Mr. President,

As it is my first address to this 69th Session, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Session. I would also like to extend my warmest welcome to H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodrigues Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Bolivia on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. President,

Since 1992, the General Assembly has adopted, by an overwhelming majority, annual resolutions calling for lifting of the embargo unilaterally imposed by the United States against Cuba. We share the view of the international community that this embargo contravenes the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law and violates universally-recognized norms governing relations among States, such as sovereign equality, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, right of self-determination and peaceful co-existence.

The embargo has resulted in enormous suffering for the Cuba’s people, hindered investment and commercial relations of other countries with Cuba as well as efforts of Cuba to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also constitutes an obstacle to the future implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
Despite hardship, the Government and people of Cuba have attained significant achievements in many important areas, especially in education and health care. We appreciate Cuba’s continued active contributions to promoting international cooperation to address global challenges. The deployment of 165 Cuban medical professionals in West Africa to fight against the on-going Ebola, has clearly demonstrated that Cuba is an active and responsible member of the international community.

Mr. President,

Viet Nam champions peaceful solutions to all disputes and differences between States in accordance with international law as dialogue and negotiation, not violence, coercion or embargo, are key to a just and lasting peace. Viet Nam joins the international community to call for the United States to fully implement the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, to put an end to its five-decades-old embargo against Cuba. That would significantly contribute to peace, stability and development in the world.

My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate Viet Nam’s friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the people of Cuba. Viet Nam will do its utmost to help Cuba to overcome difficulties and challenges caused by the embargo.

I thank you, Mr. President./.