State sector of the economy. The very framework of the blockade and its dissuasive effect make it possible to foresee difficulties in the practical realization of these provisions, especially if Cuba remains on the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism.

Over the past year, the Government of the United States has maintained the laws and provisions related to the blockade against Cuba and the long-standing practices for the implementation of that blockade, on the basis of the historical objective of depressing the economy and wages, creating material shortages and damage to public services, provoking dissatisfaction and despair among the population, and subverting the legitimately established constitutional order. This is an approach that is recorded in declassified official documents of the Government of the United States, such as the internal memorandum of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Lester Mallory, dated 6 April 1960, in which he noted:

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.

During the reporting period, the actions of the United States were aimed at identifying and pursuing, with surgical precision, the main income sources of the Cuban economy, in strict application of the provisions of the Helms-Burton Act, including those stipulating the Act's extraterritorial scope.

The offensive against tourism, the use of non-existent sonic attacks on United States diplomats as justification for classifying Cuba as an unsafe country, and interference with international medical cooperation agreements, among other measures, are part of a refined coercive plan to hinder the inflow of essential revenue to meet the growing needs of the population.

The Government of the United States and the anti-Cuban politicians of that country have insisted on selling the myth that the blockade does not constitute a real limitation on the performance of the Cuban economy. They repeatedly claim that the difficulties experienced by our economy are the result of distortions of the socialist model that is under construction, and of errors in government policies.

Utilizing systematic disinformation campaigns, the Government of the United States intends to hold the Government of Cuba responsible for the consequences of and damage caused by the blockade itself, which is a dishonest and extremely cynical act, particularly coming from the same Government that is implementing a policy of premeditated strangulation of the Cuban economy.

The difficulties of Cuban society are not due exclusively to the blockade, but it would be dishonest not to acknowledge that the blockade is the main obstacle to our development. No country, even one with an economy much more prosperous and robust than that of Cuba, could face such ruthless, asymmetric and prolonged aggression without considerable cost to the standard of living of its people, to its stability and to social justice.

That cost is evident today in the shortages of all kinds faced by Cubans, including with regard to food, medicine, fuel and means of transport, as well as in the deterioration of other basic services.

The Government of the United States removed any doubt as to the cruel and genocidal nature of the blockade when it used the worst time in the coronavirus

disease (COVID-19) pandemic to impose additional coercive measures on Cubans. It strengthened the ban on imports of different kinds by Cuba, including medical ventilators, implemented measures that affected the industrial scale-up of Cuban vaccines against the virus and even prevented the import of oxygen from third countries. It failed to lift, even temporarily, the measures against Cuba to tackle the pandemic, as it did for another group of nations.

Between 1 March 2023 and 29 February 2024, the blockade caused material damages to Cuba estimated at \$5.0568 billion, which represents an increase of \$189.8 million on the figure indicated in the previous report.

The above reflects the increased impact of the blockade on Cuban exports, mainly in the tourism sector, the ruthless interference with the country's banking and financial operations, and the comprehensive damage to the Cuban business system, to production and to the services provided to the public.

This represents an approximate impact of more than \$421 million in damages per month, more than \$13.8 million per day and more than \$575,683 per hour of blockade.

At current prices, the losses accumulated over more than six decades of enforcement of the policy amount to \$164,141,100,000. 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 \$1,499,710,000,000.

It is estimated that, in the absence of the blockade, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) could have grown by around 8 per cent in 2023.

These data show that the current challenges facing Cuba would be better and more easily solved if Cuba had access to the substantial resources of which it is deprived by the blockade.

In recent years, and more acutely in recent months, the effects of population ageing, and of high emigration involving the youngest segments of Cuban society, have become more conspicuous.

The situation would be very different were it not for a blockade that has intensified as a result of the policy of maximum pressure that was implemented by President Donald J. Trump and has been maintained by the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden. That is a fact that the United States opponents of Cuba have no argument to refute.

The blockade is a crime against humanity, an act of genocide and a flagrant, large-scale and systematic violation of the human rights of more than 11 million Cubans. It is a cruel policy of punishment. The present report provides factual information and valuable data to substantiate the denunciation of this grave injustice.

1. Continuation and tightening of the blockade policy

1.1. Validity of the blockade laws

Disregarding the clear position of the international community and the provisions of successive resolutions on the subject in the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Government of the United States and its regulatory agencies rigorously apply the laws that form the complex framework of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. These laws are outlined in annex I to the present report.

Annex 2 provides details of the main blockade enforcement actions taken by the Government of the United States between March 2023 and February 2024.

In the legal and legislative framework that sustains the blockade, the Helms-Burton Act is prominent.

All the provisions of the blockade are codified in that Act, which is contrary to the United States Constitution itself and to the norms and principles of international law. Under the Act, the power to lift the blockade lies with the Congress rather than the President of the United States.

No other nation is subjected to such an abomination, under whose provisions the Government of the United States is required to pressure third countries to avoid relations with Cuba, a system of political and legal reprisals is established against companies with ties to the island, the President is obliged to report annually to Congress on the commercial activities of Cuba with other nations, and it is brazenly emphasized that, even if the Revolution were to be overthrown and replaced with a puppet Government of the United States, the blockade would continue to be applied until the return of properties to those who had suffered “damages” as a result of the nationalizations that took place after 1959.

Under Title III, former owners of property that was nationalized in Cuba in strict compliance with international law, including Cuban citizens who ultimately became United States citizens, can bring actions in United States courts against natural and legal persons that have had any contact or association with such property, which is described as “trafficking” in the Act.

With the possibility, as of May 2019, of allowing lawsuits under Title III of the Act, after successive Governments of the United States had suspended that Title, the approach was escalated with a view to extending the extraterritorial coercive plan against Cuba internationally.

As at 31 May 2024, a total of 44 lawsuits had been filed under Title III, of which 2 had been withdrawn, 2 merged, 5 dismissed and 1 settled, with 34 still pending.

Although the Helms-Burton Act gave the Congress of the United States the power to revoke the provisions that underpin the blockade against Cuba and to decree the end thereof, it also granted the President of the United States broad powers to substantially modify the application of this policy by allowing him to enable certain transactions by issuing licences based on executive actions. These executive powers are set out in annex 3.

If there were a genuine willingness to adopt a policy that would benefit the Cuban people as a whole, as well as to alleviate the unquestionable pressure on the economy and other sectors vital for the functioning of society, the President of the United States would take specific, immediate actions to modify the application of the blockade, making use of his executive powers. It would be an important step toward dismantling 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.

1.2. Impact of the inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism prepared by the Department of State of the United States

On 11 January 2021, nine days before the end of his term, President Donald Trump included Cuba in the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism, as a gift to the extreme right wing of Cuban origin in south Florida and to hinder any further progress in bilateral relations. It was a purely political exercise, without any evidence whatsoever to justify it.

The current Government upholds that decision, in the full knowledge that the pretexts used for that arbitrary designation were dishonest, that Cuba has been a

victim of organized terrorism financed from United States territory for years, that the Government of Cuba has been steadfast in its condemnation of terrorism, and that Cuban and United States authorities have taken specific steps to tackle terrorism in accordance with bilateral instruments in force and international law.

The arbitrary inclusion of Cuba in the list is not merely a symbolic act but has serious economic implications, as it further tightens the restrictions and prohibitions already imposed on the country through the blockade. The measure has caused serious difficulties for our operations in the banking and financial sector, international trade, the acquisition of income and energy sources, and access to credit, as well as in finding providers of goods and supplies that are essential for economic development.

Less than two months following the inclusion of Cuba in the list, more than 45 banks from different countries had ceased operations related to Cuba. The country lost long-standing suppliers, mainly from Europe and Latin America. Our capacity to purchase the supplies necessary to produce medicines was reduced by half at the most difficult time in facing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Between January 2021 and February 2024, a total of 1,064 foreign banks refused to provide services to Cuban entities, including transfers for purchases of food, medicines, fuel, spare parts for the national energy system and essential consumer goods for the population.

In accordance with the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, adopted by the United States, people who have visited Cuba, one of the countries arbitrarily designated by the United States as a sponsor of terrorism, may not obtain visa waivers through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).¹ The punitive effect of this provision significantly affects travel and tourism to Cuba, identified as one of the fundamental sources of income for the country.

The inclusion of Cuba in the list has also raised the country risk, confirming the extremely disadvantageous conditions in which the island competes in the international market. This undermines the interest of foreign investors and discourages them from participating in the Cuban economy. It should be considered that, in 2015, as part of the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States, the credit rating provider Moody's Investors Service raised the outlook for the country's credit rating from "stable" to "positive", recognizing that one of the factors was the rapprochement of the United States and Cuba and the removal of our country from the list.

In early 2024, five special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council urged the United States to review its framework of targeted sanctions against countries designated as sponsors of terrorism, including Cuba, arguing that the unilateral compilation of the list undermined human rights and was contrary to international law.²

¹ Part of the visa waiver programme of the United States, which allows citizens of countries in the programme to enter the United States for tourism, business or transit and stay for a maximum period of 90 days.

² Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; Michael Fakhri, Special Rapporteur on the right to food; Attiya Waris, Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; Cecilia M. Bailliet, Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity; and Livingstone Sewanyana, Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

They stated that fundamental human rights, including the right to food, the right to health, the right to education, economic and social rights, the right to life, and the right to development were negatively affected by the restrictions and prohibitions arising from the designation.³ Moreover, they recognized that the process by which a country was designated as a sponsor of terrorism was neither clear nor transparent.⁴

In May 2024, the Secretary of State of the United States himself, Anthony Blinken, admitted in a hearing before Congress that Cuba did not protect terrorists, thus eliminating the pretext for the country's unjust designation as a State sponsor of terrorism. This confirms that the sole purpose of retaining Cuba on the list is to spread slander and serve as an excuse to tighten the extreme measures of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against the Cuban people.

Specific examples of the impact of this unilateral measure on Cuba and third-country nationals will be presented in the sections on sectoral impacts throughout the present report.

1.3. Implications of the removal of Cuba from the unilateral list of countries allegedly not fully cooperating with United States counter-terrorism efforts

On 15 May 2024, the Secretary of State of the United States discontinued the practice followed in recent years of certifying Cuba, under section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act, as a country that does not fully cooperate with United States counter-terrorism efforts.

The decision did not result in the removal of Cuba from the unilateral list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism or the modification of the system of coercive measures arising from inclusion in that list. The extraordinary damage of this slanderous designation to the Cuban economy and its intimidatory effect remain significant obstacles to the development of the country and the well-being of all Cubans.

It is not enough to recognize that Cuba cooperates fully in the fight against terrorism, a truth that the whole world knew and that the United States has now decided to admit. This limited announcement, which was not, in practical terms, associated with any easing or lifting of the measures that underpin the blockade today, makes the presence of Cuba on the list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism even more incongruous, confusing and unjustifiable.

Numerous Governments, in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as political, social and religious figures and organizations within the United States itself, are demanding that the White House remove Cuba from this spurious list without further delay. The President of the United States has all the powers needed to act honestly and respond to that call.

1.4. Announcements of 28 May 2024 on the blockade regulations

On 28 May, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury published an update of the blockade regulations against Cuba to give effect to the announcements made on 16 May 2022 by the State Department regarding authorizations for Internet-based services and financial transactions for the Cuban private sector.

³ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/united-states-unilateral-designation-states-sponsors-terrorism-negatively.

⁴ See communication No. JAL USA 31/2023, available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28693>.

The measures were very limited; they did not modify the core of the blockade against Cuba or the additional provisions of the maximum pressure policy that had been implemented since 2019. Yet again, the decision of the Government of the United States was based on that Government's distorted view of the situation in Cuba, in that it reflected an artificial distinction between the private sector and the public sector, when both are part of the same business system and of Cuban society.

Overall, the measures were aimed at authorizing the re-export of software and mobile applications of Cuban origin from the United States to third countries, expanding training, installation, repair and replacement services for telecommunications items, enabling the Cuban private sector to operate accounts in the United States banking system, and allowing U-turn transactions, with an origin and a destination outside the United States.

The policy of the Government of the United States is aimed at putting the Cuban private sector at an advantage and punishing the State sector, in the knowledge that the latter provides essential services to all Cubans and is a guarantee of social justice and equity among citizens. It is part of a plan to impose regime change that is intended to fragment society and encourage a political opposition based on its hegemonic interests.

Experts in financial and Cuban matters foresee difficulties in the practical realization of these provisions, due to the fears and dissuasive effects of the blockade and the presence of Cuba on the list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism, which affect both the public and private sectors in Cuba, and society as a whole.

The specific effects of the blockade on the emerging sectors of the Cuban economy will be examined in section 2.3 of the present report.

2. The blockade violates the rights of the Cuban people

2.1. Social impact

The impact of the blockade on the health sector is real, significant and profound. It directly undermines one of the pillars that the Cuban revolutionary process has set out to establish since its beginnings, namely, free, universal and high-quality health care for all citizens.

The cancellation of contracts, the refusal of shipping companies to transport cargo to Cuba, the fact that technology containing a proportion of United States components greater than 10 per cent cannot be imported to Cuba and the increase in marketing costs have had a negative impact on the acquisition of supplies for the sustainability of the health system. In addition, the deliberate attack on the income sources of the Cuban economy has deprived the country of the funds necessary to make such purchases on other markets.

The growing difficulties in the sector not only affect basic care for the public, but also generate tensions among health-care personnel, medical institutions, and the relevant patients and their families, as they undermine services that have always been at the core of the humanist aspirations of the Cuban Revolution but that cannot currently be provided at the required level.

The President of the Cuban Society of Oncology, Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine, Dr. Jorge Juan Marinello, has experienced this feeling in his daily work:

The blockade has resulted in a tense economic situation that affects the availability and sustainability of the country's radiotherapy network, which leads to treatments being provided outside the optimal time frame.

Surgical operations and the availability of cytostatics are also severely affected. Often, due to the scarcity of diagnostic and treatment-related resources, patients and their families must regularly move between various medical institutions, depending on the availability of supplies. In many cases, the treatments in question are the difference between life and death. As physicians who are also parents and grandparents, we are deeply affected and shocked by this situation.

Marilín Peña Pérez, a community educator and sociologist at the Martin Luther King Memorial Centre, has suffered from acute myopia since the age of 8. In the last 30 years, she has undergone repeated surgeries. As her cornea has been flattened and is no longer concave, she requires advanced treatment with special equipment to which the country has been unable to gain access because it contains a high proportion of United States technology and its sale to Cuba is therefore prohibited. As a result, Marilín must wear glasses with a very high cylinder power, which are difficult to produce in Cuba. After so many operations, she has developed glaucoma, which has made her dependent on three drop-based medications to regulate her eye pressure. These drugs have been in short supply in recent years as they cannot be acquired directly from the United States and are expensive to purchase on distant markets, and because of the overall effect of the blockade on the purchasing power of Cuba.

Her account is provided below:

Before 2019, I could get these products regularly at my neighbourhood pharmacy, and it was very reassuring to know that I had my treatment guaranteed every month. That's not the case today; I have to manage it in various ways. I've even had to get it from outside the country, and I'm constantly replacing my medications with similar ones. This affects my quality of life and practical ability to maintain my eye pressure at a level that will not cause me to go blind faster. I'm concerned on a daily basis about securing the next bottle of drops, to ensure that by the time I've finished one I already have the refill. This has become an obsession for me and my family.

The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan, has recognized the harmful effects of such measures on the right to health, including mental health, in Cuba during the period covered by the present report.⁵ She has also noted the special conditions under which the country had to face the COVID-19 pandemic.

The extreme cruelty of the blockade was brutally demonstrated when the main medical oxygen production plant broke down during the peak of COVID-19 cases in our country.

In response to an attempt by two United States companies to provide medical oxygen to Cuba, the United States Government demanded a specific permit, even during a pandemic. United States Government agencies also manoeuvred to prevent the sale of medical oxygen to our country by foreign companies from two Latin American nations.

The main examples of the effects of the blockade on the health sector during the period under review are as follows:

- The firm Novartis, based in Switzerland, has stated that, owing to the blockade, it cannot provide Cuba with the drug cabergoline, which could be used to avoid surgical treatments associated with tumours in the pituitary gland, an organ that regulates the endocrine system.

⁵ See [A/HRC/54/23](#).

- The spare parts needed to repair defective air conditioning equipment in the intensive care unit and surgical wards of the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery have not been available because the French manufacturing company was acquired by a United States transnational company. It is therefore not authorized to sell to Cuba.
- The Cuban Neuroscience Centre was unable to execute two contracts already signed with a Spanish company for laboratory equipment and reagents, and for accessories for Infantix, the Cuban system for detecting hearing and vision disorders in newborns. As the products were of United States origin, the European distributors refused to sell them.
- Spare parts for the Bosch-brand equipment used for medication encapsulation and vial filling could not be procured. In 2020, the firm Bosch Packaging Technology was sold to CVC Capital Partners, a group that has interests in the United States and has developed a new brand called Syntegon Technology, with which there have been attempts at doing business, although they have not yielded results. This situation has led to continual interruptions in the national medication production plan.
- A European manufacturer whose company was acquired by the United States multinational enterprise Trane Technologies cancelled a contract for the sale of four chillers for the pharmaceutical company Laboratorios AICA and of an additional chiller for the medication production unit Novatec, which belongs to the pharmaceutical company Laboratorios MedSol. It is not possible to manufacture medicines without the chillers, as they ensure an optimal climate in the production plants.
- It has not been possible to acquire gasometers from the company Radiometer in order to provide care to seriously ill patients receiving therapy and to patients undergoing cardiac surgery, as that company is part of the Danaher corporation, which has its head office in the United States and is therefore prohibited from selling such supplies to Cuba.
- The blockade has impeded access to the devices of the United States company Datex-Ohmeda for supplying patients with nitric oxide, a vasodilator gas used in post-operative care after cardiovascular procedures, in neonatology and in lung transplantation.
- Cuba continues to be denied access to reagents that are produced by the United States firm Beckman Coulter and are necessary for the island's immunology laboratories and for the diagnosis of immunodeficiencies.
- The United States company Intuitive Surgical has refused to sell the da Vinci Xi Surgical System Model IS4000 surgical robot to Cuba, depriving Cuban patients of the possibilities offered by the safest, most precise and minimally invasive robotic surgery.
- United States laws on Cuba establish a very cumbersome and lengthy procedure, with countless bureaucratic obstacles, for the import of medication from the United States, a situation that leads, in practice, to pharmaceutical companies' refusing to sell to Cuba. The blockade's own deterrent effect discourages linkages in this sector.

The severe limitations caused by the blockade have seriously undermined the services provided to the Cuban people and specialized medical care, resulting in the situation described below:

- The basic pharmacopoeia of Cuba includes 651 items; of these, 51 per cent are in short supply. The national protocol is set up to ensure a 120-day stock of all

medicines in order to cover national demand, but, during the period under review, stocks were reduced to 30 days.

- The shortage of medicines available in the national health system has led to the growth of the informal market, on which the high prices of such medicines make them unaffordable for most of the population.
- In the last four years, surgical activity in the country has decreased considerably. Even with the recovery of health-care activity in 2022 and 2023, the number of surgeries is only 65 per cent of what it was in previous years, in which 1 million operations were performed. This has resulted in pent-up demand for services, with a waiting list of 86,141 patients at the end of February 2024. Of the pending patients, more than 9,000 are children, with the consequent family distress and pressure on the health sector.
- Difficulties in acquiring medication for oncological diseases, including those affecting children, as a result of the blockade have made it necessary to implement alternative treatment schemes due to a lack of access to first-line drugs such as lomustine, which is used for the treatment of tumours of the central nervous system.
- A total of 44,408 patients are awaiting ophthalmologic operations, mostly cataract surgeries, a situation that has a serious impact on their quality of life.
- In the specialties of general surgery, urology and orthopaedics, more than 5,000 patients are awaiting operations. This has led to a decline in quality-of-care indicators, including the number of hip fractures operated on within 24 hours and the number of minimally invasive surgeries.
- In the specialty of neonatology and newborn care, there are more than 20 types of medical equipment containing obsolete technology, including incubators, infant warmers and neonatal ventilators. Despite the priority given by the Government of Cuba to this sector, it has not been able to escape the blockade's multidimensional effects on the country's purchasing power, including access to more advanced technologies.
- In the field of cardiovascular surgery, operations could not be performed on 200 patients during the reporting period due to a shortage of disposable items, oxygenators, drains of various kinds, mammary clips for myocardial revascularization and other basic medical supplies, such as catheters, diuretics, anticoagulants and medication for high blood pressure.
- The country is facing a shortage of contraceptives, condoms and medication for pregnant women, particularly multivitamins and folic acid, as well as diagnostic medical supplies, pregnancy tests and tests for sexually transmitted infections.

In addition, the United States has relentlessly targeted international medical collaboration by Cuba on the basis of the malicious fallacy that Cuba promotes human trafficking. It is attempting to discredit this laudable work and prevent the flow of legitimate income in cases of cooperation in the form of "compensated technical assistance", under schemes supported by the United Nations.

On 24 June 2024, the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, issued the Trafficking in Persons Report of the Department of State, in which Cuba was categorized, for the sixth consecutive year, in tier 3, a classification referring to countries that do not fully meet the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to reduce human trafficking. In the sections on the countries with which Cuba has medical cooperation agreements, the Department of State resorted, as part of a strategy of intimidation, to the dishonest practice of referring to the existence of an alleged scheme of trafficking in persons under such programmes.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the pressure on the banks and countries with which Cuba engages in medical cooperation became clearer, as they refused to remit income to Cuba. During the period under review, a medical mission was closed by decision of the receiving country, owing to the persecution and intimidating effect generated by the United States blockade.

Overall, the impact on the health sector between March 2023 and February 2024 amounted to no less than \$268,515,210, \$28.7 million higher than the figure included in the previous report. These conservative figures do not reflect the anguish and human suffering of many Cubans, who have been scarred for life by the effects of this genocidal policy.

The negative impact of the economic siege on access to foreign currency, supplies, raw materials, fertilizers, machinery, fuel, chemicals and technology has also led to a considerable decline in national food production. In addition, since it is impossible to enter into contracts with a significant number of shipping companies, supplies that have already been paid for cannot be brought into the country.

The President of the Asociación Cubana de Producción Animal, Lisette Fernández Páramo, attests to these effects: “The blockade makes it impossible for cooperatives and farmers to gain access to supplies, such as spare parts for machinery, tractors, combine harvesters and other means of transportation that are paralysed and obsolete, as well as raw materials and other products that would enable idle land to be brought into production. It also makes it impossible to obtain the fuels, greases and lubricants needed to operate the existing agricultural machinery”.

Ramón Fabr  Fonseca, a farmer of the Fructuoso Rodr guez cooperative in the municipality of Julio Antonio Mella, in Santiago de Cuba Province, has been affected by this situation. Ram n cultivates various crops and breeds livestock. Currently, almost one fifth of his land is uncultivated due to *Dichrostachys cinerea* and the scarcity of products available to fumigate it. He has been unable to gain access to tractors to facilitate his productive work, and therefore relies exclusively on oxen. Owing to a lack of fuel, he has also opted to plant using animals instead of machinery. In addition, Ram n does not have advanced irrigation systems, a situation that limits the number of months of the year in which he can plant.

“If the blockade didn’t exist,” he explains, “I would be producing more milk, more meat and more food. I could offer three times what I currently produce. What we farmers want is to be allowed to produce.

Last year, we tried to export charcoal and couldn’t because the bank of the buyer with whom we had been negotiating couldn’t make transfers to Cuba without being penalized”.

On 25 January 2024, the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council on the right to food (Michael Fakhri), the right to development (Surya Deva), extreme poverty and human rights (Olivier De Schutter) and the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (Alena Douhan) sent the United States Government a joint communication in which they emphasized the negative impact of this policy on the ability of Cuba to uphold the right to food and to an adequate standard of living for its citizens.

They were categorical in describing the blockade as a serious violation of international law, of the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, and of the human rights of the Cuban people, including the right to life. Moreover, in the communication, the special procedures mandate holders recognized that the blockade has restricted access by Cuba to external multilateral financing for

programmes relating to agriculture and rural development, and for rehabilitating and modernizing agricultural equipment and infrastructure.⁶

The above is illustrated, for example, by the difficulties faced by the Cooperative Rural Development Project in the Eastern Region, which was led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Cuba and closed in 2022. Under the project, modern grain processing plants were built, but, owing to limited access to fertilizers and pesticides, production was limited. In December 2022, the plants were operating at only 15 to 30 per cent of their productive capacity.

During the period covered by the present report, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations attempted to purchase tractors for small producers from a supplier in Puerto Rico for a total value of \$1.5 million, but the manufacturer decided not to take the risk of selling to Cuba, a situation that reflects the intimidating effect of the blockade.

In 2022, an agreement was reached with a Spanish company for the purchase of ice machines, refrigerators, meat processors and other equipment for a project involving a fishing cooperative in Santiago de Cuba Province. As the payments could not be made in United States dollars, the equipment could not enter the country until 2023, by which time many items were no longer under warranty and no claims could be made against the supplier.

In November 2023, donations of agricultural equipment made from Germany by the Cuba Sí organization took nearly four months to reach the country because of trans-shipments and the high tariffs that had to be paid to ensure that the cargo would arrive in Cuba without any entity being penalized by the United States.

In February 2024, a Spanish export/import company refused to sell chicken embryos to the Cuban company for agricultural imports and exports Labiofam, as the United States supplier, ATCC, had noted that the final destination of the embryos was a country subject to sanctions by the United States Government.

Several banks have cited various reasons, mainly based on domestic policy, for refusing to process payments to traditional suppliers of the Cuban company responsible for food imports, Alimport. An example is the Bank of Nova Scotia, which has refused to carry out transactions with the supplier Induveca for the export of sausages to Cuba.

The effects on the agricultural and food sectors are also clear from the situation described below:

- The stock of agricultural equipment has deteriorated. Some models of tractor are around 30 years old, which reduces their performance. In addition, some of the vehicles used for selling products have been operating for around 40 years.
- In the poultry sector, laying hens have been affected by a shortage of antibiotics, antiparasitics, vitamin supplements, amino acids and feed, among other supplies. Since 2022, it has been impossible to import medicine and other supplies essential to ensuring poultry health. This situation has led to high mortality rates among poultry. As a result, the number of eggs produced has fallen by almost 1 billion.
- With regard to feed production, 214,700 tons of corn and 17,500 tons of soybeans were not purchased owing to funding deficits.

⁶ See communication No. JAL USA 3/2024, available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28739>.

- Pork production declined significantly due to a lack of the required feedstuffs. Of the \$42.6 million projected for this sector, only 41 per cent could be spent due to financial shortfalls, the cancellation of contracts, price increases by shipping companies, the non-availability of ships willing to assume the risks associated with entering Cuban ports, and high prices for raw materials owing to the risks related to doing business with our country.
- It has also been necessary to modify pig farming systems by substituting specialized breeds with higher yields with black pigs, which, despite having a more rustic diet, are less prolific and ensure a lower quantity of meat.
- The agricultural marketing company Frutas Selectas could only obtain 45 per cent of the 1,642,800 litres of diesel fuel needed for economic activity.
- The historical yields of several crops have declined by almost 40 per cent due to a lack of fertilizers and pesticides. Almost 238,000 tons of root vegetables, more than 171,000 tons of leafy green vegetables and thousands of tons of fruit could not be produced.
- A total of 26,360 tons of refrigeration capacity have been lost in the country owing to limited access to financing, a situation that has increasingly affected logistical infrastructure and the proper maintenance and recovery of cold storage facilities.

As a result, during the period under review, the level of wholesale supplies was insufficient and there continued to be a shortage of products on the retail market, causing fluctuations in the availability of the basic supplies in the standard family basket and disrupting their delivery to the population.

In 2023, a group of products could not be delivered to the population as planned, with a marked reduction, as compared with 2022, in rice, beans, bread, coffee, oil, soy yogurt, meat products, powdered milk, sugar and products for consumption as part of a medically prescribed diet.

Compared with 2019, rice production decreased by 81 per cent, egg production by 61 per cent and milk production by 49 per cent.

The main shortfalls and limitations faced in the acquisition of goods are related to the non-fulfilment of import plans owing to a lack of funding for the issuance of payments, inadequate access to credit, an increase in the cost of products and services, a rise in freight costs and delays in the arrival of goods.

The country is making unparalleled efforts to prioritize the delivery to the population of products in the basic family basket, the cost of which exceeds \$1,600 million per year. However, not all basic needs have been met.

As a result of the blockade, it is impossible to increase the amount of food available on the country's markets by increasing imports. To illustrate this reality, it is enough to compare the prices of products imported in 2024 with those of products imported in 2019, which have increased by 76 per cent. An additional \$718 million must therefore be spent in order to obtain the same quantity of products.

To cite just one example, the price of basic-basket coffee increased from \$2,400 per metric ton in 2022 to \$3,906 per metric ton in 2023.

The anti-Cuban far right based in the United States, whose members are the staunchest opponents of a civilized relationship between the two countries, allege that there is no blockade on the export of United States foodstuffs to Cuba. In that connection, they refer to sales of food and commodities from the United States amounting to approximately \$300 million.

This is obviously an absurdly low amount. By comparison, the Dominican Republic, whose population is about the same size as that of Cuba, imported goods from the United States amounting to \$17 billion in 2023.

There are, admittedly, a few exceptions to the blockade, such as the sale of chickens and a small number of other items to Cuba, exceptions which the United States Government tries to portray as a form of trade.

Owing to the subsidies in the agricultural system in the United States, the prices of such products are lower there, even in comparison with the rest of the countries in the world. Cuba therefore chooses to purchase some of them from that market.

However, in practice, these purchases also demonstrate the serious limitations imposed on our country by United States laws, as not even such exceptional sales are made in accordance with international commercial standards.

Rather, they are carried out only after meeting rigorous conditions, under specific licences or permits from the Department of Commerce. Cuba must pay in cash and in advance, without the possibility of paying in instalments, contrary to international trade practice. In addition, Cuba has no access to private or federal financing from the United States.

Under the current operating conditions in the international market, it is practically impossible for a country or company to conduct business under these restrictions. The sole purpose of this cumbersome process is to deter and discourage business with Cuba.

Overall, between March 2023 and February 2024, the economic damages caused by the United States blockade policy against Cuba in the agricultural sector amounted to no less than \$441,122,320.38 dollars.

The Cuban educational system has also suffered the devastating effects of this unjust and illegal policy. During the period under review, the blockade continued to hinder commercial operations and limited access to international credit for the purchase of raw materials and other resources used in the production of educational materials.

For the National Director of Special Education, Beatriz Roque Morales, the blockade has a much more serious impact, as the lack of resources to meet the special education needs associated with disabilities undermines not only intellectual, but also emotional and social, development. "It is very shocking to me that something as basic as a toy is not fully available to our children. From early childhood, play is the way they learn about the world".

To meet the need for toys at childcare centres throughout the country, 3,390 units are required; these would benefit more than 67,135 children. The cost of acquiring these supplies is estimated at approximately \$4.5 million, equivalent to the cost of 8 hours of blockade.

Beatriz is aware of the omnipresent effect of this criminal policy, an effect that is difficult to quantify in all its aspects. "The blockade is not only the unavailability a product, but also all the limitations associated with the lack of that item."

Botulin toxin is an essential medicine for the treatment of spastic paralysis, which affects a number of children in the special education system and is difficult to acquire because of its high cost and because it comes from companies that are based or have commercial interests in the United States. This drug not only promotes motor skills but also helps students to develop the relationships that will facilitate their full integration into society.

The journalist Jorge Enrique Jerez Belisario, a resident of Camagüey Province, has suffered the effects of the lack of this medicine. As a result of childhood cerebral palsy, Jorge has less mobility in his right arm than in his other limbs. To counteract the spasticity and relax the muscles, Cuba had to purchase botulin toxin from third countries, often at five times the price on the United States market. Cuba obtained the toxin at \$470 per unit, while in the United States it was available for less than \$100. Jorge had to inject himself with the medication approximately every five months, and it became so difficult to acquire that the time came when it could not be given to him.

As a result, I had to have surgery on my right arm to improve its mobility. Today I can say that I owe a scar on my right arm to the criminal blockade of the United States Government against Cuba and its people. I have a daughter, and the blockade has prevented me from carrying her as other parents do.

