

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: The CDC (through ODSG)

Please find attached for your approval the draft SG report on the Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the US against Cuba, which will be due to the General Assembly at its 68<sup>th</sup> Session.

The report, as in previous years, consists merely of a reproduction of submissions by Member States and UN entities and the political nature of the report does not allow for any additions or amendments to be made by EOSG.

Political Unit  
9 August 2013

*P.S. it shouldn't require 'approval',  
as there is nothing by SG,  
but apparently it does...*

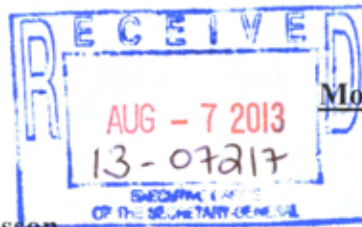
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Note to Mr. Eliasson

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ON THE "NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND  
FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AGAINST CUBA"**

1. Attached please find a final draft of the report requested by the General Assembly in Resolution 67/4 of 13 November 2013. This item has been considered by the General Assembly since 1992.
2. The report is a compilation of submissions sent by Member States as well as by organs and agencies of the United Nations. As EOSG is aware, the political nature of this particular report does not currently allow for methods other than reproduction *in extenso* of the texts received from Member States and separate reports from the organs and agencies of the UN system.
3. DGACM has already issued a waiver for the report through its "advanced waiver management exercise", thereby allowing it to exceed usual word limits for documents originating in the Secretariat.
4. Please note that the text includes submissions in English, French and Spanish which are reproduced in their original form.

  
Jeffrey Feltman  
5 August 2013



*POC/04/006*



Jan Eliasson

Date:

August 12, 2013

A/68/116

United Nations



## General Assembly

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Russian/Spanish

### Sixty-eighth session

Item 40 of the provisional agenda\*

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

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

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

In its resolution 67/4, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

The present report reproduces the replies of Governments and bodies of the United Nations system to the request of the Secretary-General for information on the matter.

\* A/68/50

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## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 67/4, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, in a note verbale dated 1 April 2013, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide any information they might wish to contribute to the preparation of his report. A further Note Verbale was sent on 31 May 2013.

3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations that had been received as of 8 July 2013. Replies received after that date will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

## **II. Replies received from Governments**

### **Algeria**

[Original: French/Arabic]  
[31 May 2013]

Devant la persistance du blocus économique, commercial et financier imposé par les États-Unis d'Amérique à Cuba depuis plus d'un demi-siècle, l'Algérie réitère son appel à mettre fin à cet acte unilatéral, qu'elle considère comme contraire aux principes de la Charte des Nations Unies et du droit international.

L'Algérie exprime sa profonde préoccupation face à cette situation dont les conséquences dramatiques sur le développement économique et social du peuple cubain se font sentir davantage, en particulier dans le contexte de la crise économique et financière internationale qui persiste.

La communauté Internationale n'a cessé, à travers les résolutions annuelles de l'Assemblée générale, de réaffirmer le droit de Cuba, à l'instar de tous les autres États membres de l'ONU, à bénéficier de la liberté de commerce et de navigation, ainsi qu'au développement de ses échanges avec ses partenaires économiques.

De même, le Mouvement des Pays Non Alignés a réitéré, lors du dernier Sommet tenu, à Téhéran, les 30-31 août 2012, son attachement à un monde en paix et en harmonie d'où sont exclues les mesures extraterritoriales visant à renforcer l'embargo imposé à Cuba. Le Sommet

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du Sud, tenu en juin 2005 à Doha, a également rejeté l'imposition de toutes formes de mesures économiques coercitives, y compris les sanctions unilatérales contre les pays en développement.

L'Algérie, engagée pour la paix et la coopération entre les peuples, joint sa voix à l'appel de la communauté internationale demandant à mettre fin à ce blocus, aussi injuste qu'anachronique, imposé à un État membre de l' ONU.

#### **Andorra**

[Original: French]  
[5 July 2013]

Le Gouvernement de la principauté d'Andorre n'a pas promulgué ou appliqué de lois ou pris et mis en œuvre de mesures du type visées dans le préambule de la résolution 67/4.

À cet égard, le Gouvernement de la principauté d'Andorre a toujours voté en faveur de la dite résolution et réaffirme son attachement aux principes énoncés dans la Charte des Nations Unies.

