Republic of Nicaragua

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nicaragua to the United Nations

Explanation of Vote before the Vote by

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General Debate on item 40: Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

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(Check against delivery)
Mr. President,

Once again the international community meets in this General Assembly to discuss and approve the draft resolution submitted by the sister Republic of Cuba entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

Nicaragua, in explaining its vote on the draft resolution, would like to begin by quoting a Cuban Compañera, who while recently in Nicaragua, and referring to our country stated, and I quote: “Our patriotic sentiments, our spirituality are linked to Nicaragua and all that hurts these people, we feel firsthand.”

Nicaragua will vote in favor of the resolution because we share the aforementioned, our People and Government feel firsthand all that happens to the brother People and Government of Cuba. It has been fifty-five years of blockade, of economic war and aggression, to our knowledge, the most prolonged and ruthless exercise in contemporary times.

Mr. President,

We wish to emphasize that the statements of support for the people and government of Cuba recently expressed by the Group of 77 + China, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), CARICOM, UNASUR, MERCOSUR, the African Union, are the most irrefutable proof that the world, almost entirely rejects and condemns this criminal blockade.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the information provided by fellow Compañero Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Brother Bruno Rodriguez, who has confirmed on behalf of his people, that the current Administration of the United States of America, not only maintains the blockade, but has not taken a step toward ending this illegal and unjust policy.

The United States continues to worsen this inhumane blockade and its means of extraterritorial dimensions, especially in the banking and financial sectors and prosecution of Cuban international financial transactions, in violation of the United Nations Charter and International law.

As always, these figures exposed by our Brother Bruno, as well as their impact on the development and life of the Cuban people both sadden and infuriate us. Its effects on their exports and imports, lack of access to international credit, impacts in their health system, education system, their right to food, lack of access to international markets, in short, damages in all spheres of life. This blockade is the main obstacle to sustainable development and economic and social programs of this sister nation.

Mr. President,

We would like to take this day to indicate that despite this war of aggression and blockade, this heroic people, not only will never surrender, but we are convinced that we can continue to count on them, with their solidarity and unconditional support to any emergency or need any of our peoples may have.

Today, faced with the Ebola epidemic, Cuba is, as always, at the forefront in favor of humanity, in defense of developing countries and, why not say it, in defense of developed countries.
Mr. President,

Nicaragua, once again condemns the inhumane and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba; we demand its immediate cease, we demand the return of the occupied territory of Guantanamo, immediately and unconditionally release the five Cuban anti-terrorist heroes, to desist from the recent immoral, illegal and covert actions called ZunZuneo and immediately remove Cuba from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism, which is nothing more than a justification of the United States of America to intensify their aggressive practices and policies against Cuba.

We have once again listened to the same United States delegate argue the same inconsistencies and fallacies of every year to justify their criminal blockade policy.

Mr. President,

Once again, they intend to confuse this General Assembly with their threshed arguments that convince no one, a reflection of their stubborn and outdated policies, their selfishness, their imperial arrogance and exceptionalism.

Nicaragua will once again vote in favor of the draft resolution, and urges the rest of the international community, to once again, manifest in favor of Cuba and reject these policies, their pretensions and justifications and to continue walking alongside Cuba, in solidarity, united in cooperation, hand in hand in the fight to eradicate the iniquities that afflict our peoples such as poverty, and for the health, education, happiness and Good Life for all.

In conclusion, I wish to quote our President, Comandante Daniel Ortega, who in referring to the blockade stated, “It is time to end this blockade. The situation has changed, including within the United States, the majority of people are against the blockade. The conditions have been created for President Barack Obama to decide to take that step, even if it goes against the system. Every day it is increasingly clear that Cuba is not isolated from the world, that it is the American policy that remains alone and isolated, that is the reality”.

Mr. President,

Hopefully the United States decides to rectify its policies and ends its own isolation. We invite them to join the international community.

Thank you, Mr. President.