Address by H.E Ambassador Amr Aboulatta
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations

Before the 69th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda Item 40
“Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial & Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”
Mr. President,

I would like first to welcome H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, and assure him of Egypt's continued support and solidarity.

Mr. President,

In an era that free people of the world, are taking the lead in shaping the future of global cooperation, and in bridging the gaps in views and goals, and focusing on paving their path towards the sustainable development goals, and setting aside the grudges of the past,

In a world that holds years of sufferings and tears over its shoulders, a cost that turned the world, to be wiser, and more mature,

Unfortunately, we still hear echoes from the past; that insist on calling the ugly ages of confrontation, and unilateral aggressive measures, that the world has surpassed long time ago.

Mr. President,

On October 19, 1960, the United States imposed its unjust and unjustifiable unilateral embargo on Cuba, that lasted longer than any other embargo in the modern era.

The world has profoundly changed since. Yet, the “bloqueo” persists, in total violation of the international law, and not only violating the principles of the United Nations Charter, but also the principles of the regional Organization of American States, the organization that the US belongs to.

Needless to say, the Extraterritorial measures, imposed by the embargo, contravenes the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of trade and navigation as paramount principles in the conduct of international affairs.

Mr. President,

For five decades, the United States has tightened limits on Cuban people access to food, medicines, education and high technology goods. The embargo inflicted detrimental repercussions, not only on the financial, banking, trade and investment sectors of the
The economic sanctions against Cuba have cost the country 3.9bn USD in foreign trade over the past year, raising the overall estimate of economic damage to 116.8bn USD over the past 55 years.

In spite of the detrimental repercussions the embargo has, the government in Cuba has made enormous efforts in meeting the needs of its people.

Mr. President,

What was proven with the over fifty four-years of embargo against Cuba, is that in this globalized world, Cuban people can still survive, thanks to their perseverance.

The embargo is a Cold War relic, which is increasingly hard to justify morally and politically.

We do not need to remind ourselves that the insistence on a historical mistake for years will never turn it sound.

Finally,

We once again urge the United States to immediately & fully comply with all the UN General Assembly resolutions, since 1992, calling for the immediate end of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Egypt will continue sending a clear message to the United States:

*Termin el bloqueo ahora....y Viva el pueblo Cubano.*

I thank you for your attention.