
Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on agenda item 40, entitled the “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.
The Africa Group associates itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

For over two decades, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted, by an overwhelming majority, resolutions submitted by Cuba on this agenda item. However, over those years those resolutions have not been implemented at all and the economic, commercial and financial blockade has not been lifted, and continues to cause unnecessary hardship on Cuba and its people.

In today's world, dialogue and negotiation remain the appropriate way to settle disputes and to ensure peaceful coexistence among States. Africa hopes that the United States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, will put an end to its embargo against Cuba and also hopes that relations between the two countries will improve in a significant way, thus, apart from the benefits in the bilateral area, serving to contribute to the promotion of stability and development in the entire region.
In this regard, we would like to reiterate the decision of the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on this matter at its meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26 May 2013. Our Heads of State and Government called and, once again invited, the Government of the United States of America, to lift the economic and trade embargo imposed on Cuba.

It is our hope that the United States, in line with the resolutions of the General Assembly will consider its position with the view to create situation for a new Chapter in US-Cuban relations for which the lifting of the embargo would no doubt lay a very solid foundation.

Mr. President,

Africa reaffirms its full support for the draft resolution before us on the necessity of ending the embargo against Cuba. We do so, first of all, because it is right. We do so also because Cuba has a proud history in Africa because of its role in the struggle of Africa for liberation. That role will continue to be remembered by the people of Africa, and the people of Cuba should continue to be proud of this historic contribution.

Thank You