

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON AGENDA ITEM 41: NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA AT THE 67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 13, 2012

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address the General Assembly.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77 and Iran on behalf of the NAM.

**Mr. President,**

This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year in a row that we are here to consider the resolution tabled by Cuba. In all these years, this Assembly has emphatically rejected the imposition of laws and regulations with extra-territorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures that hurt the progress and prosperity of people the world over.

And while doing so, this Assembly has also called upon all States to respect their obligations under the United Nations Charter and international law, as well as repeal and invalidate laws and measures that have “extra-territorial effects” on other States.

In spite its rejection by this august assembly, year after year, the US embargo on Cuba continues to remain in full force. We see this as a violation of the world opinion, and an act that severely undermines multilateralism and the credibility of the United Nations itself.

**Mr. President,**

The half a century old US embargo on Cuba has brought immense suffering for its people. The embargo, which perhaps, has no parallel in history, is a transgression of the right of a sovereign state to development and to enjoy the freedom of trade, economy and navigation.

The embargo has denied a life of respect and basic standard to the people of Cuba and has severely undermined the progress of the country, including sustaining the Millennium Development Goals, which it achieved long before their adoption.

The impact of the embargo during the present global economic slowdown has been particularly severe for the Cuban economy. Spiraling food and energy prices have made matters worse.

The embargo has denied Cuba access to US market, investment, technology, financial services and scientific, educational, cultural and sporting institutions. Cuba has had to pay enormous extra cost for sourcing products, technology and services from third countries located thousands of kilometers away.

The extra-territorial application of the US embargo has discouraged investment, technology transfer and sale and other forms of business collaborations between Cuba and third countries.

The denial of technology and related scientific support, particularly due to extra-territorial application of the embargo, has severely impacted health care, an MDG commitment, in the country. It has also undermined its ability to provide health assistance to developing countries as part of South-South cooperation

**Mr. President,**

The report of the Secretary General on the agenda item is illustrative of the detrimental impact the embargo has had on international efforts to undertake socio-economic advancement in Cuba. The UN Resident Coordinator in Havana has noted the high cost and negative impact of the embargo on development and humanitarian cooperation implemented by the UN system.

**Mr. President,**

There is huge potential for strengthening economic and commercial ties between Cuba and the United States, especially in the tourism sector.

Taking advantage of limited openings under the US Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, the US has become the largest exporter of agricultural products to Cuba.

Congressional efforts in the United States to relax or lift the embargo lend further credence to the annual UN resolution calling for lifting of the US embargo.

**Mr. President,**

People to people contact between the US and Cuba holds immense possibilities to foster better understanding. The steps taken by the US Administration in January 2011 to reduce restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba are positive developments. However, it is far from making a fundamental change in the complex framework of laws and regulations which are part of the embargo against Cuba. Much more needs to be done.

India joins other nations in calling for an immediate end to the US embargo.  
India supports the resolution moved by Cuba.

I thank you.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)