#### **Angola**

[Original: English]  
[8 May 2013]

The Republic of Angola expresses deep concern over the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba which has lasted half a century and which consequently has caused serious obstacles to the development and the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of its people.

The Republic of Angola recognizes the Secretary-General's efforts to foster a unanimous feeling among all Member States regarding the need for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba and strict compliance with the sublime objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The Republic of Angola reiterates its rejection of any unilateral action that imposes restrictions on another sovereign State to freely exercise its political, diplomatic, economic and commercial rights. Angola seeks to strengthen co-operative relations between States and reaffirms its respect of the principle of sovereign equality among nations.

Thus, considering the socioeconomic damage and losses caused to the development of Cuban society, the Republic of Angola, once again encourages the international community to reflect and redouble efforts to promote a constructive and transparent dialogue between the two countries, in order to achieve the end of the economic, commercial and financial blockade.



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The Republic of Angola reiterates its unconditional support for the recommendations made in Resolution 67/4 and takes this opportunity to reaffirm the recognition of dedication that the Secretary-General has dispensed on this matter and encourages him to spare no effort until the effective implementation of all the resolutions already adopted by the United Nations on this matter.

#### **Antigua and Barbuda**

[Original: English]  
[29 May 2013]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda expresses its concern at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, despite the overwhelming support by Member States of resolution A/res/67/4, previous resolutions against the embargo, and other relevant international treaties.

Further, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution A/res/67/4, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the aforementioned resolution, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirms the freedom of trade and navigation.

#### **Argentina**

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 May 2013]

La Argentina apoya tradicionalmente la eliminación de medidas unilaterales, como es el caso del bloqueo impuesto por Estados Unidos a Cuba. Nuestro país ha asumido un absoluto compromiso con la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, el derecho internacional y el multilateralismo. El respaldo argentino al reclamo cubano constituye uno de los pilares del estrecho vínculo bilateral.

En la Argentina se encuentra vigente la ley 24871, promulgada el 5 de septiembre de 1997, que estableció el marco normativo sobre el alcance de las leyes extranjeras en el territorio nacional. Su artículo primero dispone que serán absolutamente inaplicables y carentes de efectos jurídicos, las leyes extranjeras que pretendan generar efectos jurídicos extraterritoriales a través de la imposición de un bloqueo económico o limitando inversiones en un determinado país, con el fin de provocar el cambio de gobierno de un país o para afectar su derecho a la autodeterminación. El bloqueo estadounidense a Cuba se rige por leyes federales, en particular



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la ley Torricelli (*Cuban Democracy Act*) de octubre de 1992 y la ley Helms-Burton (*Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act*) de marzo de 1996.

El Gobierno de la República Argentina ha aplicado plenamente las disposiciones de la resolución 67/4, aprobada el 13 de noviembre de 2012, y de las resoluciones precedentes de la Asamblea General, con relación al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto contra Cuba. Desde entonces, no se han registrado casos que puedan enmarcarse en el incumplimiento del instrumento mencionado.

Se encuentra actualmente en trámite en el Congreso Nacional Argentino un proyecto de declaración para expresar beneplácito por la aprobación de la resolución de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas que repudia el bloqueo económico financiero que los Estados Unidos de América impone a la República de Cuba desde hace 50 años; y por la firme y unánime posición asumida por los países de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC) en este sentido.

Por su parte, en lo que hace referencia a los foros multilaterales tales como CELAC, el diálogo CELAC-UE y la Conferencia Iberoamericana se destacan las siguientes medidas que se realizan en el espíritu del cumplimiento de la Resolución 67/4 de la Asamblea General:

En la I Cumbre de la Comunidad de los Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC) celebrada en Santiago de Chile los días 27 y 28 de enero se aprobó el Comunicado Especial sobre la necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba.

En la I Cumbre de la Comunidad de los Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC) y la Unión Europea (UE) celebrada en Santiago de Chile los días 27 y 28 de enero, el párrafo 6 de la Declaración de Santiago expresa su apoyo a la Resolución 67/4 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y su repudio al bloqueo: *"We firmly reject all coercive measures of unilateral character with extraterritorial effect that are contrary to international law and the commonly accepted rules of free trade. We agree that this type of practice poses a serious threat to multilateralism. In this context, and with reference to UNGA resolution A/RES/67/4, we reaffirm our well-known positions on the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act."*

En la XXII Cumbre Iberoamericana de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, celebrada en la ciudad de Cádiz (España) los días 16 y 17 de noviembre de 2012 se aprobó el Comunicado Especial sobre la necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos e América, incluida la aplicación de la llamada ley Helms-Burton.

