STATEMENT

BY

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ON EXPLANATION OF THE VOTE
AFTER THE VOTE DURING THE CONSIDERATION
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED:
"NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL
AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AGAINST CUBA"

AT THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 28, 2014
United Nations, New York

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Mr. President,
In her explanation of the vote, Kenya associates herself with the statement delivered by the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as the Republic of Malawi on behalf of the African Group.

Kenya voted in favour of the draft resolution entitled “The necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.”

Mr. President,
As in previous years, Kenya remains opposed to the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba based on the fact that the application of unilateral and extraterritorial economic and financial embargoes violates the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Kenya condemns the use of economic coercive measures designed to prevent countries from exercising the right to decide their own political, economic and social systems, and therefore calls upon Member States not to recognize the embargo against Cuba, which has had a negative impact on the well-being of the Cuban people.

Mr. President,
Kenya’s consistent opposition to the embargo against Cuba is also based on the fact that Cuba remains an integral part of the international community, and Kenya maintains bilateral relations and cooperation with Cuba. Kenya continues to engage with Cuba in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner. In addition, Cuba being an integral part of the international community, should not be isolated or excluded from participation in regional and international processes.

Indeed, Cuba itself has always remained very engaged with the African continent. Few countries in the world have shown solidarity that Cuba has to Africa. Its contribution has and continues to be manifested through the provision of military, education and health assistance, as well as a variety of other fields.

The particular focus given to collaboration in the medical field has also seen Cuba provide the largest number of doctors from any country to assist Africa tackle the Ebola epidemic. This is a demonstration of true friendship and support from our Cuban brothers and sisters.

*We commend Cuba!*
*We salute Cuba!*
*We celebrate Cuba!*
Mr. President,
Various United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have drawn the attention of Member States to the negative impacts of the Embargo, particularly how the unilateral measures have harmed Cuban children and hampered the ability of Cuba to acquire necessary technical or medical equipment, especially those materials that are under United States patent.

Mr. President,
Kenya calls for the lifting of all unilateral measures that would affect or alter free trade and regional socio-economic cooperation. The embargo being extra-territorial in nature violates international law and international trade rules, and runs counter to the principle of trade liberalization. The embargo has constrained the efforts of the Government and people of Cuba to eradicate poverty, improve their standards of living, and achieve the desired level of economic and social development.

In Kenya, we believe that the principles of non-intervention must be respected and upheld. The embargo presents a major impediment to the right of development of sovereign States and their peoples. The right to development is a basic human, economic and cultural right, and therefore the embargo remains an obstacle to the call for achieving the global development agenda, expressed in the Millennium Summit outcome document.

Mr. President,
Despite the incredible challenges posed by “the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, Cuba’s commitment to the social and economic progress and well-being of other developing countries.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Kenya reiterates her unwavering support for the right of the Cuban people to determination of their social and economic development, in the manner deemed most beneficial to them. “This embargo must end”.

I thank you.