



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONSIDER
AGENDA ITEM 43, ENTITLED “NECESSITY OF ENDING THE
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA”**

New York, 06 November 2019

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. At the outset, we would like to convey our respects and extend our warmest welcome to H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for presenting the report on this important issue, as contained in document A/74/91/Rev.1.

Mr. President,

3. For the last 28 years, and in a consecutive manner, the General Assembly has expressed its overwhelming support for and solidarity with the people and Government of Cuba through its principled position in favor of the resolution calling for the lifting of the embargo imposed against this sovereign country by the United States of America.
4. Last year, 189 Member States of this Organization voted in favor of resolution A/RES/73/8. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement seizes this opportunity to reiterate once again its strongest opposition to the promulgation and imposition of unilateral coercive measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations and that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations, given their extraterritorial implications and illegal character.
5. The Non-Aligned Movement has repeatedly reiterated its call to the US Government to put an end to the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo that it has illegally imposed against Cuba for almost six decades now. The embargo, which is a breach of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the norms and principles governing inter-State relations, constitutes a violation of Cuba's right to fully



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interact with the international community.

Mr. President,

6. The Non-Aligned Movement has historically maintained a principled position in rejecting unilateral coercive measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that are used as a tool of political or economic and financial pressure against States, especially developing countries. This position has been reaffirmed by the XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Movement, held recently in Baku.
7. The embargo on Cuba is, precisely, an example of the adverse effects of unilateral coercive measures on the wellbeing of the peoples, preventing them, among others, from fully enjoying and realizing their human rights, including the right to development. The direct and indirect damage inflicted by this embargo against Cuba is enormous. It affects all critical sectors of the Cuban economy, including public health, nutrition, and agriculture, as well as trade, investment, tourism and banking. The banking sector has been particularly hit, most notably since the last consideration of this agenda item. The persecution of Cuban financial transactions in third country jurisdictions, which has a significant deterrent effect in economic terms, has continued. Between June 2018 and April 2019, the US Government imposed nine penalties on companies or banks from third countries and from the United States itself. The total amount of these penalties was \$3,751,449,017. As a consequence of the embargo, Cuba is also denied access to markets, international aid from international financial institutions and technology transfers, and this creates serious obstacles to the socioeconomic development of the country. In addition, the embargo is the main impediment to broader access to the internet, people-to-people contacts and the development of cultural, sport and scientific relations. The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms that the continuation of the embargo is totally unjustifiable, and that it does not correspond with our historical time. It also runs counter to Cuba's continued efforts to realize its sustainable development, including the achievement of the goals established in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
8. The Movement expresses its deep concern over the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the embargo against Cuba, including the full implementation of Chapter III of the Helms-Burton Act. The Non-Aligned Movement also rejects the reinforcement of the financial measures adopted by the US Government to tighten the embargo, which has an economic damage on the Cuban people amounting to US \$922.6 billion, taking into account the depreciation of the dollar in regards to the price of gold in the international market. At current prices, during all these years, the blockade has caused damages in the amount of over US \$138 billion. It is worth highlighting that, since the last consideration



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of this agenda item a year ago, the blockade has caused losses of over US \$4 billion.

Mr. President,

9. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) considers the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States of America as an initial positive step in the process towards the normalization of bilateral relations. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the implementation of the blockade against Cuba has remained unchanged. Moreover, some progress in the normalization of the bilateral relations between the two countries is under jeopardy now, as evidenced by the policy of strengthening the embargo against Cuba pursued by the US President since June 2017.
10. Furthermore, while the regulations issued by the Department of Commerce and the Treasury on 15 January 2015 were the steps in the right direction in such areas as travel to Cuba, telecommunications and remittances, they are limited in scope, and only modify some aspects related to the implementation of the blockade. And, despite the historical decision of former U.S. President Barack Obama to notify the United States Congress on the removal of Cuba from the so-called list of States-sponsors of international terrorism – a unilateral and illegal list in which Cuba should have never been included –, this has not materialized in mitigating the effects of all the prohibitions and restrictions established by the blockade laws and regulations against Cuba.
11. In light of all this, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its call for an end to the unilateral and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Mr. President,

12. The fact that 189 Member States of the Organization voted in favor of resolution A/RES/73/8 last year constitutes an expression of the unanimity within the international community in demanding an end to the 57-year long embargo and full adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to the norms of international law, including those relating to mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Currently, over 190 nations engage economically and politically with Cuba, while the United States remains alone in pursuing its unjustified and illegal economic sanctions policy.
13. Consequently, the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement once again urge the US Government to yield to the will of the overwhelming majority of the international community and rectify its failed policies by fully complying with all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, whereby the immediate and complete end to the embargo



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imposed on Cuba is called for.

14. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement, while reiterating its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism, reaffirms that the full respect of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly those referring to sovereign equality, non-interference and non-intervention, is critical for the effective maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, the international community must continue working together in the reversal and elimination of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, given, among others, its illegal character and its extraterritorial implications.

I thank you, Mr. President.