Asimismo en la Declaración de la XVI Conferencia Iberoamericana de Ministros y Responsables de Juventud bajo el lema de juventud, desarrollo sustentable y gobernanza global celebrada en la ciudad de Brasilia (Brasil) los días 29 de noviembre y 1º de diciembre de 2012,

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en el párrafo 28 de la sección de Acuerdos se manifiesta el respaldo al reclamo de la Comunidad Internacional de las Naciones, para manifestar la condena a la política de bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero a que está sometida la República de Cuba por más de medio siglo, considerando que este impacta y obstaculiza el buen desarrollo de las políticas públicas de Juventud, dirigidas a elevar las condiciones de vida y oportunidades para las y los jóvenes.

Finalmente, cabe destacar que el día 29 de octubre tuvo lugar la I Reunión del Mecanismo de Diálogo Político y Cooperación entre el MERCOSUR y la República de Cuba, en Brasilia, durante la cual se abordó la cuestión del bloqueo norteamericano a ese país y se destacaron los crecientes perjuicios generados a la población cubana.

### **Armenia**

[Original: English]  
[20 May 2013]

Armenia's national legislation does not promulgate or apply any laws or decrees or regulations, referred to in General Assembly resolution 67/4, which can have their devastating influence on the economic and social development of Cuba.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has on a number of occasions expressed its negative position against the policy of economic blockades and closed borders, being itself a subject of continuing blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

### **Australia**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

The Government of Australia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 67/4. Since 1996, the Government of Australia has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo on Cuba. Australia has no trade or economic legislation or measures which restrict or discourage trade or investment to or from Cuba.

### **Azerbaijan**

[Original: English]  
[27 June 2013]

The Republic of Azerbaijan firmly upholds the norms and principles of international law in its foreign policy.

The Republic of Azerbaijan enjoys friendly diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba. Azerbaijan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, trade or financial relations between Azerbaijan and Cuba. Eight cooperation agreements currently exist between Azerbaijan and Cuba. The Republic of



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Azerbaijan will continue to undertake appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with the Republic of Cuba.

**Bahamas**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas enjoys normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

The Bahamas has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between The Bahamas and the Republic of Cuba.

In this context, The Bahamas recalls and affirms the position of regional and inter-regional bodies such as the Caribbean Community, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the Non-Alignment Movement.

**Bahrain**

[Original: Arabic]  
[3 June 2013]

The Kingdom of Bahrain voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 67/4 of 13 November 2013, Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. It did so in accordance with its obligations under the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which are based on cooperation among States, constant endeavour to promote friendly relations, and non-intervention in their internal affairs.

Acting on those premises, the Kingdom of Bahrain supported the resolution in its entirety. That principled position stems from its conviction that the Security Council is the international body responsible for taking decisions regarding the imposition of measures under paragraphs 41 and 42 of the Charter concerning the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security.

**Bangladesh**

[Original: English]  
[2 July 2013]

The Government of Bangladesh has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 67/4. Bangladesh has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the Assembly and voted in its favour.

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## **Barbados**

[Original: English]  
[24 May 2013]

The Government of Barbados has no laws which in any way restrict freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba.

Barbados has consistently voted in favour of resolution 67/4 since it was first introduced in the General Assembly during the 46th Session in 1991.

## **Belarus**

[Original: Russian]  
[30 May 2013]

The Republic of Belarus unwaveringly condemns the use of unilateral economic measures to exert political and economic pressure on developing countries, regarding them as running counter to the basic principles of international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments.

The Republic of Belarus supports the inalienable right of all States to define their own development models. Any unilateral attempts by certain States to change the domestic political system of other States, using military, political, economic or other forms of pressure, are unacceptable.

The unilateral embargo against the Republic of Cuba and the imposition by the United States of America of unilateral coercive measures on other countries not only act as a brake on the development of the Cuban economy, but also infringe the rights and legal interests of Cuban citizens and thereby create an unacceptable obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Republic of Belarus calls on the United States of America to conduct, in relation to the Republic of Cuba and the other countries to which it applies coercive measures, a policy based on unconditional respect for the universally accepted principles of international law, in particular the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the freedom of international trade and navigation.

