STATEMENT BY H.E. COLLIN BECK, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 40: NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC,
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA, BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

28TH OCTOBER 2014, NEW YORK
Thank you Mr. President

I take the floor to speak on item 40 in particular on draft resolution A/69/L.4 entitled “the Necessity of ending economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by United States of America on Cuba”. My delegation thank our Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon for his annual report, Solomon Islands and eight other Pacific have made submissions, joining more than 150 countries who have contributed to the Report’s content.

This item has come before the General Assembly for the last 21 General Assembly Sessions, this is the 22nd Session we the international community are considering the item.

Mr. President,

For all of us, for Small States, we value international law and multilateralism. Our interest is better served when everyone operates under the same rules and in strict compliance to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and various international legal instruments. The Charter for us is our first and last line of defense of our sovereignty and security. Multilateralism is a great equalizer. The draft resolution before us, upholds UN Charter Principles and calls for the respect of sovereign equality of states, non intervention and non interference in the internal affairs of states. This is central to all our foreign policies.

Draft resolution A/69/L.4 also is about the freedom of international trade, the freedom to choose one’s political system and the freedom for States to adopt its economic system. Cuba demanded this freedom peacefully and multilaterally, for more than two decades. It is now more than fifty years since US unilateral embargo was imposed on Cuba, the long and firm grip by the United States over Cuba has challenged the notion that not everyone is born equal. We on the periphery of the international system keep calling for a just, fair and equitable system and hope those with absolute power will provide that space. In this connection the resolution speaks of our interest.

To our friend and partner the United States of America, in the name of justice, freedom and human rights, cast the chains of economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba, allow freedom and good neighbourly relations to grow roots between the two States. Replace confrontation with engagement. Open the doors of diplomacy and allow the seeds of mutual cooperation to bear fruit.

From a crisis in the last century, the United States of America embargo was imposed on Cuba, from a crisis in the 21st Century an opportunity exists to reset relations between the two close neighbouring states. United States contribution in combating and garnering international support against Ebola and Cuba’s human resource response to affected countries sends a message of hope to the world. Both countries united under a common cause can do more for the world.

My delegation appeal for a strong political will from the United States of America to lift the embargo on Cuba and allow trust and confidence building cooperation between the two governments to develop and expand.
Mr. President,

My delegation acknowledge the resilience of the Government and people of Cuba, as stated by Cuban Foreign Minister His Excellency Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla last month at the UNGA, in the five decades of blockade, Cuba sent 325,000 health workers assisting 158 countries and trained 38,000 medical doctors in 121 countries.

Eight Pacific SIDS, have sent medical students to Cuba for training number was just under 200 Pacific Islanders studying in Cuba. Solomon Islands saw 20 of its 100 medical students last July. More than twenty is expected to graduate next summer. Health remains a prerequisite for sustainable development, Cuba continue to invest in our youth to which will not only change our health system as more doctors serve amongst our people but also create a vibrate healthy and productive population.

In closing, Solomon Islands supports draft resolution 69/L.4 in its entirety we do so in solidarity with Cuba and will vote for peace, equality and justice.

Thank you most sincerely Mr. President,