STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY AMBASSADOR SACHA LLORENTTY SOLIZ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77, ON AGENDA ITEM 40 ENTITLED “NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA”, AT THE 30th PLENARY MEETING OF THE 69th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(New York, 28 October 2014)

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, at this 30th plenary meeting of the 69th session of the General Assembly, on agenda item 40 entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

Mr. President,

2. For one second, let us all imagine a Cuban newborn with persistent fetal circulation desperately needing the administration of a scarce or non-existent nitric oxide in order to survive and having its life at risk because under the United States policy of economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, said medicine cannot be bought directly from the manufacturer. This example illustrates how human lives are threatened and public health care is undermined by the embargo.

3. Distressingly, the blockade also severely impacts sectors such as education, culture and sports, finance and banking, and foreign trade and foreign investments. Furthermore, international cooperation being provided and received by the Cuban people is harshly hit by the blockade. There are also substantial costs to Cuba’s strategic economic sectors such as construction, tourism, industry, communications, energy and mining, and transportation.

Mr. Chairman,

4. In an open violation of all the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the international law, the Government of the United States of America has been systematically suffocating Cuba for more than five decades, causing irreparable human and social damages, as well as huge material and economic losses to the people of Cuba, while also severely threatening the freedom of trade and investment in that sisterly nation.
5. Once again, the Group of 77 and China calls upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the inhumane and genocidal economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, and calls on the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures and unsolicited listings against developing countries.

6. The Group denounces the persecution of Cuba’s international financial transactions abroad, which has been exacerbated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States in recent years, and firmly rejects the inclusion of Cuba in the list of States sponsors of terrorism published by the State Department of the United States.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Despite the unnumbered difficulties and limitations experienced by Cuba due to the blockade, this country has consistently provided generous high quality medical and humanitarian international assistance. Currently, there are more than 50,000 Cuban-trained health workers in 66 countries. Recently, a medical team of 165 professionals was sent to Sierra Leone to help in the frontline in the Ebola response efforts.

8. Our beloved President Mandela once said, “During all my years in prison, Cuba was an inspiration. Its victories destroyed the myths of the invincibility of the white oppressor and inspired combatting communities in South Africa at a crucial moment for the liberation of our people from the apartheid. Which other country can show a more generous and solidary record of aid services to the liberation of Africa than Cuba? Cuba has been an example of surrender and service to others”.

Mr. Chairman,

9. In conclusion, the Group firmly urges the strict compliance to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the issue of the blockade, and expresses its deep aspiration that the days of the embargo are coming to an end and that they will soon be a relic of history telling that 11 million people nobly resisted these aggressions. As Presidente Evo Morales rightly stated, “The world is with Cuba”.

I thank you.