In this connection, the Republic of Belarus calls for a rapid end to the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba and other countries. The abolition of the United States' sanctions could provide a basis for the normalization of relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba and other countries.



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Belarus regards as unacceptable the absence of a reaction to the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States of America and the European Union from the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations representatives responsible for international action to uphold peace, security, human rights and sustainable development.

The Republic of Belarus also supports the use of United Nations Human Rights Council special procedures to report on human rights and other coercive measures and thus draw the attention of the international community to the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Cuba and other countries in violation of human rights.

### **Belize**

[Original: English]  
[11 April 2013]

Belize reaffirms its absolute commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations, including, in particular, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which also form fundamental principles of international law.

Belize and Cuba maintain a constructive and mutually beneficial partnership which has yielded concrete benefits for all our peoples. Our policy of engagement is further enhanced through regional cooperation between the Caribbean community and Cuba.

### **Benin**

[Original: French]  
[30 April 2013]

Le Bénin croit fermement aux vertus du dialogue, comme moyen unique de règlement des différends et de restauration de la confiance entre les Etats. Il adhère pleinement aux principes contenus dans la Charte des Nations Unies et estime que les exigences des temps modernes veulent que les Etats agissent ensemble dans un élan de solidarité pour assurer le bonheur des Peuples.

C'est pourquoi, le Gouvernement de la République du Bénin qui n'a jamais adopté de loi restreignant la liberté de commerce avec Cuba, souscrit pleinement à la résolution 67/4 et considère que les mesures unilatérales imposées contre ce Pays doivent être levées sans condition pour permettre au Peuple cubain de s'épanouir et de mieux participer au développement de son pays et à la coopération internationale.

Le Bénin maintient avec Cuba, à l'instar de la plupart des pays épris de paix et de justice, des relations amicales et de bonne coopération, et œuvre pour leur renforcement.

Il plaide pour une levée rapide du blocus économique, commercial et financier imposé à Cuba, conformément à la demande sans cesse renouvelée de la majorité des Etats Membres des Nations Unies, afin de mettre un terme aux souffrances du peuple cubain du fait de ce blocus, et de permettre à ce pays de participer pleinement au développement du commerce international et à l'édification d'un monde meilleur pour tous les Peuples.

#### **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**

[Original: Spanish]  
[3 June 2013]

#### **Referente al párrafo 2 de la resolución 67/4**

El Gobierno boliviano rechaza firmemente la aplicación de leyes, normas, disposiciones y medidas unilaterales de algunos Estados o Grupo de Estados, dirigidas a aplicar un bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra cualquier Estado, así como la utilización de medidas unilaterales de coerción, de desprestigio y de desinformación de cualquier país contra otro.

En conformidad a los principios de igualdad soberana de los Estados, la no intervención y no injerencia en sus asuntos internos y la libertad de comercio y navegación internacionales, señalados en los artículos 1 y 2 de la Carta de Naciones Unidas, así como en la resolución 67/4 de la Asamblea General, El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia expresa y reitera su más enérgica condena a las políticas de bloqueo y guerra económica, impuestas por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América contra la hermana República de Cuba, acciones que consideramos constituyen una flagrante violación al Derecho Internacional, contemplados en la Carta de Naciones Unidas y de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, afectando a todos los pueblos del mundo, del hemisferio, particularmente al pueblo cubano y aquellos solidarios que contribuyen con lo poco que tienen para enfrentar esta injusticia.

El bloqueo y guerra económica impuesto por el gobierno de Estados Unidos viola el principio de la soberanía de las naciones, de manera particular, porque se aplica en el territorio de otro Estado. El alcance externo de la competencia territorial en materia legislativa por parte del gobierno de los Estados Unidos, contradice todo principio de derecho internacional y en especial los de soberanía y de no intervención en los asuntos internos de un Estado extranjero. El pueblo de Cuba tiene todo el derecho de ejercer su soberanía, su libre determinación y su derecho al desarrollo, tal como lo establece la Carta de Naciones Unidas y diversos Instrumentos Internacionales de los cuales inclusive Estados Unidos es suscriptor.

