



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 36: “NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC,
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA”**

**IN PLENARY AT THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK

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Mr. President,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by The Bahamas on behalf of the Caribbean Community and by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China on the Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba.

Jamaica takes the floor in its national capacity to join the international community to express its solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba in the call for the removal of this decades-old blockade on Cuba, which has only served to stifle the development aspirations and the potential of the Cuban people.

At the outset, my delegation acknowledges the presence and extends our warmest welcome to His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his reports on this important issue, and for providing the forum in which the multilateral perspectives enunciated by each Member of the United Nations are brought to bear on this unilateral policy which is in violation of international law and contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. President,

Jamaica considers this protracted blockade against Cuba, to be contrary to the norms governing international trade and navigation. It continues to be the main deterrent to the growth, prosperity and the realization of the just aspirations of the Cuban people. This blockade has hindered progress on Cuba's National Plan for Economic and Social Development, as well as, the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The embargo against Cuba has stymied economic, commercial and financial activities, hindering regular access to bilateral trade, importation of goods and access to financial mechanisms through formal and institutional channels. The inclusion of Cuba on the United States' list of State Sponsors to Terrorism further restricts entities from conducting business with Cuba and continue to pose grave implications on how third states engage with Cuba on developmental aid, international cooperation on transnational organized crime and technical assistance.

We continue to express our concerns about the impact of the continuation of the blockade and the extraterritorial application of the United States of America laws regulating transactions directly or indirectly.

For far too long, the people of Cuba have existed in an unjustified and suffered in an undignified manner as a result of the embargo. The undue hardship imposed has impacted and affected every facet of life and livelihood of the Cuban people. The COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented challenges for the past two years, compounded by natural disasters alongside the current multidimensional crises of food, energy and the increase in cost of living, have exacerbated the conditions in Cuba and transformed the socio-economic landscape and realities of the Cuban population.

The international community has been seized of this matter since the first tabling of this resolution at the 46th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1991. Every year since 1992, the international community has consistently and resoundingly expressed support, as evidenced in the favourable voting outcomes, for the need to end this blockade against Cuba.

As a member of the international community, we have witnessed the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States in 2015, which has served to ease restrictions in a number of areas. Notwithstanding this positive development, these measures are not far-reaching enough and are not a substitute for the lifting of the embargo to allow the Cuban people access to critical financial resources and their right to development.

Mr. President,

In this context, Jamaica calls for renewed dialogue between Cuba and the United States and reaffirms its commitment to stand in solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba, in concerted efforts with the majority of the members of the United Nations, calling for the removal of the embargo and for the full inclusion of the Republic of Cuba in the international community.

I thank you.