

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item: 39

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

INDIA STATEMENT

By

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Mr. President,

India associates itself with the statements made by the delegations of Palestine on behalf of G-77, and Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM. We welcome the distinguished Foreign Minister of Cuba H. E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla among us here today. We also thank the Secretary General for his report on this issue.

Mr. President,

Every year this Assembly has rejected the imposition of laws and regulations with extra-territorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures that hurt the progress and prosperity of the people the world over. Last year, 189 member states voted in favour of the resolution 73/8, expressing their strong support to lifting of the embargo.

The General Assembly has also called upon all States to refrain from promulgating and applying and to repeal and invalidate laws and measures that have extra-territorial effects affecting the sovereignty of other States, in conformity with their obligations under the UN Charter and international law.

There can be little doubt that the continued existence of this embargo, in contravention of the overwhelming world opinion as expressed by this Assembly, undermines multilateralism and the credibility of the United Nations itself.

Mr. President,

As the world's largest democracy with abiding faith in multilateralism, India stands in solidarity with this Assembly in its unambiguous rejection of domestic laws having extraterritorial impact. Such embargoes have the effect of impeding the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected country, in particular children and women. They also hinder the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to development, food, medical care and social services, among other things.

Mr. President,

Successive reports of the Secretary General have also established - and this year's report is no exception - that the embargo, particularly through its extraterritorial effects, has adversely affected the Cuban people and the development efforts of the country. At the same time, we would like to acknowledge the notable socio-economic and developmental achievements of the Cuban people, in particular the high HDI ranking of Cuba and its achievement of several SDGs.

Four years ago, while launching the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world leaders had again strongly urged all States to refrain from any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The continued embargo would severely impact Cuba's ability to implement the comprehensive 2030 Agenda. Cuba's expertise in healthcare, achieved despite such conditions, enabled it to respond quickly and effectively, in a substantial manner, to the call made by the UN General Assembly five years ago to all nations to respond to the Ebola crisis in Africa.

Mr. President,

People to people contact holds immense possibilities for fostering better understanding between nations. The international community needs to intensify its efforts to promote an environment free from sanctions and embargoes. India hopes that the embargo will be withdrawn at the earliest. India supports the draft resolution moved by Cuba.

I thank you.