Han transcurrido más de dos décadas desde que Cuba continua obteniendo en la máxima instancia política del sistema de las Naciones Unidas como es su Asamblea General, un contundente respaldo internacional en contra de la política impuesta por el gobierno estadounidense; en cifras el año 2012 fueron 188 Estados Miembros de los 193 que votaron en contra de este injusto embargo comercial, vale decir que en los últimos 15 años más del 90% de los países votaron en contra. Esto constituye una prueba fehaciente del rechazo casi unánime de la comunidad internacional a esta política en contra del derecho internacional, lo cual



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interpela al propio sistema que muestra que existen países que se han privilegiado con la creación de este organismo, pero que no observan el sentir creciente de casi todos sus miembros.

Ante esta situación, el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia se adhiere solidariamente y expresa su pleno apoyo a la lucha que libra internacionalmente Cuba y consecuentemente expresa su apoyo a la resolución 67/4 de la Asamblea General, que refleja el repudio de la comunidad internacional a este tipo de medidas unilaterales, así como su compromiso con la Carta de Naciones Unidas, el derecho internacional y el multilateralismo. Asimismo, manifiesta su adhesión al principio de la igualdad jurídica de todos los Estados con respecto a su soberanía y afirma que debe primar el respeto irrestricto a todas las diferencias sean estas económicas, políticas o de otra índole.

La relación entre el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia y Cuba se encuentra en su perfil más alto desde la reapertura de relaciones diplomáticas entre Bolivia y Cuba en 1983, otorgando particular importancia a las áreas de educación y salud dirigida a los sectores poblacionales más desfavorecidos del país que se han manifestado en un incremento notable de la cooperación cubana en Bolivia desde 2006, la cual es particularmente técnica, no existiendo cooperación financiera directa.

Bolivia y Cuba mantienen relaciones de cooperación y complementariedad basadas en los principios de la Alternativa Bolivariana para las Américas (ALBA) y el Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos (TCP).

El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia reconoce el esfuerzo realizado por Cuba para cooperar el pueblo boliviano, a pesar del significativo daño que el bloqueo ocasiona a su economía. La cooperación se expresa claramente en algunas cifras: la brigada médica cubana se encuentra en los 9 departamentos de Bolivia; cubre a 79 provincias de las 112 para un 70,5%. Se encuentra prestando servicio a 151 municipios de los 337, lo que representa un 44,8 de los mismos. Hasta la fecha se han atendido a 6.407.483 pacientes.

Hasta mayo de 2013 y desde hace siete años se han realizado 54.047.109 atenciones médicas gratuitas; 56.961 vidas salvadas; y 632.097 operaciones de la vista, realizadas igualmente gratuitamente en el marco de la "Operación Milagro", que han devuelto la vista o mejorado la visión a bolivianas y bolivianos de cualquier origen o condición social. Este importante proyecto de atención oftalmológica ha alcanzado no sólo al pueblo boliviano, sino que ha beneficiado también a la población de los países limítrofes.

La cooperación en formación de recursos humanos se lleva adelante mediante el Programa de Becas, el cual tuvo una ampliación sin precedentes en el número de becas a estudiantes bolivianos de bajos recursos y de áreas rurales, de procedencia campesina o indígena, a través de nuevos proyectos iniciados recientemente, y establecidos adicionalmente a la cooperación previa existente, por lo que el número de becarios bolivianos en Cuba alcanza en la actualidad a 5.834 estudiantes en diferentes áreas, la mayoría de ellos en la especialidad de medicina y el

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restante 10% corresponde a otras áreas de estudio. Una parte de estos becarios estudia ya en Bolivia en la etapa final de la carrera de medicina, insertándose en el propio país.

Asimismo, el Programa Nacional de Post-Alfabetización: “Yo, sí puedo seguir”, que es de alcance nacional, con presencia en las 112 provincias de Bolivia y 336 municipios, ha beneficiado a 150.502 personas.

El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, en los distintos foros internacionales de los que forma parte se ha adherido incondicionalmente en contra el Bloqueo que sufre Cuba.

En mérito de lo expuesto, el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia reafirma su continuo apoyo a la adopción una vez más de la resolución que expresa la necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba, la cual será una importante contribución para consolidar y respaldar la demanda internacional a favor de que Estados Unidos avance hacia la eliminación definitiva de esta política injusta e ilegal contra el pueblo cubano.

