STATEMENT

BY

H.E. CHARLES P. MSOSA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

ON AGENDA ITEM 40: NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC,
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA
AT THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 28TH OCTOBER 2014

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Mr. President,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor to speak on behalf of the African Group and I join colleagues who have spoken before me to add our voice on The Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

More than fifty years have elapsed since the sanctions against Cuba were imposed. More than two decades have passed since this item was brought on the agenda of the United Nations. The General Assembly has adopted resolutions on this agenda item year in and year out, yet the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba has not been lifted.

Mr. President,

The African Group is of the view that economic sanctions against Cuba have caused great economic hardships, especially to the poor and the vulnerable populations in the country. We believe that an immediate end to the economic embargo against Cuba is necessary and it can serve to promote social and better standards of life for the people of Cuba. In this regard, we encourage the spirit of dialogue to be employed aimed at resolving the issue, and therefore allow Cuba to continue to effectively contribute to global development.

In June this year, at the twenty-third ordinary session of the African Union, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, our Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their full support for the General Assembly resolution on *The Necessity of Ending the Economic, Financial and Commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.*

We therefore reiterate the call by our Principals inviting the Government of the United States of America to lift the long standing embargo.

I thank you all for your attention.