I dream of the day when sanity prevails among the United States political class and there is an end to these measures, which have not fulfilled their clear objective of overthrowing the Revolution, although they have cost the Cuban people a great deal.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, restrictions on import plans and the partial or even total cancellation of contracts for the education sector significantly affected the resources planned for educational development. This impact, which is related to the cross-cutting effects of the blockade on the country's purchasing power, is reflected below:

- For the 2023–2024 school year, a shortage of 436,984 garments for school uniforms was reported. The Government of Cuba covers 50 per cent of the cost of production, but the scarcity of raw materials and the procurement of supplies on distant markets have increased prices fourfold or fivefold.
- For the same reason, in 2023, the production of 4.5 million pencils, 40,264 100-millilitre units of glue and 279,924 190-gram sets of plasticine was affected. The publishing house Pueblo y Educación was also unable to complete the texts for the third drive to improve the national education system.
- The subject and practical teaching of natural sciences have been significantly affected by the unavailability of the 700 educational modules required for 695 schools throughout the country.
- In 2024, the national education system will require an estimated \$21,789,000 to cover the cost of the necessary basic study materials and their production. A total of 38 hours without the blockade would make this amount available.
- More than 21,000 computers, with a purchase price of \$25.2 million in total, are required to meet the needs of educational institutions. This amount is equivalent to the cost of 44 hours of blockade.
- To meet the needs of children and adolescents with hearing impairments, 1,115 hearing aids are required, at a cost of \$144,000. A total of 15 minutes without the blockade would make this amount available.

The blockade is also hindering cooperation projects in the field of education. The Faculty of Architecture of the José Antonio Echeverría Technological University in Havana had coordinated an international project with a university in the United Kingdom under which it was to receive a donation in the form of computers and other information technology-based equipment, worth \$315,783, for the establishment of a laboratory. The equipment could not be sent to the country, as it contained a proportion of United States components greater than 10 per cent.

The Z17 Project, an initiative of the University of Information Sciences of Cuba aimed at ensuring technological sovereignty, promotes the development of the Picta,⁷ toDus⁸ and Apklis⁹ applications, whose progress has been slowed by the technological blockade. Among the direct effects are the inaccessibility of virtual libraries and the prohibition of access to more than 300 websites of interest, which prevents the downloading of resources for installing or updating technologies and hinders the academic, research and productive development of the University.

Moreover, the deterioration of the country's economic situation has led to an increase in resignations, in particular by professors in the teaching and scientific categories, who are opting for other, more profitable economic activities. This has also affected the education system at all levels.

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

There have been significant declines in many aspects of training. As a result, our athletes must practice under disadvantageous conditions and with limited resources, which undermines their performance and professional results. A well-known example is equipment for weight-training gyms, 75 per cent of which are obsolete, with visible deterioration due to prolonged use and a lack of the necessary replacement items.

As in previous years, the period under review was characterized by the non-issuance of payments for the recruitment of Cuban athletes by various clubs, owing to the refusal of foreign banking and financial institutions to carry out transactions with the Cuban bank Banco Financiero Internacional.

Some of the most significant effects during the period under review are as follows:

- Denial or late issuance of visas for sports delegations.
- The inability to receive donations that are transmitted directly from institutions, firms or brands of United States origin or that contain a proportion of United States components greater than 10 per cent.
- Excessive and xenophobic controls on Cuban sports delegations at United States airports.
- Encouragement of the emigration of Cuban professionals trained in the country, with the consequent loss of the investment made in their training.
- Prohibition of the issuance of payments to Cuba for participation in sporting events and arbitration, and for ticket reimbursement and prizes won by Cuban athletes. For example, no payment has been received to cover the cost arising from the participation of Cuba in the World Athletics Relays, held in Poland in May 2021, or in the World Athletics Championships, held in Budapest in August 2023.

During the period under review, the blockade also prevented three United States athletes from donating a skating tent during the Havana Skate Marathon. In addition,

⁷ Cuban platform for audiovisual content.

⁸ Cuban platform for collaborative instant messaging.

⁹ Official and reliable service for the distribution of Cuban and foreign mobile applications.

a ban was placed on the shipment to Cuba of sailing vessels donated by the United States, with an estimated cost of between \$7,000 and \$16,000 per unit.

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 sale prices and severely limits the enjoyment of our art by audiences across all continents.

The music recording and publishing company Empresa de Grabaciones y Ediciones Musicales de Cuba could not receive direct payment from some clients, especially those from Canada, Colombia, Mexico and the United Kingdom. Due to the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, which targets bank transfers to Cuba, the company has been unable to receive all the revenue billed for exports of services (royalties on sales).

As Cuba also cannot directly distribute Cuban music on international platforms, the company must contract more expensive tertiary services in order to do so, a situation that has led to a reduction in revenue of up to 30 per cent below the level that could have otherwise been achieved.

Cuban musicians do not have access to Spotify, the main platform for listening to music and creating artist profiles, among other functions. Other sites, such as Vevo, on which high-definition music videos are streamed, and MySpace, which includes profiles of the world's top-ranked artists, are also unavailable in Cuba.

In the case of the National Circus of Cuba, for each payment invoice relating to commercial contracts for shows abroad, 8 per cent is lost as a result of difficulties with payment gateways.

With regard to literature, owing to a shortage of raw materials, the cumulative number of unprinted titles is approximately 1,266, representing 4,092,977 copies. This situation led to the decision not to develop a 2024 plan for the publication of physical books.

In November 2023, a contract was signed with the United States educational company Savvas Learning for the inclusion of works by the Cuban poet, storyteller and playwright Virgilio Piñera in Spanish-language textbooks. However, the company's legal team recommended against proceeding with the contract, a recommendation influenced by the deterrent effect of the blockade and obstacles in payment channels.

Cuba has been denied access to the web page of the directory of the Associated Schools Network of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), explicitly because of the United States blockade. It has also been unable to gain access to the UNESCO platform for the drafting of quadrennial periodic reports in accordance with the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

During the period under review, the culture sector was also a target of the policy of subversion against Cuba by the United States, which is aimed at fomenting discontent, encouraging immigration, and conducting a vicious media campaign against Cuban creators who are still working in the country and against artists who wish to visit the island.

For example, at the end of 2023, the famous United States singer Norah Jones was unable to travel to Cuba in order to participate in music-related activities, owing to the media boycott that she experienced as a result of the announcement of her visit to the island.

2.2. Impact on economic development, trade and finance

The Cuban economy performed in a lacklustre manner in 2023, reflecting strong external shocks. Owing to the limited availability of foreign currency, supplies and fuel, it was impossible to achieve the projected economic growth of 3 per cent of GDP at constant prices, as there was an estimated contraction of between 1 per cent and 2 per cent at year-end.

Exports continued to decline, reaching a level more than \$3,000 million below that of 2019. Strategic sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing, have accumulated decreases of more than 25 per cent in the last five years.

The inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism has resulted in an increase in prices for businesses with foreign investment, as well as the cancellation of commercial transactions, cooperation activities and investment projects that were at various stages of implementation.

By law, the blockade prohibits vessels of shipping companies from other countries from docking at a United States port for six months after docking at a Cuban port. This provision entails a significant additional cost for maritime transportation and foreign trade for our country, in addition to representing an aggressive measure against third parties.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, losses due to the geographical relocation of trade to more distant markets are estimated at approximately \$581.7 million.

In addition, costs relating to freight, insurance and the use of commercial intermediaries, and the resulting increase in the cost of goods, amounted to \$485.7 million.

There is also a system of draconian fines to prosecute transactions with Cuba by third countries, which makes our foreign trade even more expensive.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the number of foreign banks that refused for various reasons to carry out transactions with Cuban banks was 48 (28 in Europe, 14 in the Americas and 6 in the rest of the world), with 155 transactions involved. The decrease in relation to the previous report was caused by the decline in the country's foreign trade, including import volumes, due to a lack of liquidity and access to foreign currency.

Notwithstanding this decrease in commercial and, therefore, banking activity, the impact recorded by Cuban banks between March 2023 and February 2024 was \$360 million, 28.5 per cent higher than in the previous report, owing to the significant exchange-rate fluctuations caused by the use of third-country currencies, the prohibition of the use of the United States dollar and the need to identify ways of ensuring that the relevant financial flows reach Cuba and other destinations.

Moreover, Cuba could only gain access to very limited external financing under extremely onerous conditions. Cuban banking and business entities continue to pay interest rates higher than the market rates owing to the "country risk" classification applied to Cuba.

This situation has resulted in the exacerbation of the macroeconomic imbalances reflected in the cumulative inflation rate, which was estimated at 30 per cent at the end of 2023, with varying levels depending on the market (6.3 per cent in the State sector, 62 per cent in the non-State sector and 72 per cent in the agricultural sector).

These high inflation levels are related to the issuance of money by the Government in order to finance the budget deficit; the contraction of supply, mainly

in the State sector; imported inflation due to the high prices on the global market; and, in particular, the limited flow of foreign currency into the country as a result of the intensified effect of the blockade.

Other contributing factors are disinformation campaigns and financial manipulation through virtual tools such as the online news outlet El Toque, which receives monetary support from the National Endowment for Democracy and the United States Agency for Global Media; the Agency provided it with \$150,000 through the company Media Plus Experience as part of a scheme created to launder funds from those entities. The objective is to distort the exchange rates in the country, prompting the depreciation of the Cuban peso against the United States dollar, in order to cause price instability, a reduction in people's purchasing power and the consequent social discontent.

The shortage of goods and services on formal markets, the growth of the informal market and the increase in prices have eroded the purchasing power of salaries and pensions. Although the average salary in State-owned enterprises grew to 4,856 pesos in 2023, that increase did not offset the rise in the consumer price index, which had increased by an average of around 45 per cent by the end of the first half of 2023, as compared with the same period in 2022.

Despite the Government's strong will to find ways to mitigate the effects of the blockade, the economic reality continues to be adverse. The main reason that the economy has not advanced more quickly and vigorously has been the impossibility of achieving the projected export revenue. On that count alone, the blockade caused losses amounting to \$3,161.7 million during the period under review, which represents 62.5 per cent of the total losses reported as a result of the policy during the reporting period.

The United States Government has used tourism, the main source of income for Cuba, as a political weapon against the country. It is aware of the importance of this sector for the island's development and is therefore determined to attack it. Between March 2023 and February 2024, the focus under the blockade on obstructing the recovery of the tourism sector caused losses amounting to \$2,499.7 million.

Current measures include:

- A ban on travel by United States citizens to Cuba for tourism purposes. United States citizens cannot visit Cuba normally. It is only possible to do so through licences established under the blockade regulations, subject to many restrictions. It is necessary to apply under an authorized travel category, a requirement that leads to very high deterrent effects.
- The prohibition of individual trips under the "people-to-people" category. This was one of the punitive measures that was taken by President Trump and forces United States citizens to travel to Cuba in groups and under the auspices, supervision and legal responsibility of a United States organization.
- The maintenance of the list of restricted entities and subentities associated with Cuba and the Cuba prohibited accommodations list of the Department of State has caused notable harm to hotel accommodations, rental houses and operations with multiple Cuban entities. The first list includes 231 entities and companies, amounting to practically the entire Cuban business sector, while the second comprises 422 hotels and other places of lodging, equivalent to nearly all the hotels in the country. The relevant restrictions apply to United States citizens, who are prohibited from staying in or doing business with the listed entities, but, in practice, people from third countries also refrain from visiting Cuba because of the confusion and fear generated by these blacklists.

As a result of the inclusion of Cuba in the list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism, a traveller who has visited Cuba is not eligible to participate in the Electronic System for Travel Authorization and must apply for a visa to enter the United States. Several European Governments, including those of Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, have warned their citizens about this restriction.

The impact of this measure on the tourism sector has been significant. The number of international visitors to Cuba from the seven main countries of origin in the European Union was 730,211 in 2019. In 2023, the figure was only 324,032, or 44 per cent of that recorded in 2019.

During the period covered by the present report, the United States Government refused to provide access to the Electronic System for Travel Authorization to 300,000 Europeans who had visited Cuba. This is a clear example of the unilateral imposition of restrictions that limit freedom of movement.

One of the effects of this measure was the removal of two participants in the sixty-ninth meeting of the World Tourism Organization Regional Commission for the Americas from their flight on 1 May 2024, at José Martí International Airport in Havana. Nicole Sigmaringo, a co-founder of the travel platform Quantum Temple, and Emilio Izquierdo, the Chief Executive Officer of the tourism and residential development Maraey, were informed by American Airlines that they could not complete their itinerary because it included a stopover in the United States, which they could not enter under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization after visiting Cuba.

In addition, during the period covered by the present report, a number of airlines have cancelled flights to Cuba, citing low demand and the commercial unfeasibility of operations. For example, the tourism operator TUI will not restart flights to Varadero from Belgium or the Netherlands for winter 2024/25.

The United States airline Southwest Airlines announced the cancellation of its flights from some locations in Florida to Havana, joining the companies JetBlue, Delta and United, which in the second half of 2023 reduced or suspended their trips to the island.

In order to understand the true magnitude of the effects of the blockade on the tourism sector, it is necessary to contrast the experience of Cuba with international trends and the progress achieved by other countries in that regard.

In 2023, international tourism reached 88 per cent of the levels recorded before the COVID-19 pandemic. Tourism to the Americas resumed at a rate of 90 per cent. The Dominican Republic, whose population is similar in size to that of Cuba, received more than 10 million visitors in 2023. The main country of origin was the United States, with approximately 4.4 million visitors.

Contrary to this trend, by the end of 2023 Cuba had received 2,436,980 international visitors, representing 70 per cent of the level envisaged and 57 per cent of that reached in 2019.

Of the total number of visitors arriving at the island during the reporting period, only 163,455 were from the United States, far below the level reached during peak periods; in 2018, for example, Cuba received a total of 638,365 visitors from the United States.

In the absence of the blockade, Cuba would be an established tourist destination on the United States market, with the presence of United States hotel chains, a broad range of commercial flights between all destinations on the island and many United States cities, and a much more complete tourism product.

Without 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 1.5 million, which would make the United States the main market in terms of travellers to Cuba. If we subtract from that figure the 163,455 people who did in fact travel to Cuba during the period under review, it can be calculated that approximately 1,336,545 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 \$1,730,825,775 from the United States market.

The Cuban hotel industry has continued to grow and improve, with the number of rooms exceeding 80,000, in addition to the more than 20,000 rooms in private homes, which complement the national supply. Capacity therefore exists to cover this potential demand.

However, the conduct on digital platforms and social networks of defamatory campaigns about the social climate in Cuba and, in particular, about the quality of tourism services, has also significantly affected the sector. In addition, the foreign accounts of the tourism company Havanatur have been closed, a development that has undermined the performance of commercial transactions with third countries and the sale of tourism packages for Cuba.

The prohibition on entry to Cuban ports by United States and European cruise lines, as well as the fines and legal proceedings that they have faced as a result of having carried out operations with Cuba, has obstructed further progress in the tourism sector.

The cruise company Swan Hellenic decided to cancel the itineraries initially planned for Cuba in 2024 and 2025, as passengers with visas obtained through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization would lose the opportunity to enter the United States under the System if they had previously visited the island.

Sea Cloud Cruises also opted to cancel all itineraries for Cuba scheduled for its Sea Cloud II cruise ship for the 2023/24 season, as the Caribbean-based companies responsible for supplying the cruise ships with fuel have their head offices in the United States and have refused to provide this vital resource to ships that dock at Cuban ports.

If cruise-ship tourism had continued, the country could have earned 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.

Cuba is also a natural place for the development and enjoyment of yachting and water tourism in general for the United States. Revenue from such tourism could amount to no less than \$61 million. However, the number of United States boats received is negligible, amounting to only 113, with about 324 yachters.

Moreover, Cuban travel agencies cannot use the Galileo, Sabre and Worldspan global distribution systems, among others. Likewise, many Cuban hotels have been removed from Trivago, Expedia and Booking.com, a situation that prevents the marketing of their tourism product.

The impact of these developments on the tourism-related activities of the non-State sector will be addressed in section 2.3.

The biotechnology sector is also affected by the blockade. The Cuban Democracy Act (Torricelli Act) explicitly prohibits the sale to Cuba of supplies and raw materials for the biotechnology industry.

Cuba has nevertheless invested in the advancement of this sector as a pillar of development and national sovereignty, as demonstrated by the country's production of its own vaccines against COVID-19, which have proven effective at the national and international levels, including among children.

The National Centre for Scientific Research of Cuba is working on a Cuban vaccine against human papillomavirus. The project has been given priority status by the biotechnology company BioCubaFarma, as human papillomavirus is the main cause of cervical and uterine cancers, which are the fifth most common cause of death for women in Cuba and the second most common for women between the ages of 15 and 44.

However, progress has been limited as a result of difficulties in gaining access to analytical tools and immunological assays, which Cuba was denied in 2023 by the United States company Addgene and the South Korean company Macrogen, among others. Researchers from the National Cancer Institute in the United States, despite their willingness to cooperate, were informed that they could not send the necessary reagents to Cuba due to the blockade.

In the period under review, the harm caused in this area amounted to some \$124,168,500, 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 seven operations, four of which were related to reagents and raw materials, one to supplies and two to equipment from United States manufacturers.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the digital medical technology company Combiomed carried out transactions for the purchase of equipment for invasive blood pressure measurement, capnography modules and high-performance computers, among other things, transactions that were rejected.

Likewise, in February 2024, a Central American company refused to sell the special paints needed for the production areas of the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology of Cuba.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the economic harm caused by the blockade to the information and communications technology sector, including telecommunications, is estimated at \$58,772,100.

It continues to be impossible to gain access to high-performing brands and/or equipment that are leaders in the communications market and are subject to patents issued by United States entities. For example, distributors are no longer providing the Cuban telecommunications company Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba with specialized Klein- and Bosch-brand tools.

Other suppliers have also decided to stop providing Cuba with repair services due to the blockade, a situation that affects receiving equipment, amplifiers, satellite communications services, data transmission and the national television signal.

The blockage of the Adobe website also impedes access to essential online resources. Similar situations have arisen in relation to other sites of interest, such as SourceForge, WeTransfer, and the Dell and Intel websites.

On 17 July 2023, the postal service business group Correos de Cuba received a message from the Spanish airline Air Europa informing it of the suspension of the transportation service for Cuban postal packages.

To justify the decision, Air Europa claimed that it needed to consult with its legal team on whether or not the exchange of CARDIT/RESBIT messages violated

the rules of the blockade. To date, despite calls by Cuba, the result of the consultation has not been reported. This suspension significantly affects the quality of Correos de Cuba's service by depriving it of a direct postal service route to Europe, Asia and part of Africa.

Representatives of Cuba have continued to face 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, broadband Internet access continues to be restricted, a situation that affects the download speed for software, music, and radio and television programmes that are broadcast live.

The global market for radio and television supplies is dominated by international corporations and conglomerates such as Sony, Panasonic and JVC, which distribute their products on a segmented basis by geographical region.

Accordingly, the Institute of Information and Social Communication of Cuba must procure resources through authorized distributors for Latin America, many of which are located in Miami. Cuban purchase requests therefore go unheeded because of the blockade, making it necessary to resort to intermediaries in Europe. This puts Cuba in a highly disadvantageous position for technological modernization.

Social digital platforms are designed to promote the opinion matrices that the United States currently uses to justify its blockade policy against Cuba. Many of these sites, such as ADN Cuba, CiberCuba and Cubanet, are joining the media crusade against the country in order to distort the national reality. The objective is to hold the Government of Cuba responsible for the impact of the unfair measures taken by the United States, as part of an ongoing campaign of disinformation, psychological warfare and defamation, copiously financed with federal funds from the United States budget, some of which are publicly declared and amount to tens of millions of dollars a year. This is in addition to the undisclosed funds that also support these platforms.

For fiscal year 2024 alone, \$25 million was approved both for programmes supposedly designed to promote democracy in Cuba and for the Office of Cuba Broadcasting. These federal funds are earmarked for programmes that are detrimental to Cuban sovereignty and are aimed at promoting changes in the country's political, economic and social order. The radio and television broadcasts are illegal, and violate international law and the Cuban constitutional order.

In the period under review, the total losses to Cuban industry and the business system as a result of the blockade are estimated at more than \$1,309.5 million. 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 during the period under review are listed below:

- The Caribe store chain received 2,247 containers of foodstuffs and cleaning products, 40 per cent of which (898 containers) could have been obtained on the United States market at a lower cost, with an estimated loss of \$1,767,500. Delays to vessels hampered the supply of goods to sales outlets.
- The cleaning and sanitation programme has been affected by deficits in the supply of toothpaste, chlorine bleach and mop cloths due to a scarcity of raw materials in the industry, in addition to fluctuations in the availability of supplies, a situation that has caused a significant shortage in the market.

- The Caribe store chain also wrote off a large amount of equipment in 2023 owing to a lack of repair parts.
- The telecommunications company Copextel was able to receive imports from only 75 suppliers out of a portfolio of 687. Of those 75 suppliers, 97.2 per cent are intermediaries, a situation that demonstrates the difficult conditions under which the company is operating.
- The cigarette company BrasCuba was unable to produce 50.8 million Rothmans Fresh cigarettes, resulting in lost sales of \$1,491,800, as it could not acquire the raw material necessary for the cigarette capsules in view of the supplier's decision to stop selling to Cuba.

In 2023, the construction materials industry faced some of its greatest challenges and had its lowest level of production in the past 60 years.

These results were caused, for the fifth consecutive year, by the limited supply of energy sources and fuel; the reduced availability of cement for concrete production; the fact that spare parts, raw materials and production supplies cannot be imported; and a lack of financial resources. In addition, contracts with foreign suppliers have ended and transportation to Cuba has become difficult.

As a result:

- At the end of 2023, the level of supplies for the wholesale sector amounted to only 48 per cent of the required level. The metal export company Acinox produced a limited number of steel rods for trade. The amount of steel provided for construction was only 12 per cent of the required amount.
- The materials industry provided only 25 per cent of the sanitaryware and 60 per cent of the ceramic tile flooring needed.
- The cement marketing company Empresa Comercializadora de Cemento provided 34 per cent of the cement required. Only 38,963 of the 115,290 tons planned were provided.
- Only 62 per cent of the housing planned under the prefabricated accommodations programme was built.
- The amount of tanks and roofs provided was 24 per cent of that planned for 2023. In addition, of the 586,000 litres of paint planned, only 125,300 litres, or 21 per cent, were received.
- To address the country's housing deficit, according to conservative estimates, a total of \$3,893 million is needed to build 467,149 new homes. Nine months without the blockade would make these funds available.

The harm caused by the blockade to the four branches of the transportation sector, namely, sea, road, rail and air, amounted to \$167,163,090 during the period under review.

In the past four years, there has been a progressive deterioration in all passenger transportation capacities and infrastructures because of the low technical availability of vehicles, the unavailability of spare parts, a lack of liquidity, the refusal of suppliers and the measures adopted since 2019 by the United States Government 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.

The greatest challenges are related to the unavailability of components, pieces and spare parts, which has led to the excessive deterioration of operational resources and to a shortage of lubricants, greases and special fluids; that situation is undermining the use of the equipment.

To meet national transportation needs, 14,380 buses are required, at a cost of \$2.85 billion, in addition to 12,250 cars or minibuses, with a total value of \$450 million. These amounts combined represent the cost of eight months of blockade.

A total of 38 per cent of roads are currently in fair or poor condition, and 17 per cent of bridges are in the same situation. The main cause of the deterioration of the road network is that pothole-repair and paving works cannot be conducted in a timely manner, owing to a lack of material and financial resources for the production and placement of the asphalt mix.

With respect to sea transportation, 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, adopted by the United States Congress in 1992.

Moreover, interline agreements for the transportation of cargo remain cancelled, which prevents the sale of the cargo service with air waybills of the airline Cubana de Aviación and the increase of multiple-destination sales in commercial partnerships with Avianca, DHL, Air France, Air Caraïbes, LATAM, Air Canada and Aeromexico. The cancellation of these agreements is 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.

Aviation, like all the other transportation sectors in Cuba, has been significantly affected by the blockade over the years. This has led to millions of dollars in losses for Cubana de Aviación due to the cancellation of aircraft leasing agreements, the closure of bank accounts and of commercial operations, and the fact that the airline cannot obtain loans from international banks in order to maintain and repair its fleet.

Cubana de Aviación is also unable to purchase aircraft owing to the impact of the measure preventing Cuba from obtaining access to resources and equipment that contain a proportion of United States components greater than 10 per cent, a situation that also affects domestic air transportation. All these effects have been exacerbated by the arbitrary and unfounded inclusion of Cuba in the list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism, which is issued unilaterally by the United States Government.

To cite just one example, in April 2024, the Bureau of Industry and Security of the United States Department of Commerce rejected an application filed by a Spanish company for a licence to export to Cuba an ATR 72-212A aircraft, to be used for domestic flights. In the communication received, it was alleged that such an operation could be detrimental to United States foreign policy interests.

The acquisition of aviation oil was also affected during the reporting period, as the oil and gas company Total, which is based in France, stopped supplying it.

In March 2024, the company Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales of the Argentine Republic informed the airline Cubana de Aviación of its refusal to continue supplying fuel to its aircraft, pursuant to the United States blockade against Cuba. As a result, Cubana de Aviación has been forced to suspend regular flights between the two countries after 39 years.

The application of this arbitrary measure by Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales clearly shows the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, which also contravenes international trade rules and the national laws of Argentina itself.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the impact on the energy and mining sector was also evident and amounted to no less than \$388,239,830.

One of the measures that is most objectionable owing to its violation of international law and its cruelty has been the prevention of the transport of fuel to Cuba as of 2019. That year alone, 53 vessels and 27 companies were penalized by the United States Government.

This represents a different form of the blockade, which has not previously been implemented but which directly fuels efforts to threaten, coerce, instil fear in and penalize anyone involved in the supply of fuel to the country, including shipping companies, insurance companies, reinsurers, banks, individuals and Governments. The harm caused by such persecution is substantial.

The economic siege has also 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 ensure a stable supply of electricity for the population and the strategic sectors of the national economy.

As a result, there have been constant interruptions to the electricity supply, which has led to stress, emotional exhaustion and anguish among the population, jeopardized the refrigeration and cooking systems in homes, broadly undermined productivity and prevented the country from functioning.

Aleandris Guerra Peña, a self-employed worker in the D' La Sierra enterprise in Santiago de Cuba Province, which produces paint, has witnessed the effects of these developments on the performance of his business. He states in that regard:

In the first two weeks of May alone, we lost 800,000 Cuban pesos, as we could not produce 3,200 litres of paint due to a lack of electricity. Such production would have generated total wages of 64,000 Cuban pesos, to be distributed among the workers.

All this paint had guaranteed clients, but we were unable to meet that demand. We are working, as the electricity supply allows, to fulfil the backlog of orders. This situation has forced us not to accept any further requests, which would have represented a high volume of sales; it has therefore resulted in significant foregone revenue.

In January 2024, the Ernesto Che Guevara thermal power plant could not be supplied with spare parts from the Italian factory Termomeccanica, as it had been purchased by the company Trillium, one of whose main office locations is in the United States. The lack of these supplies has repeatedly resulted in the unavailability of generating units at the Ernesto Che Guevara thermal power plant.

The firm Accelleron, formerly a division of ABB Turbocharging, from which the technology for the turbochargers used by the National Electric Union was obtained, continues 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 State sponsors of terrorism of the United States Government.

The National Electric Union has been unable to obtain the funding necessary to carry out partial, extended and capital maintenance for the country's thermal units. Consequently, 13 of the 15 units have not been maintained for at least one five-year cycle, and several of them for more than three such cycles. As a result, the level of failure has been considerable.

The condition of the thermal units has also led to an increase in consumption of approximately 319,000 tons of fuel, with an additional cost to the National Electric Union of \$127.8 million in 2023.

As a result of the interference in financial transactions with Cuba, payment for fuel imports is carried out through confirmed irrevocable letters of credit (payable at

sight) with a single bank, whose confirmation capacity is limited and often does not cover the value of the cargo to be imported during the month.

The acquisition of equipment for the analysis and monitoring of the technological process associated with mining has also become more challenging. During the reporting period, one international manufacturer of such equipment refused to sell directly to Cuba because it was on the list of State sponsors of terrorism of the United States Government.

In December 2020, the Cuban mercantile company Commercial Caribbean Nickel and the Australian company Caribe Metals Corporation signed the international economic partnership contract for the Cajálbana mining project, which entered into force on 28 December 2020 for a period of three years.

Caribe Metals Corporation could not transfer the funds necessary to begin the relevant tasks and field work and carry out the planned technical and economic feasibility study because Australian banks expressly refused to transfer funds to Cuba, citing the blockade and the potential impact on their interests if they were to provide this service.

The contract expired without that situation being resolved. These events are a clear example of the effects of the blockade on the mining sector and on the execution and conclusion of a contract involving the conduct of studies, planning and procurement for, and the launch and operation of, a factory to produce and market nickel and cobalt products, a development that could have generated significant financial resources for Cuba.

2.3. Impact on the emerging sectors of the Cuban economy

At the end of March 2024, there were 10,614 private micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises registered in Cuba. Together with the other non-State forms of management, they account for about 15 per cent of GDP and provide about 35 per cent of employment in the country. They have been founded and developed as a result of the measures taken by the Government of Cuba in recent years to promote and boost their essential contribution to the country's economy.

The blockade restrictions have significantly affected the activity of many Cuban entrepreneurs, business owners and cooperative members. In 2023, 685 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises reported operational losses, 7.2 per cent of all such businesses.

As is well known, on 28 May 2024, the Government of the United States announced a range of limited measures, supposedly to "boost" this sector, through authorizations for Internet services and financial transactions. However, any serious analysis of these announcements, bearing in mind the intimidatory and comprehensive effect of the blockade, raises many doubts.

How will the large technology and communications conglomerates differentiate between the Cuban State and private sectors and define their access to web pages, tools and Internet sites that are currently blocked to all users in Cuba? How will online purchases of supplies needed for private sector activities be facilitated without access to electronic payment cards used worldwide?

What shipping company will risk coming to Cuba to bring these supplies, without being able to dock in a United States port for six months thereafter?

If the country remains on the list of State sponsors of terrorism of the Government of the United States, will a foreign company or bank be willing to accept transactions from a private Cuban company, as a result of which it could be subject to scrutiny and fines of millions of dollars? Which bank abroad will be willing to

open an account for a Cuban businessman, knowing the obstacles to operating in United States dollars or faced with the uncertainty caused by some new regulatory change that tightens the blockade against Cuba and third parties? How will a Cuban businessman be able to receive his earnings in Cuba from operations abroad if the national banks continue to be subject to the sanctions scheme of the Government of the United States?

The reality is that the blockade is so complex and comprehensive, with a series of laws meticulously designed to encircle Cuba, that it is difficult for any sector of society or of the economy to escape it if the set of restrictions and prohibitions that currently underpin the policy and systematically and significantly affect all economic actors is not lifted.

The warnings and restrictions on travel to Cuba have affected revenue from tourism and accommodation, services provided by most of the Cuban private sector. The Cuba prohibited accommodations list, the inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism and the prohibition of “people-to-people” travel by individuals, among other measures of the Government of the United States described above, have hindered new advances in this sector and considerably reduced the number of reservations in private rental houses. The main limitation for these actors is that they do not have access to the United States tourism market, so they compete on an unequal footing with other suppliers in the region.

Cuba has a total capacity of approximately 20,000 rooms in private rental houses. Between March 2023 and February 2024, of the 163,455 people from the United States who visited the country, 45.6 per cent stayed in these accommodations, with an average stay of one week. In the absence of the current restrictions and prohibitions, and if the flow of United States visitors to Cuba were to increase, it is estimated that the Cuban private sector could earn additional revenue of \$106.7 million.

Abdel Aguilar Galarraga, the owner of Hostal Aguilar, located in the centre of Havana, knows first-hand the effects of the blockade on the house rental business:

It makes it very difficult for us to access reservation sites such as Booking.com and to have them offer our services. We are limited when it comes to showing our products to the world.

As an economic service chain, if we cannot offer our services, other businesses such as transportation, car rentals, restaurants, medical services, builders, cleaning staff and tour guides, are also disadvantaged. Damage to tourism, our nation’s primary industry, also undermines the State’s ability to provide high-quality social services.

The designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism, digital warfare, manipulation on networks and the fact that people who have visited the country cannot access the Electronic System for Travel Authorization make tourists fearful and hesitant, confronting them with the dilemma of whether or not to come to Cuba.

Aguilar says that the flow of tourists to his business has decreased considerably: “For those of us who have committed to our country in order to develop, the blockade affects us every day and prevents us from offering competitive services.”

At the same time, the fact that non-immigrant visas cannot be processed in Havana has restricted the ability of Cuban entrepreneurs to travel to the United States, which is their closest natural market, and directly obtain the supplies that they need for their businesses.

