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**STATEMENT
BY
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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE &
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I,**

**BEFORE
67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON
AGENDA ITEM 41**

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

**NEW YORK
13 NOVEMBER 2012**

Mr. President,

Thank you Mr President for giving me the floor to make brief remarks on the agenda item we have just voted on. Before doing so, I want to join other distinguished representatives who spoke before me, in expressing our most sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the people in every country devastated by Hurricane Sandy, especially in our host city New York.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Cape Verde, on behalf of the African Group, Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Align Movement and Algeria, on behalf of the G77 and China respectively. I would like to make additional comments in explanation of our vote.

Mr. President,

My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution on the *"Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba"*, because we believe that sovereign nations should live in peace with one another as good neighbours and embrace the principle of open trade without any threat or use of coercive measures.

It is clear that imposition of the blockade against Cuba is a coercive tool, which is inconsistent with the practice of tolerance, and in fact, defies the promissory note enshrined in the UN Charter for all member states "*to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours*". In same vein, the blockade policy does not foster the practice of tolerance or enhances peace between Cuba and the United States to live as good neighbours; as it undermines the spirit of good neighbourliness.

Mr. President,

We do not condone the use of coercive measure as a tool to influence policies of other sovereign and peace loving countries. It is for this and other reasons that Namibia remains concerned about the promulgation and application of laws and measures constituting unjustifiable economic, commercial or financial blockade against any peaceful country. The blockade policy is overwhelmingly rejected by the member states of the United Nations because it not only inflicts pain on the people of Cuba, but also restrains their economic and social development. Similarly, the blockade policy violates the basic human rights of the people of Cuba, because it causes irreparable

damage to the economic, social and cultural way of life, key fundamentals to the pursuit of happiness.

Namibia will continue to firmly believe that, all human rights, be they political, cultural or economic are inseparable and therefore intertwined. Among these are the right to food, to better health, to education and the right for the people of any nation to develop their own country in the way they deem fit. The blockade denies the people of Cuba the said fundamental human rights just because they opted to pursue a different path to socio-economic development.

Mr. President,

Guided by our conviction and conscience that the blockade against Cuba is a denial of the rights I highlighted above, Namibia voted in favour of the draft resolution and will continue to do so until the blockade is finally lifted. It is our hope that the United States will heed the voice of the international community clearly expressed so loudly here today.

I thank you!