En tal sentido el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia declara firmemente que el bloqueo de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba debe terminar de manera incondicional, unilateral e inmediata.

#### **Referente al párrafo 3**

El Gobierno del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia no ha aprobado leyes ni medidas contrarias al espíritu de la Resolución 67/4, y deplora que otros Estados hayan incurrido en esta ilegal, nociva e inhumana práctica, contraria al derecho internacional.

#### **Referente al párrafo 4**

Al párrafo 4. El Gobierno del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia solicita al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas que, de conformidad con el referido párrafo, continúe informando a los Estados miembros y a los diferentes órganos pertinentes sobre el impacto negativo de las políticas y prácticas de bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba, llevadas a cabo por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos contra ese país soberano y que no solo afecta la soberanía del resto de los estados del sistema de Naciones Unidas, sino cuestiona la esencia de Carta de las Naciones Unidas, en sus principios y propósitos.

#### **Botswana**

[Original: English]  
[24 April 2013]

The Republic of Botswana has never, and does not intend, to promulgate, apply and enforce any laws and measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 67/4. As reflected by its vote on the above-cited resolution, Botswana is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extra-territorial measures, and in this regard, supports the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.



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## Brazil

[Original: English]  
[7 June 2013]

In accordance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6 and 67/4, Brazil did not promulgate or apply any law, regulation or measure with extraterritorial effects which could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation. Brazil's legal system does not recognize the validity of the application of measures with extraterritorial effects.

Furthermore, Governments not complying with resolution 67/4 should urgently take further steps to eliminate discriminatory trade practices and bring to an end unilaterally declared economic, commercial and financial embargoes.

The Brazilian government is committed to diplomacy, to the peaceful settlement of disputes, to economic and trade cooperation and to the prevalence of the principles and purposes enshrined in the United Nations Charter, as well as to the respect for International Law.

The Brazilian Government not only opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, but has also developed a growing economic relationship with the country. This relationship is based on the belief that the proper way to support Cuba is through its integration into economic international flows. In her speech at the opening of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, in September 2012, Her Excellency the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, mentioned: "Cuba has progressed in bringing its economic model up to date. To continue on this path, it needs the support of partners both near and far. Cooperation for Cuba's progress is, however, hampered by the economic embargo that has assailed its population for decades. The time has long since passed for us to put an end to this anachronism, which is condemned by the immense majority of members of the United Nations".

Brazil and all governments in Latin America and the Caribbean repudiate the blockade against Cuba, which seriously affects the Cuban people. That position was restated in a Special Communiqué of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Santiago, Chile, in January 2013.

In accordance with Resolution 67/4, Brazil considers there is an urgent need to put an end to the adoption and implementation of unilateral measures. In addition to the adverse impacts they impose on the population of the country under sanctions, the extraterritorial nature of these measures is in clear contradiction with the basic principles of International Law as well as with the harmonious relations between peoples, which implies respect for sovereignty and freedom of trade and navigation.

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For fear of being sanctioned by the "United States Office of Foreign Assets Control" (OFAC), under the State Department, banks in Europe and Latin America have blocked accounts and transactions with whatsoever reference to Cuba, even in those cases in which the United States financial system is not involved. As a result, this has shrunk the number of international providers which are willing to risk having operations with private and corporate actors in Cuba, thus further aggravating the scarcity of products and services in the country. The inclusion of Cuba in the List of States Sponsors of Terrorism published by the State Department of the United States of America, which contributes to scale up this problem, has been promptly repudiated in a Special Communiqué of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), adopted in May 2013.

Sanctions and embargoes harm the populations of countries involved, especially the poorest. Such measures have shown scant effects in achieving the results that would have justified their creation. A clear example of this was the \$100,000 Brazilian contribution to the Cuban victims of Sandy Storm blocked by American authorities in 2012. The transfer from the Banco do Brasil, Miami Agency, to the UBS Agency in Geneva still awaits its authorization by OFAC.

There is growing support at the United Nations for the lifting of the embargo, taking into account in particular its questionable character in relation to principles of International Law and the rules of the multilateral trade system. Intensifying economic relations with Cuba without any conditionality is the correct path that should be followed by all countries interested in supporting the development of the island.

