Statement

of

H.E. Sabri BOUKADOUM
Permanent Representative
of Algeria
before the General Assembly
on
the Agenda Item 40
“Ending the Economic, Commercial
and Financial Embargo imposed
by the United States of America
against Cuba

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New York, 28 October 2014
Mr. President,

I would like to welcome His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, and to convey through him the greetings of the People and the Government of Algeria to the People and the Leadership of Cuba.

Algeria wishes to associate itself with the statements made earlier by the Representatives of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Malawi on behalf of the Group of African States; and Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. President,

Algeria would like to reiterate its deep concern about the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo unilaterally imposed for more than five decades now by the United States of America against Cuba. Annually, for many consecutive years, the members of the General Assembly have adopted, almost unanimously, a resolution calling for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba. Through those resolutions, the international community has continued to reaffirm that Cuba, like all other State Members of the United Nations, has the right to freedom of trade and navigation and to expand trade with its economic partners.

Algeria’s principled positions are well known and remains unchanged. In accordance with the principles of its foreign policy, Algeria has always condemned the extraterritorial application of laws and all forms of coercive economic and trade measures, such as this economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which contradicts international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Every Member State should respect the principles of the Charter, including, in particular, the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of any other State.
Mr. President,

None one can deny that the blockade has a negative effect on the well-being of the Cuban people on a daily basis and causes huge material losses and economic damages to Cuba. Those consequences have been exacerbated by the adverse effects of the ongoing global economic and financial crisis, which has seriously compromised Cuba’s development efforts. This is highlighted in the report of the Secretary General (A/69/98), which presents the views and information provided by more than 120 governments and by a great number of entities and agencies of the United Nations system concerning the implementation of last year’s resolution 68/8. The embargo frustrates efforts to achieve all the internationally agreed development goals, including the all-important Millennium Development Goals, and negatively affects South-South cooperation and international cooperation generally.

There is need also to recall the long-standing positions of the Non-Aligned Movement as well of the Group of 77 and China on this issue. Accordingly, Algeria will vote in favour of draft resolution A/69/L.4, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” which calls for the immediate lifting of the blockade against Cuba.

I thank you.