STATEMENT BY

H.E. TUVAKO N. MANONGI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM [40] ENTITLED
"NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL
AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA"

NEW YORK, 29 OCTOBER 2013
Mr. President,

The unilateral sanctions imposed against Cuba and her people have endured for over fifty years and have not engendered the intended consequences. This is why we have often appealed to our friends - the United States, that is it is time they were brought to an end.

Today, once again, we joined others in this Assembly to reiterated our collective call for the unconditional cessation of the embargo against Cuba.

For fifty years the sanctions have had no evident effect except as a curtailment to ordinary Cubans of their basic right to development and happiness. We believe ending the sanctions would have obvious economic benefits for both Cuba and the United States.

As a friend and ally the United States and the Cuba - we see a glittering light at the end of the tunnel. There is hope in the horizon - hope for a lasting solution to this unfortunate situation.

We hope and believe that both the United States and the Cuban Government can work towards a lasting solution. A solution which would restore relations that existed between the two people and countries long before the embargo was imposed.

We are encouraged by steps taken by the United States since 2009, such as the lifting of restrictions on family travel and remittances to Cuba, the expansion of humanitarian exports and the review of regulations for U.S. telecommunications companies, among others.

On April 4 2002, former President George W. Bush, during remarks on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation and Extension for the Andean Trade Preference Act made the following observations: “Trade creates the habits of freedom...which create the expectations of democracy and demands for better democratic institutions. Societies that open to commerce across their borders are more open to democracy within their borders. And for those of us who care about values and believe in values - not just American values, but universal values that promote human dignity - trade is a good way to do that.”

We agree. Commercial engagement is the best way to encourage more open societies. And ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba would be a great victory to the values that we have collectively undertaken to uphold. The values of enshrined in the Charter of this Organisation, the United Nations.

I thank you.