#### **Brunei Darussalam**

[Original: English]  
[12 June 2013]

Brunei Darussalam reaffirms its support for all General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo on Cuba. Brunei Darussalam is generally against the unilateral use of sanctions on Member States, as it affects their economic and social development. Brunei Darussalam views that such sanctions are contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

#### **Burkina Faso**

[Original: French]  
[5 June 2013]

Le Burkina Faso est un pays épris de paix et de justice qui a pleinement foi au principe d'égalité souveraine des États, tel que prôné par la Charte des Nations Unies.



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Attaché aux vertus du dialogue qu'il a toujours prôné comme solution aux différends entre États, le Burkina Faso croit fermement que les échanges entre États, tant au plan économique, commercial et culturel sont de nature à consacrer l'épanouissement de leurs peuples respectifs et à aplanir leurs divergences.

Il demeure persuadé que dans un contexte de mondialisation caractérisée par la crise économique et financière internationale, le maintien de l'isolement économique, commercial et financier d'un État conduit inéluctablement à l'asphyxie et de ce fait ne saurait être une solution privilégiée pour le règlement de différends.

C'est pourquoi, le Burkina Faso exprime son inquiétude face à la poursuite du blocus qui va à l'encontre des normes fondamentales du droit international, du droit international humanitaire, de la Charte des Nations Unies et des normes et des principes des relations pacifiques entre États.

Ces mesures unilatérales qui violent les principes de souveraineté des États, et de non-intervention et de non-ingérence dans leurs affaires intérieures sont aussi contraires aux directives de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC).

C'est pourquoi, il lance encore une fois son appel à la levée de ce blocus imposé à Cuba par les États-Unis d'Amérique, en violation de la Charte des Nations Unies et des règles élémentaires du droit international public. Il invite instamment les deux parties à privilégier la voie du dialogue pour le règlement pacifique de leur différend, conformément à l'article 33 de la Charte des Nations Unies.

Aussi, en se conformant aux obligations que lui imposent la Charte des Nations Unies et le droit international, qui, consacrent notamment la liberté du commerce et de la navigation, le Burkina Faso n'a ni adopté ni appliqué de lois ou mesures du type de celles visées dans le préambule de la résolution 67/4.

#### **Burundi**

[Original: French]  
[28 May 2013]

La position du Gouvernement du Burundi a toujours été contre cet embargo.

#### **Cambodia**

[Original: English]  
[26 April 2013]

The Royal Government of Cambodia reiterates its full support for the unconditional lifting of the sanctions that have been imposed UNJUSTLY by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba.

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The continuation over four-decades of the illegal embargo, which is in flagrant violation of International law and human rights, has caused enormous suffering and massive economic losses to the innocent people of Cuba. Therefore, the Royal Government of Cambodia, once again, demands an immediate removal of this unjustified embargo.

The Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to call for full compliance and effective implementation of Resolution 67/4.

#### **Cameroon**

[Original: French]  
[23 May 2013]

Le Cameroun est attaché au respect des principes de l'égalité souveraine des États, de non-ingérence dans leurs affaires intérieures et de la liberté du commerce consacrés par de nombreux instruments juridiques internationaux.

En application des dispositions de la résolution 67/4, ainsi que des précédentes sur ce sujet, et conformément aux principes sus-évoqués, le Cameroun n'a jamais adopté de mesures législatives ou autres en vue de renforcer ou d'élargir le blocus imposé à Cuba.

Le Cameroun qui a toujours voté en faveur de la levée de cet embargo, entretient d'excellentes relations d'amitié et de coopération avec Cuba.

#### **Cape Verde**

[Original: English]  
[13 May 2013]

The Republic of Cape Verde, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the National Constitution and in conformity with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which promotes solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among countries and nations, has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 67/4.

#### **Central African Republic**

[Original: French]  
[26 June 2013]

Fidèle à ses engagements et respectueuse du droit international, la République Centrafricaine, en conformité avec ses textes fondamentaux qui disposent qu'elle a le souci d'entretenir des relations de bon voisinage avec les autres États, pense que la coexistence pacifique reste le fondement des relations internationales sur lequel reposent les autres échanges.



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Forte de ce constat, elle estime que l'embargo imposé à Cuba depuis plus de 50 ans est contraire aux règles du droit international et du droit humanitaire international. Cet embargo doit être levé afin de permettre la libre circulation des personnes et des biens dans la sous-région.

