

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

TO THE

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON

**AGENDA ITEM 43: NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC,
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA.**

General Assembly Hall

1st November 2018(10.00am)

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The President of the General Assembly,

Distinguished Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya would like to align itself with the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of African States.

Kenya believes that unilateral sanctions and blockades are inappropriate instruments of international relations and diplomacy. Such actions, when applied unilaterally undermine multilateralism which is a key value of the United Nations that we all cherish.

President

Unilateral sanctions and blockades are generally prejudicial and, in many cases, politically self-serving. Furthermore, and as we have seen, they often fortify rather than weaken the targeted countries. In the long run, they are unsustainable and largely cause pain and suffering to the weak and vulnerable members of society.

As United Nations, we can do better to hold ourselves to a higher ideal than that which condones the choice and use of unilateral sanctions and blockades.

President,

The United Nations should therefore, not uphold any sanctions or blockades that do not meet the threshold of precision, swift and determinative action. It is not justifiable to apply sanctions in perpetuity. This is more so if they are applied against a Member State simply because that country may not be adhering to the cultural values or political ideals of another Member State or a group of Member States.

My delegation believes that the time to end the sanctions and blockade against Cuba is indeed long past its due date. Let the people of Cuba be free to enjoy the same unhindered social, economic and political freedoms that the rest of us enjoy. Let us not allow sanctions and blockades, unilateral or

otherwise, to stand in their way. Let us not allow sanctions to become the instrument that we or anyone else uses to leave Cuba behind.

President,

The people of Cuba deserve their inalienable right to live at peace and comity with their neighbors. They deserve the chance to exercise free will on matters of their own self-determination as a nation and Republic duly recognized by the United Nations.

It is for those reasons that Kenya always votes in favor of the resolution on the necessity to eliminate this undue burden on the great Cuban people. With the recent improvement in the diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States, we would urge the United States to consider lifting of the embargo imposed on Cuba.

I thank you.