The coercive measures applied by the Government of the United States against financial institutions in recent years have caused several payment and e-commerce platforms, such as PayPal, to refuse to provide services to such entrepreneurs just because they are Cubans, regardless of their company's form of management.

In addition, Cuban entrepreneurs cannot access Visa or MasterCard cards to supply their businesses, as they are banned for Cubans anywhere in the world. Consequently, Cuban entrepreneurs do not have a secure online payment method, even through a third country. Bank branches are therefore not completing their transactions, and many customers are deciding not to pursue relationships with private Cuban entities, a trend that has increased as a result of the inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral United States list of State sponsors of terrorism.

Furthermore, there are many examples of information technology tools that are not accessible to national developers solely because they are Cuban. Their access to external financial mechanisms is also hindered.

For Carlos Miguel Pérez Reyes, the founder of Dofleini Software, the first Cuban private micro-, small and medium-sized enterprise dedicated to the development and export of computer products, the blockade is also holding that sector back:

With United States customers, which are the closest geographically but also the most innovative, and which include the key companies in the information technology sector, we have not been able to close deals, even though we receive dozens of requests.

We do not have a way to receive payments, even through a third country. Many clients end up not establishing relationships with Cuba, no matter how talented the team in question. Not having these means, such as digital gateways, isolates us from the world's technological ecosystem.

The blockade also affects the purchase of essential technology to develop new projects, adds Pérez Reyes.

When you try to purchase some of their professional services on some of these platforms, Cuba does not even appear among the countries available for selection.

The vast majority of software systems are blocked for Cuba; the best known are communication systems such as Zoom, Slack and GitHub.

Some say that this policy does not harm the private sector and that we have certain advantages, but that is not true. Private sector entrepreneurs do not want to be given a cent for free. We want them to let us do things on an equal basis with the rest of the world, because we Cubans solve the problems of Cuba.

Imports and exports by Cuban entrepreneurs are also constrained by high prices resulting from access to distant markets. In the province of Holguín, for example, non-State companies have halted import processes owing to the high prices of the products requested, such as cement, wood and plywood, which are significantly influenced by freight costs.

Title III of the Helms-Burton Act is also applicable to the private sector. The Act makes no distinction between State and private actors handling property that is subject to a claim, as a result of which a natural person may also be subject to this absurd legislation.

In the case of local development projects, through which the various economic actors can be linked, the sanctioning of one of these parties, such as a State-owned company, is sufficient for its counterpart in the private sector to be directly affected.

Oliesky Fabre del Castillo is the founder of EnParalelo, a private microenterprise aimed at creating more sustainable, healthy, equitable, inclusive, resilient, local and sovereign urban food systems. To that end, it intends to produce, market and process agricultural products of high nutritional value.

EnParalelo was one of the first 35 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises approved in September 2021. The business also coordinates a local development project in the Plaza de la Revolución municipality of Havana. Castillo explains that, “as a new company, we started from scratch, facing an investment process and the search for space and financing to develop everything we wanted. We were able to access financing from Cuban banks that allowed us to get started”.

At the end of 2022, EnParalelo was selected by the Regional Innovation Hub of the World Food Programme (HZero), based in Colombia, as one of the 10 most innovative ideas for ending hunger in Latin America. Castillo states:

That allowed us to access new financing and a six-month acceleration programme that prepared us to consolidate our business model.

That was when we began to suffer the effects of the blockade first-hand. The first obstacle that we encountered was in online communication for the preparation courses, as well as in access to other knowledge generation platforms from academia. We often had to watch recorded lectures after they had been held.

Accessing financing in Cuba was another struggle. That money would be used for investment, for importing a range of supplies and for equipment, and all suppliers needed payment abroad. We faced various obstacles in identifying suppliers that were registered in the country. We also knew of suppliers that were very close, in the United States, but it was impossible to negotiate with them.

Castillo also acknowledges the obstacles posed by the blockade in obtaining seeds – an essential input for EnParalelo – in Cuba:

Although we have identified United States suppliers, we have not contacted them because we know the barriers that we will face. Many of the supplies that we need are found on e-commerce platforms, which are prohibited from shipping to Cuba. It would be very beneficial for us to achieve stable bilateral trade with the United States because of its proximity and the quality of its raw materials.

Now, the Government of President Biden has announced some measures to “support” the private sector, but that does not change the essence of the blockade in any way. The actual scope of those measures remains to be seen.

Lácteos Clamanta is another private micro-, small and medium-sized enterprise, located in the municipality of La Lisa, Havana. The company was established on a national scene marked by the unprecedented intensification of the blockade. Its main operation is the production of probiotic yogurt and “Gustó” brand ice cream.

Its owner, Martín Nizarane Araluce, can attest to the limitations under which the company must operate every day as a result of this policy:

The extraterritorial laws of the United States have prevented us from operating under normal market conditions, hindering an appropriate business environment. They create disadvantageous conditions and limit our negotiating capacity with foreign suppliers, who offer us raw materials, supplies and equipment at high prices and with payment methods that are sometimes

irregular, as the blockade hinders the access of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to international banks.

When micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises connect with local development projects for the benefit of the population, as in the case of Lácteos Clamanta, they begin to suffer media attacks by those who profit from the policy of hatred towards Cuba. Nizarane Araluce also touches on this: “In the anti-Cuban media, including on social networks, they try to discredit, discourage and halt the efforts of those who, under difficult conditions, are contributing the most to food production by seizing the opportunities offered under the new economic policies implemented in the country.”

3. The blockade violates international law: extraterritorial application

As has been described throughout the present report, not only does the blockade damage the economic, commercial and financial ties between Cuba and the United States, it is also aimed at and succeeds in undermining the economic and commercial relationships of the island anywhere in the world, in breach of the sovereign prerogatives of other countries and the rights of their citizens. It is a malicious aim that is given legal form in the aforementioned Helms-Burton Act.

In its attempt to prevent foreign investment in the country, interfere with Cuban transactions and restrict the normal course of all Cuban operations abroad, the Government of the United States resorts to a wide range of instruments and forms of pressure through its regulatory agencies.

This policy of intimidation has hindered and even prevented the payment of the dues owed by Cuba for membership in international organizations, as a result of the refusal of banks to process the transactions. Similarly, more than 50 Cuban diplomatic missions have faced difficulties with the banks that have provided them with services in the past, which has affected the operation and maintenance of the country’s embassies and consulates.

In addition to the examples already set out in the present report, four additional cases of the extraterritorial application of the blockade between March 2023 and February 2024, including those involving Cuban embassies, are described in the annex.

4. Universal rejection of the blockade

The international movement demanding an end to the blockade has been highly active, both through in-person initiatives and on digital platforms.

More than 2,000 public events, speeches and documents adopted at international events condemning the blockade were recorded, as well as more than 880 statements against Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and the inclusion of the country in the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism drawn up by the Government of the United States.

Similarly, there were growing calls within United States society for an end to the blockade and to the arbitrary classification of Cuba as an alleged State sponsor of terrorism. Federal and State members of Congress, the academic, economic, political, religious and scientific sectors, young people and the solidarity movement carried out various initiatives to put pressure on the White House.

In May 2024, following the announcement by the Government of the United States that Cuba had been removed from the list of States not fully cooperating with United States counter-terrorism efforts, numerous Governments, in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean, international and regional organizations, political, social

and religious organizations within the United States, and various United States politicians maintained their firm demand that the White House remove Cuba from the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism.

Statements by the Governments of Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominica, the Gambia, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Namibia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Syria, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and Venezuela, among others, are particularly noteworthy, as are those of the Puebla Group, the Panel for Peace Talks between the Government of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional, the Council for Foreign and Community Relations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Association of Caribbean States, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China, and the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, among others.

Annex 5 contains details of a range of actions carried out in rejection of the blockade within United States society and at the international level during the reporting period.

Conclusions

The United States blockade against Cuba violates international law. It runs counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is a violation of the right to peace, development and self-determination of a sovereign State.

It is, in its essence and its aims, an act of unilateral aggression, an ongoing threat to the stability of the country and a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of all Cubans. It is an act of cruelty and has no justification.

It also violates the constitutional rights of the people of the United States, by infringing on their freedom to travel to and develop ties with Cuba. It furthermore violates the sovereign rights of many other States owing to its extraterritorial nature.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the Government of the United States continued to disrupt fuel supplies to Cuba, allow actions to be brought in United States courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and conduct its campaign to discredit the medical cooperation programmes that Cuba has established in many countries. At the same time, it set out to hinder the recovery of the Cuban tourism sector, which had been seriously affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures are intended to deal a mortal blow to the country's main sources of revenue.

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 without justification or evidence by the Republican Administration of President Donald Trump, only nine days before he left the White House. The current President of the United States could correct the situation with no more than a signature. The fact that the Government of the United States recently acknowledged that Cuba is cooperating fully in the fight against terrorism makes our country's continued inclusion in that spurious list even more absurd and unjustifiable.

The announcements of 28 May 2024 on the regulatory framework of the blockade with regard to the private sector did not change the core of the blockade policy. These were limited measures whose implementation will undoubtedly falter

in the face of the comprehensive, dissuasive effect of the blockade, especially if Cuba remains on the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism.

The blockade does not distinguish between segments of society or economic actors, since its central objective is to lower people's standard of living, and to cause dissatisfaction, desperation and irritation, in order to change the legitimately established constitutional order.

It is not permissible, legal or ethical to subject a small country to a criminal policy of strangulation for decades, with economic damages in excess of \$164,141,100,000 at current prices, and \$1,499,710,000,000 taking into account the performance of the dollar against the price of gold. Between March 2023 and February 2024 alone, the blockade resulted in estimated losses to Cuba of approximately \$5.0568 billion.

It is also unacceptable for the Government of the United States to ignore the call of the international community to end this illegal and inhumane policy, a call reflected in the 31 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Cuba demands that the blockade be lifted once and for all, that the disruption of our economic and financial relations with the rest of the world cease, that the millions spent on undermining our internal affairs and fuelling disinformation campaigns be eliminated, and that the country be removed from the spurious unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism.

Cuba remains willing to build a civilized and respectful relationship with the Government of the United States, despite our differences. We will remain open to exchanging and working with all partners and interlocutors in United States society who wish to work with Cuba in pursuit of a better relationship.

As the President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, has said, the country is prepared to continue to face up to the blockade and find creative ways of resisting in order to overcome the injustice imposed on us.

We will not cease to denounce the blockade, in the hope that this criminal policy will be ended once and for all. Present and future generations of Cubans have the right to live and develop in a Cuba without a blockade.

Annex 1

United States blockade laws and regulations

- 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.
- Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the United States President was authorized to establish and maintain a total "embargo" upon trade with Cuba, and the granting of any aid to the Government of Cuba was prohibited. In addition, United States government funds earmarked for international aid and provided to international agencies could not be used for programmes involving Cuba; no assistance mentioned in the Act, and no benefit mentioned in any other Act, could be granted to Cuba, until the President determined that Cuba had taken action to return to United States citizens and entities no less than 50 per cent of the value of the properties nationalized by the Government of Cuba

following the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, or to provide equitable compensation for such properties.

- In Proclamation 3447, issued on 3 February 1962, President John F. Kennedy decreed a total “embargo” on trade between the United States and Cuba, pursuant to section 620 (a) of the Foreign Assistance Act.
- Under the Cuban Assets Control Regulations of 1963, issued by the Department of the Treasury, all Cuban assets in the United States were frozen, all financial and commercial transactions were prohibited unless they were approved under a licence, Cuban exports to the United States were prohibited, and any natural or legal person of the United States or a third country was prohibited from conducting transactions in United States dollars with Cuba, among other provisions.
- Section 2401 (b) (1), “National security controls”, “Policy toward individual countries”, of the Export Administration Act of 1979 established the commerce control list, on which the President of the United States keeps a number of countries on which special export controls may be imposed for reasons of national security. Cuba is included on that list.
- In the Export Administration Regulations of 1979, the grounds for general controls over items and goods subject to those Regulations were established in accordance with the measures imposed by the Government of the United States. A general policy of denying exports and re-exports to Cuba was also established.
- In the Cuban Democracy Act (Torricelli Act) of 1992, the subsidiaries of United States companies in third countries were prohibited from trading in goods with Cuba or with Cuban nationals. Third-country vessels that had visited a Cuban port were banned from entering United States territory within 180 days without a licence from the Secretary of the Treasury.
- In the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996, or Helms-Burton Act, the provisions of the blockade were codified and its extraterritorial scope was expanded through the imposition of penalties on directors of foreign companies conducting transactions involving United States property nationalized in Cuba and through the threat of actions in United States courts. The President’s powers to lift the blockade as a whole were also limited.
- Section 211 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999 prohibited United States courts from recognizing the rights of Cuban companies to trademarks associated with nationalized property.
- In the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, the export of agricultural products to Cuba was authorized, on condition that payment was made in cash, in advance and without United States financing. Travel to Cuba by United States persons for tourist activities was prohibited, with tourist activity defined as any activity involving travel to, from or within Cuba that was not explicitly authorized under Title 31, section 515.560, of the Code of Federal Regulations. In other words, travel was limited to the 12 categories authorized when the Act was passed.

Annex 2

Blockade actions taken by the Government of the United States between March 2023 and February 2024

On 31 March 2023, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury announced that Uphold HQ, a money services company based in

Larkspur, California, had agreed to a monetary settlement of \$72,230.32 for apparent violations of the programmes of “sanctions” against 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 OFAC 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. Of the 1,339 apparent violations, 54 pertained to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations.

On 1 May 2023, Poloniex, a Delaware-based company with its principal place of business Boston, Massachusetts, agreed to pay \$7,591,630 to the Office of Foreign Assets Control for violations of various coercive programmes of the United States, including the one against Cuba. In its statement on the matter, the Office stated that the Poloniex trading platform had allowed customers apparently located in “sanctioned” jurisdictions to engage in online digital asset-related transactions with a combined value of \$15,335,349.

On 29 September 2023, through a memorandum on presidential determination, Joseph Biden extended for one more year the restrictions on granting federal funds for cultural and educational exchanges with Cuba, among other measures. That step was based on Cuba remaining, arbitrarily and without justification, in tier 3 in the State Department’s annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

On 6 November 2023, the Office of Foreign Assets Control announced, in an official statement, a monetary settlement with daVinci Payments, a United States company that manages prepaid reward card programmes, for apparent violations of various coercive programmes, including the laws on the blockade against Cuba. The company remitted \$206,213 to the Department of the Treasury for apparently enabling reward cards of persons in the sanctioned jurisdictions to be redeemed between 15 November 2017 and 27 July 2022.

On 21 February 2024, the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, issued a notice extending by one year the state of national emergency with respect to Cuba, declared by President William Clinton on 1 March 1996.

Annex 3

Powers of the President of the United States to modify the application of the blockade against Cuba

The modifications that the President of the United States could make to the framework of the blockade on the basis of his executive powers, and through regulatory announcements by the Departments of State, the Treasury and Commerce, include the following:

- Removing Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism issued by the Department of State.
- Reversing the policy of financial persecution against Cuba, including in relation to the country’s fuel supplies.
- Suspending the possibility of bringing actions in United States courts against United States and third-country companies under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.
- Modifying the permissible limit of 10 per cent United States components in the goods that Cuba can import from any country in the world.

- Requesting the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury to remove Cuban entities from other unilateral lists, such as the list of restricted entities and subsidiaries associated with Cuba, the Cuba prohibited accommodations list and the specially designated nationals and blocked persons list.
- Instructing United States representatives in international financial institutions not to block the granting of loans or other financial facilities to Cuba.
- Enabling Cuban entities, including banks and 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 by the United States of any goods made or derived from products grown, produced or manufactured in Cuba by State enterprises (including nickel, sugar, tobacco and rum).
- Allowing the export to Cuba of medical supplies and equipment that could be used to manufacture 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.
- Allowing broader forms of collaboration for the development, marketing and supply of medicines and biomedical products of Cuban origin, for example, through direct investment by United States companies and joint ventures.
- Allowing the sale of the raw materials that Cuba needs in order to produce medicines for its people and people in other developing countries.
- Authorizing United States subsidiaries to do business with Cuba that does not involve the import and export of goods from and to Cuba (prohibited under the Torricelli Act).

Annex 4

Some cases of extraterritorial application of the blockade against Cuba between March 2023 and February 2024

In March 2023, the purchase of medical supplies by MediCuba, including drugs for the treatment of cancer, allergies and other terminal diseases, was affected owing to the purchase of the Canadian company Apotex by the United States company SK Capital.

In May 2023, Banco Santander informed the general management of IC Neuronic, a Cuban company based in Spain, of the decision to rescind, in June 2023, the insurance policy that the company had held with the bank since 2020.

In May and June 2023, the Bulgarian branch of Citibank Europe withheld a transfer from the Cuban Embassy in Bulgaria for the payment of services to the telecommunications company Vivacom. In July, Citibank returned the invoice payment to the Embassy, which from then on had to continue its operations with Vivacom through another bank.

In the first half of 2023, MUFG Bank, from Japan, refused a transfer from the Chunichi Dragons franchise to the account of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, a mechanism that had been operating since 2018 for the receipt of

income for the training of contracted Cuban athletes. The reason was the link with Cuba and the possibility of violating the United States blockade laws.

On 17 August 2023, the GS1 organization, which administers the internationally accepted standards for communication and information exchange among business partners in different global supply chains, informed Cuba that its representatives would not be able to participate in person in the GS1 Latin America Regional Forum, held in October 2023 in Buenos Aires. The organization said that Cuba was subject to a sanctions regime and its participation would put GS1 staff at risk.

In August 2023, the Swedish bank Swedbank began sending its customers letters in which it asked them not to engage in transactions with Habanos Nordic or to or from Cuba, stating that doing so would entail a risk that the bank could not take because of the sanctions to which the country is subject. Swedbank said that, in the event of non-compliance, it would be forced to restrict or terminate customers' accounts and services.

In August 2023, the French association Cuba Linda, which promotes travel to bring peoples together, was prohibited from using the SumUp payment processing and risk solutions platform, which it had asked to facilitate sales using bank cards at its stand at the Fête de l'Humanité. The association received a point-of-sale terminal that was subsequently withdrawn under article 13 of the general conditions of the contract that it had signed. The obligation to prevent involvement in fraudulent activities, such as money laundering, the financing of terrorism or any other criminal activity was mentioned in that article.

In September 2023, the Swedish bank Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken refused to continue operating with Habanos Nordic because of the risk of penalties from the United States owing to the blockade.

On 21 November 2023, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury imposed a penalty of \$968,618,825 on the Cayman Islands-based cryptocurrency company Binance Holdings for violating various United States sanctions programmes, including the laws on the blockade against Cuba. The company was required to pay additional amounts to the Department of Justice, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission of the United States, for a total amount of \$4.3 billion.

On 6 December 2023, BMW Leasing Switzerland, part of BMW Group Financial Services, informed the Cuban Embassy in Switzerland that it was obliged to end its commercial relationship with the Embassy because the legal department of BMW Bank would not allow it to accept payments from the Government of Cuba, which left it with no other option but to terminate the contracts. In addition, BMW Group Financial Services rescinded a contract concluded with the Bern-based dealership BMW Marti for the hire of an official Embassy car in the first week of December 2023.

Also in 2023:

- The Portuguese bank Banco Comercial Português (BCP) cancelled a transfer in United States dollars from the Associação Amizade Portugal Cuba (Cuba-Portugal Friendship Association) to the Amistur travel agency in Cuba. The Association has an account with Millennium BCP and Amistur has an account with the Cuban bank Banco Financiero Internacional. The amount was \$55,186, intended for the payment of a solidarity team returning from Cuba.
- The French bank Fransabank refused to process a transfer sent by the Cuban diplomatic office in Bonn, Germany, to the Cuban Embassy in Algeria, citing

the bank's policy on risks related to sanctions and embargoes, and making it clear that any direct or indirect transaction linked to Cuba was prohibited.

- The banks ING, NewB, Argenta and BNP Paribas Fortis, and the banking service of the Belgian post office, bpost, stopped accepting transactions with the memo “Aid to Cuba” following the accident at the Matanzas oil storage facility. The rejected transactions were detected through the #1c4Cuba solidarity campaign conducted by Cuba friendship associations in Europe.

At the start of 2024, the voluntary contribution of Cuba to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for 2023 was blocked. Despite the Office's efforts, the Swiss bank UBS refused to accept the Cuban transfer. On several occasions, UBS argued that, since the contribution was not mandatory, its rejection would not result in loss of rights or financial default for the sending country; the bank, therefore, was not obliged to accept such a transfer from one of the countries subject to United States sanctions.

In January 2024, JCC Payment Systems, a service company that works with the Bank of Cyprus in the area of bank terminal payments and payment gateway transfers, informed the Cuban Embassy in Cyprus that it had terminated its agreement with the Embassy with immediate effect, as the provision of procurement services to the Embassy was prohibited. As a result, the Embassy lost the ability to accept payments through such terminals.

In January 2024, the Indian bank Axis Bank refused to make a transfer to Cuba from the Indian company Panacea as payment for supplies acquired from the Cuban genetics and biotechnology company Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología for the production of the pentavalent vaccine. The bank cited the inclusion of Cuba in the United States Government's list of State sponsors of terrorism and demanded assurances from Panacea that the payment would not be sent to any institution controlled by the Cuban army, or by the country's security or intelligence services.

In February 2024, the mail delivery company United Parcel Service refused to send a document from a Slovenian citizen, claiming that the addressee, the Cuban Consulate in Austria, did not comply with one or more government regulations of the countries and areas in which the company operates.

On 15 March 2024, the Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed a penalty of \$3,740,442 on the Swiss-based bank EFG International for violating the Cuban Assets Control Regulations and other sanctions programmes. Specifically, between 2014 and 2018, 727 transactions were made to customers in Cuba, in a total amount of \$29,939,701.

Annex 5

Denunciation of the blockade against Cuba between March 2023 and May 2024

Denunciation of the blockade within the United States of America

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 of America to lift the blockade and 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 in

which the removal of United States regulations preventing United States exports to Cuba was proposed.

On 8 March 2023, the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America sent a letter to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Robert Menendez (Democrat, New Jersey), asking him to eliminate the coercive measures against Cuba. The bishops described the damage caused by the economic blockade and said that the country's unjust inclusion in the list of State sponsors of terrorism adversely affected the lives of Cubans.

On 14 March 2023, 20 churches and denominational organizations, including the Presbyterian Church, sent President Joseph Biden a joint letter 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 General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

On 15 March 2023, the senators Ron Wyden (Democrat, Oregon), Cynthia Lummis (Republican, Wyoming) and Chris Van Hollen (Democrat, Maryland) sent President Biden a letter in which they called for the easing of the economic and financial restrictions of the blockade that affect 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 a major obstacle to the development of the Cuban economy.

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

At the start of May 2023, the group Bridges of Love promoted an initiative to collect signatures in order to send President Biden a letter containing a request to lift the coercive measures that most affect the private sector in Cuba. The letter was signed by self-employed Cubans and a number of representatives of the United States business sector, and was subsequently sent to the White House through the Alliance for Cuba Engagement and Respect.

On 3 May 2023, a delegation of 150 young people from the United States, including trade unionists, culture-sector employees, campaigners against police brutality, scientists, and stakeholders from various organizations, reaffirmed their commitment to continuing the fight to lift the blockade against Cuba, during a visit to Havana to participate in an international meeting in solidarity with Cuba and anti-imperialism.

On 10 May 2023, 21 Democratic congresspersons, mainly from States on the southern border, sent President Biden a letter in which they called for the easing of the maximum pressure policy affecting Cubans and Venezuelans. The congresspersons said that the strangulation measures implemented by the Government of the former President, Donald Trump, were among the main reasons for which thousands of citizens of Cuba and Venezuela had been forced to emigrate to the United States. In the case of Cuba, the congresspersons highlighted the measures aimed at tightening the blockade and the country's inclusion in the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 11 May 2023, nearly 9,000 owners of Cuban and United States private companies, and representatives of around 270 business organizations that bring

together thousands of companies, sent President Biden a letter in which they requested that Cuba be removed from 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 President Biden to lift the economic blockade against Cuba and remove the country from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. In the resolution, which was initially sponsored by a Democrat, Robert White Jr., and six other councilmembers, the Council set out the limitations imposed by the blockade on development in Cuba in various sectors, such as health, education and the economy, as well as on cooperation between the two nations.

On 24 May 2023, Representative Jim McGovern (Democrat, Massachusetts), disagreed with the Biden Administration's Cuba policy during an address on the floor of the House.

In May 2023, the executive council of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU), a union representing seafarers on the west coast of the United States, passed a resolution in which it urged congresspersons in its area of activity, and President Biden, to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 5 June 2023, the Center for Democracy in the Americas, the Washington Office on Latin America and the Cuban Studies Group issued a statement in which they called upon the Biden Administration to take steps to improve the situation in Cuba. They called for more support for the private sector in Cuba and said that inclusion in the list of State sponsors of terrorism resulted in obstacles for the country.

On 22 June 2023, the Council of the City of New York unanimously passed a resolution in which it called upon the President and Congress of the United States to end the blockade against and ban on travel to Cuba, and to remove the country from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 31 August 2023, the Mayor of the City of Sacramento, California, Darrell Steinberg, issued a proclamation in which he called upon the Government of the United States to review the designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism.

On 19 September 2023, solidarity groups demonstrated in front of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations to demand the end of the United States blockade and the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 23 September 2023, at an event in solidarity with Cuba and Venezuela, held at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, a call was made for an end to United States sanctions against the two countries. The event was held during the high-level segment of the General Assembly, in which the President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, participated.

On 28 September 2023, during an address on the floor of the House, Representative Jim McGovern (Democrat, Massachusetts) called for an end to coercive measures against Cuba and the country's removal from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 14 October 2023, in Boston, Massachusetts, the National Network on Cuba held its annual meeting, at which it reaffirmed its solidarity with Cuba and its commitment to the fight against the blockade and the country's designation as a State sponsor of terrorism.

On 28 October 2023, the Democratic Socialists of America called for the end of the blockade and the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, during a visit to Havana by various members of the group.

On 30 October 2023, a group of lawmakers from New York State sent a letter to President Biden and the majority leader of the United States Senate, Chuck Schumer

(Democrat, New York), requesting the reversal of the maximum pressure measures implemented by President Trump, the lifting of the economic blockade and the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 9 November 2023, more than 120 Presbyterian churches in the United States sent President Biden a letter in which they called for the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. The churches, which are members of the Cuba Partners Network, referred to the tightening of the blockade under the Administration of President Donald Trump and the effects of the designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism in the area of public health and in other areas associated with the daily lives of Cubans.

On 14 December 2023, a group of lawmakers of the Massachusetts congressional delegation sent President Biden a letter in which they requested the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. The letter was signed by Representatives James McGovern and Ayanna Pressley, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, and State Representatives Seth Moulton, Lori Trahan and Stephen F. Lynch.

On 11 January 2024, House Representative Steve Cohen (Democrat, Tennessee) sent President Joseph Biden a letter in which he requested the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. Mr. Cohen said that, for more than 60 years, the blockade had caused enormous damage to the Cuban economy and people, while at the same time contributing to emigration. The arguments for keeping Cuba in the list were baseless.

On 6 February 2024, the Council of the City of Medford, Massachusetts, approved a resolution in which it requested the United States Government to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism. The Council also called for action to lift the blockade.

On 10 February 2024, the Alliance for Cuba Engagement and Respect, which brings together United States and Cuban-American groups and activists, published an open letter to President Joe Biden, signed by more than 50 organizations and more than 200 individuals residing in the United States, demanding the removal of Cuba from the list of supposed State sponsors of terrorism.

On 16 May 2024, the Center for Engagement and Advocacy in the Americas issued a statement in response to the decision of the Department of State to remove Cuba from the list of States not fully cooperating with United States counter-terrorism efforts. In the statement, the Center welcomed the decision, while calling for further steps, such as the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 24 May 2024, the Communist Party of the United States issued an official statement following the State Department's decision to remove Cuba from the list of States not fully cooperating with United States counter-terrorism efforts. In the statement, the Party called upon President Biden to remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism immediately.

On 28 May 2024, the Latin America Working Group issued an official statement following the announcements of the Department of the Treasury on increased support for the Cuban private sector. The Working Group said that other provisions in force, such as the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism, continued to affect that sector. The Working Group mentioned the obstacles facing the financial sector and tourism as a result of that designation, and the fact that visa waivers were denied to people who were eligible, through their nationality, to use the Electronic System for Travel Authorization but who had travelled to Cuba on or after 12 January 2021.

On 28 May 2024, the Alliance for Cuba Engagement and Respect published a press release in which it stated that, unless Cuba was removed from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, third-country banks and financial institutions would continue to face barriers to their operations in providing services to independent entrepreneurs in Cuba. The organization pointed out that the country's removal from the list was vital to encouraging the resumption of European tourism to the island.

The main activities at the international level were the following:

On 25 March 2023, at their twenty-eighth Summit, held in Santo Domingo, 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 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 12 May 2023, in the final declaration of their ninth Summit, the States members of the Association of Caribbean States requested the United States to remove Cuba from the spurious list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism and reiterated their call for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba.

On 5 July 2023, the need to put an end to the blockade of Cuba was emphasized in the final communiqué adopted at the forty-fifth regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, held in Port of Spain. The leaders of the Community made statements on the matter in the presence of the Secretary of State of the United States, Antony Blinken.

On 18 July 2023, in the declaration adopted at the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union, the participants reiterated their rejection of the blockade and its extraterritorial effect, while recognizing the fact that the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism hindered international financial transactions with the island.

In the final declaration of the Peoples' Summit, which was held in parallel with the third CELAC-European Summit in Brussels, a call was made for the establishment of a road map that would include support for the convening of an international tribunal against the blockade. The declaration also contained a call for Cuba to be removed from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

As a result, on 16 and 17 November 2023, an international tribunal against the blockade of Cuba was held at the European Parliament in Brussels. It was endorsed by the Party of the European Left, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the Left in the European Parliament and the National Lawyers Guild of the United States. The Tribunal found that the blockade was a policy that violated international law and the universal rules that were essential for peaceful coexistence. The recommended course of action was to advocate the strengthening of cooperation with Cuba by stimulating foreign investment and allowing Cuban products to reach European markets.

On 15 and 16 September 2023, the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China was held in Havana, with the theme "Current development challenges: the role of science, technology and innovation". At the Summit, a total of 38 countries denounced the blockade against Cuba.

Between 19 and 26 September 2023, during the general debate at the seventy-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, the heads of delegation of 44

countries condemned the blockade in their statements. In 21 of those statements, the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism was also denounced.

On 23 September 2023, at its twenty-third meeting, held in New York in the context of the seventy-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, the Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People’s Trade Agreement adopted a declaration in which it called for an 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.

In October 2023, the South African Communist Party issued a resolution against the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

In October 2023, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Jamaica passed a resolution in which it condemned the blockade and the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 2 November 2023, the General Assembly adopted, by 187 votes in favour to 2 against, with 1 abstention, resolution 78/7 on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. During the debate and the adoption of the resolution, 53 speakers spoke in favour of lifting the blockade, while 34 spoke against the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism. Also speaking against the blockade and the country’s inclusion in the list were 10 regional consultation groups and organizations of which many countries are members, namely, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, CELAC, the Central American Integration System, the Group of 77 and China, CARICOM, the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of African States and the European Union.

Throughout 2023, the spokespersons of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China consistently made statements in which they requested an immediate end to the blockade policy. Specifically, they made 12 statements on the matter.

From 15 to 20 January 2024, the nineteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was held in Kampala. The final outcome document contained a denunciation of the blockade, criticism of the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism and a call for the country to be removed from the list.

On 21 and 22 January 2024, the Third South Summit was held in Kampala. Its outcome document contained a call for the immediate lifting of the blockade against Cuba.

On 18 February 2024, at the thirty-seventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, the Assembly of the Union adopted, for the fifteenth consecutive time, a resolution on the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba by the United States. For the first time, the Assembly called for the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 26 February 2024, in the Federal Parliament of Australia, a motion against the United States blockade against Cuba was proposed for the first time.

On 2 March 2024, at their eighth Summit, held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Heads of State and Government of CELAC adopted a declaration in which they supported the General Assembly’s call to end the blockade against Cuba. They also requested the removal of Cuba from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism.

They also adopted a special declaration on the need to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States against Cuba and a special declaration on support for the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in which they reiterated the demand that Cuba be removed from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 24 April 2024, at their twenty-third Summit, held in Caracas, the Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement adopted a declaration in which they rejected the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba and demanded the country's removal from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 24 April 2024, at the fourth Cuba-European Union dialogue on unilateral coercive measures, both parties agreed on four joint actions to confront the extraterritorial application of the United States blockade against Cuba.

