



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Intervention by
H.E. Dr. Khiane Phansourivong
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations
on the Agenda Item 42: “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial
embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” at the Plenary Meeting of
the 72nd Session of the General Assembly
New York, 1 November 2017**

Mr. President,

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador and Singapore on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and China, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, respectively.

The Lao PDR voted in favour of the resolution to reaffirm our position that the imposition of the unilateral embargo with its extra-territorial implications has not only hindered the socio-economic development of a nation that such an embargo is being imposed, but it has also contradicted the principles and the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and those sovereign equality of states as well as of the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR welcomes the progress achieved in the past few years on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Cuba and the United States, including the reopening of the embassies in the respective capitals of both countries. However, it is regrettable to see that the progress made through years of efforts has been compromised. Notwithstanding this, we hope that the embargo on Cuba will be lifted as we firmly believe that the lifting of the embargo will not only be beneficial to both countries but it will also benefit to the region and the world at large.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.