

**UN General Assembly  
73rd session**

**Agenda Item 42  
Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial  
Blockade against Cuba**

**INDIA STATEMENT**  
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal  
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Madam President,

India associates itself with the statements made by the delegations of Egypt on behalf of G-77, and Venezuela 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.

Madam President,

This Assembly has now considered every year for more than two and a half decades, the issue of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed five decades ago by the United States against Cuba.

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, 191 member states voted in favour of the resolution 72/4, 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.

Madam 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.

Madam 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 MDGs.

Three 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 four years ago to all nations to respond to the Ebola crisis in Africa.

Madam 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.