On 13 May 2024, the national coordinators of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, in the political declaration adopted at their second meeting, held in Caracas, denounced the adverse effects of the blockade and called for it to be lifted. They also urged the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

On 24 May 2024, at its twenty-seventh meeting, the Council for Foreign and Community Relations of CARICOM issued a communiqué in which it once again condemned the blockade against Cuba and called for the blockade to be lifted immediately. The Council welcomed the removal of Cuba from the list of countries not fully cooperating with United States counter-terrorism efforts, while reiterating the call to remove the island from the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[25 January 2024]

To put an end as soon as possible to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed unilaterally by the United States against Cuba is the unanimous demand of the States Members of the United Nations, including Cuba, today, in their effort to achieve sustainable development in a peaceful environment.

Since the very beginning of the foundation of socialist Cuba, the United States has been imposing an overall economic embargo on Cuba for the sole reason that the Cuban people had chosen the socialist system.

Owing to the prolonged, brutal blockade by the United States, the Cuban people have been subjected to immeasurable misfortunes and pains and suffered an astronomical economic loss over the past 60 years.

In recent months alone, the Biden Administration decided to extend the sanctions on Cuba for another year in accordance with the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917.

The unilateral blockade that threatens the sovereignty and the right to existence of the Cuban people is the outcome of the United States hostile policy towards Cuba. It draws condemnation and denunciation from the international community as days go by and leads only to the isolation of the United States itself.

At the summit meeting of the Group of 77 and China that took place in Havana in September 2023, many countries condemned the unjust embargo of the United States on Cuba and called for its immediate withdrawal. It is an expression of firm

and invariable solidarity of the international community with the Government and people of Cuba in the struggle for their righteous cause.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea condemns and rejects the United States coercive measures against Cuba as a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which stipulate the principles of respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs, and as a crime against humanity. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly demands that the United States lift unconditionally and with no further delay the extraterritorial economic and financial embargo against Cuba and delist Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea reiterates its firm support to and solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba in their efforts to safeguard the national dignity and sovereignty and to achieve further economic development.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Original: French]
[2 April 2024]

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 tradition of support for the lifting of the blockade.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo supports any initiative aimed at urging Cuba and the United States of America to pursue a path of constructive, fruitful dialogue that could help to bring about a definitive and mutually beneficial settlement for the peoples and Governments of the two countries.

Djibouti

[Original: English]
[11 January 2024]

The Republic of Djibouti wishes to reaffirm its fundamental commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law. Furthermore, the Republic of Djibouti has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) 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]
[21 March 2024]

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 they relate to the sovereign equality of States, 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 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted on 2 November 2023 with 187 votes of the States Members of the United States, 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 over six decades-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 the 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]
[8 April 2024]

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. The Constitution of the Dominican Republic also accepts an international legal system that ensures respect for basic rights, peace, justice, peaceful coexistence among peoples and the duties of solidarity with all nations.

The Dominican Republic stresses that it does not have laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 78/7.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[28 March 2024]

Ecuador has condemned interference by States in the internal affairs of other States, and any form of intervention, whether armed incursion, aggression, occupation or economic or military blockade.

Ecuador has rejected the application of unilateral coercive measures, as it weakens the multilateral order and the role of the Security Council. Moreover, such measures affect the well-being of the States against which they are applied, as they are motivated by political considerations.

Ecuador has defended the principle of non-interference, as well as respect for the self-determination of peoples. It advocates respect for international law and urges

the two countries to continue to be willing to engage in dialogue in order achieve the definitive lifting of this unilateral sanction against Cuba.

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]
[19 March 2024]

The Arab Republic of Egypt voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), 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 for 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 61 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 31 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]

[16 January 2024]

The Republic of El Salvador, fully respecting the principles and purposes 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 firm commitment to implementing General Assembly resolution 78/7, adopted on 2 November 2023, on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

El Salvador declares that it has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of any kind that are contrary to the provisions of the aforementioned resolution, the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter or the freedom of international trade and navigation, in line with the principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs set out in numerous international legal instruments.

Furthermore, El Salvador has stressed in various regional forums the necessity of ending the unilateral measures, not only to ensure compliance with international law but also because they constitute regrettable actions that have caused incalculable damage to the Cuban people at a time when the world is facing multidimensional crises.

Aware of the serious effects of the blockade on vital areas such as health, education, food, sports and culture, El Salvador reiterates the call made in resolution 78/7 and the contents of all previous General Assembly resolutions on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Equatorial Guinea

[Original: Spanish]

[26 February 2024]

On 2 November 2023, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 78/7, thereby reaffirming its position on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. This decision reflects 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.

For more than 60 years, the Cuban people have been subjected to this blockade, which is hindering progress towards the comprehensive development of their country. This matter has been much debated in international forums, especially in the General Assembly, which has, year after year since 1992, adopted resolutions by an overwhelming majority to urge the United States to lift the embargo.

During the peak years of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emergency, all Governments and humanitarian and scientific bodies were compelled to promote and facilitate international cooperation with a view to finding common solutions to this global pandemic and its consequences. Nevertheless, owing to the United States

blockade against Cuba, the Cuban people struggled to secure access to basic resources, technologies and raw materials needed to strengthen public services and save more lives.

In the light of this suffering, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, leveraging its good relations with both States, encourages the United States to rethink its policy towards Cuba and reiterates that its Government complies fully with the provisions of resolution 78/7 and does not promulgate or apply laws or coercive measures imposing economic, commercial or financial restrictions against the friendly sister Republic of Cuba.

Eritrea

[Original: English]
[29 April 2024]

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 78/7.

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.

In this regard, Eritrea joins other States in calling upon 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]
[27 March 2024]

The Government of Eswatini embraces the “leave no one behind” principle which is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals, hence Eswatini is appreciative of the long-standing cooperation that the Republic of Cuba has with Africa, and particularly the strategic partnership of Cuba with Eswatini in critical times. It is therefore disheartening to learn of the severe obstacles that Cuba has in attaining its socioeconomic goals.

In this regard, the Government of Eswatini wishes to once again join the overwhelming numbers in the international community calling for the immediate end of all measures against the people and the Government of Cuba that are not authorized by the relevant organs of the United Nations and that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations. At this critical juncture, the inclusion of Cuba in the global economy is an essential next step if we are to successfully achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The Government of Eswatini therefore calls upon both the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Cuba, as well as all concerned partners, to work towards restoring positive relations in ending the embargo against Cuba. The Government of Eswatini wishes to further reaffirm its commitment to supporting resolutions that advance the full adherence to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter in strengthening global cooperation and partnership.

Ethiopia

[Original: English]

[21 March 2024]

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 lives 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 and participating in international trade. Ethiopia reiterates the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union and urges the lifting of the unilateral coercive measures against Cuba.

There is an increasing strain on the ability of States to fulfil the needs of their people, characterized by global challenges, including climate change, pandemics, and other local and global challenges. Over the years, Cuba has faced numerous natural hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tropical storms and the resulting destruction to lives and livelihoods. Cuba, like any other State in the community of nations, should be provided with the maximum available cooperation to overcome these challenges. It is therefore imperative to urgently remove embargoes and restrictions on Cuba that prevent it from making full use of its domestic resources and capability to prevent, contain and build resilience against these disasters. The country should not be left to face these problems on its own owing to the unilateral embargo.

Ethiopia encourages open and constructive dialogue to bridge differences and to take steps in lifting the sanctions. Ethiopia believes that 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 unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

European Union

[Original: English]

[28 February 2024]

The European Union and its member States consider that the United States unilateral measures against Cuba should be terminated. 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. The embargo has, inter alia, restricted the ability of Cuba to import pharmaceuticals, medical devices and other medical supplies. The designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism in January 2021 introduced further obstacles to international financial transactions with the island.

Moreover, the measures directed against Cuba negatively affect the interests of the European Union and violate commonly accepted rules of international trade. 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, Council 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, held 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 resisting 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 decision by the Government of the United States to maintain the full activation of Title III and the 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 upon the United States to do the same.

Taking into account the activation of Titles III and 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 investments. This includes Council 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 convinced that constructive but critical 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 Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Cuba, which has been provisionally applied since 1 November 2017, the European Union offers Cuba a consistent and reliable partnership in support of 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]
[8 May 2024]

The Government of Fiji reaffirms its support for the resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and remains concerned about the continued application of the blockade against Cuba. We believe that the United States unilateral measures against Cuba should be ended.

Consequently, the Government of Fiji 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.

Consistent with Fiji's friendly relations with all countries, the Government of Fiji has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by countries that impinge on the sovereignty of another country, which include any attempt to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations, and thereby fully supports every effort that calls for the lifting of the unilateral measures against Cuba.

Gabon

[Original: French]
[23 April 2024]

Gabon once again reiterates its support for the call for the repeal of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which must be brought to a definitive end.

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 [78/7](#) and previous resolutions on the matter.

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

For those reasons, Gabon expresses its strong hope that the United Nations resolutions regarding the collective call for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba will be respected and implemented, with a view to allowing Cuba to participate in and fully benefit from international trade.

Gabon therefore calls on the international community to continue its tireless efforts for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Gambia

[Original: English]
[21 March 2024]

The Government of the Gambia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [78/7](#). 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 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 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 of the United Nations and international law.

It is our fervent desire that the relevant United Nations resolutions echoing collective concerns about 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]
[20 February 2024]

Georgia reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution 78/7. 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]
[3 April 2024]

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

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

Ghana believes that the continued imposition of the unilateral embargo by the United States against Cuba is legally unjustified and no longer tenable, especially at this time, when the negative socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, rising inflation, slow economic growth and the ongoing adverse impacts of climate change have disproportionately affected developing countries and continue to undermine their capacity to recover soon from the crises and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in what remains of the 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 lifting of the unilateral embargo and refrain from promulgating or enforcing laws or measures of the kind referred to in Assembly resolution 78/7. 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]
[20 February 2024]

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

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

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

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

Grenada thus unreservedly supports General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), which urges States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the steps necessary to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime, and specifically speaks to the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

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

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[8 February 2024]

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]
[10 May 2024]

Referring to the rules of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of the Republic of Guinea, faithful to the ideals of the sovereignty and equality of peoples, reaffirms its support for the international community's efforts to lift the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba since 3 February 1962.

The Government of Guinea notes with regret that this blockade negatively affects efforts by the Cuban Government that could have contributed to the economic and social development of the Cuban people, and that this blockade is causing a worrying humanitarian situation and considerable financial losses.

In this context, the Government of Guinea offers its traditional support to the Cuban cause and expresses its commitment to strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation that have always existed between the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Cuba.

The Government of Guinea once again encourages the high authorities of the United States and Cuba to resume the dialogue initiated earlier for the unconditional lifting of the embargo, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

Guinea-Bissau

[Original: French]
[23 April 2024]

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 over 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, 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 [78/7](#).

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]
[19 March 2024]

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 [78/7](#). To this end, and in compliance with paragraph 2 of resolution [78/7](#), Guyana has not promulgated or applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to 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 the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consolidate post-pandemic recovery and grapple with the impacts of climate change.

The Government of Guyana recognizes the active and selfless contributions that Cuba has made over several decades in areas such as human resources development, health, agriculture, sports and culture despite the ongoing embargo and that have been integral to socioeconomic progress in the Caribbean Community, many of the countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region and further afield. 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]
[28 March 2024]

The Government of the Republic of Haiti has never promulgated any laws, legal provisions or measures of the kind referred to in resolution [78/7](#), adopted by the General Assembly on 2 November 2023.

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 navigation and trade. States must act in accordance with these principles of international law and renounce unilateral measures that could affect the social, economic and financial structures of other States.

Based on these principles, the Government of Haiti has always supported the efforts of the sister Republic of Cuba regarding the urgent necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade that has affected 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 bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States of America are normalized, leading to an end to the economic and financial blockade against Cuba.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[20 February 2024]

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

Iceland

[Original: English]
[4 March 2024]

The Government of Iceland reaffirms its position in favour of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#). Iceland neither promulgates nor applies any laws or measures referred to in resolution [78/7](#). 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]
[21 March 2024]

India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

India has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by countries that impinge on the sovereignty of another country. They 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 nineteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kampala, Uganda, on 19 and 20 January 2024 on this subject, the outcome document of the Third South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Kampala on 21 and 22 January 2024, and other high-level decisions of the Movement of Non-Aligned

Countries and the Group of 77 and urges the international community to adopt all measures necessary to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

Indonesia

[Original: English]

[25 March 2024]

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, including the inclusion of Cuba in the list of the United States of America of State sponsors of terrorism on the basis of inconsistent arguments and without proper evidence.

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 of 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, undermines international efforts towards restoring trust in multilateralism and risks leaving the people of Cuba behind.

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 towards normalization of bilateral relations.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]

[5 March 2024]

It has been more than 60 years since the United States unilaterally imposed an illegal and immoral embargo on Cuba. Its effects continue to limit possibilities for the economic growth of Cuba, curb foreign investment, hinder trade relations with third countries and create the maximum barriers possible to banking and other financial operations. For all these decades, the blockade paradigm has benefited no one. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the target of the unlawful and inhumane sanctions of the United States since 1979, categorically opposes the application of any unilateral restrictive measures against sovereign States Members of the United Nations. In this regard, we share the concerns of the Government and people of Cuba and emphasize the urgent need to put an end to such measures.

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 by 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.

With regard to General Assembly resolution 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran remains unchanged. Iran fully supports the implementation of resolution 78/7 in accordance with our historical position of refraining from promulgating or applying laws or measures of the kind indicated in the resolution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran 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. It is noteworthy that, in 2023, several agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed between the two countries. Accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated 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.

We are of the view 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 this regard, we once again express our unwavering solidarity with the people and Government of Cuba and join the global call for the United States to immediately and fully comply with its international obligations, as well as to alleviate the application and enforcement of unilateral coercive measures.

Iraq

[Original: English]

[1 May 2024]

Unilateral coercive measures negatively affect individuals, companies and human rights, resulting from sanctions imposed by one or more countries for political or economic considerations. The negative impacts of unilateral sanctions and unilateral coercive measures are represented in the following matters:

1. *Increased poverty.* Poverty rates tend to rise among poor and middle classes in countries subject to sanctions due to the lack of access to economic resources. The decline in the standard of living occurs when needed supplies and resources in countries subject to sanctions are cut off and the countries become economically isolated. Consequently, these sanctions lead to a noticeable decline in the per capita GDP, which is followed by a deterioration in the country’s general economic situation. Poverty rates are directly proportional to the severity of sanctions in the countries subject to them.

2. *Low level of health.* Although sanctions are not imposed on medicines and medical equipment, they have indirect consequences, represented by the difficulty of providing medicines to the countries under sanctions, which negatively affects the right of citizens to obtain equitable health care as a basic right guaranteed by ethical principles and the rules of international law, as a precondition for achieving equality, and as a legitimate right as long as it meets the needs of individuals without any unfair health-care disparities.

3. *Impeding access to justice.* The right to litigation, as one of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the individual before the competent judicial authorities, is exposed to negative consequences due to unilateral sanctions, including the inability of individuals to pay litigation fees to judicial institutions.

4. *The impact of unilateral economic sanctions on the relations of countries under sanctions with other countries.* Countries often withdraw from bilateral relations due to the restrictions imposed, which creates isolation for the countries under sanctions, such as the abstention of banks and companies from dealing with them.

Recommendations

- Urging all countries to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures that are inconsistent with the rules of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the principles regulating peaceful relations between countries, especially measures whose effects exceed territorial borders and which create obstacles to trade relations between countries.
- Settle differences between countries through dialogue and peaceful means to resolve disputes.
- Iraq has consistently supported the resolutions of the General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.
- Iraq supports diplomatic mediation efforts to encourage negotiations and dialogue to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.
- Iraq welcomes all efforts to normalize relations between the United States of America and Cuba, lift all restrictions and enable the Cuban people to engage freely in trade and economic activities, in keeping with the efforts of the United Nations to achieve sustainable development for all peoples, without exception.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[22 February 2024]

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

In keeping with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/7, 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 24 October 2023, the Parliament passed a resolution that, inter alia, called for renewed dialogue between the United States and Cuba and for the ending of the embargo. Jamaica believes that the embargo constitutes the principal obstacle to the development of the Cuban economy and hinders the implementation of the country's National Plan for Economic and Social Development, as well as efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Jamaica agrees that the imposition of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures 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 resolve of the Government of Cuba to improve the socioeconomic situation of its people, especially as the country recovers from the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and grapples with the challenges of climate change and natural disasters. Measures by the United States that are particularly harmful to the advancement of Cuba include the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, aimed at imposing increased restrictions on travel, the processing of remittances, and hotel accommodation properties, as well as broadening the List of Restricted Entities and Subentities Associated with Cuba to subject them to additional tax sanctions. 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 unwarranted classification deepens the challenges that Cuba has with third parties and ought to be justly removed.

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

Jamaica has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 78/7, that 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 other Member States in affirming this position. The Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community have repeatedly issued public statements rejecting the imposition of these unilateral coercive measures and have called for an immediate and unconditional end of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba.

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]
[2 April 2024]

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 78/7.

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 [78/7](#).

Jordan

[Original: English]
[12 March 2024]

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has not applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [78/7](#). 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]
[18 April 2024]

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]
[9 February 2024]

The Government of Kenya has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#).

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 they have undermined the overall objectives of Cuba of national ownership, sustainable peace and sustainable development.

It is for these reasons that Kenya always votes in favour of the resolutions on the necessity to eliminate this prolonged burden on the Cuban people. The Cuban people deserve a chance for 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]
[14 May 2024]

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati again reiterates, for the tenth time, its support for the implementation of the General Assembly resolution calling upon the United States to bring an end to its decades-long unilateral embargo against Cuba in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

The resolution addresses moral and human considerations, and, when implemented, will contribute positively to the general welfare and well-being of the people of Cuba and to a more peaceful, humane and loving world for all.

Kuwait

[Original: English]
[23 April 2024]

With regard to the General Assembly resolution adopted on 2 November 2023, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” and taking into account the friendly relations between Kuwait and Cuba, the State of Kuwait informs of its support and vote in favour of the implementation of the aforementioned resolution with an emphasis on the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, the State of Kuwait has for many years voted in favour of the resolutions of the General Assembly calling for the lifting of the United States embargo imposed on Cuba.

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: English]
[19 February 2024]

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]
[1 March 2024]

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic reaffirms its consistent position that the embargo, with its extraterritorial implications, not only hinders the socioeconomic development of a nation but also contradicts the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the sovereign equality of States, and freedom of international trade and navigation. 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 [78/7](#).

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

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[10 May 2024]

The Government of Lebanon fully complies with General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), 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]
[27 March 2024]

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

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

Liberia

[Original: English]
[2 May 2024]

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 the General Assembly resolution 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]
[24 April 2024]

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 78/7.

Libya, in keeping with its principled position, voted in favour of resolution 78/7 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]
[26 March 2024]

The Government of the Republic of Madagascar, as a State Member of the United Nations, respects the principles enshrined in its Charter, including the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of another State.

Madagascar supports for this purpose the measures aimed at lifting the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

Malawi

[Original: English]
[23 April 2024]

The Government of the Republic of Malawi, which has diplomatic relations with Cuba, has never promulgated country-specific targeted legislation or instruments barring trade or cooperation with Cuba. As such, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/7, there is not much done to comply with it in terms of the law.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[4 March 2024]

Malaysia remains strongly opposed to all forms of unilateral economic, financial and commercial measures that contravene the norms of international law and the purpose of the Charter of the United Nations.

In line with its principled position on this issue, Malaysia joins other Member States in reiterating its strong support for the lifting of the unilateral embargo against Cuba. 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 78/7, adopted on 2 November 2023.

Malaysia reiterates its firm belief 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 continues to urge an immediate end to the unilateral embargo imposed against Cuba, which has impeded its development and caused significant suffering for the Cuban people.

Maldives

[Original: English]
[25 March 2024]

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 [78/7](#), in support of which the Republic of Maldives has voted.

Mali

[Original: French]
[14 March 2024]

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 [78/7](#), adopted on 2 November 2023, 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]
[3 May 2024]

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]
[25 January 2024]

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]
[27 March 2024]

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 President 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.

Since June 2023, Mexico has been implementing the “Sembrando vida en Cuba” [“Sowing life in Cuba”] programme, which is aimed at increasing agricultural production and strengthening the food sovereignty of the Cuban people; 5,000 campesinos from the provinces of Mayabeque and Artemisa stand to benefit. Through that programme, the structural causes of the migration driven by the consequences of the United States blockade are being addressed.

In the declaration adopted at the “Palenque meeting for a fraternal neighbourhood with well-being”, convened by President López Obrador in October 2023 and attended by the Heads of State of Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela and by delegations from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama, it was established that efforts would be made “to propose to the Governments of Cuba and the United States that they hold, as soon as possible, a comprehensive dialogue on their bilateral relations”.

In Palenque, participants agreed to “urge for the lifting of the unilateral coercive measures imposed against the countries of the region (such as Cuba), as such measures are contrary to international law and have severe ramifications beyond the countries targeted”.

The foregoing is in addition to Mexico’s condemnation of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba; the decision to implement Title III of the Helms-Burton Act has also affected not only the sovereignty of the Cuban people but also the interests of third countries.

Mexico also advocates for the removal of Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism issued by the United States Department of State and remains strongly committed to continuing cooperation and trade, with a view to helping to overcome the challenges facing Cuba.

We recognize that there is a new world geopolitical reality 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 blockade 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 blockade 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, among other impacts.

One example of the effects of the blockade is the deterioration in the ability of Cuba to repay the debt incurred by the Cuban financial institution with the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico, which is currently in default. While efforts are under way to restructure the debt and conclude a debt acknowledgement agreement so that the capital and interest can be recovered, bilateral commercial activities between the institutions have been put on hold, adversely affecting potential benefits not only for businesses (financing programmes, technical cooperation, training and financial services), but also for citizens of the two countries.

Both the financial institution and the Government of Cuba are ready and willing to meet the aforementioned financial obligation.

In the light of the foregoing, we stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba and, in accordance with the policy of the Government of Mexico, we reiterate the need to withdraw the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Monaco

[Original: French]
[16 January 2024]

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 [78/7](#), adopted on 2 November 2023.

Mongolia

[Original: English]
[29 February 2024]

The Government of Mongolia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [78/7](#).

Mongolia reaffirms its commitment to the objectives 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 support for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Furthermore, the coronavirus disease (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 March 2024]

The Government of Montenegro has supported General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), adopted on 2 November 2023, 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 resolution [78/7](#).

Mozambique

[Original: English]
[16 February 2024]

The Republic of Mozambique has never promulgated, applied, collaborated on or contributed to the application of any laws or regulations contravening General Assembly resolution [78/7](#).

This position is consistent with the favourable vote of the Republic of Mozambique in support of the resolution in 2022, 2023 and other previous years.

The Republic of Mozambique unconditionally supports the provisions of resolution [78/7](#) and calls for the unconditional lifting of the embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[11 March 2024]

The Republic of Namibia fully supports General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) and previous Assembly resolutions and decisions concerning the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. Namibia has unequivocally opposed the embargo at all levels at international and regional multilateral forums. Namibia requests that the embargo against the Republic of Cuba be lifted immediately and unconditionally.

On the basis of 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 working group sessions covering various sectors every two years. Namibia and Cuba hosted the fifth session of the Namibia-Cuba joint working group virtually 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 Namibian and Cuban firms and organizations.

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

- In support of the intensification of the 60-year-long United States economic blockade against 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 of Namibia.
- In July 2022, 54 Namibian students of dentistry and 4 of medicine students graduated from various universities in Cuba.
- The Government of Cuba granted two scholarships in medical sciences to the Government of Namibia for the 2023 academic year.
- Twenty Cuban engineers and architects are providing technical assistance in 13 of the 14 regions of Namibia.

The following major events and developments between Namibia and Cuba took place in 2023:

- On 31 July 2023, a cohort of 172 Namibian medical students graduated from various universities in the Republic of Cuba.
- Cuban health professionals continue to extend their services across various regions of Namibia.
- In the areas of defence and security, eight personnel from the Namibian Defence Force are currently receiving military training in Cuba in the areas of computer engineering and exploration electronic engineering.
- In higher education, a framework cooperation agreement between the University of Namibia and the University of Informatics Sciences of Cuba for setting up and developing a computer science area was signed on 7 August 2023, during the visit of a delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education of Cuba to Namibia.
- The State visit of the President of the Republic of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, to the Republic of Namibia from 26 to 28 August 2023.
- Three legal instruments were signed on 27 August 2023, during the State visit of the President of Cuba to Namibia, namely: (a) a memorandum of understanding between the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board and the Centre for the Promotion of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba; (b) a memorandum of understanding on the holding of political and diplomatic consultations; and (c) an agreement between the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Cuba on the transfer of convicted persons.
- During the State visit of the President of Cuba, the two Heads of State agreed to elevate the Namibia-Cuba joint working group to an intergovernmental commission, to be led by ministers responsible for the international relations and foreign affairs of the respective countries. Both countries are working towards finalizing the memorandum of understanding on the establishment of an intergovernmental commission for bilateral cooperation.
- Namibia and Cuba agreed to extend the services of 21 Cuban specialists across Namibia in the areas of construction, engineering and housing. The agreement

between Namibia and Cuba regarding the latter has been extended to the year 2030.

- In terms of environmental management and protection, the two countries are working towards finalizing the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment of the Republic of Cuba and the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism of the Republic of Namibia.
- A number of high-ranking government officials undertook official visits to the Republic of Cuba. Nangolo Mbumba and Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah participated in bilateral meetings during their visit to Cuba for the Group of 77 and China. Utoni Nujoma undertook an official visit to the Republic of Cuba from 25 to 30 November 2023, and the Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia participated in the fiftieth anniversary of the Cuban Court of Justice from 20 to 22 December 2023.

Nauru

[Original: English]
[5 April 2024]

The Republic of Nauru respectfully reaffirms its commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in internal affairs. The Republic of Nauru also recognizes the importance of the freedom of international trade and navigation, as established by international law.

The Republic of Nauru wishes to express its concern with the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and wishes to emphasize the importance of ending the embargo, especially in these challenging times when the global community is facing multiple crises. The Republic of Nauru fully supports and complies with General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), which calls for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba imposed by the United States of America.

The Republic of Nauru urges all parties concerned to approach this issue with an open mind and a spirit of cooperation, in order to find a mutually beneficial solution.

Nepal

[Original: English]
[11 March 2024]

The Government of Nepal has firmly adhered to the provisions of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) and has not enacted or applied any laws or measures contrary to the resolution.

New Zealand

[Original: English]
[10 May 2024]

The Government of New Zealand reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#). 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]
[29 January 2024]

The Government of Nicaragua defends and promotes 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 in the new multipolar world order.

The Government of National Unity and Reconciliation reaffirms its long-desired goal of international understanding and peaceful coexistence between nations 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, free from external interference of any kind.

Like all developing countries and the international community as a whole, we note with concern that the illegal unilateral coercive measures and the blockade imposed even in a post-pandemic era are becoming a crime against humanity.

Nicaragua considers that the international community as a whole must continue to condemn and demand an end to the criminal and inhumane economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against the people and Government of Cuba, which is hampering their development and their right to live peacefully and free from threats.

The Government of the United States, by failing to comply with the 31 General Assembly resolutions adopted in 31 consecutive years, has demonstrated its lack of respect and its disregard 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. It is an irrational posture that clearly conveys the supremacy and exclusive exceptionalism of the United States power elite, inherent to neocolonialism.

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 Cuba; the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of that brotherly country on the State Department's list of State sponsors of terrorism; the attack on all sources of income and foreign currency inflows; the intimidation of third parties; and the strengthening of pressure on Governments, banking institutions and business owners 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, violating all human rights and undermining the efforts of the courageous Cuban people to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals.

This immoral, illegal and inhumane blockade, which violates international law, has caused cumulative damage in the amount of \$159,084.3 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 in terms of the enjoyment of human rights, the right to development and the right to live in peace.

Nicaragua finds it admirable that Cuba – as a result of its conscience, its revolutionary fighting spirit, its conviction and its socialist commitment to the world – has managed to be on a par with the developed countries that punish, block and attack it, and to produce vaccines to help not only developing peoples but developed countries as well.

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 who defend their dignity.

Nicaragua hopes that the General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to this illegal policy against Cuba will be respected and implemented. We once again urge the United States to initiate a respectful dialogue aimed at resolving its pending bilateral issues with Cuba, on the basis of the equality of States, reciprocity and respect for the sovereignty and independence of that Nation.

Niger

[Original: French]

[25 January 2024]

The United States embargo against Cuba, which was enacted in February 1962 following nationalizations involving the expropriation of United States companies, and which 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 the internal affairs of States and freedom of international trade and navigation, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and reiterates that it has no intention of applying any laws or measures of any type whereby embargoes are imposed against a sovereign State.

Niger reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, and for all relevant United Nations bodies, as well as for the positions taken, among others, by the Non-Aligned Movement and by the Group of 77 and China, calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba.

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

The Republic of the Niger thus continues to offer its solidarity and steadfast support to Cuba and trusts, once again, that it will be able to rely on the support of the international community for ending said blockade.

Nigeria

[Original: English]
[29 January 2024]

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 against Cuba would be a demonstration of peaceful settlement of disputes in the international system.

Norway

[Original: English]
[25 March 2024]

The Government of Norway reaffirms its position in favour of General Assembly resolution 78/7. 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 waiving 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. Norway also encourages the United States to remove Cuba from its designation as a State sponsor of terrorism.

Oman

[Original: English]
[23 January 2024]

The Government of Oman complies with and implements General Assembly resolution 78/7 and does not apply any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the said resolution.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[28 March 2024]

Pakistan is fully in observance of General Assembly resolution 78/7, on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[7 March 2024]

Panama reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution 78/7 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 declaration issued in Kingstown in March 2024. The Republic of Panama continues to enter into bilateral, economic, trade and cooperation agreements with the Republic of 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 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 78/7.

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]
[7 May 2024]

Papua New Guinea reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution 78/7 on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. In this spirit, Papua New Guinea does not condone any extraterritorial application of laws and regulations that infringe on the sovereignty of other United Nations Member States.

Papua New Guinea, at present, does not have restrictive legislative, policy or other measures against Cuba but on the contrary believes in 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]

[21 March 2024]

Paraguay fully supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) 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]

[27 March 2024]

The economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba is an anachronistic measure that, after more than 60 years, has not yielded the results it was established to achieve. On the contrary, its adverse effects have mainly affected the Cuban people and have sparked opposition in most countries around the world.

The blockade is detrimental to the economic growth of Cuba, hinders its economic development and limits its population's access to resources, such as technology, private loans and international markets, as well as to basic rights, such as food, health and other social services.

Peru believes that the unilateral imposition of a blockade is incompatible with international law, the principles of peaceful coexistence and the Charter of the United Nations, in addition to being a violation of international trade rules and the principles of cooperation between States.

At the multilateral level, Peru has voiced its firm opposition of this measure on multiple occasions, having voted in favour of not only General Assembly resolution [47/19](#) on the necessity of ending the embargo in 1992 but all Assembly resolutions on the matter. At the bilateral level, Peru will continue to promote commercial relations with Cuba under the framework of the Economic Complementarity Agreement, in effect since 2001.

Peru once again reiterates its firm commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular the sovereign equality of States, the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, freedom of international trade and navigation, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

These principles are the cornerstone of the Peruvian position on the blockade, reflected in the historic speech delivered by Raúl Porras Barrenechea in his capacity

as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of American States in 1960. In the very spirit of unity evoked by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peru believes that the current juncture is critical to promoting dialogue and cooperation as alternative solutions to this unilateral coercive measure.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[14 March 2024]

The Philippines continues to support the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 78/7 for the following reasons:

The embargo has been perceived as a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the sovereignty of Cuba, as it prevents the country from freely participating in global trade, which has implications for the country's journey towards sustainable development. By supporting the resolution, the Philippines is sending a message that it respects the sovereignty of all nations and believes that countries should be free to engage in trade and commerce for the prosperity of all people.

