Mr. President,

The delegation of Indonesia associates with the statement made by the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Faithful to its history and to its national character, Indonesia is a country committed to peace, justice and equality. For this reason, Indonesia stands before this forum to once again declare our unrelenting support to end the embargo against Cuba.

We must without delay overcome this relic of another time, for it has no raison d'etre in the new millennium that we are building together.

I could give you four valid reasons to end it.

One, it is against the very principle of the sovereign equality of all member states and of non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, as stipulated in the UN Charter.

The Charter clearly stated the need for Member States to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. The continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba clearly violates the UN Charter.
All member states are equal. None is above the others as we are bound by the principles of friendly relations among nations of the Charter.

Here at the UN, dialogue has always been the norm put forward by any civilized nation to resolve differences. There should be cooperation rather than confrontation.

Two, the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba has caused significant economic and social hardship that can hardly be justified on humanitarian grounds. It has caused years of deprivation for the people of Cuba, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, women and older persons.

This is a great burden for a developing country whose people would benefit tremendously from the good faith of the developed countries.

We have also been conversing of an ambitious vision to eradicate poverty through an inclusive Post-2015 Development Agenda. It could only be inclusive if those who are most vulnerable, including the people of Cuba, are involved in the process, and are able to relish the benefits of development without any constraint from foreign hands.

Three, the sanctions is a counterproductive policy that has curbed opportunities and economic benefits for Cuba and other countries, including countries that hold economic and commercial ties with Cuba. In this process, the sovereignty of other states and their jurisdiction on national legislation has been encroached.

Cuba is not the only victim. We, the developing states, the trade partners, the financial investors, are also victims of this undeserved embargo.

Four, our regional experience in Southeast Asia has raised immense confidence that engagement will do more good than isolation, to advance the noble causes that all UN Member States ascribe to. The time is ripe for relations between the parties involved to be transformed through constructive engagement.

Cuba should be able to exercise its right to develop and to grow, unhindered by restrictions to its trade and other business activities.

Mr. President,

While it is true that some small meaningful changes have occurred in recent times, such as the easing of travel restrictions to Cuba and the removal of obstacles to transfer remittances, the preferred outcome is for the embargo to be lifted completely.
Indonesia urges States to renounce applying laws or measures of an extraterritorial nature that affect the sovereignty of other States, the lawful interests of their subjects or of other persons under their jurisdiction, and freedom of trade and navigation.

Indonesia continues to support this resolution and reiterates the call for the immediate cessation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Our message is simple. Our message is clear. This embargo has to end!

I thank you.