



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE PLENARY MEETING OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONSIDER
AGENDA ITEM 42, ENTITLED “NECESSITY OF ENDING THE
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA”**

New York, 01 November 2017

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. At the outset, we would like to transmit our respects and extend our warmest welcome to H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba.
3. Similarly, we would like to acknowledge the presence of H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations in today's plenary meeting, and express our appreciation for the report presented on this important issue.

Mr. President,

4. For the last twenty-six years, and in a consecutive manner, this General Assembly has expressed its overwhelming support and solidarity with the People and Government of Cuba through its decisive support in favor of the resolution calling for the lifting of the embargo imposed against this sovereign country by the United States of America.
5. Last year, 191 Member States of this Organization voted in favor of resolution A/RES/71/5. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) seizes this opportunity to reiterate once again its strongest opposition to the promulgation and imposition of unilateral coercive measures, given their extraterritorial implications and their illegal character.
6. Moreover, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has repeatedly reiterated its call to the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the unilateral and illegal economic, commercial and financial embargo that it imposed against Cuba over 55 years ago. The embargo, on top of breaching international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, also constitutes a



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violation of Cuba's right to fully interact with the international community.

Mr. President,

7. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has historically maintained a principled position in rejecting unilateral coercive measures, particularly those used as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against States, in particular against developing countries. These positions have been reaffirmed as recent as on 20 September 2017, when the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Movement, meeting under the theme “Promulgation and Implementation of Unilateral Coercive Measures, in violation of International Law and the Human Rights of the Peoples subjected to them”, adopted the Political Declaration of New York.
8. And it is that, precisely, the embargo on Cuba is an example of the adverse effects of unilateral coercive measures on the wellbeing of the peoples, preventing them from fully enjoying and realizing their human rights. The direct and indirect damage inflicted by this undeserved embargo against Cuba is enormous. It affects all crucial sectors of the Cuban economy, including public health, nutrition, and agriculture, as well as banking, trade, investment, and tourism. It also denies Cuba's access to markets, international aid from international financial institutions and technology transfers, and creates obstacles to the socioeconomic development of the country. In addition, the embargo is the main obstacle to broader access to the internet, the exchange of ideas and the development of cultural, sport and scientific relations. Therefore, the continuation of the embargo is totally unjustifiable, and does not correspond with our historical time. It also runs counter to Cuba's efforts to achieve sustainable developments, including the goals established in the 2030 Development Agenda.
9. Furthermore, the economic damage on the Cuban people due to the application of the economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, amounts to US \$822.2 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 year, the blockade has caused damages for over US \$130 billion.

Mr. President,

10. 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. At the same time, it should be noted that the implementation of the blockade against Cuba has remained unchanged. Nevertheless, even some of the progress in the normalization of the bilateral relations between the two countries is currently being threatened, as shown by the new policy established in June



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2017 by the current President of the United States of America, aimed at strengthening the embargo against Cuba.

11. Moreover, while the regulations issued by the Department of Commerce and the Treasury on 15 January 2015 were steps pointing in the right direction in areas such as travel to Cuba, telecommunications and remittances, these are limited in scope, and only modify some aspects related to the implementation of the blockade. And, despite the historical decision of late U.S. President Barack Obama to notify the Congress of the United States of America of his decision to remove 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 meant an easing of the intricacies of all the prohibitions and restrictions established by the blockade laws and regulations imposed against Cuba.
12. In light of all this, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms its call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, as it was reiterated by the Heads of State and Government of the Movement during the XVII Summit of Island of Margarita, held in September 2016, in Venezuela.

Mr. President,

13. The fact that 191 Member States of the Organization voted in favor of resolution A/RES/71/5 last year constitutes an expression of the unanimity within the international community in demanding an end to the 55-year's long embargo and to fully adhere to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to the norms of international law, including the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of the States. Currently, over 190 nations engage economically and politically with Cuba, while the United States of America remains alone in pursuing its unjustified and illegal economic sanctions policy.
14. Consequently, the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) urges once again the Government of the United States of America 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 this General Assembly, whereby the immediate and complete end to the embargo imposed on Cuba is called for.
15. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), while reiterating its commitment with the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism, reaffirms that the full respect of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations is an essential element for the effective maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, the international community must continue working together in the reversal and elimination of unilateral coercive measures, including the economic, commercial and financial blockade



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imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, given, among others, its illegal character.

I thank you, Mr. President.