The embargo has had a severe impact on the Cuban people, restricting their access to essential goods and services. The lifting of the embargo will afford Cuba greater access to necessary medicine, food and other supplies, which could help to alleviate some of the economic hardships that the Cuban people continue to experience. Furthermore, this will help to improve the human rights situation in Cuba by allowing the country to import the supplies necessary to provide basic services to its citizens, in accordance with article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The embargo has limited the access of Cuba to educational resources and opportunities, which has had a negative impact on the country's education system. Lifting the embargo would provide new opportunities for Cuban students and teachers to gain access to educational resources in their country and abroad.

The embargo has significantly limited the access of Cuba to technology and equipment that could help the country to address development challenges, including the full implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Lifting the embargo would promote regional stability by reducing instability in the Caribbean region. This could have positive economic implications for the Philippines, which has a stake in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Cuba would be able to participate more fully in the global economy, promoting international trade and investment. This will also provide new opportunities for business from the global South, including Philippine business, to gain access to the Cuban market and vice versa, which could lead to increased economic activity and job creation in the global South.

Lifting the embargo could also potentially contribute to the recovery of global tourism. Greater participation of Cuba in tourism would not only facilitate the growth and development of the country's tourism sector but also contribute to the development of related industries through positive spillover effects. Furthermore, greater participation of Cuba in global tourism would create opportunities for the tourism sector in the global South, including the Philippines, to promote and market its countries' tourism destinations to the Cuban market.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[12 March 2024]

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 the 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]
[19 January 2024]

Since 1999, the Government of the Republic of Korea has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Therefore, the Republic of Korea has not applied laws and administrative measures of the kind that are referred to in General Assembly resolution [78/7](#).

Republic of Moldova

[Original: English]
[10 January 2024]

The Republic of Moldova fully upholds the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and has neither promulgated nor applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) on the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Republic of North Macedonia

[Original: English]
[19 March 2024]

The Republic of North Macedonia has neither applied nor promulgated any unilateral sanctions or embargo and reiterates that it fully implements General Assembly resolution [78/7](#).

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[28 March 2024]

Russia supports the immediate lifting of the illegitimate United States blockade against Cuba. Similar resolutions reaffirming the unwavering solidarity of the international community with the Cuban people have been supported by the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations since 1992.

The economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, which has lasted for more than 60 years now, is the manifestation of a neocolonial policy designed to force a sovereign State to abandon its independence and its own development path in favour of the overt dictates of Washington. The sanctions

pressure exerted on Cuba from the United States is a blatant example of the violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, in particular, interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, and an unconscionable practice whereby inter-State relations are conducted through the application of unilateral restrictive measures.

We consider such a discriminatory policy to be a challenge to the entire system of international relations, as it undermines the foundations of regional and global stability and normalizes the use of illegal sanctions. The long-term pressure on Cuba by the United States is having a destructive effect on the process of Havana's full-scale integration into the global financial and economic architecture.

The United States embargo is a heavy burden, especially for the people of Cuba, since it limits the enjoyment of their legitimate rights to a decent life. The illegitimate actions of the United States are strangling vital sectors of the economy and depriving ordinary Cubans of the very basic human rights to which American champions of democracy in the world pay so much lip service.

The enormous losses that the United States embargo has caused the Cuban economy are clear. As of October 2023, the overall damage to the Cuban economy throughout the history of the embargo has risen to \$159 billion. Taking into account the depreciation of the dollar against the price of gold, that now represents \$1.3 trillion.

Cuba's experience in resisting the embargo policy and sanctions pressure and its extensive participation in international cooperation and integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean clearly demonstrate the failure, futility and short-sightedness of the United States policy of dictating to an island of freedom. Cuba has shown remarkable resilience and courage and has moved forward resolutely in its development, despite the obstacles and difficulties created by Washington. At the same time, Cuba pursues constructive and highly respected policies in the international arena in defence of the rights and interests of developing States, finding opportunities to help others. Havana is in fact a symbol of the struggle against the vestiges of the post-colonial world order.

We also believe that the United States keeping Cuba on its completely arbitrary list of so-called State sponsors of terrorism is nothing more than another tool to exert pressure on the Cuban Government and a pretext for continuing the illegal and inhumane blockade.

In line with our unchanged policy, we call for the immediate and complete lifting of the United States embargo against Cuba as an odious manifestation of hegemonic policies against international efforts to build a more just and democratic multipolar world based on a balance of interests, the principles of equality and respect for each other. In this regard, it is important to recall the words of the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro: "We must firmly fight against the blockade, because it is the main obstacle to our development; it is not only a ban on trade with Cuba, but also a symbol of the pressure that the United States of America exerts on the whole world."

Rwanda

[Original: English]
[28 March 2024]

The position of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda remains unchanged regarding the resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Rwanda, like the majority of States Members of the United Nations, voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, adopted by the Assembly on 2 November 2023.

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 78/7, reaffirms its support for said resolution and has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the resolution. The Government of Rwanda stresses that there are no legal or regulatory impediments to free transit or trade between Rwanda and Cuba.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

[Original: English]

[3 April 2024]

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis is fully committed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, which constitute the core values of multilateralism. Mindful of its commitments to the international community, Saint Kitts and Nevis continues to support the Republic of Cuba in its ongoing efforts to eliminate the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America for over 60 years.

In recent years there have been noticeable shifts in the relationship between the United States and Cuba, particularly with the current United States Government taking steps to ease restrictions on remittances and flights to the island nation. However, these measures do not constitute a complete reversal of the embargo, which continues to have significant negative impacts on the Cuban economy and impose untold suffering on the people.

Notably, Cuba has experienced additional obstacles from rising fuel costs that further compound the economic strain caused by the embargo. This underscores the urgent need for a resolution to the long-standing issue, as it has profound socioeconomic consequences for the Cuban people.

Despite these challenges, Cuba remains a steadfast ally to Saint Kitts and Nevis by demonstrating its dedication to supporting our health sector through initiatives such as the Cuban medical brigade and the Cuban Government scholarship programme. This partnership serves as a testament to the resilience and solidarity between our two nations, even in the face of external pressures and restrictions.

Given this context, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis wishes to reiterate the need for meaningful dialogue and cooperation between Cuba and the United States to address all outstanding issues, including the lifting of this outdated embargo, and foster a more constructive relationship based on mutual respect.

The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis therefore stands in solidarity with the Republic of Cuba and joins the international community in supporting the resolution entitled, “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” as it is our fervent belief that General Assembly resolution 74/7, which promotes free trade, must be upheld without condition.

Saint Lucia

[Original: English]
[19 January 2024]

The Government of Saint Lucia affirms its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The Government of Saint Lucia, in compliance with international legal obligations and 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]
[27 March 2024]

Every year, the membership of the United Nations votes overwhelmingly in favour of the resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”. By virtue of its adoption, the General Assembly unequivocally condemns the ongoing blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Within this context, the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses its concern about the perpetuation of these measures, the devastating and destructive consequences of which are borne by the people of Cuba. These extraterritorial and unilateral coercive measures imposed on Cuba are not only anachronistic but a threat to the sovereignty of the people of Cuba. We highlight that these measures also undermine efforts by the Government of Cuba towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals, centred on the promise of leaving no one behind.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recalls the cornerstone principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, namely the sovereign equality of all States, non-intervention and non-interference. Adherence to and the equal application of the principles are prerequisites for the peaceful coexistence of States and are indispensable to effective multilateralism.

The Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba and echo the overwhelming calls for the immediate removal of these illegal and counterproductive measures.

Samoa

[Original: English]
[7 May 2024]

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

The embargo on the people of Cuba must end. It is a relic of the cold war era. As a member of the United Nations family and as a small island developing State, Cuba deserves to be treated like other members, with respect, dignity and pragmatism in international relations.

By restoring relations with Cuba, the United States stands to be in a much better place to engage in more constructive dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual concern and thereby effect much-needed changes in their economic, social and security relations. Resuming travel and cultural exchanges between the United States and Cuba could promote also greater understanding and goodwill between the two peoples.

On the economic front, opening trade with Cuba could create opportunities for both countries. Cuba has untapped markets for American goods and services, while United States businesses could benefit from investing in Cuba's emerging economy. In the tourism sphere, increased tourism could also provide a much-needed boost to Cuba's economy.

On humanitarian grounds, the embargo has had adverse effects on the Cuban people, limiting their access to essential goods such as food, medicine and other necessities. Lifting the embargo could alleviate the suffering of ordinary Cubans and improve their quality of life.

In the current climate of mistrust and geopolitical manoeuvring, it is crucial that members of the United Nations family demonstrate humanity and goodwill in our joint efforts to achieve future resilient prosperity and leaving no one behind.

San Marino

[Original: English]
[1 February 2024]

The Republic of San Marino has always and generally been against any imposition of any embargo and is therefore against the imposition of the unilateral embargo against Cuba as a means of pressure and because of the serious repercussions for the population.

Sao Tome and Principe

[Original: French]
[9 March 2024]

At the thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held on 17 and 18 February, a resolution was

unanimously adopted calling for the sanctions imposed on the Republic of Cuba, a State Member of the United Nations, to be lifted.

In the same resolution, the 55 member States of the African Union condemned the inclusion of the Republic of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe considers that such unilateral action against the Republic of Cuba violates the democratic principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular with regard to fundamental rights, such as the right to life and health.

In a spirit of brotherhood, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe stands in solidarity with the Cuban people, who have been suffering for 60 years.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]
[25 March 2024]

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 purposes and 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 February 2024]

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

Serbia

[Original: English]
[29 February 2024]

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 [78/7](#) 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]

[30 January 2024]

In support of General Assembly resolution 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, which was adopted on 2 November 2023, the Government of the Republic of Seychelles joins the international community in endorsing its contents.

Seychelles is a firm proponent of the equality of sovereign States and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other States. In accordance with these values, Seychelles opposes the application of extraterritorial laws and regulations, as well as any unwarranted, unilateral, coercive economic measures.

As a result, Seychelles emphasizes the value of economic welfare and respect for human rights for all peoples, and it acknowledges that the United States blockade against Cuba is infringing on these principles. Seychelles is in favour of attempts by both sides to lift the embargo and allow Cuba to be fully reintegrated into the international 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]

[21 February 2024]

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 reaffirms 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 78/7, 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]
[8 January 2024]

The Government of Singapore reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution 78/7. Singapore has consistently supported resolutions calling for an end to the United States trade embargo against Cuba since 1995 and has voted in their favour.

Solomon Islands

[Original: English]
[27 March 2024]

Solomon Islands, in its support for General Assembly resolution 78/7, calls for the 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. Such unilateral action undermines the spirit of multilateralism and Cuba's progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Solomon Islands urges its friend and partner the United States of America to lift the unjust economic and financial embargo placed on Cuba. This is an opportunity to rebuild trust, reignite solidarity and to leave no one behind.

Solomon Islands appreciates the generosity of the Government and people of Cuba for the support to the Solomon Islands health sector through the training of medical doctors over recent years.

South Africa

[Original: English]
[14 March 2024]

In adopting General Assembly resolution 78/7, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", on 2 November 2023, South Africa joined 187 States voting in favour of the resolution put forward every year against the United States embargo, with only Israel and the United States voting against and Ukraine abstaining.

The United States designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism and the enforcement of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act further entrench the embargo.

South Africa is steadfast in its unwavering support – together with the majority of the international community – in voting in favour of the lifting the United States embargo and also of the removal of Cuba from the list of countries designated by the United States as a State sponsor of terrorism.

South Africa is concerned by the damaging impact that the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba has on the livelihoods of the Cuban people, especially the poor and vulnerable.

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, and not to inflict further harm on vulnerable Cuban citizens.

Trade between South Africa and Cuba is hampered by the United States embargo and the extraterritorial application of the sanctions on third countries. The United States embargo increases the legal, economic, financial and commercial risks of doing

business with Cuba. Its extraterritorial application remains a major constraint on the strengthening of bilateral trade relations.

The embargo remains a major impediment for South African companies to conducting business with Cuba. Nevertheless, relations between South Africa and Cuba continue to serve as an exemplary model of South-South cooperation. South Africa has strengthened its bilateral cooperation programmes with Cuba and pursued new areas of cooperation, such as in infrastructure development, agriculture, education, and science and innovation.

The United States embargo is the most significant obstacle for Cuba in its quest to realize its development objectives, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Shortages of all basic products, exacerbated by the United States embargo, have resulted in near-hyperinflation levels, especially in the food sector, where scarcity is driving prices beyond the reach of most Cubans, in particular those who cannot rely on remittance payments. Large-scale fuel price increases in Cuba are also likely to lead to increases in the price of food and other items, which could further amplify the harm inflicted by the United States embargo on the Cuban population.

The Government of Cuba relies on tourism and the export of professional skills as key drivers of the economy. Cuba deploys many doctors as part of exchange programmes that assist in injecting capital into the economy. The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in Cuba are other emerging sectors. The United States embargo, however, continues to prevent the full potential of these sectors from being exploited, leading to hundreds of millions in potential revenue losses.

South Africa commends those countries that have taken measures to mitigate the specific effects of the Helms-Burton Act and to request that third-party countries support Cuba and its people by scrapping any domestic laws or regulations that continue to hamper the development of Cuba and its people. The same appeal is made towards removing Cuba from the United States list designating the country as a State sponsor of terrorism. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains at risk when the embargo prevents a Member State from participating fairly in its own socioeconomic development.

South Africa appeals once again to the international community to renew 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 ensuring the further sustainable progress of the people of Cuba.

South Sudan

[Original: English]
[14 May 2024]

The Republic of South Sudan expresses deep concern regarding the ongoing economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba.

In alignment with the majority of States Members of the United Nations and with African Union resolutions, South Sudan calls for the lifting of the embargo. It views the embargo as a unilateral action that contradicts the principals of international law and hinders the economic growth and social development of Cuba. South Sudan calls for the implementation of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) to end this embargo, recognizing its negative impact.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]
[12 March 2024]

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 provisions of General Assembly resolution 78/7. It is clear that the unilateral sanctions imposed against Cuba have had harmful effects on civilian life, creating shortages of goods and services. Unilateral sanctions, in general, have also been ineffective in the promotion and protection of the human rights of the targeted country.

Sri Lanka has continuously supported the adoption of the resolutions on this item in 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.

Sudan

[Original: English]
[15 February 2024]

The Sudan fully supported resolution 78/7 by voting in its favour in the General Assembly.

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

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

Like Cuba, the peoples of the Sudan have been suffering tremendously from the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Sudan more than 15 years ago. These sanctions impede any progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and integration into the international monetary system. The health sector, along with other sectors, has been hit hard by these sanctions.

To that effect, the Sudan participates every year in the debate of the General Assembly on the agenda item under which resolution 78/7 was adopted and votes with the majority of Member States in favour of Assembly resolutions prohibiting the imposition of such unilateral measures and sanctions.

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan reaffirms that it does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that could, by being applied outside its

own national borders, affect the sovereignty of any State. The Government of the Republic of the Sudan calls for the repeal of laws that impose such measures.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Sudan opposes the economic and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has caused damage and suffering for the Cuban people, being a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter. Since the adoption of resolution [78/7](#), the Government of the Republic of the Sudan has put the issue at hand before the concerned multilateral organs, with a view to mobilizing support for the elimination of all forms of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

Suriname

[Original: English]
[23 April 2024]

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. The impact of this embargo on the Cuban people has been significant, affecting their access to essential goods and services, including health care and education.

In the light of the above, Suriname calls for the lifting of the commercial, economic and financial embargo against Cuba, which harms 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 [78/7](#).

Switzerland

[Original: French]
[29 February 2024]

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 2023. Switzerland considers that the economic, financial and commercial measures taken against the Republic of Cuba have negative repercussions for the living conditions of the Cuban people and exacerbate economic hardships. For these reasons, they should be repealed.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

[19 January 2024]

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 resolution 78/7.

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 78/7. 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 view of the deteriorating situation at the regional and international levels, the demand to end the blockade of Cuba takes on a particular urgency, given the implications that it has for the lives of the Cuban people, their right to self-determination and their ambitions for the achievement of economic and social development.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the exclusionary policies pursued by the United States of America towards a number of developing countries, the embargo it has imposed by force on the Cuban people for more than 50 years, and its implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (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 the illegal step taken in 2020 to employ a new instrument of war, namely, including Cuba in lists of ostensible State sponsors of international terrorism. For Cuba to remain on such lists compounds its economic difficulties with regard to conducting international trade and financial or banking transactions and 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. They affect the daily lives of all Syrians and hinder their enjoyment of their rights. They also obstruct efforts by the Syrian Government to respond to humanitarian needs, restore security and bring about peace and prosperity.

Finally, the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its unwavering commitment to the principles of the Charter, 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 resolution 78/7; 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 towards the peoples of Member States.

Tajikistan

[Original: English]
[8 May 2024]

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. In this context, Tajikistan supports General Assembly resolution 78/7 and all previous Assembly resolutions calling for lifting the blockade against Cuba. The Government of Tajikistan has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures against Cuba that would hinder economic, commercial or financial relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Cuba.

The economic, financial and commercial measures imposed on Cuba severely affect the living standards of its people, impeding access to essential resources and hindering economic stability and development efforts.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[26 January 2024]

Since 1994, the Royal Thai Government has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade and economic embargo against Cuba, including the recent General Assembly resolution 78/7, adopted on 2 November 2023.

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 its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as caused suffering for its people.

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

Timor-Leste

[Original: English]
[22 March 2024]

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 78/7 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 in the most effective and timely manner, as well as weaken its capacity to implement the rule of law.

Togo

[Original: French]
[5 February 2024]

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 and other actors 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]
[2 May 2024]

The Kingdom of Tonga adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and accepted under international law, in particular, the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and the freedom of international trade and navigation. Thus, the Kingdom of Tonga has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 78/7. The Kingdom of Tonga maintains friendly and diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[28 March 2024]

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago considers as sacrosanct 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.

The purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter and international law are incongruent with discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws. Trinidad and Tobago does not advocate the application of 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.

There is a long tradition of shared cordial and productive relations between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba. From 1972, when diplomatic relations were established, an important dimension of this interaction has been economic in nature. 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.

Frank dialogue involving Cuba concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo is welcomed by Trinidad and Tobago.

Support for the revocation of such measures is reiterated by Trinidad and Tobago, which 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]
[25 March 2024]

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 [78/7](#) and all 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]
[21 March 2024]

The Republic of Türkiye does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution [78/7](#). 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]
[5 February 2024]

The Government of Turkmenistan supports the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/7, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

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

Turkmenistan emphasizes the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, including those enshrined in many international legal instruments.

The Government of Turkmenistan supports the establishment of a constructive dialogue with the active participation of the relevant agencies of the United Nations system in resolving issues between the parties as a mechanism to promote peace.

Tuvalu

[Original: English]
[13 May 2024]

The Government of Tuvalu continues to embrace the principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations, which emphasize solidarity, cooperation and equitable relations among nations. In line with this, Tuvalu stands firmly in favour of lifting the economic, commercial, immigration and financial restrictions imposed on Cuba. We believe that such measures hinder – rather than foster – the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals by the Cuban Government and its people. The recent strides made towards improving relations between the United States and Cuba are commendable, aligning with the Charter’s emphasis on sovereignty and equality among nations and peoples.

The Government of Tuvalu has neither enacted nor enforced any legislation or measures targeting Cuba. It stands in full support of the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, echoing the persistent and unanimous calls from the majority of United Nations Member States. Lifting the embargo would assist Republic of Cuba in strengthening and expanding its collaboration with small island developing States, such as Tuvalu.

Uganda

[Original: English]

[12 April 2024]

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 impeded the full achievement of economic and social development in the country.

All countries have an inalienable right to development. Based on this conviction, Uganda rejects the United States embargo on Cuba as a violation of the rights of sovereignty, development and well-being of the Cuban people.

In this 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]

[27 March 2024]

The United Arab Emirates voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), which was adopted with 187 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 against 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]

[10 May 2024]

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 the nascent private sector of Cuba, the development of which is important for the island's economic prospects. Restrictions on travel, both of Cuban citizens to the United States and of United States citizens to Cuba, reduce the exposure of the Cuban people to United States citizens and the exchange of values, ideas and social and cultural understanding.

The extraterritorial effects of the embargo – in particular the activation of Titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act – prevent and restrict the conduct by foreign

companies, including British companies, of legitimate and lawful business in Cuba. The United Kingdom considers the extraterritorial effects of Titles III and IV to be contrary to international law and will continue to defend vigorously the right of British businesses to conduct trade with, and invest in, Cuba. To protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the United Kingdom against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation, the United Kingdom has promulgated blocking legislation, which prohibits compliance with the Helms-Burton Act and includes provisions for counterclaims to be brought against United States plaintiffs in United Kingdom courts.

The United Kingdom shares the serious concerns of many of our partners about restrictions on civil, political and other human rights in Cuba. We will continue to raise those concerns directly with the Government of Cuba and publicly. The United Kingdom considers that dialogue and engagement with Cuba and the Cuban people are the best ways to encourage progress in Cuba and to promote greater respect for human rights of all kinds. We consider that the United States embargo has the effect of making economic reforms, which will serve the best interests of the Cuban people, more difficult to achieve.

United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]
[25 March 2024]

Tanzania continues to call for the immediate end of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. As it has stated previously, Tanzania reiterates that the embargo continues to hurt the Cuban economy and impede the Cuban people from realizing their full potential. The application of these measures against Cuba also violates international human rights and humanitarian law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and undermines multilateralism. Tanzania, a staunch believer in the United Nations and its core values, has always advocated the peaceful coexistence of nations, respect for the sovereign equality of States, and fair and open trading among nations. Tanzania thus naturally objects to the imposition of unilateral coercive measures against any State Member of the United Nations. For this reason, Tanzania will continue to stand in solidarity with Cuba and other victims of such measures anywhere in the world.

Tanzania underscores and welcomes the reforms adopted by the Government of Cuba in recent years, which, among others, seek to improve the economy of the country and the well-being of its people. Similarly, Tanzania recognizes the positive steps undertaken by the current United States Administration to remove some of the restrictions that had inflicted unnecessary suffering on the Cuban people. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, under the able leadership of its President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, is a firm advocate of reforms, reconciliation, building resilience and the rebuilding of communities and countries that previously suffered from conflicts, underdevelopment, poverty and other forms of systemic inhibitions, including the economic and financial embargo, that the Cuban people have been subjected to for decades. Tanzania thus urges the parties concerned to undertake necessary reforms to improve government-to-government and people-to-people relations, reconcile their differences, rebuild trust and cooperate to achieve a resilient future for the peoples of the two countries, the region and the world.

In contributing to the report of the Secretary-General of 2012 on this subject, Tanzania had expressed hope for the steps that were then being undertaken by the Government of the United States of America. However, that hope faded in the succeeding years. Somehow, the current United States Administration has rekindled that hope. Tanzania is optimistic about the prospects for the cessation of the economic

and financial embargo imposed against Cuba and the continued improvement of the bilateral ties between Cuba and the United States of America, which will only contribute to the enhanced enjoyment of human rights, peace, security and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[12 January 2024]

With regard to General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) 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]
[27 February 2024]

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), 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 this resolution and has never promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in its preamble.

Vanuatu

[Original: English]
[1 May 2024]

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]

[22 March 2024]

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 62 years since the entry into force of the economic, commercial and financial blockade 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. These measures, which were adopted for political reasons, directly affect the effective fulfilment of human rights, are selective and, in most cases, are being promoted for the purposes of exacerbating a particular set of domestic political conditions and creating situations that may lead to conflicts that could be exploited by the country that adopted the measures.

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.

The tightening of these measures since 2019 has escalated them to a qualitatively more harmful and inhumane level. In addition, the United States Department of State has arbitrarily and unjustifiably included Cuba on its unilateral list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism, as part of the United States Government's strategy of isolating Cuba and provoking the collapse of its economy, a strategy that has been implemented incrementally over the years.

This is compounded by elements of non-conventional and multidimensional warfare against Cuba, since these measures are accompanied by aggression on the political, diplomatic, media and communications fronts – aggression that the United States replicates against other sovereign nations that do not submit to its interventionist policy.

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 blockade upheld against the Republic of Cuba for more than six decades, the country had, as of 2023, suffered damage in excess of \$154,217.3 million, demonstrating the pernicious effects of the unrelenting continuation of the blockade.

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 intensified the blockade against the Republic of Cuba, thereby hindering the response to the emergency and making it even more harmful and inhumane. According to official data, Cuba is capable of producing more than 60 per cent of its essential medicines; however, this level has not been attained for months owing to the impact of the United States blockade on the country's capacity to pay.

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](#), [77/7](#) and [78/7](#), which when adopted set all-time records in terms of votes in favour at the United Nations.

Among the actions taken within the United Nations, Venezuela welcomes the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution [78/135](#), entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries". In operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the resolution, the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion; to study, inter alia, the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development; and to submit to the Assembly at its eightieth session a report with a particular focus on the impacts of unilateral economic measures on the achievement of sustainable development.

The imposition of unilateral measures and blockades 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.

To cite a few examples, it is important to mention the report on secondary sanctions, overcompliance and human rights ([A/78/196](#)), prepared in 2023 by the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan. In paragraph 41 of the report, she indicates that the European Union, itself a sponsor of sanctions, has highlighted the devastating effects of the United States embargo against Cuba on European Union economic interests and on European Union citizens' and businesses' economic and commercial relations with Cuba, due to the extraterritorial application of such

measures, which is considered to be in violation of commonly accepted rules of international trade, including the obligations of the World Trade Organization.

Following up on that point, paragraph 47 of the report indicates that limited access to foreign currencies and international food markets has significantly reduced the availability of food commodities and machinery for agricultural production in Cuba. Even the implementation of food programmes by United Nations agencies is reported to be hampered by rising costs for imports, cancellations of maritime transport contracts and delays in deliveries of goods, or rejections and delays of banking transactions to and from suppliers. Furthermore, restrictions imposed on Cuban businesses to trade in United States dollars and other currencies hinder payments for certifications of Cuban products, while the inability of suppliers to deliver products purchased from United States companies to Cuba results in rising costs of procurement via alternative routes.

Likewise, paragraph 48 indicates that shipping companies have reduced their capacity and the volume of goods transported to Cuba, and only 9 of 518 requests from the Cuban agricultural sector on the international market for tractors, motors, batteries, forklifts and spare parts for agricultural machinery were approved in 2022 owing to a “fear of being punished” because of the blockade imposed against the Cuban people.

With respect to the right to health, in paragraph 53 of the report, the Special Rapporteur notes the growing number of reported cases of pharmaceutical companies refusing to deliver medicine, medical equipment, spare parts, technology or post-sale services to sanctioned countries, breaking decades-long contracts. She also notes the challenges faced by banks in the countries under sanctions when acquiring letters of credit or making payments for medical imports, and the refusals by delivery and insurance companies, which force sanctioned countries and their entities to find riskier and costlier alternative procurement routes, with possible adverse impacts on the quality of procured medical goods, including as the result of a failure to store sensitive medicines and vaccines properly.

The report also indicates that, in early 2022, owing to the ongoing United States embargo against Cuba, the Dutch multinational bank Internationale Nederlanden Groep decided to block all donations that an international delegation intended to send to Cuba as part of an initiative to support access to vaccines against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic worldwide; pursuant to article 7 of the Rome Statute, this constitutes a crime against humanity.

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 [78/7](#) 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 blockades and other arbitrary and unilateral measures, and must comply with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this issue and end the merciless and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade that has been illegally maintained against Cuba for more than 61 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.

Venezuela has made and supported declarations in other international forums repudiating such actions, which are by definition hostile and therefore undermine peaceful coexistence between nations and international law. The Bolivarian Government also urges the international community to unanimously reject any unilateral coercive measure against any State, regardless of how it is implemented, and to recognize the unfavourable and inhumane impacts that such measures have on all human beings and on the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development, as well as the obstacles they pose to international commercial relations, peace, security and the well-being of humankind.

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 (CELAC) 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 twenty-second 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 blockade 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 CELAC Special Declaration on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States of America against Cuba, adopted 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 blockade against Cuba and the Congress of the United States to support that step.

Likewise, in the Kingstown Declaration, adopted at the eighth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of CELAC on 1 March 2024, the Heads of State and Government of the Community reiterated the call made by the United Nations General Assembly to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which, in addition to being contrary to international law, causes severe harm to the well-being of the Cuban people. They also reiterated their rejection of unilateral lists and certifications that affect Latin American and Caribbean countries and requested that Cuba be removed from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism.

Furthermore, in the special declaration issued by CELAC at the summit in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2024, the Heads of State and Government of the Community also express concerns about the tightening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba despite the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and about the harmful effects of that blockade on the Cuban

population and on Cuban nationals living in other countries. In the light of those concerns, they:

1. Urge the United States Government to put an end to the blockade against Cuba;
2. Reiterate that the blockade is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law;
3. Further reiterate their deepest concern for the tightening of the policy and their rejection of the extraterritorial dimension of the blockade, which has had severe and negative impacts on Cuba's international financial transactions and the well-being of the Cuban people;
4. Reject the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of Cuba on the unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism drawn up by the United States Government and demand that Cuba be immediately removed from that list;
5. Request the fulfilment of the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in which the Assembly reiterates the international community's call to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which causes substantial and unjustifiable harm to the well-being of the Cuban people;
6. Call upon the pro tempore presidency of CELAC to contact the United States Government and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to convey the unanimous position of the Community against this policy and to contribute to the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as to denounce that illegal and inhumane policy in all possible regional and multilateral scenarios.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[27 March 2024]

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 [78/7](#), adopted on 2 November 2023 with 187 votes in favour.

Viet Nam is concerned over the enormous damages inflicted by the blockade and embargo on all sectors of the Cuban economy, which have 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. Furthermore, the decision of the United States in January 2021 to place Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism has exacerbated the negative impacts of the embargo on Cuba by deterring entities and companies from engaging with Cuba and providing services to its citizens.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the related General Assembly resolutions and underlines the importance of the rapid and full implementation of 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 each 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 and remove Cuba from the list of States that sponsor terrorism. This will bring mutual benefits to the people of both Cuba and the United States and significantly contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability, as well as the enhancement of cooperation in the Americas and the world.

Once again, Viet Nam reaffirms its friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the 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 2023, Viet Nam provided support, including 5,000 tons of rice and 300 tablets, to assist the efforts of Cuba in addressing socioeconomic difficulties, especially as it is facing its worst economic crisis in decades.

Yemen

[Original: English]
[9 January 2024]

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 78/7, 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]
[28 March 2024]

The Republic of Zambia has over the years supported the call for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba and continues to reaffirm its commitment to supporting the resolution on the lifting of the embargo against Cuba. The blockade, which has lasted over 60 years, has cost the Cuban local economy more than \$140 billion over its existence. No economy should be subjected to such a unilateral economic blockade while trying to improve the well-being of its people in line with the global development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Cuba continues to suffer from resource deprivation as a result of the blockade in critical sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, education, health and food production, which are necessary to advance its development agenda. To this end, the United States Congress must repeal the blockade and usher in a new era of normalcy for Cuba-United States relations.

Zambia therefore expresses its solidarity with the Cuban people and calls on the United States and all concerned parties to refrain from promulgating and applying laws or measures that are contrary to the obligations of States under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirms the freedom of trade and navigation.

Zimbabwe

[Original: English]

[8 April 2024]

The decades-old unilateral sanctions on Cuba are unjust and abusive and are a serious violation of the integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Cuba.

The sanctions have directly affected the enjoyment of basic human rights by the people of Cuba over the past 60 years as service provision has been severely crippled. Through economic asphyxiation, the economic and financial blockade has disrupted the economic activities in that country. This has affected the Government's ability to develop the country and transform the lives of citizens. It has also cut access to international finance for development programmes.

Cuba, just like all countries, was not spared from the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, unlike many countries, Cuba bore an extra brunt on account of the blockade, worsening the plight of the ordinary citizen.

The economic embargo is a serious violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the tenets of international law that clearly emphasize the right to self-determination and sovereign equality in States.

Zimbabwe strongly condemns the maintenance of sanctions against the Republic of Cuba. It has, just like Cuba, been a victim of illegal unilateral coercive measures, whose devastating effects have been acutely felt by ordinary citizens.

Zimbabwe wishes to recall a key finding of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, Alena Douhan, that the sanctions constitute an impediment to the achievement of economic and social development. This has been the exact predicament that has befallen the Republic of Cuba since the imposition of the economic and financial blockade.

The Charter of the United Nations clearly calls on States to desist from any unilateral means that create obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the enjoyment of human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Zimbabwe takes note that Member States have clearly and unequivocally spoken against the economic and financial blockade imposed on Cuba and, through the passage of resolution [78/7](#) in the General Assembly, sent a clear message that the blockade must be unconditionally removed.

