



# MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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## STATEMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

BY

AMBASSADOR DATO' RAMLAN IBRAHIM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA

ON AGENDA ITEM 42: NECESSITY OF ENDING THE  
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO  
IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AGAINST CUBA

NEW YORK, 27 OCTOBER 2015

Mr President,

I have the honour to address the General Assembly on behalf of the ten Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Malaysia. We express our support for the resolution to end the economic, commercial, and financial embargo by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba. ASEAN aligns itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the statement made by South Africa, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. Since this resolution was first tabled in 1992, the General Assembly has consistently adopted it by an overwhelming majority. ASEAN Member States have voted unanimously in favour of the resolution for the past fourteen (14) years. It is our firm belief that differences between States should be settled through engagement not confrontation, by inclusion not isolation, and in accordance with the fundamental principles of sovereign equality, non-interference, and non-intervention as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

3. In this regard, ASEAN welcomes the restoration of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States. We also welcome the lifting of a number of restrictions on travel and remittances by the United States since 16 January 2015. These are important first steps towards the normalisation of bilateral relations, and has been rightly hailed as key to better regional relations in the Americas. We believe that this positive move would be mutually beneficial to the people of both countries as well as contribute to peace, security and stability and enhance cooperation in the region.

4. Going forward, an even more important step will be for the United States to end its economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba. This would significantly improve the quality of life and living standards of the Cuban people, and contribute to the economic and social development of Cuba. Ending the embargo would also advance this Assembly's efforts towards achieving an inclusive post-2015 Development Agenda.

5. ASEAN strongly urges the United States and Cuba to take this opportunity to chart a new way forward. We recognise that much remains to be done. We encourage the United States and Cuba to commit to an open and constructive dialogue, without pre-conditions, underpinned by mutual respect. ASEAN joins the other members of this Assembly in reiterating our strong support for the lifting of the unilateral embargo against Cuba as soon as possible.

I thank you, Mr President.