Zimbabwe therefore reiterates the call for the international community to unite and collectively demand the lifting of the unjust blockade.

Holy See

[Original: English]
[28 March 2024]

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]
[30 April 2024]

The State of Palestine reaffirms its 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 impacts of 57 years of an illegal colonial occupation, compounded by a 17-year blockade and now a complete siege on the Gaza Strip, imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights 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 [78/7](#) 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 [78/7](#), 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 past years have been reversed and that the United States embargo against Cuba persists in the absence of a credible and good-faith political dialogue necessary for advancing critical steps towards bringing this

harmful and unjust embargo to a swift end. We thus again join the international community's call for the lifting of the embargo to allow for unimpeded Cuban trade and normal economic activity, 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 the light of the increased instability and vulnerability being experienced by all nations as a result of proliferating global shocks, including the enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, international economic turmoil, 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 78/7. Moreover, the State of Palestine, which enjoys full diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba, stands in full 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: Spanish]
[28 March 2024]

1. Background: the tightening of the embargo during the presidency of Donald Trump and additional sanctions

The arrival of Donald Trump as President of the United States marked a setback in the policy of rapprochement between Washington and Havana. The restrictions that had previously been relaxed were resumed with even greater force, tightening the embargo that had been in place for decades. This escalation had a considerable impact on life on the Caribbean island. The inclusion of Cuba from the beginning of 2021 in the list of countries that sponsor terrorism is the measure that most affects the island's relations with the outside world.

During President Trump's Administration, restrictive policies broadened their spectrum, focusing on sectors vital to the flow of capital to Cuba. One of the most significant blows was to tourism and travel, activities that provided a window of income for many Cubans. In addition, remittances, which many Cubans abroad send as economic support to their families, were severely limited. These measures resulted in a substantial decrease in the flow of foreign currency to the island.

The procurement of commodities, medicines and technology also faced new restrictions. The tightening of the embargo resulted in shortages of key goods and exacerbated the economic situation the country was already facing, highlighting the vulnerability of the Cuban economy to hostile foreign policies and external shocks. It is a period marked by renewed tensions and increased challenges in the daily lives of Cubans.

The entry into force of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act has generated a climate of uncertainty and reticence among potential foreign investors. This is due to the risk of facing lawsuits in United States courts for using property expropriated after the Cuban revolution. This climate of distrust makes it difficult to attract investments that are essential for economic development and upgrades to infrastructure on the island.

The activation of Title III not only affects direct investments, but also limits the acquisition of international financing for investment projects in Cuba. Financial institutions, when assessing country risk, may decide not to offer loans or to do so at high interest rates, negatively impacting the implementation of projects with the potential to improve the quality of life of Cuban citizens.

The aforementioned inclusion of Cuba in the list of countries sponsoring terrorism, in January 2021, has had significant repercussions for the country's economy, particularly for the banking and financial sector and for international integration by Cuba. For example:

- International banking reluctance. The listing of Cuba has had a chilling effect on global financial institutions. The fear of facing sanctions or retaliation by the United States has intensified the risk aversion of banks. They are therefore avoiding doing business with Cuban entities, which is complicating the country's international transactions.
- Difficulties in receiving remittances. One of the hardest blows has been the restriction on remittances. As mentioned, Cuban families have been hampered in transferring money from abroad, which has affected their source of income.
- Impact on international medical collaboration. Cuba is known for its programme of medical missions abroad. Inclusion in the list has hindered such missions by limiting financial and diplomatic relations with other countries.
- Constraints on foreign trade. Cuba's international trade has also been severely affected, as many foreign companies are refusing to trade for fear of sanctions, aggravating the shortage of basic commodities on the island.
- Constraints to development. In the long term, the financial constraints restrict the ability of Cuba to invest in infrastructure and economic and social development, accentuating the economic and technological lag behind its international peers.

2. Multidimensional impact of the embargo on the Cuban economy

In May 2022, The President of the United States of America, Joseph Biden, announced the end of some of the numerous measures activated during the Trump Administration under the embargo. Regular and charter flights were authorized from the United States to various provinces of Cuba (and not only to the capital), the restriction on sending family remittances was lifted and remittances for donations to Cubans were authorized. Requirements for travel by United States persons to Cuba under certain agreements were also relaxed, but individual transactions related to person-to-person travel and tourist activity remain prohibited. While these measures have been positive, they are still very limited in scope.

a. Impact on exports

Sanctions imposed by the United States have created a complex environment for Cuban exports. Limiting access to international markets and formally restricting trade penalizes crucial sectors, inhibiting the development of the economy. In addition, the extraterritorial application of the restrictions negatively influences Cuba's trade relations with other countries, even those that do not maintain an embargo policy towards the island. In 2023, exports in millions of dollars were only 62 per cent of those reported in 2018.

b. Impact on foreign investment

The United States embargo affects the mobilization of foreign investment that is essential for Cuba's economic growth and diversification. International companies seeking to invest in the island must navigate a legal maze to avoid United States sanctions, which often discourages investment and hinders economic and social development projects. While there is no official information on the amount of foreign direct investment coming into the country, it is evident that the investments that do arrive are lower than the country's potential and below the goals set by the Government of Cuba itself. Cuba is rated as a high-risk country for foreign investment, based mainly on the embargo imposed by the United States and the non-payment of debt.

c. Contraction of the tourism sector

Tourism, one of the pillars of the Cuban economy, is being considerably affected by the travel restrictions imposed on United States citizens. The restrictions not only directly reduce the number of potential visitors, but also send a deterrent message to tourists of other nationalities, thereby disrupting one of the most dynamic sectors of the Cuban economy. In addition, since Cuba has been on the list of State sponsors of terrorism since 2021, a traveller visiting Cuba is no longer eligible to participate in the visa waiver programme and must apply for a visa to enter the United States. This discourages, for example, tourism from Europe, whose citizens did not require a visa to enter the United States. There were 2.4 million international tourist arrivals in 2023, representing a 50 per cent increase over 2022 (which was a bad year), but still 52 per cent of the figure reached in 2018.

d. Difficulties in the banking and financial system

In the financial sphere, the embargo has led to the isolation of Cuban banking institutions from the international financial system. This hinders international transactions, makes financial operations more expensive and limits access to credit and financing that could boost economic and social development. In addition, the uncertainty and risk associated with the embargo strengthen the position of financial intermediaries, who benefit from the high fees and interest rates that result from the complexity of doing business with Cuba. From March 2022 to February 2023 (most recent information), the Cuban authorities estimated that losses from: (i) increased freight and insurance costs and the use of intermediaries; (ii) country risk and the increased cost of financing; and (iii) the ban on the use of the United States dollar, amounted to \$784.5 million (equivalent to 9 per cent of total exports in 2022).

e. Limited access to and transfer of advanced technology

Access to technological advances is essential in the era of globalization. The United States embargo hinders the acquisition and exchange of cutting-edge technology, which is crucial for industrial and competitive advancement. Cuban productive sectors thus face the need to find alternatives that are often more costly and less effective, limiting their ability to innovate and keep up with rapid global technological changes, especially now that digitalization and artificial intelligence are advancing by leaps and bounds, with the United States playing a leading role.

f. Constraints on the productive sector

Cuba's capacity to produce goods is being diminished by the difficulty of acquiring inputs and machinery, which leads to a chain of operational inefficiencies and high costs that in turn reduce the competitiveness of Cuban products. The embargo also affects agricultural and industrial productivity, as obsolete machinery

and shortages of spare parts prevent optimal performance in these sectors. Imports of capital goods therefore fell by 12.5 per cent between 2018 and 2022.

g. Impacts on the education sector

Access to teaching resources and scientific collaboration is being limited by embargo restrictions that affect the quality of education and research in Cuba. Cuban students and practitioners face difficulties in participating in academic exchanges and in accessing recent scientific publications. They are often excluded from international forums for scientific and technological discussion and development.

h. Impacts on the health sector

The consequences of the embargo in the health sector are particularly alarming. By limiting the procurement of medicines, medical equipment and health technology, United States sanctions directly affect the most vulnerable. Although Cuba has developed a health system with universal coverage, shortages of medical supplies and the inability to access the latest innovations in medicine restrict treatment options and weaken the capacity to respond to health crises. Several health indicators have deteriorated in recent years, such as the prevalence of anaemia in women of childbearing age, chronic non-communicable diseases and even a reduction in life expectancy at birth.

3. The energy crisis in Cuba and the impact of the embargo

Cuba is facing a severe energy crisis, marked by acute fuel shortages. The island, for years, has lived at a critical point where the availability of energy is a constant concern for its inhabitants. Factors such as the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and the sanctions imposed by the United States on allied countries such as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have further deteriorated the situation, as these nations have been key suppliers of oil to Cuba.

The United States embargo, which has had a long historical trajectory and diverse political interpretations, plays a leading role in this context. United States sanctions have limited not only the trade of oil necessary for the basic functioning of the country, but also access to technologies and spare parts for the maintenance of the energy infrastructure.

4. The economic cost of the embargo against Cuba

According to official figures of the Cuban Government, the economic embargo imposed by the United States has generated very significant losses for the island. According to the Government's most recent report, in a period of just one year, from March 2022 to February 2023, Cuba suffered economic damages valued at approximately \$4.867 billion, which represents an impact equivalent to 19.2 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) for the year 2022 and 55.8 per cent of total exports for the same year. This considerable financial decline is aggravating the already complex economic situation of the Caribbean country. Given that there has been little change in the embargo policy, it can be expected that from March 2023 to February 2024 economic damages will be similar to those of the previous period. This would imply that the cost of the embargo during this period should be similar to that of the previous period.

5. The structural shortcomings of the Cuban economic model

Cuba's economic model has been the subject of analysis and criticism over the years, mainly due to its marked centralization and rigidity in its planning mechanisms.

This centralization results in an allocation of resources that, on many occasions, does not match the economic dynamics of the island or the real needs of the population.

Given this reality, it has become imperative to speak of a gradual transformation of the economic system. This transformation seeks greater openness and flexibility to encourage the growth of emerging sectors and non-State initiatives, without abandoning the principles of social equity that the country has sought to maintain. Foreign investment and the strengthening of private enterprise are areas that could invigorate the economy, provided they are within a framework that guarantees the protection of labour rights.

However, any process of change must consider the social and political context of the island, as well as the implications of the ongoing economic embargo imposed by the United States, which severely limits access to key markets and technologies.

The path towards economic modernization also implies a commitment to productive transformation and diversification of the economy, which is highly concentrated in sectors such as tourism and the export of professional services. A strategy is needed to promote other potential areas such as biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, sectors in which Cuba has already demonstrated remarkable capabilities. In addition, it is necessary to promote the development of micro-, small and medium-sized non-State enterprises so that they can contribute to generating more and better goods and services for the population, which includes the territorial dimension.

It is essential to promote economic decentralization and a legal framework that allows for greater autonomy of State-owned enterprises and encourages linkages between State-owned and non-State enterprises. The transition will be complex, but it is imperative to update the Cuban economic model in order to guarantee a sustainable and prosperous future for new generations.

The Government of Cuba recognizes the need to speed up transformation of the Cuban economic model so as to gradually modify resource allocation mechanisms and the institutional framework in which State-owned enterprises operate, with the aim of advancing the autonomy of those enterprises, restoring the efficiency levels of their main economic activities and achieving their sustainable development.

In the economic plan for 2024, after Cuba's GDP recorded an estimated 1.5 per cent drop in 2023 in a context of ongoing high inflation (30 per cent overall and 72 per cent in the agricultural sector) and high fiscal deficits (11 to 13 per cent of GDP in 2023), the Government proposed to: (i) advance the implementation of the macroeconomic stabilization programme; (ii) increase and diversify the country's external revenue; (iii) promote productive activity with an emphasis on increasing food production, taking advantage of installed industrial capacities and sustaining the national electricity system; (iv) advance the development of the country's business system and integration among all economic actors; and (v) improve social protection mechanisms.

6. The plight of the Cuban population

The structural flaws of the Cuban economic model have generated a series of dysfunctions in the economy that limit the development and welfare potential of its citizens. These difficulties are compounded by the prolonged economic embargo imposed by the United States, which has a palpable harmful impact on the daily life of the population and on key sectors such as health and education.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which swept through the entire world, exacerbated Cuba's economic and social vulnerabilities. With its dependence on tourism and remittances, the Cuban economy suffered an unprecedented blow due

to global travel restrictions and the economic slowdown. The health sector, despite being a reference point in terms of human resources, faced material difficulties that were aggravated by the lack of access to equipment and technology, a direct consequence of the embargo. A growing deficit of medicines has therefore been reported, mainly associated with financial restrictions and access to the import of raw materials. In October 2023, the deficit reached its height during the period, amounting to a shortage of 241 drugs (63 per cent of those produced in the country for the basic list of essential medicines), of which 126 are controlled drugs or drugs related to onco-haematological, maternal-child and critical patient care programmes.

As a result, health indicators of the country's achievements in health, which have been regional benchmarks, have begun to deteriorate: (i) life expectancy at birth decreased for the first time since 1969; (ii) infant mortality (under 1 year) increased from 4.9 per 1,000 live births in 2020 to 7.1 in 2023 and under 5 mortality from 6.2 per 1,000 live births in 2020 to 9.5 in 2022 (Ministry of Public Health, 2023); and (iii) resistance to the decline in the maternal mortality ratio persists, with 38.7 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023.

International geopolitical events, such as the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, also generate instability that has repercussions for the island through increased food and fuel prices and uncertainty about the international solidarity and financial assistance that Cuba has historically received.

In that context, Cuban citizens are navigating a sea of uncertainties and challenges. Daily reality is affected by commodity shortages, and innovation and creativity have become essential tools to cope with the limitations imposed by both the embargo and the system's own inefficiencies. As a result, the number of emigrants from Cuba has reached historic highs and the lack of personnel is felt in the various economic activities of the Caribbean country. For example, between 2021 and 2023, unprecedented migratory flows were recorded. The number of Cuban nationals reported as migrants at United States land borders reached almost 500,000, including 3,193 children exposed to the great vulnerability associated with irregular migration channels. In addition to these figures, 62,000 people benefited from the humanitarian temporary residence programme (parole) during the last year. If other destinations such as Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay are added, at the end of the three-year period, a total of 621,120 emigrants were reported, equivalent to 5.6 per cent of the population in 2022, 8.9 per cent of the working age population and 13.5 per cent of the active population, which represents a significant challenge for the country's socioeconomic stability and long-term development. These figures do not include other channels of migration to the United States or to other host countries such as Canada and Spain.

In 2023, Cuba faced an extremely complicated picture. The stagflationary situation has led the country into an alarming duality, where inflation is soaring while economic growth is stalling. This dynamic has had devastating effects on the daily lives of Cuban citizens.

- A food crisis. Food shortages are widespread; the absence of key imports has left the shelves empty. Cubans face long lines to obtain basic commodities, and nutrition is compromised by the lack of variety and sufficient quantity. Cuba imports about 75 per cent of food for domestic consumption, which increases vulnerability in the context of the international inflation seen in recent years. In addition to the drastic contraction of staple food production over the last five-year period (2018–2022) (a drop of 68.8 per cent in rice, 57.2 per cent in beans, 35.9 per cent in milk, 29.5 per cent in vegetables, 28.9 per cent in pork and 15.1 per cent in eggs), the production of vegetables, corn, pork, milk and eggs fell in

2023).¹ This has had an impact on health, with a prevalence of anaemia in women of childbearing age (18 to 40 years) of over 20 per cent, as well as an increase in malnutrition (56.4 per cent of the population), chronic non-communicable diseases and certain nutritional deficiencies.² Similarly, in recent years, the low birth weight index has progressively increased from 5.1 (2018) to 5.6 (2020), 6.6 (2021) and 7.2 (2022), owing to nutritional challenges, among other causes (Ministry of Public Health, 2023).

- Fuel shortages and a deterioration of basic service infrastructure. Mobility on the island is challenging. With fuel shortages, public transportation operations are intermittent and power outages are frequent, affecting all aspects of daily life, from food preservation to education. The deterioration of infrastructure guaranteeing basic services, particularly energy, transport, housing and water, is another current challenge that has impacted the quality of life of people in the country. In the case of energy, the economic conditions and the insufficient funding available to acquire spare parts, carry out maintenance and purchase fuel exacerbated the energy situation, which reached a critical level (37 per cent availability of the national electric grid) in the summer of 2022, with strong impacts on the population. In 2023, the situation stabilized, reducing the impact on the population to 51 per cent of that recorded in 2022 (statement of the Minister of Energy and Mines, 2023).
- Precarious or vulnerable neighbourhoods. Since 2021, precarious or vulnerable neighbourhoods with inadequate infrastructure or poor-quality public services have been identified. Although this phenomenon has not yet reached the Latin American average (over 20 per cent), its growth is a problem that requires priority attention.

In view of this situation, the number of people in vulnerable situations has increased, which is reflected in the increases in the number of welfare recipients (108 per cent between 2019 and 2022), protected families (68 per cent), and beneficiaries who are older persons and disabled persons (92 per cent and 41 per cent, respectively). A significant number of women of working age are engaged in unpaid domestic and care work, limiting their earning capacity and compromising their autonomy and access to social security once they reach retirement age. Women's low economic participation also makes them vulnerable to various forms of discrimination, including gender-based violence.

The Cuban Government has had to implement economic reforms in an attempt to mitigate the situation, but these have so far proven insufficient.

Faced with this situation, the international community has raised its voice, demanding the lifting of the embargo. Countries and organizations warn that unilateral United States measures undermine Cuba's development efforts, worsen the living conditions of its inhabitants and jeopardize the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal targets. The United Nations vote has concluded each year with a clear majority in favour of Cuba, reflecting the international rejection of the embargo.

¹ Information released during the year-end meeting of the National Assembly of People's Power, December 2032.

² Statement of the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba in the National Assembly of People's Power, 2022.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]

[30 April 2024]

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

Limited availability of mostly imported agricultural inputs, lower demand for feed (reflecting declining livestock numbers) and frequent power cuts in the country contributed to a reduction in the area sown to cereals and low yields in 2023. Consequently, the country's aggregate cereal output in 2023 is estimated to be nearly 50 per cent below the previous five-year average.

Cereal imports, which normally cover more than two thirds of the country's domestic needs, are forecast to be lower than the five-year average, reflecting ongoing macroeconomic challenges, including shortages of foreign currency. The smaller harvest and forecast below-average imports should lead to a tightening of national cereal supplies in 2023/24.

Persistently high food retail prices have continued to erode the purchasing power of vulnerable households, constraining their economic access to food. Despite moderating in 2023, the annual food price inflation rate was estimated at 37.2 per cent in January 2024, albeit down from about 70 per cent the year before.

The overall economic damage to the agricultural sector between March 2022 and February 2023 is estimated to be more than US\$ 270 million, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

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

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supports Cuba with technical assistance in two main areas. FAO supports the strengthening of national capacities in the development and implementation of gender-sensitive sectoral and intersectoral policies, programmes and instruments with an impact on food security and nutrition. In particular, FAO is supporting the implementation of the Food Sovereignty and Nutrition Education Plan and the Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security Act. As part of this work, FAO is supporting the strengthening of national capacities in the following areas: reduction of food loss and waste; increased food safety and quality; and collection, processing and marketing of food. In addition, FAO supports the strengthening of national capacities on food security and nutrition statistics, monitoring and reporting compliance with the goals agreed upon within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

Cuba is an island State with environmental problems such as soil degradation, deforestation, pollution, loss of biological diversity, deterioration of ecosystems, lack of water availability, and the impacts of climate change. To respond to those problems, FAO is supporting efforts to increase the climate resilience of agricultural production and guarantee food security through improved ecosystem services in agriculture and fisheries, the integration of conservation, the use of agrobiodiversity in public policies, and the scaling up of sustainable agricultural and fishing intensification practices.

In addition, Cuba is implementing the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, a flagship initiative of FAO. The country-owned and country-led programme provides targeted and innovative support to enable Governments to better target agrifood investments

and policies for more resilient, sustainable, productive, efficient and inclusive agrifood systems. The initiative provides a set of tools, such as access to and use of geospatial data, technical support and capacity strengthening, to allow national policymakers to make more informed and evidence-based decisions. Its matchmaking service forges effective partnerships between Governments, development partners, investors and the private sector to facilitate funding at-scale for agrifood systems transformation.

Effects of the embargo on projects implemented by FAO in Cuba

Given the embargo to which Cuba is subjected, FAO projects implemented in the country are affected with regard to the procurement of equipment and supplies that complement the technical assistance provided by FAO, because resources that could be imported from the United States of America have to be imported instead from far more distant markets, at much higher prices and with higher freight costs. If acquisitions could be made in the United States, it would be much cheaper, and more activities could be supported with the available budget.

In 2023, several tractors for use in food production could not be purchased from the supplier Rimco Caribe LLC, located in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, because the tractors were originally from the United States and by decision of the manufacturer, the tractors could not be sold to Cuba.

The embargo against Cuba, which allows third-country companies trading with Cuba to be sued in United States courts, has 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 globally FAO has provided its country offices with the necessary equipment. In 2023, the country office in Cuba could not install the required equipment because the Government of the United States had not approved a licence for the supplier, 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 and communications technology (ICT) 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 Danoffice IT cannot be used in Cuba without authorization from the Government of the United States. The processing of the permit generates delays in the acquisition process for equipment and even changes in the costs initially foreseen.

Under the embargo, conditions hinder the processing of payments and banking transactions to and from suppliers that 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 Cuban enterprises' commercial or financial transactions in United States dollars and even in other currencies, which obstructs the payment of certifications of Cuban products with high potential to be commercialized in Europe.

FAO staff continue to be affected by expensive and long formalities in banking processes.

A summary of the negative effects caused by the embargo in some of the sectors in which FAO is providing technical support and in other sectors included within its country programming framework is presented below.

The losses originated mainly in:

- (a) Price differences owing to changes in the import market;
- (b) Additional costs related to freight insurance;
- (c) Additional costs owing to a freeze on assets;
- (d) Monetary damages;
- (e) Losses owing to lack of access to the latest technology from the United States;
- (f) Relocation of exports.

The agroforestry sector, which includes coffee, cocoa, honey, wood and other products, and which FAO supports with several projects, was affected to the tune of over US\$ 21 million.

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[28 March 2024]

Cuba has been a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency 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, “in carrying out its functions, the Agency shall not make assistance to members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this Statute.”

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 “the 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 owing 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]
[7 March 2024]

During the reporting period, Cuba participated in the following activities with ICAO:

- The Cuban Aviation Corporation and the International Civil Aviation Organization signed a management services agreement and a project document aimed primarily at providing the Corporation with assistance and specialized support in local capacity-building, including the establishment and consolidation of safety and security management systems in the Corporation, improved technological development of airport and air navigation services, national airline operations and air cargo management and operation, and improved development and overall sustainability of the country's civil aviation infrastructure. ICAO published an expression of interest on behalf of the Corporation requesting suppliers to respond regarding their capabilities to implement the expansion of the existing terminal 2 at José Martí International Airport in Havana, including the provision of financing options.
- Cuba continued its active participation in three regional projects implemented through the Capacity Development and Implementation Bureau of ICAO. 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 Convention on International Civil Aviation and the annexes thereto.
- Cuba continues to actively participate, under a regional collaboration, on the implementation of the modernization of the regional aeronautical telecommunications network known as CANSNET, of which all the Caribbean region States, including the United States, are members.
- As a long-standing contributor to and supporter of the development of aviation in the region, Cuba has shared its software application free of charge to improve the air traffic surveillance service with other Caribbean States, the first being Mexico (Mexico City Area Control Centre) in May 2022, followed in July 2023 by the Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo Air Traffic Control) and most recently Mexico again (Cancun Air Traffic Control) in February 2024. This collaboration is planned to be continued with States in Central America and the eastern Caribbean subregion.
- Cuba also actively supports and leads some of the regional air navigation and safety implementation groups in the Caribbean region and is a systemic assistance programme "champion State", assisting other States.
- ICAO provided assistance to Cuba in the area of aviation accident and incident investigation through the accident and incident investigation turnkey project, with three on-site assistance missions carried out in late 2023 and the beginning of 2024 to support the State in building national capacity in investigation.

- Cuba is an active member of the North American/Caribbean Civil Aviation Training Centres Working Group, participating with four entities: the Departamento de Licencias e Instrucción del Instituto de Aeronáutica Civil de Cuba, the Cuban Aviation Corporation, the Centro de Adiestramiento Aeronáutico and the Centro de Capacitación para la Navegación Aérea en Cuba. The Centro de Adiestramiento Aeronáutico is an ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Programme member and was re-assessed by the Global Aviation Training Section of ICAO in November 2023 to confirm that it still meets the TRAINAIR PLUS Programme requirements.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

[Original: English]
[14 March 2024]

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. 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. 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.

IFAD-supported projects 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 shipping companies from third countries ferrying cargo to Cuba, for example, 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. Furthermore, United States sanctions further affect the financial transactions of Cuba and its ability to export and import needed materials that support opportunities for agricultural, as well as rural development and human development in general.

In the agricultural and rural sectors, the following limitations are observed: (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 limitations, that 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 of the Cooperative Rural Development Project (PRODECOR, closed in 2022) in the oriental region in terms of agricultural productivity. 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.

Because of these challenges, in past years, the country has struggled to honour its debt payment to IFAD. Since September 2023, IFAD loan instruments in Cuba have been suspended, pending payment of the debts of Cuba to IFAD. The current collaboration of IFAD with the Government of Cuba is limited to grant resources.

International Labour Organization

[Original: English]
[6 March 2024]

Cuba is facing a complex economic panorama marked by shortages of food, fuel and medicine. Despite measures announced by the Government of the United States on 16 May 2022 aimed at easing the restrictions on remittances, aiding Cuban business with technology access, facilitating family reunification and expanding authorized travel, the embargo and the persisting designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism still have negative effects on the economy, people and businesses. 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, 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.
- Limited access to and delivery of essential goods, including food and medicine, represents a risk of humanitarian crisis.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is particularly concerned about the impacts 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, for example, monetary unification and the expansion of self-employment schemes.

Cuba is a very active member of ILO and deputy member of the ILO Governing Body. ILO considers that the General Assembly is the appropriate forum for addressing questions related to ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

International Maritime Organization

[Original: English]
[22 March 2024]

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 (the IMO regional programmes “Support to maritime development, Latin America” and “Support to maritime development, 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.

IMO assistance 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 this context, and in pursuance of the decentralization policies adopted by IMO, most IMO support is channelled through the Operative Network by virtue of a memorandum of understanding signed with the Operative Network secretariat. 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.

Although IMO has not encountered difficulties in delivering any of the activities in the projects mentioned above as a result of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the organization had to address logistical challenges associated with daily subsistence allowance payments to participants from Cuba.

On 23 January 2024, Cuba informed the Secretary-General of IMO that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba had had an impact on the country's ability to pay its contributions to the organization. Furthermore, Cuba informed IMO that, since users in Cuba were currently unable to access Zoom services, delegates from the Cuban maritime administration were unable to participate in IMO meetings remotely, as the hybrid meeting system IMO was Zoom-based.

International Organization for Migration

[Original: English]
[27 March 2024]

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to support the priorities outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Cuba for the period 2020–2024, which has been extended until 2025, by participating in three of the four working groups of the Cooperation Framework. These working groups address key areas jointly identified by the Government of Cuba and the United Nations system, including effective governance, natural resources and environment, human development, equity and social justice. In addition to the IOM activities, joint activities involve the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Throughout the past year, significant efforts have been focused on key initiatives. These include supporting the finalization of the migration profile, strengthening the United Nations Network on Migration in Cuba, initiating migration data projects, and enhancing territorial resilience, specifically by identifying pertinent migration indicators. Moreover, IOM remained actively engaged in providing services, including assisted voluntary return for stranded migrants and resettlement assistance for refugees.

International Telecommunication Union

[Original: English]
[19 March 2024]

During the period in question, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has received the following correspondence related to General Assembly resolution [78/7](#):

- Note dated 19 January 2024, from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of ITU on consequences for the economy and the development of infrastructure, including digital infrastructure and the communications and information technology sector.
- Note verbale dated 26 October 2023, from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva, submitting a summary of the damage to the economy of Cuba from the embargo in the communications and information technology sector, including telecommunications, for the period from March 2022 to February 2023.
- Note dated 23 October 2023, from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of ITU on the report of the Government of Cuba submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue in the context of the seventy-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

Office for Outer Space Affairs

[Original: English]
[30 March 2024]

Cuba is a State member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space since 2001.

In 1990, Cuba organized, jointly with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, a workshop on the theme “Space Communications for Development”, held in Havana, from 26 to 30 March 1990. In 2012, Cuban experts benefited from participating in a workshop on the theme “Contribution of space law to economic and social development”, held in Buenos Aires, from 5 to 8 November 2012 (see [A/AC.105/1037](#)).

The potential for disasters as a result of natural hazards, such as hurricanes, tsunamis, storm surges, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, floods and heatwaves, is high in the Caribbean. In the course of multiple crises over the years, the Government of Cuba has put in place an efficient and unique alert system reaching all corners of the country. However, the use of satellite-based data, as well as of precise positioning and navigation systems or of modern satellite telecommunication, by its civil protection agency could improve the performance of the alert system, while providing for improved contingency planning and preparedness. The integration of these tools in the existing systems in Cuba would be greatly facilitated by well-structured participation of all stakeholders at the various levels of administration in Cuba.

The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) implemented by the Office for Outer Space Affairs ensures “that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle”. The Platform is achieving its mission by focusing on being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, by serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management, risk

management and space communities and by being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening. UN-SPIDER is supported by 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 America and the 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 for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has set up a global partnership using space-based technology applications for disaster risk reduction and is a key member of the International Network 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]
[27 March 2024]

In the human development index for 2023/2024, Cuba ranks 85 out of 193 countries and territories worldwide. The Government of Cuba has expressed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reaffirmed in the country's national development plan until 2030. For decades, Cuba has shown significant progress and achievements in multiple areas of the Sustainable Development Goals, with social indicators that are leading in the region. There is strong political commitment to developing and implementing social policies and programmes in areas such as health, education, social protection, gender equality, science and technology, and environmental sustainability, among others, all of which put people and the principle of leaving no one behind at the centre.

However, in a complex international and national context, the country faces serious economic challenges, and the quality and sustainability of what has been achieved are currently under threat. The international context poses additional and, to some extent, unique challenges for the country. In addition to the impact of a post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) global economy and various international conflicts on the economy of Cuba, United States sanctions have also had serious negative effects on key economic dimensions such as financing, trade, investment, access to technology, tourism and family remittances. These constraints place the country in a disadvantageous position, making it difficult to manage complex development and emergency contexts.

Owing to the unilateral restrictions imposed by the United States embargo, Cuban or foreign companies established in Cuba cannot 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 near Cuba. In addition, the embargo places restrictions on international shipping lines with vessels that dock in Cuban harbours, which extremely limit the trading availability of shipping companies. The United States embargo also prohibits United States companies from conducting business with Cuba, restricts the import of goods and services from Cuba and bans international banks from operating with Cuban institutions if United States dollar transactions are involved. Cuba is also excluded from traditional international financial institutions, limiting access to investment lending and other development and emergency resources and assistance granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The implementation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act reinforces the general conditions of the embargo by allowing legal claims to be made in relation to property nationalized in the country after the revolution.

The inclusion of Cuba in the list of countries sponsoring terrorism in January 2021 has also reinforced pre-existing prohibitions and exacerbated their negative impacts. In February 2024, four United Nations independent experts urged the United States to review its domestic framework, which triggers specific sanctions against States designated as sponsors of terrorism,¹ including Cuba. The experts and special rapporteurs on human rights² stated that “fundamental human rights, including the right to food, right to health, right to education, economic and social rights, right to life and right to development, are negatively affected by the additional restrictions and prohibitions triggered by [State sponsor of terrorism] designations.”

Accordingly, the United States embargo represents a substantial obstacle to the sustainable development of Cuba, adding significant barriers to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To mention just a few examples, the embargo has limited:

- Access to essential medical supplies, including medicines, reagents, spare parts for diagnostic and treatment equipment, and medical and surgical instruments (Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5)
- Access to agricultural equipment and inputs, affecting agricultural productivity, placing considerable pressure on the country’s budget and potentially affecting those who depend on social safety nets (Goals 1 and 2)
- The provision of basic services such as electricity, water supply and public transport, given additional challenges in accessing fuel, spare parts and raw materials (Goals 6, 7 and 11)
- Access to educational resources, hindering the ability of students and educators to access software programs and school and artistic materials (Goal 4)
- Access to commercial credit, together with the need to resort to intermediaries and the consequent increase in prices in goods markets, which contributes to shortages of basic necessities, such as food for families or social protection

¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/united-states-unilateral-designation-states-sponsors-terrorism-negatively.

² The experts are Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; Michael Fakhri, Special Rapporteur on the right to food; Attiya Waris, Independent Expert on foreign debt, other international financial obligations and human rights; Cecilia M. Bailliet, Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity; and Livingstone Sewanyana, Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

institutions, including nursing homes, schools and day-care centres (Goals 1 and 2)

- The potential expansion of the generation by the private sector of goods, services, employment and family livelihoods. This is relevant in relation to the current context of opening up to private small and medium-sized enterprises, restrictions on access to United States commercial and financial markets, limitations on tourist travel by United States citizens to Cuba, and limited exports of goods and services by this emerging private sector to the United States (Goal 8)

In this context, the embargo is pervasive in the social, economic and environmental dimensions of human development in Cuba and especially affects the most vulnerable socioeconomic groups of the Cuban population.

Impact on United Nations programmes and operations

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Cuba for the period 2020–2025, signed by 22 United Nations entities and the Government of Cuba, supports sustainable development priorities and the 2030 Agenda in the country, with a focus on four strategic cooperation areas: effective government (Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, 16 and 17), productive transformation (Goals 2, 7–9 and 17), environmental sustainability and disaster risk management (Goals 1, 4, 6 and 12–15) and human development and equity (Goals 1–5, 10, 11 and 17). In addition, during 2023, the United Nations system implemented the United Nations plan of action in response to Hurricane Ian, which severely affected the country's western provinces in September 2022.

Each United Nations agency, fund and programme has contributed with its specific inputs to the report of the Secretary-General. The report presents the most significant cross-cutting issues that are negatively affecting both humanitarian and development cooperation of the United Nations system in Cuba, which are as follows:

Purchase of inputs at competitive prices and limitations on the import of United States-patented goods, services and technologies

Restrictions on the procurement 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. Additional logistical difficulties and transaction costs have been generated in procurement processes owing to the lack of access to the United States market, despite being the one closest to Cuba. 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-supported projects. This has resulted in acquisitions having to be made from third-party countries and secondary suppliers and at prices significantly higher than those for comparable products sold on the international market. Costs associated with intermediaries and long-distance transportation negatively affect 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.

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. This occurs since shipping companies with vessels that dock in Cuban ports are subject to restrictions. International transport bottlenecks have additionally increased with recent international conflicts, which has further reduced the availability of vessels

entering Cuba, sometimes forcing them to make stopovers for transshipment, 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.

Financial resources that could have been used to achieve development and humanitarian results more effectively are instead used to cover additional costs caused by the conditions brought about by the United States embargo.

Information and communications technologies

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.

Another negative impact of the embargo on United Nations operations in Cuba relates to voice and data communications, which are extremely expensive as they must sidestep the United States telecommunications infrastructure.

Investment lending by international financial institutions and financial services from United States banks

The embargo has limited access by Cuba to investment lending by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, which, in turn, has significantly increased the financial resource gap with regard to supporting national and/or local development priorities in Cuba.

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 the United States dollar as the currency of payment. In financial transactions of project operations, banks constantly request additional information to comply with the Office of Foreign Assets Control before proceeding with payments and transfers. Even if payments are made in other currencies, bank withholdings have increased. Agencies use a third bank with a currency exchange to replenish funds monthly in its local United States dollar account. This 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.

Long-term agreements with global suppliers may not be used by United Nations entities in Cuba

The offices of the United Nations system in Cuba can rarely benefit from global United Nations corporate contracts with United States companies for the purchase of

equipment and services. Providers must therefore be exclusively identified for the offices, entailing higher prices and administrative costs.

United Nations staff missions to United Nations headquarters in the United States

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, which severely restrict the participation of national and international staff in regional and global exchanges.

Exchange of expertise

Cuban experts and researchers who are invited to events in the United States have experienced difficulties in obtaining visas in a timely fashion. This situation has affected professional exchanges and partnership-building in key areas of development.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

[Original: English]
[13 May 2024]

Introduction

During the reporting period, the High Commissioner for Human Rights commented on several occasions on the adverse impact of unilateral sectoral sanctions on the enjoyment of economic and social rights.¹

The High Commissioner stressed that any imposition of sanctions must be fully compliant with international law, including in relation to fairness of process and availability of effective review and remedy. He urged that the implementation of any coercive measures be regularly reviewed and reassessed for their practical impacts on human rights. The High Commissioner noted that such measures need to be subject to appropriate human rights safeguards, including human rights impact assessments and independent monitoring, and limited in time; and that a 65-year-long embargo against an entire country therefore clearly raised serious concerns in that respect.²

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) received information during the reporting period indicating that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba continues to adversely impact the human rights of the population. Therefore, OHCHR encourages the relaxing of such measures to relieve the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

According to information gathered by OHCHR, the inclusion of Cuba in the United States list of States sponsors of terrorism 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. During the reporting period, the special procedures mandate holders addressed the issue of the unilateral designation of States as sponsors of terrorism, noting, *inter alia*, that the process through which the

¹ [A/HRC/53/54](#), para. 74; OHCHR, “Comment by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk on Venezuela”, 19 October 2023; OHCHR, “Afghanistan: Human rights in ‘state of collapse,’ warns Türk”, 12 September 2023.

² OHCHR, “Impact of sanctions”, High Commissioner’s statement, 14 September 2023.

designation is made is unclear and non-transparent.³ They also indicated that inclusion in the list of States sponsors of terrorism imposed restrictions on exports of dual-use items, such as protective masks and biological agents for vaccines, and on exports of United States agricultural commodities, medicine and medical devices. Inclusion also leads to the blocking of banking transactions; prohibitions on various forms of United States Government financial and technical assistance; the withholding of United States Government funds from organizations that provide assistance to a listed country; the withholding of United States Government assistance to other States that provide aid to that country; and the requirement that the United States oppose the granting of loans to the listed country by international financial institutions.⁴ The special procedures mandate holders called upon the United States to fully review the current designation framework and, pending its rescission, to prevent any negative humanitarian impact.⁵

The inclusion of Cuba in the list of States sponsors of terrorism in 2021, coupled with the cumulative effect of more than 60 years of other sanctioning measures imposed under the embargo, the context of the post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery, the current global macroeconomic trends of high energy and food prices and the decrease in certain economic activities, have had a serious impact on the State's ability to fulfil its human rights obligations.

Impact on the right to health

Availability of medicines and medical services

According to information obtained by OHCHR during interviews with officials from the Department of Medicines and Medical Technology of the Ministry of Health of Cuba, of a list of 651 essential medicines, 401 (62 per cent) are produced nationally. The national protocol is set up so as to guarantee a 120-day stock of all medicines to cover national demand. According to the Department, however, the impact of the unilateral sanctions, among other factors, reduced the total available stock to 30 days during the reporting period, affecting more than 50 per cent of the list of essential medicines. The import of raw materials, equipment and medicines has been increasingly difficult owing to several factors, such as the effect of overcompliance from the inclusion of Cuba in the list of States sponsoring terrorism. The Department maintains that the international patenting of medicines and technologies by United States manufacturers further restricts their import into Cuba.

Although the medical equipment and medicines imported into Cuba from the United States are subject to regulatory licensing under the Cuban Democracy Act, few licences are reportedly authorized, and only after long, cumbersome procedures, according to the Directorate of Medicines and Medical Technologies. In addition, the authorities are reportedly required to pay the full amount in advance of delivery, which has been increasingly difficult, owing to the reduced access of the State to foreign currency. Moreover, the acquisition of medicines or technologies containing more than 10 per cent of United States components is subject to a licence requirement. According to information obtained from MediCuba, the Cuban company responsible for commercial imports and exports of medical products, in the most recent request for offers sent to around 70 United States pharmaceutical companies, only 4

³ OHCHR, "United States: Unilateral designation of States as sponsors of terrorism negatively impact human rights, warn UN experts", 8 February 2024.

⁴ United States, International Financial Institutions Act, Public Law 95-118 of 3 October 1977, sect. 1621, as referred in the communication received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), communication No. AL USA 31/2023, 6 February 2024.

⁵ OHCHR, "United States: Unilateral designation of States as sponsors of terrorism negatively impact human rights, warn UN experts," 8 February 2024.

answered, all declining the request. Similar obstacles were reported by some United Nations and other humanitarian actors. As confirmed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in interviews with OHCHR, it takes at least six months to obtain a licence to import products that have a component manufactured in the United States, and the procedural process is complicated, making imported products particularly unsuitable for emergencies and humanitarian aid.

The Cuban health-care system imports most medical equipment and consumables.⁶ According to the Directorate of Medicines and Medical Technologies, the internal availability ratio of equipment is at 95 per cent, but that percentage drops to 70 per cent for high-tech equipment,⁷ which is largely produced in the United States or contains more than 10 per cent of United States components and, therefore, is subject to complex licensing processes. Against this background, the authorities import such equipment from distant markets at a higher cost. According to information provided by MediCuba, some equipment is not being used or is underperforming because it has not been possible to update it in a timely manner as a result of the 10 per cent *de minimis* rule.

According to the Directorate of Medicines and Medical Technologies, the reduced and fluctuating availability of medicines and equipment has had an impact on hospital admissions, with increased costs related to longer hospitalizations and an increase in the waiting lists for medical examinations and surgery. In the light of the reduced capacities, the national health-care system has had to prioritize certain surgical operations.

During the reporting period, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights addressed concerns related to the impact of such measures on various aspects of the right to health in Cuba, including mental health.⁸ The Special Rapporteur also stated that Cuban producers had reported vaccine production challenges owing to overcompliance by banks and the refusal by foreign businesses to continue deliveries of raw material and medical equipment, reportedly resulting in disruptions to various operations, including deliveries of inputs, reagents, spare parts and filtration material.⁹

According to the United Nations Population Fund, Cuba faces a stock-out of medicines for pregnant women, in particular multivitamins and folic acid, as well as contraceptives, condoms and diagnostic medical consumables, such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection tests, as a consequence of the barriers imposed by the embargo.

According to the Cuban Society of Cardiology, the embargo has had an impact on the availability of adequate equipment for diagnosing cardiovascular diseases, with the majority of the leading equipment and the related spare parts using United States technology, which has led to an average waiting period of 4–5 months for a routine examination. The embargo has reportedly affected the ability to carry out blood tests and led to a reduction in cardiovascular surgery. Catheters, which are largely produced in the United States, are not available for paediatric cardiac surgery, which means that such surgery needs to be performed using other, more invasive, techniques. The increasing shortage of pacemakers since 2022 is reportedly due to their high cost and the difficulty in finding equipment that does not contain United States technology. The Society further notes that the practice of explanting

⁶ Medical diagnostic and care equipment, high-tech software, spare parts for medical equipment, basic supplies and consumables.

⁷ For example, for radiotherapy, anaesthesiology or neonatal intensive care. Devices, tests and reagents for diagnostic equipment are also affected by the 10 per cent *de minimis* rule.

⁸ [A/HRC/54/23](#).

⁹ [A/78/196](#), para. 54.

pacemakers from deceased patients, and then sterilizing and reprogramming them for new patients, has increased.

With regard to cancer, the main impact of the embargo is the lack of equipment for radiotherapy, which requires high-tech equipment largely produced in the United States or containing more than 10 per cent of United States components, according to the Cuban Society of Oncology, Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine. Of the existing equipment, only 50 per cent is reportedly functioning, and the rest would need spare parts that are reportedly very difficult to purchase owing to the combined effect of reduced State resources, difficulties in importing products with United States licences and high costs in distant markets. The unavailability of sufficient and adequate medicines was also reported by the Society. According to a non-governmental organization, children have to move between different medical facilities, depending on their availability, as a result of the scarcity of diagnosis and treatment equipment.

Accessibility to medicine, and medical and support services

According to information received from a civil society organization, the informal medicine market is growing, owing to the scarcity of available medicines in the national health-care system, but the elevated prices of medicines make them unaffordable for most of the population, in particular, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Many intensive care ambulances cannot be repaired because of the unavailability of spare parts.

According to organizations for persons with disabilities, access to medical equipment and support devices worsened during the reporting period as a result of the deteriorating conditions of available equipment and the limited possibility of importing new equipment, or repairing it, owing to complex, time-consuming and expensive importation from distant countries. Some assistive technologies and devices can be sold – at high prices – by private organizations for persons with disabilities that are allowed to import them from the United States.

Associations for persons with disabilities report that national production of wheelchairs and other equipment, such as prostheses, is limited owing to the need to import raw materials from distant and expensive markets. Children with disabilities are particularly affected by the lack of medicines, medical equipment and adaptive support devices. The disparate economic prospects of families to import equipment by their own means are creating a growing divide in accessibility to medical services and medicines for persons with disabilities. The National Association of Blind Persons reports that the only national rehabilitation centre for adults with visual impairments, which offered specialized attention, has not been operational since 2008 owing to the lack of equipment and the need for renovation.

Right to food

Availability of food

The special procedures mandate holders have addressed the negative impact of the unilateral economic coercive measures on the ability of Cuba to guarantee the right to food and to an adequate standard of living for its citizens and residents.¹⁰ According to the special procedures mandate holders, the embargo has restricted the access by Cuba to external multilateral financing for development programmes in agriculture and rural development, as well as for rehabilitating and modernizing agricultural equipment and infrastructure. The embargo may have resulted in a significant decline in domestic agricultural and meat production in the country and insufficient external financing for reinvestment and the creation of a solid

¹⁰ Communication No. AL USA 3/2024.

infrastructure in the food sector. According to Cuban organizations involved in agriculture and livestock production, the limitations on importing equipment, spare parts and agricultural inputs, the progressively deteriorating conditions of the existing equipment and infrastructure, and the cost and scarcity of fuel have hampered national agricultural and livestock production, leading to a reduction in the capacity to produce food. According to information provided by the World Food Programme (WFP), agricultural production in 2023 was affected by the lack of inputs (mainly fertilizers) and fuel. In particular, there was an impact on vegetables, corn, rice, pork, milk and eggs, with a sharp decrease of 60 per cent in the production of eggs and 43 per cent in the production of rice, compared with 2022.

Several sources reported on the impact of overcompliance on the lack of availability of imported agricultural inputs, equipment, spare parts, vaccines for livestock, veterinary medicines and medical consumables. The sources also reported that overcompliance led to additional and higher costs when importing the above-mentioned products.

The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights notes that the limited access to foreign currencies and international food markets has significantly reduced the availability of food commodities and machinery for agricultural production in Cuba.¹¹ The Special Rapporteur also noted that restrictions imposed on Cuban businesses to trade in United States dollars and other currencies, as a consequence of the embargo, had hindered payments for certifications of Cuban products, while the impossibility for suppliers to deliver products to Cuba purchased from United States companies results in rising procurement costs via alternative routes. According to the Special Rapporteur, shipping companies have reduced their capacity and the volume of goods transported to Cuba. The Special Rapporteur also reports that only 9 out of 518 requests made by the agricultural sector in international markets for tractors, engines, batteries, forklifts and spare parts for agricultural machinery were approved in 2022, owing to the “fear to be punished”.

Purchasing from licensed companies in the United States is also a complex process. During the reporting period, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations attempted to purchase tractors for small producers with a total value of \$1.5 million from a supplier in Puerto Rico, but the manufacturer decided that the tractors could not be sold to Cuba.

According to the National Association of Small Farmers and the Cuban Livestock Producers Association, the cumulative effect of the restrictions on imports, at high costs and from distant countries, and the increased international prices hamper, inter alia, access to agricultural inputs, spare parts for machinery that is idle or obsolete; raw materials for animal feed; and chemical products to achieve better yields, combat pests and bring idle land into production.

A decrease in productivity, and the consequent increase in imports, has also been reported by United Nations agencies, especially when it comes to crops that require bigger quantities of fertilizers, such as sugar cane, bananas, rice and potatoes.

Accessibility to food

According to the special procedures mandate holders, the embargo hinders access to the nearest, most competitive import destination, the United States, and prevents foreign companies from delivering essential products to Cuba, including food samples, baby formula, medication and other types of goods of a humanitarian

¹¹ A/78/196, para. 47.

nature.¹² As a result, importing food to Cuba from other markets has been estimated to cause a price increase of 30 per cent, owing to higher purchase and shipping costs for food purchased from more expensive and more distant markets. The special procedures mandate holders also maintain that high inflation rates pose a critical challenge to the livelihoods of people in Cuba and their access to food, as a significant proportion of household expenditure, between 55 per cent and 65 per cent, is on food. The negative effects of inflation are exacerbated in view of the reported challenges to transfer remittances to Cuba, even between family members. According to the special procedures mandate holders, most households would barely be able to cover a week's supply with the monthly food rations included in the rations booklet and have to resort to buying more expensive products through resellers, who buy the products from State-owned establishments and sell them at a higher price.¹³ Many products are reportedly unavailable in certain months. There has also been a general decrease in the quantity and quality of the products on offer.

Adequacy of food

WFP has highlighted that for the 14–60 age group, the food products contained in the rations booklet provide only 36 per cent of the recommended daily energy intake and 24 per cent of the recommended daily protein intake.¹⁴ According to civil society organizations, elderly people have been particularly affected by the rising prices and the reduction in quantity and quality of the food basket.

The impact of reduced accessibility to food, in terms of quantity, variety and quality, is particularly severe for people who have specific diets and for children. UNDP and WFP offer methodological support to carry out a comprehensive reform of the social protection system, moving from “subsidizing the product to subsidizing the people”, with differentiated social support according to vulnerabilities.

Right to education

Availability of education, research material and equipment

According to information provided to OHCHR through interviews with methodologists in primary education, professors from the University of Havana and civil society organizations working in the field of education, institutions of primary, secondary and tertiary education in Cuba have been severely affected by the reduced availability of educational materials, in particular books, owing to the existence of only two large printers at the national level and the lack of raw materials (paper and ink) that need to be imported from distant markets at high prices. The capacity of both civil society organizations and institutions to produce and print educational material has reportedly been compromised as a result of the lack of printing equipment and materials and the limitations in access to editing software owing to blocked applications from the United States or the use of United States technology.

According to the same sources, schools and academic institutions continue to have outdated information technology infrastructure, the majority of which is produced in the United States or contains at least 10 per cent of United States parts or technology, which reportedly has a negative impact on research and learning.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicates that educational audiovisual material is still produced at the International School of Film and Television using low-quality analogue tools that have considerable professional limitations. Overcompliance by financial institutions

¹² Communication No. AL USA 3/2024.

¹³ Communication No. AL CUB 3/2023.

¹⁴ WFP, “Cuba: Annual Country Report”, 2022.

as a result of the embargo reportedly poses an obstacle to buying and importing educational materials and musical instruments.

According to the Ministry of Education of Cuba, it is difficult to acquire the range of educational equipment necessary for the education of children with disabilities, as most of the technological advances in this area are made in the United States or use components from the United States biomedical industry. UNESCO indicates that vocational training schools also face similar obstacles in being able to access basic equipment, furniture and materials.

Accessibility to educational material, tools and opportunities

According to the Ministry of Education of Cuba and some local organizations, Internet connectivity in Cuba continues to be limited, costly and very slow, owing to the reported prohibition of connecting to operators in the United States and the need to connect to distant countries, affecting educational and research activities. In addition, persons interviewed by OHCHR reported that there were several restrictions imposed on United States technology websites, software and web services that hampered learning processes and the production of scientific materials in book, e-book, pamphlet and multimedia formats.

According to the Ministry of Education, a chess confederation, a cultural institute and a student movement, the embargo reduces the possibility of participating in academic exchanges, tournaments, conferences and events, including in-person and remote, owing to various obstacles such as difficulties in registering for and accessing online conferences. Access to scholarships is reportedly challenging because of the impossibility of accessing commonly used payment gateways, which use United States technology, despite the funds being available.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

[Original: English]

[25 March 2024]

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 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 2023, 23 new applications for refugee status that involved 41 people were received in Cuba. This represents a marked increase in asylum requests compared with previous years (two in 2022, seven in 2021 and six in 2020). The increase most likely results from the normalization and reopening of commercial air operations after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, despite the lack of solutions for refugees in Cuba and the difficult economic situation that affects the country and also affects refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, day-to-day basic products, including food and hygiene items, clothes, shoes and, crucially, medicines, are increasingly difficult to come by and expensive for refugees and less well-off Cubans. The scarcity of fuel is also causing rising prices and power outages, affecting refugees, Cubans and UNHCR staff.

Despite the relatively low number of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Cuba, limited solutions are available to them. At the end of 2023, 71 recognized refugees were in need of durable solutions, and for most, resettlement to a third country was the only viable option. In previous years, limited access to resettlement was due mainly to Cuba not being prioritized by countries allocating quotas. Although Cuba has not developed a local integration policy, a few refugees have been granted permanent residence permits under national legislation, on the basis of close family links with Cuban nationals. These individuals were given a legal status that grants them some of the rights and opportunities that nationals have; they also face the same challenges as nationals with the economic downturn. While most recognized refugees are not provided with work permits, they have access to free health care and education and to subsidized products. Cuba continues to award government scholarships for tertiary education to young people from countries and territories facing unfavourable circumstances. Among those who have received the scholarship are refugees, including from the State of Palestine and Western Sahara.

Cuba effectively contributes to regional and global frameworks designed to enhance international protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless people. In 2014, the country agreed to approve the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action. Cuba also participated in the formal consultations leading to the development of the Global Compact on Refugees, which was affirmed by the General Assembly in 2018. In 2019, Cuba took part in the high-level segment on statelessness during the seventieth session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, sharing recent policy and legal developments in this area as good practices. In 2023, Cuba assumed the pro tempore presidency of the Group of 77 plus China, the largest negotiating bloc of developing countries within the United Nations system. In addition, at the end of 2023, Cuba was represented at the world's largest international gathering on refugees, the Global Refugee Forum, which is designed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the Global Compact on Refugees.

Should the embargo against Cuba end, more favourable conditions in the country would benefit the people whom UNHCR is mandated to protect and seek solutions for. 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. In 2023, through a presidential decree, the Government granted Cuban citizenship to a person who had been living in a stateless-like situation for more than 30 years. This demonstrates a willingness to potentially ratify relevant international instruments. UNHCR looks forward to enhanced international cooperation that would encourage accession and promote better protection for asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons and returnees.

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

[Original: English]
[28 March 2024]

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 Secretariat continues to experience some challenges and a heightened administrative burden associated with the implementation of its initial projects and activities in Cuba. There has been progress in receiving relevant licences as part of ongoing efforts to establish the satellite connections needed for the national data centre. There have also been challenges in supporting the participation of experts of Cuba in some virtual trainings and meetings, owing to access limitations that impede the effectiveness of information technology communications platforms. The implementation of Preparatory Commission activities in Cuba remains at an early stage, and work to assess and address these issues continues.

United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: Spanish]
[29 April 2024]

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been working with Cuba since 1962. In 1992, it established a country office with official representation and national and international staff. The current country cooperation programme is in line with the 2030 Economic and Social Development Plan, the UNICEF Strategic Plan and Cuba's national priorities established in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020–2024, which was extended to 2025 at the request of the Government of Cuba.

UNICEF supports the Government's efforts to maintain past achievements in social policy on universal access and improve service quality in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in three areas: (a) health and nutrition; (b) education; and (c) child protection. In this context, the blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba continues to affect the ability of Cuban children, adolescents and their families to improve their living conditions and opportunities for development.

Current restrictions and complexities in logistics and procurement processes limit the procurement and shipment of supplies to Cuba. This is reflected in the fact that goods, services and technology produced in the United States covered by United States patents or containing components produced or patented in the United States cannot be procured by UNICEF for its cooperation programme. As a result, programme supplies are procured from more distant markets by contracting freight forwarding agencies at higher costs. Similarly, many suppliers demand contracts in euros with an exchange rate loss for the organization's budgets (around 0.2 per cent per contract). Others demand advance payment, while others withdraw from the bidding process. This drives up the cost of providing social services to women and children, affecting the quality of education, universal health coverage and child protection services, thereby limiting the exercise of these rights.

In the education sector, the blockade has a negative effect on the ability to access study materials, including books, computer equipment and school supplies. In 2023, the purchase of supplies for the diagnosis and treatment of autism in children became more complex and expensive due to the fact that the leading supplier in the market did not accept the sale to Cuba, forcing the identification of another supplier and the purchase of the supplies at a 73 per cent higher cost.

In the health sector, the results achieved in decreasing infant mortality are at risk, given the high costs of bringing medicines, reagents and medical equipment used for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting children. The blockade also causes difficulties in accessing state-of-the-art supplies and technology. Children and

adolescents who require specialized, high-quality medical care are deprived of the benefit of technological advances.

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 freight costs could have been reduced by an average of 40 per cent.

Challenges continued in the use of UNICEF long-term agreements for the procurement of key supplies for the office, with procurement processes having to be delayed by requests for end-use certificates and certificates for the entities with which the office engages. Similarly, some purchases through long-term agreements required longer processing times due to the suppliers' request for specific licences (with estimated processing times of four to six months). In the case of Internet services, the office budget dedicated to connectivity is very high (approximately \$100,000 per year) without being able to make use of an existing long-term agreement with Starlink that could increase connectivity, reduce costs and maintain the functionality of working platforms. Furthermore, in the case of supplies for the cooperation programme, the office must carry out procurement processes with intermediary suppliers at prices higher than those established in the long-term agreement, with estimated increases of 36 per cent.

Restrictions on monthly bank transfers in United States dollars to Cuba have remained in place over the last year. The UNICEF Cuba office has to use a third-party bank in a currency swap to replenish funds in its local dollar account on a monthly basis. This involves exchange rate costs and bank and transactional fees, leading to a loss of approximately 15 per cent of the total value transferred, estimated for the year at \$40,000. Likewise, the office has not been able to deliver impact in its management of international payments through the international corporate card due to limitations in its issuance for the Cuba office. This has an impact on the number of low-value transactions that must be issued through the Global Transaction Services Centre, generating high transaction costs.

In the case of international personnel of the United Nations accredited in Cuba, banking transactions are affected when Cuba is declared as the country of residence. A temporary declaration of residence has direct risks in banking transactions, including the blocking of accounts and bank transfers.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]
[26 March 2024]

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 towards Cuba was laid down in the National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba enacted on 16 June 2017.¹ 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, also known as the Helms-Burton Act.

Despite the policy review announced in 2021, a series of financial sanctions on Cuban entities, as well as visa restrictions, were imposed. In 2022, steps were taken on easing immigration and financial restrictions affecting Cuban nationals. Immigrant visa processing was increased in the United States Embassy in Havana, travel restrictions were eased and flights were expanded. In addition, financial restrictions on remittances have been eased, eliminating monetary and frequency limits for family remittances.² The Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services was revamped to allow up to 20,000 visas for entry every year. In January 2023, a new humanitarian parole programme was introduced to allow 30,000 individuals per month to enter the United States for two years with work authorization under certain conditions.³

Overall economic trends⁴

After a sharp contraction in the real gross domestic product (GDP) of Cuba by 10.9 per cent in 2020 due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and a moderate recovery of 1.7 per cent in 2021, the Cuban economy grew by 2.4 per cent in 2022. This outcome, modest as compared with the average growth rates of the Latin America and the Caribbean region of 3.2 per cent, is still positive, given that the Cuban economy witnessed a steady contraction between 2015 and 2020, when its real GDP decreased by 0.6 per cent on average annually. Going forward, Cuba is estimated to register a positive growth rate of 1.8 per cent in 2023 and forecasted to grow by 2.2 per cent in 2024.⁵

Current geopolitical tensions – and the consequent rise in food, energy prices and public debt – are expected to heighten economic hardship in Cuba. For instance, global food prices rose by 16 per cent between January 2020 and December 2023.⁶ High interest rates and the consequent increased cost of borrowing made financing budget and external trade deficits more difficult to sustain. In January 2024, the Government of Cuba announced price increases for electricity, fuels and gas, partially due to a reduction in subsidies. Stabilizing commodity prices will be important in alleviating the economic burden on Cuba.

¹ United States of America, Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 202. 20 October 2017.

² United States of America, Congressional Research Service, “Cuba: U.S. Policy Overview”, 2023.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The source of all data referred to in the text hereafter is UNCTADStat (available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/>) unless otherwise specified.

⁵ *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024* (United Nations publication, 2024).

⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), “Pulse of the global crisis”. Available at <https://unctad.org/global-crisis/dashboard>. Based on data of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

As a small island economy with a GDP of \$127 billion (2021), Cuba has a small and labour-intensive agricultural sector that generates 2 per cent of GDP but absorbs 18 per cent of the workforce,⁷ and an industrial sector that contributes 18 per cent to GDP but employed 17 per cent of workers in 2020. In contrast, services are the dominant sector of the economy, contributing 80 per cent to GDP and 65 per cent to employment.⁸ Women make up 40 per cent of the workforce, with 82 per cent of them occupied in the services sector.⁹

Trade pattern and trends

The trade pattern of Cuba has been marked by a deficit in merchandise trade. Despite a reduction of the deficit in previous years, the level of deficit increased in 2022, reaching \$7.5 billion, or 81 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 2022, passing from \$6.4 billion in 2011 to \$1.8 billion in 2022. The value of the country's exports decreased on average by 8 per cent annually between 2010 and 2015 and by 10 per cent between 2015 and 2020. However, between 2020 and 2022, the country registered an annual average growth rate of its merchandise exports of almost 2 per cent. However, this growth is still much lower than the world average, which registered growth of almost 19 per cent between 2020 and 2022. Consequently, the share of Cuba in world merchandise exports decreased from 0.035 per cent in 2011 to 0.007 per cent in 2022.

The main export items of Cuba are beverages and tobacco, representing 21.5 per cent of total goods exports in 2022, with tobacco and tobacco manufactures alone representing 18 per cent of the total. These are followed by ores and metals (15.5 per cent) and food basics (13.5 per cent). At a more disaggregated level, tobacco, chemical products, medicaments, sugar and machinery 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.

The main export markets of Cuba are similarly distributed across continents, with the exception of Africa. In fact, in 2022, 29.7 per cent of the total exports of Cuba went to Europe – with as much as 21.7 per cent to the European Union, 24.4 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean, 22.9 per cent to Asia and 22.1 per cent to North America. Africa received only 0.45 per cent of the country's exports. At individual country levels, Canada, (21.8 per cent), China (13.7 per cent), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (13.3 per cent), Spain (7.8 per cent) and the Russian Federation (5 per cent) are among the main merchandise export partners. As merchandise exports of Cuba contracted, exports to these main markets also decreased over the years, with the exception of Canada, exports to which went from \$243 million in 2020 to \$362 million in 2022, a 49 per cent increase in two years. In the world markets, Cuban exports faced weighted average most-favoured-nation tariffs of about 15.7 per cent and applied tariffs of 15.5 per cent in 2021. Among its five main export partners, the weighted average applied tariffs imposed by Canada stand at 2.8 per cent, by China at 8.5 per cent and by Spain at 7.8 per cent.¹⁰

Estimated at \$9.2 billion in 2022, merchandise imports were more than five times larger than merchandise exports, as the country relies on imports for the supply

⁷ UNCTADStat; World Bank, World Bank Open Data database, available at <https://data.worldbank.org/>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ World Bank, World Bank Open Data database.

¹⁰ World Integrated Trade Solution, UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System database.

of machinery and transport equipment, essential foodstuffs, fuel and chemical products. After a contraction of 27 per cent in 2020, imports to Cuba started to grow again in 2021 and continued to grow in 2022. The main imported items are “basic food”, including cereals and meat; machinery and transport equipment; and manufactured goods. Cereals, electric machinery and petroleum are particularly significant imported products. As to fuels, there is a high concentration of import sources. Some 70 per cent of imports to Cuba in 2022 were sourced from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

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 \$4.8 million in 2022, about 0.3 per cent of the total exports of Cuba to the world.

By contrast, imports to Cuba from the United States were far greater and substantial. In 2022, bilateral imports to Cuba reached \$694 million, a 21 per cent increase from the previous year, passing from 6.8 per cent of its total imports from the world to 7.5 per cent. These imports mainly consisted of food items and live animals (75 per cent of the total) such as meat and meat preparations, and cereals and cereal preparations, including wheat, maize and rice. 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 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.¹¹

Services and remittances

Cuba has developed important export capabilities in the services sector. In 2021, the country’s services exports amounted to \$5.9 billion, as compared with imports of \$1.7 billion. Compared with 2020, that still represented a 15.8 per cent decrease for exports and a 9.7 per cent increase for imports. Key export activities are travel services and other non-specified services.

Tourism represents one of the most important sectors in the country. This sector suffered a major setback owing 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. In 2021, the first source market for tourists in Cuba was the Russian Federation, followed by Canada, Spain, the United States and Italy.¹²

Remittance flows to Cuba sent by migrants and workers abroad were valued at \$2.1 billion in 2022, a slight increase compared with 2021, but almost half of the value of remittances in 2019. Owing to a prohibition on processing remittances through “Cuba restricted list” entities, Western Union suspended its operations in Cuba in 2020, until revised rules in 2022 allowed the company to issue transfers

¹¹ United States of America, Code of Federal Regulations, title 15, subtitle B, chap. VII, subchapter C, part 746, para. 746.2 (1996).

¹² World Tourism Organization, UN Tourism Data Dashboard. Available at www.unwto.org/tourism-data/un-tourism-tourism-dashboard.

through local processors.¹³ Since June 2022, the United States has authorized donative remittances to Cuban nationals and lifted limits on family remittances.

Conclusion

A series of global crises affecting food, energy and finance triggered by geopolitical tensions continue to damage the Cuban economy and people's welfare, as they depend highly on international trade, tourism revenues and remittance inflows. The country appears to suffer continued hardship on account of modest growth, falling exports, a rising external deficit and a higher cost of living. Healthy flows of international trade and finance have the potential to support the economic recovery of Cuba and enhance its economic resilience against external shocks.

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 navigate through the economic consequences of multiple global crises. 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 April 2024]

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 50 years. The country programme for 2020–2024 was approved in 2020 and is aligned with 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 of the country programme prioritizes 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 often innovative within the national context, have a high strategic relevance in view of the changes made to the Cuban development model, and contribute to socioeconomic recovery from the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Fostering sustainable human development will continue to be at the heart of the country 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. The measures that negatively affect bilateral relations include the

¹³ United States of America, Congressional Research Service.

suspension of consular services at the United States Embassy in Havana for Cuban citizens wishing 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 Cuban citizens; and the entry into force of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (Helms-Burton 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 entities and subsidiaries associated with Cuba with which it is prohibited to have direct financial transactions;¹ the amendment of the general licence relating to “U-turn” financial transactions; the elimination of the authorization for donative remittances; and the placement of a cap on family remittances. In May 2019, Title III of the Helms-Burton Act was allowed to come into force, permitting legal action to be brought against companies from third countries that do business with Cuba and use properties that had previously been nationalized by the Cuban Government and were owned by United States citizens. The Helms-Burton Act was passed in 1996 as legislation that further strengthens the economic embargo, although the implementation of Title III had been suspended every six months by previous Administrations. Further restrictions on travel were imposed, such as banning cruise ships from stopping over in Cuba, narrowing travel authorizations with the elimination of the people-to-people travel category that allowed United States citizens to visit Cuba as part of organized group educational tours, and banning United States flights to all Cuban cities except Havana.

Furthermore, several sanctions, including penalties and the freezing of financial assets, were imposed on international crude oil providers and financial entities. In January 2021, the United States Administration announced the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism. In addition to being an important setback in bilateral relations, this measure represents 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 the suspension of the limit of US\$ 1,000 per quarter on remittances, as well as allowing remittances to be sent to people who are not family members; the reactivation of the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program and increased consular services and visa processing, including for educational trips and professional and research meetings; and an increase in flights between the United States and Cuba. In addition, the Humanitarian Parole program, a temporary program that allows Cuban citizens to enter the United States without a visa for a period of two years, was established. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba described the measures as “a limited step in the right direction”.

Specific effects of the United States embargo

The negative impact of the embargo has been growing exponentially and has become more specific and significantly larger than in previous years, particularly on commerce and financial activities. The embargo limits the acquisition of medicines and medical equipment and supplies, 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

¹ For the list of restricted entities, see www.state.gov/cuba-restricted-list/list-of-restricted-entities-and-subsidiaries-associated-with-cuba-effective-january-8-2021/.

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.

The embargo has excluded or limited the access of Cuba to loans 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 local development plans of Cuba. Furthermore, financial institutions dealing with Cuba face significant compliance challenges imposed by the embargo, increasing costs of operations and limiting the country's ability to access financing.

In the context of updating the Cuban economic model, the embargo also limits the participation of foreign investors – not only United States companies but also companies with United States capital or that have United States intellectual property – in prioritized economic projects, including the special development zone in Mariel. The embargo impedes investment flows and limits access to regional and global value chains.

Travel by Cuban experts and researchers to the United States in the framework of cooperation agreements has been limited by the process of obtaining visas.

The embargo has continued to negatively affect day-to-day work in external cooperation initiatives, creating many difficulties for the implementation of programmes and projects owing to trade restrictions or prohibitions on purchasing inputs from United States companies and subsidiaries established in the United States or in other countries. It also severely reduces the number of possible suppliers and limits competitive processes, while at the same time significantly increasing the cost of goods.

On a financial level, the embargo continues to prevent the UNDP country office in Cuba from making transfers in United States dollars. For this reason, and although budgets of all projects are recorded in United States dollars, transfers abroad are made in other currencies (mainly euros, pound sterling, 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 2023, the UNDP country office in Cuba and its projects faced many obstacles and delays, with most financial transactions involving intermediary banks that were subject to United States jurisdiction 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 created 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. Delays in shipping often go beyond 12 months.

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 times. Finding alternative shipping companies requires additional time and effort.

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.

Financial proposals and new projects must therefore 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 has 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 project 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 28,346 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.

At the end of 2022, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration granted the first loan to Cuba in the amount of 46.7 million euros, after several decades without a relationship with the international financial institutions. UNDP accompanied the country in the formulation of this operation and is tasked with the implementation (the Central American Bank for Economic Integration is disbursing the loaned funds directly to UNDP owing to the inability of the Cuban Government to receive the funds). Although all the conditions were ready for the first disbursement

in early 2023, it was delayed for a year, until February 2024, owing to the difficulties in receiving a grant for emergency recovery following the explosion of an oil depot in Matanzas. This particular transaction took a year to complete and delayed the procedures for the disbursement of the loan, with significant due diligence that had to be done in order to ensure that the loan disbursement would not be rejected. Had the loan disbursement been the first transaction, it would have suffered the same delay. This delay had a direct impact on the project, delaying the start of its implementation and delaying the expected impacts on the Cuban biopharmaceutical industry.

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, 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 DocuSign, Adobe, Amazon, Cisco and VMware, are blocked for Cuban Internet service providers. Likewise, access to technical information sites, technical support, studies and 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 key UNDP corporate platforms 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 over 95 per cent of the country office users connect to the Internet when telecommuting 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.

Banco Financiero Internacional is a Cuban bank used by many Cuban entities and other foreign companies with a presence on the island. Its inclusion since 2020 on the Specially Designated Nationals List of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, and more recently on the United States Department of State List of Restricted Entities, constitutes a new obstacle to having commercial and financial relations with the

potential emerging local market. Not only are dollar transactions penalized, but also any operation where International Financial Bank is involved.

In 2023, 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 to United Nations programmes and personnel, negatively affecting UNDP operations in general.

One direct effect of the inclusion of Cuba in the list of State sponsors of terrorism is the reinforcement of the Bureau of Industry and Security's pre-existing prohibitions for United States entities to carry out any type of commercial operations with Cuba with 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 in Cuba with a more stringent application of anti-money-laundering/combating the financing of terrorism policies resulted in a ban on granting financing from global institutions. The result is discouraging foreign suppliers of goods and services from participating in UNDP bidding processes.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]

[28 March 2024]

The embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba continues to affect developments in the fields of competence and activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The education sector has faced consequences in terms of hindered access to technological advancements for educational institutions, connectivity issues, limitations on academic exchanges, and challenges in acquiring essential tools for teaching and learning. This has been impactful in such fields as artistic education, physical education and technical-professional education. The consequences affect, in particular, special needs education, where the need for devices to address disabilities is high.

The embargo has continued to affect the effective promotion, dissemination and marketing of artistic talent, with artists being excluded from the United States market. The obstacles facing banking operations to and from Cuba have hindered direct transactions with the United States for the sale of cultural goods and services, in particular in the realm of music.

Young people carry a disproportionate burden of the consequences. Young women and men engaged in the non-State sector, either as entrepreneurs or workers, have had to face the decline in tourism due to travel restrictions and difficulties in sourcing inputs and equipment for ventures.

The embargo continues to have an impact on sports. Access to cutting-edge technologies for athlete development, sports equipment, training accessories, and supplies for vital scientific centres such as the anti-doping laboratory has remained

limited. Challenges have persisted in obtaining visas for participation in international competitions hosted in the United States, despite a partial resumption of consular services.

The embargo has affected educational and academic exchanges involving students and scientists in relation to Cuban and United States sports. Financial transactions related to international purchases, payments to coaches and athletes, and services rendered have continued to face difficulties.

The embargo has had an impact on communications and limited the progress of the computerization programme of Cuban society owing to the impossibility of procuring technologies and equipment produced under United States licences or using United States components in neighbouring markets. Obstacles to accessing websites and procuring technologies and supplies have increased the cost of Internet services while constituting barriers for access to information and knowledge.

The embargo has imposed limits on accessing technological platforms owned by companies subject to United States laws, with restrictions on more than 60 software programmes, websites, and services such as Zoom and WebEx – including for the UNESCO Office in Havana that covers Cuba, along with Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The operations of UNESCO have often required accessing geographically distant markets, with an increase in procurement costs. In some instances, upgrading essential technologies has not been possible, impinging also on staff training. The situation has affected the implementation of international capacity-building workshops as well as knowledge-sharing of project results carried out by the UNESCO Office, as some international guests prefer not to travel to Cuba owing to the penalties imposed for subsequent entry or exchange with the United States.

The prohibition on acquiring technological inputs containing more than 10 per cent United States components has remained in effect, leading to delays in procurement processes, restrictions on the utilization of goods and technology procured by end users, and increased costs related to freight and insurance. Some companies with which UNESCO has long-term agreements to secure favourable prices and terms are unable to participate in bidding processes in Cuba.

The nature of the embargo has led to other financial restrictions that have impacts on banking transactions, including in currencies other than the United States dollar. This has affected financial transactions by UNESCO and its staff, notably regarding the payment of salaries and official travel, with consequences for the implementation of official missions and for leading activities. Concerning health insurance, UNESCO staff members have continued to be affected, as numerous health insurance companies have faced challenges in working directly with Cuban health service providers owing to the restrictions.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[14 May 2024]

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) currently implements 10 projects to support Cuba in addressing its environmental challenges and meeting its environmental obligations. Of these projects, two are national and the rest are components or activities within regional or global projects.

The areas covered by these projects include finance facilities to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals in Cuba; capacity-building on biosafety to support full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on

Biological Diversity in Cuba; water and wastewater management, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems of critical importance; innovative solutions to waste management; and climate change resilience and adaptation.

UNEP projects in Cuba are part of the implementation of the medium-term strategy and programme of work of UNEP, which are approved by the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Cuba also participates actively in United Nations environmental governance structures managed by UNEP, including the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. For instance, Cuba led the negotiation and adoption of Environment Assembly resolution 6/1, entitled “Circularity of a resilient, low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry”, which was adopted by the Assembly on 1 March 2024.

The embargo imposed on Cuba hinders the ability of UNEP to support South-South knowledge transfer, capacity-building and technical cooperation between Cuba and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular training events, capacity-building activities and workshops.

Limitations in financial transparency make it difficult to hire and pay experts from Cuba for the implementation of projects and activities. 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.

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 distant markets.

The embargo impedes the mobilization of resources and implementation of environmental protection projects in Cuba. This challenge has, for instance, affected the ability of UNEP to mobilize resources from vertical funds for Cuba.

The economic, commercial and financial embargo also affects the ability of Cuba to submit its financial contribution to UNEP.

UNEP supports Cuba within its possibilities. However, ending the embargo would significantly facilitate the possibility of supporting Cuba in addressing environmental and climate challenges, and would enable the effective and proper participation of Cuba in regional intergovernmental and technical cooperation processes.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

[Original: English]
[4 April 2024]

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been working in Cuba since 2001 and there has been a UN-Habitat Office in Cuba since 2007. The main objective of its presence is to partner with the Government of Cuba in the implementation of its development agendas and priorities that coincide with the priorities and mandates of UN-Habitat.

During recent years, UN-Habitat has partnered with the country in the implementation of several projects whose priorities are reflected in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the UN-Habitat country programme with the Government of Cuba. The projects include sustainable

urban planning and management at the national and municipal levels; housing and urban recovery after the impact of 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 at the national and local levels; and support for the process of strengthening local technical capacities to contribute to decentralization and territorial development.

The projects being implemented are oriented to development issues, with emphasis on the local level. There have been some limitations 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 that are of great importance to guarantee the acquisition of supplies, equipment, technologies and infrastructure for Cuba's urban and territorial development. From the perspective of UN-Habitat, the implementation of resolution 78/7 will allow Cuba to contribute decisively to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially of Goal 11 "Achieve inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities".

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

[Original: English]

[15 April 2024]

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; (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 diverse portfolio, with six projects totalling \$5.8 million. These initiatives include two national projects: the first aims to enhance energy efficiency, while the other is its ongoing Country Programme. In addition, there are two regional projects: one focuses on accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 9, and the other aims at improving coordination in aquaculture. Lastly, there are two interregional projects: one focuses on fostering innovation clusters between Slovenia and Cuba, while the other aims at developing international partnerships in the energy and environment sector.

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]
[19 March 2024]

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 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. In this context, the Office facilitates the participation of Cuba 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 that are aimed at increasing capacities in disaster risk reduction, disseminating good practices in risk-sensitive investment and strengthening and streamlining early warning systems in the region.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction acknowledges the expertise of Cuba in reducing disaster risks. It also 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 for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in the Americas during the eighth session of the 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. The Office also appreciates the contribution and commitment of Cuba to the Sendai Framework implementation midterm review, including its national midterm review report submission and the representation of Cuba at 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.

The cooperation of Cuba and its sharing of expertise within the region are of great importance for the advancement of the disaster risk reduction agenda. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction notes that Cuba was among the first countries to offer technical assistance to Caribbean countries to cope with the 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.

Cuba has confirmed its interest in joining a disaster risk reduction cooperation agreement with other subregional disaster risk reduction intergovernmental organizations (the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, the Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic, the General Secretariat of the Andean Community and Mercosur plus Chile) and the European Union. This memorandum of understanding will further strengthen subregional exchanges and cooperation to achieve the Sendai Framework targets and reduce disaster losses.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 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, 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, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 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 functioning in current times) and assets that are of the 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]
[22 March 2024]

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. Consequently, UNODC is attempting to expand the implementation of its mandate in the Caribbean and be proactive in supporting Member States in their efforts to address these challenges while strengthening cooperation with Cuba in the context of regional initiatives.

Cuba is covered by the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean based in Panama. In addition, UNODC has established programme presences in Barbados and the Dominican Republic. From these locations, UNODC supports Cuba as part of the Office's extended presence in the Caribbean region, in close coordination with key regional and national counterparts. UNODC does not have any presence in Cuba and does not implement national projects. All technical assistance is delivered under UNODC global programmes.

In the area of law enforcement and interdiction capacity-building, Cuba takes part in the global Container Control Programme of UNODC, which is being implemented in partnership with the World Customs Organization. The Programme has established two Port Control Units in port of Mariel and Santiago and one air cargo control unit at the International Airport of José Martí in Havana. The Unit in the port of Mariel is composed of customs and anti-narcotics police officers. The units received basic theoretical, practical and specialized training, as well as mentoring on air cargo and sea cargo.

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. Since 2019, UNODC has implemented this initiative at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, with funding from the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program of Canada. The joint airport interdiction task force consists of 31 agents from five key law enforcement agencies, namely, the Directorate of Identification, Immigration and Foreigners, the Specialized Anti-Drug Confrontation Body, INTERPOL, the Specialized Anti-Terrorism Confrontation Body, and the Customs Office. The Airport Communication Programme has provided the task force with numerous training courses and mentoring, both theoretical and operational, on matters such as drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; migrant smuggling; analysis of advance passenger information, passenger name records and lists of passengers; insider threat detection; investigative interviewing; forged document detection; and intelligence-led targeting training. The Programme also supported the participation of

Cuba in an exchange of best practices with the National Police of Spain from Adolfo Suarez-Madrid Barajas International Airport in Madrid.

The greatest impact of the sanctions on programme delivery has been the restrictions placed on travel, limiting the ability to fully deliver and implement training, mentoring and study visits as well as stakeholder meetings and engagements. Unfortunately, the online training and alternative equipment procurement methods outlined and successfully used elsewhere in the region have not been possible in Cuba owing to the stringent domestic controls and restricted access to the Internet and travel, as well as limited procurement opportunities affected by trade controls and sanctions.

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 and the Caribbean 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]
[9 February 2024]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to have an impact on the situation and fundamental rights of the population, in particular 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 censuses, and in the provision of essential services for the care of victims of gender-based violence and pregnant women in maternal homes, owing to delays in the purchase of sexual and reproductive health commodities from international suppliers.

In this context, the implementation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) country programme continues to face challenges in procurement processes, such as payment restrictions and delays. This is particularly the case with regard to procuring reproductive health commodities and supplies 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. Both development programmes and emergency response programmes are affected, as it is even more difficult to mount a quick, efficient, high-standard and inclusive response to emergencies due to the aforementioned limitations. In 2023, the effects of these sanctions were intensified as the country continued to be affected by a difficult socioeconomic situation. These two factors together have increased the negative consequences faced by the Cuban population.

The permanence of Cuba on the United States list of State sponsors of terrorism in 2023 had a significant impact on the country in terms of both tourism and the delivery of health commodities, as international freight companies are banned from delivering goods to any country on this list.

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 to help to mitigate the effects of the embargo-related measures on the availability of sexual and reproductive health supplies, including contraceptives, condoms and supplies for the Maternal and Child Care Programme. In this regard, the programme had to align the approved interventions with other needs and reallocate financial support to ensure critical supplies for the sexual and reproductive health services.

UNFPA reaffirms the commitment to supporting the efforts of Cuba to maintain the progress that 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 limited 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]
[13 May 2024]

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 were held 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 30 March 2023), the following activities may be highlighted:

- Cuba continues to participate in the UPU Operational Efficiency and E-commerce Development regional project being carried out over the 2022–2025 period.
- The designated operator of Cuba (Correos de Cuba) continues to receive support from the UPU Quality of Service Fund through 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 concluded, in December 2023, 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 October 2023, postal operators received training, through a virtual workshop on dangerous goods regulations.

In that context, UPU has not encountered difficulties in implementing the aforementioned assistance or undertaking any other joint activities with Cuba as a result of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against that country.

World Food Programme

[Original: English]

[16 February 2024]

Over the past 60 years, comprehensive social protection programmes in 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 have further exacerbated the food security situation in the country. Over the years, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic generated a very significant health cost and had disastrous consequences for the last substantive source of income for the country: tourism.

After the two very important measures adopted in 2021 and 2022 (the monetary reform and the food sovereignty and security law), Cuba continued its efforts to stabilize its economy, with limited success. Access to basic goods, especially food, is now a major concern for the Cuban population. The year-on-year consumer price index was 39.5 per cent in August 2023, with the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages increasing by 53.47 per cent. Household purchasing power has been drastically reduced, with an unchanged nominal wage/pension level since the monetary reform of January 2021 and two years of runaway inflation. Domestic production, for both domestic consumption and export, was affected by the shortage of inputs and fuel, and as a result, food production did not reach planned levels.

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 in preparedness and response programmes, together with the Cuban Civil Defence, in order to better prepare for extreme weather events (droughts and 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 is focused 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 2023, the United States embargo continued to have a negative impact on the economy of Cuba, as well as on the operational conditions of WFP. In addition, the presence of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism has a negative impact on the development of a market economy in the country. The high cost of importing agricultural equipment and inputs, as well as food produced in foreign countries, coupled with the difficulties in conducting financial transactions with foreign partners, are directly 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, companies selling products made of more than 10 per cent of United States components or companies that process payments through United States subsidiaries is also affected by the embargo, having a direct impact on 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 because of the difficulty to find 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 have further reduced the procurement and 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 specialized technical equipment for projects, increasing the regular costs for WFP. Moreover, voice and data communications are extremely expensive, as they have to bypass telecommunications infrastructure in the United States.

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, and WFP country office payments are also vulnerable to these limitations.

World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization

[Original: English]
[26 March 2024]

This submission, prepared by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas in response to General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, points to issues relating to the effects of the embargo on public health and on the technical cooperation of PAHO and WHO with the country in 2023.

According to the Government of Cuba, the embargo has a negative impact on the Cuban health sector, due mainly 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, thus having an impact on the operational capacity of the health services. This includes impacts on the efficiency of the global mechanisms for purchasing medicines and technology operating in Cuba.

According to the Government of Cuba, there are other negative impacts, such as difficulties in acquiring reagents for diagnostic equipment that require a license for sale to Cuba. Although the Government of the United States 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 and WHO, the necessary licenses have not yet been granted. Similar licensing issues for

other organizations have occurred with regard to donations of medical equipment and health supplies.

In addition, the Government of Cuba notes 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) are in some cases not available in Cuba does not allow Ministry of Public Health officials to gain access to virtual meetings convened by PAHO and WHO, thereby affecting the effectiveness of technical cooperation with the country. This also affects other institutions, such as the eight PAHO and WHO Collaborating Centers, 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]
[28 February 2024]

As a result of the embargo, the following circumstances 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 Cuban professionals may not fully benefit from higher specialization opportunities in the field of intellectual property, especially available in the United States of America. They include, notably, aspects on intellectual property asset management, issues relating to 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.

Visa restrictions also hinder the possibility of Cuban intellectual property professionals to participate in World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) training programmes, meetings and other events in the territory of the United States of America.

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, among others, have enormously restricted the participation of Cuban representatives in many of the virtual meetings and capacity-building activities organized by WIPO. Furthermore, this access restriction prevents authorities and users in Cuba from gaining access to 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), 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 fields of environmental, medical and life sciences and biotechnologies and nanotechnologies and limits knowledge of the behaviour of brands in potential export markets.

The embargo also affects the availability of information technology equipment and software for the performance of administrative operations relating to filing and granting procedures, in particular patent and trademark search and examination services. Although Cuba is administratively equipped to perform such functions due 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 services that these offices are required to render and prevents the normal growth and expansion of such services. Most important, 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 to 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 in only 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]
[21 March 2024]

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, and exchanges of meteorological and hydrological data, as well as projects covering the Caribbean area and Central America. Other than 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 2023, the World Meteorological Organization did not encounter any inconvenience or limitation relating to Cuba on regional scientific collaboration.

World Tourism Organization

[Original: Spanish]
[6 March 2024]

The United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba persists in general activities, including restrictions on travel by United States citizens to Cuba, which has a direct impact on the Cuban tourism sector, as well as on the contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals. These restrictions are compounded by certain limitations on travel by European citizens to Cuba.

Considering the circumstances described above and taking into account the economic crisis that the world has been experiencing since 2020 as a result of the pandemic, the recovery of the Cuban tourism sector has slowed down compared with the resilience shown by the Americas region in general. If these measures persist over time, the contribution of tourism to the economic growth and development of Cuba could be further undermined.

According to the latest edition of the World Tourism Barometer, issued in January 2024, the performance of the tourism sector worldwide continues to improve. However, the situation of the Cuban tourism sector differs markedly from that of other destinations in the region, with arrivals for 2022 still 44 per cent below 2019 levels, when the average for the Americas region is 9.7 per cent lower than before the pandemic. Worse still, revenue from international tourism in Cuba is 60 per cent lower than in 2019.

As a result, the current performance of tourism and the post-pandemic recovery of the Cuban sector could be significantly improved if the measures that are so deeply affecting the tourism sector were lifted or eased.

World Trade Organization

[Original: English]
[8 March 2024]

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 that 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, seeking to both protect and preserve the environment and in a manner consistent with the needs and concerns of WTO members at different levels of development. The preamble also stresses the desirability of arrangements directed at eliminating discriminatory treatment in international trade relations.

In the period covered, the issue referred to in General Assembly resolution [78/7](#) was raised in the annual report of the Government of Cuba to the General Council on a waiver extension granted under the decision of 23 November 2021 (WT/L/1128). The waiver was granted to Cuba under the decision of 14 October 1996 (WT/L/182) in relation to article XV:6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In the report, Cuba noted that the circumstances that justified the waiver extension granted in 2021 had continued to worsen. Cuba stated that that applied in particular to the economic, trade and financial embargo measures that the United States had continued to impose on Cuba, which had been aggravated by the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the global economic and financial crisis caused by that disease and other international conflicts. Cuba expressed regret that the United

States had continued to apply 243 measures and had tightened the embargo in the financial sphere. Cuba noted that the actions announced by the Government of the United States in May 2022, while welcomed as positive, had been of limited benefit to the Cuban people and that the embargo remained the main impediment to the country's economic development owing to its having hampered the performance of all sectors of its domestic economy, substantially increasing economic costs, impeding access to external financial flows and obstructing essential imports, mainly food, medicines and fuel.

The issue was also raised in February 2024 by the Ambassador of Cuba to the United Arab Emirates in the statement by Cuba on the occasion of the thirteenth session of the WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Abu Dhabi. In its statement, Cuba referred to the severe consequences of the embargo, which had intensified to unprecedented levels in recent years. Cuba indicated that the embargo was the biggest obstacle to the sustainable development of the country and its legitimate trade relations with the rest of the world, given its marked extraterritorial reach.

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

Common Fund for Commodities

[Original: English]
[5 February 2024]

The Common Fund for Commodities, an intergovernmental financial institution established to support commodity development in developing countries, submits the present report to the Secretary-General concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. In line with the concerns expressed by entities such as the South Centre, the Common Fund for Commodities emphasizes the significant adverse effects of these unilateral coercive measures on the commodity sector in Cuba, as well as the broader implications for development and human rights.

General Assembly resolution [78/7](#), entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", underscores the international community's strong disapproval of the embargo. This position aligns with the principles of fair trade and equitable development that the Common Fund for Commodities advocates.

The ongoing embargo, reinforced in particular by the 1996 Helms-Burton Act, is in direct conflict with the tenets of the Charter of the United Nations. It undermines the sovereign rights of nations, non-interference in internal affairs and the freedom of international commerce, essential for commodity-dependent developing countries. Such unilateral sanctions disrupt not only the Cuban economy but also the global commodity markets, affecting both producers and consumers worldwide.

Endorsements by the Special Rapporteur of the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights resonate with our findings. The use of economic sanctions for political ends violates international norms and human rights and impairs the targeted nation's development prospects. The extraterritorial reach of these sanctions, exemplified by the Helms-Burton Act, stands in violation of established international law.

The impact of the embargo on Cuba is multifaceted and severe. It restricts access by Cuba to international markets for its commodities, limits financial transactions

essential for trade and creates a deterrent effect on potential trading partners due to fears of United States reprisals. This environment hinders not only the economic growth of Cuba but also its efforts to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Despite these challenges, the achievements of Cuba in health care, in particular vaccine development during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, are commendable. Such progress, made under the weight of the embargo, highlights the potential of Cuba to contribute significantly to global commodity markets, including pharmaceuticals, if these restrictive measures were lifted.

It remains our view that the protracted embargo and the designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism are incompatible with a lawful, equitable international system and grossly undermine human rights, including the right to sustainable development. This situation reinforces the necessity to eliminate unilateral coercive measures that hinder sovereign rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Common Fund for Commodities urges the international community, especially the nations endorsing resolution 78/7, to work collaboratively towards ending these restrictions and supporting the rightful place of Cuba in the global commodity market. The Common Fund for Commodities urges all parties involved to consider the struggles of commodity-producing smallholders in Cuba and the country's general population, which is paying a higher price for reasons beyond its reach or making.

International Civil Defence Organization

[Original: English]
[18 March 2024]

The decades-long economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba 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 without reservation.

The International Civil Defence Organization therefore echoes the call by United Nations experts on 8 February 2024 urging the United States to review its domestic framework that triggers specific sanctions against States designated as State sponsors of terrorism, given that unilateral designation on this list goes against the fundamental principles of international law, including the principle of sovereign equality of States, the prohibition against intervening in the domestic affairs of States and the principle of peaceful settlement of international disputes. The reinclusion of Cuba on the list of State sponsors of terrorism further exacerbates the egregious consequences of the economic, commercial and financial embargo.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

[Original: English]
[26 February 2024]

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, held 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 groups of States, of laws or other measures with extraterritorial effect that are aimed at obliging third-party States or their nationals to apply economic sanctions adopted by it.

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, held 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.

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 146th IPU Assembly, held in Manama in March 2023 and the 147th IPU Assembly, held in Luanda in October 2023. During these 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 applauded attempts by legislators from Cuba and the United States to normalize relations through dialogue. IPU believes that parliamentary diplomacy can 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 against Cuba and expresses its sympathy with the Cuban people, who continue to suffer from its effects.

South Centre

[Original: Spanish]
[11 March 2024]

The South Centre is an intergovernmental organization of developing countries established in 1995 pursuant to the Agreement to Establish the South Centre, deposited with the Secretary-General of 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 has 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.

As indicated in the report submitted by Cuba to the United Nations Secretariat in July 2023, which describes the harm caused by the blockade between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023, “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.”¹ The Administration of Joseph Biden, despite electoral promises, has maintained this unjust blockade against the Cuban people.

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 participating in international trade and conducting financial transactions owing to the fear and deterrent effect that the measure has on 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. In this regard, it should be noted that:

1. The coercive and intimidating effect has an impact on all areas of the Cuban economy.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. People who have visited Cuba after 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 Barack Obama.

Repercussions of the embargo

As stated in previous reports submitted by the 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 indicated in the above-mentioned report submitted by Cuba in July 2023, between March 2022 and February 2023 the Administration of Joseph Biden rigorously applied its 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 cancellation of contracts, the increase in marketing costs and the growing pressure on banks throughout the world are having a negative impact on the health-care system in particular. This system has enabled the provision of excellent health services not only to the Cuban population but also to many other countries through active South-South cooperation and international cooperation, as exemplified by the

¹ <https://cubaminrex.cu/sites/default/files/2023-10/INFORME%20CONTRA%20EL%20BLOQUEO%202023.pdf>.

cooperation between Cuba and a number of developed countries during the crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

In the health sector, the acquisition of many necessary supplies and equipment is being impeded by the blockade. The July 2023 report mentioned above includes information on many cases. For example, the purchase of the da Vinci Xi Surgical System Model IS4000 surgical robot has been denied. Currently, it is too expensive to update the technology for the comprehensive therapeutic treatment of burn patients.

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 AG for the launch of a capnograph, a piece of equipment used for measuring the carbon dioxide exhaled by a patient, was cancelled.

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.

The German firm Bayer, which exports human medicines and veterinary products for cattle, suspended its exports to Cuba because of its merger with a United States consortium.

It is currently difficult to import hearing aid batteries for students who need them because the vast majority of them are made in the United States.

The deleterious effects of the unilateral coercive measures worsened during the three years of the COVID-19 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”.²

No humanitarian or solidarity-based considerations led to the easing of the United States embargo even during the most critical periods of the COVID-19 pandemic. One example was the blocking of the entry of sanitary materials donated to Cuba by Jack Ma – the founder of the Chinese company Alibaba – which included masks, diagnostic reagents and ventilators, all vital tools for combating COVID-19. The United States company 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.³

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 biotechnological products. The industry proved to be a key pillar for the protection of the health of the Cuban population during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cuba produced five vaccine candidates. 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 02 vaccine, approved on 20 August 2021.

² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Unilateral sanctions impinge on right to development – UN experts”, 11 August 2021.

³ “El bloqueo de Estados Unidos contra Cuba agrava la crisis por COVID-19 en la Isla: Oxfam”, 3 April 2020, available at: <https://www.oxfam.org/fr/node/12203>.

The Cuban biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry, however, has been significantly affected by the blockade. Both research and development, and the production and marketing of products in that sector, are affected every year, with limitations on sectoral growth and significant economic 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.

It should also be noted that Cuba has been one of the member countries of the South Centre that pays its annual contribution on time. In 2023, a Swiss bank refused to make the transfer to enable Cuba to pay its contribution.

Conclusion

The South Centre reiterates that 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 constitute a 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, in the dire event of a potential future 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 [78/7](#), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 November 2023 and supported by 187 States Members of the Organization, should continue to cooperate to put an end to the unjust denial of the right of Cuba to self-determination and development.