Le Gouvernement Centrafricain soutiendra toujours la lutte du peuple frère cubain jusqu'à la levée de l'ensemble de ces interdictions.

## **Chile**

[Original: English]  
[03 June 2013]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba commenced in 1959 and has continued to this day. This embargo contravenes international law and principles, particularly those regarding the equality of States, non-interference in internal matters and the freedom of trade and navigation. That is why Chile supported resolution A/RES/67/4 and the previous resolutions on the same matter.

We observe that the embargo has been transformed into a strict system of unilateral measures which has continued over time. In itself the embargo, as a unilateral measure, is a contradiction with the multilateralism, the openness and the dialogue promoted by the United Nations.

The unilateral measures applied under the embargo imposed on Cuba are affecting many companies that are conducting business with Cuba in accordance with international law, including the norms established by the ruled based WTO.

We recall that at the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Summit held in Santiago, Chile, on January 28, 2013, its Member States, issued a "Special communiqué on the need to put an end to the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba", in which they reiterated their strongest condemnation of the application of laws and measures contrary to international law, including its extraterritorial effect.

## **China**

[Original: Chinese]  
[29 April 2013]

For 21 consecutive years, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, urging all countries, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, to repeal or invalidate any laws and measures that have extraterritorial effects affecting the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate rights and interests of entities and persons under their jurisdiction, and the freedom of trade and navigation.

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Regrettably, however, over the years those resolutions have not been implemented effectively and the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba has not been lifted. This is not only a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, but also a source of enormous economic and financial losses for Cuba. It is an impediment to efforts by the Cuban people to eradicate poverty, promote their economic and social development and attain the Millennium Development Goals; it impairs the Cuban people's right to survival and development; and it adversely affects normal economic, commercial and financial relations between Cuba and other countries. At a time when the international community is severely challenged by a range of crises in the domains of finance, food and energy, together with the problems of climate change, the embargo and sanctions against Cuba are more unreasonable than ever before.

China has always maintained that the international community should base the development of mutual relations on the purposes and principles enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations, should respect the right of all countries independently to choose their social system and path of development and should oppose the unilateral imposition on countries of military, political, economic or other sanctions. For its own part, China has always strictly observed and implemented the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Currently, China and Cuba are maintaining normal economic and trade relations and conducting personnel exchanges, and the mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation in various areas continues to grow. This approach is both consistent with the aspirations of the two peoples and conducive to Cuba's economic and social development.

In today's world, dialogue, communication and harmonious coexistence have become key elements of international relations, and there is an irreversible trend towards communication and cooperation on an equal footing between all countries. When differences arise between countries, equal dialogue and friendly consultation are the best means of reaching a settlement. China hopes that the United States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, will put an end as soon as possible to its blockade against Cuba, and it also hopes that relations between the two countries will continue to improve, thus promoting stability and development in the entire Latin American and Caribbean region.

## **Colombia**

[Original: Spanish]  
[6 May 2013]

El Gobierno de la República de Colombia, en seguimiento a los principios consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, reitera que no ha promulgado ni aplicado leyes ni medidas unilaterales contra Cuba, ni contra ningún otro Estado Miembro, consecuente con su política de respeto al derecho internacional y de apego a los principios de independencia política, libre



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determinación de los pueblos, no intervención y no injerencia en los asuntos internos de otras naciones.

En consecuencia, Colombia promueve el autónomo desarrollo de las políticas internas de cada nación, y encuentra apropiado que cesen todo tipo de medidas que atenten contra el desarrollo económico, comercial y el bienestar de la población.

Colombia considera indispensable que los Estados Miembros avancen en la construcción de relaciones de cooperación y amistad basadas en el multilateralismo y en el respeto al principio de igualdad soberana y otras disposiciones consagradas en el Capítulo I de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

#### **Comoros**

[Original: English]  
[9 April 2013]

The Government of the Union of the Comoros reaffirms its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws or regulations with extraterritorial effects which affect the sovereignty of other States.

#### **Congo**

[Original: French]  
[23 May 2013]

La position de la République du Congo demeure celle qu'elle a toujours exprimée. En effet, elle juge intolérable ce blocus à caractère unilatéral et contraire à la Charte des Nations Unies et aux principes de la coopération internationale.

C'est pourquoi, la République du Congo estime que cet embargo doit être levé.

#### **Costa Rica**

[Original: Spanish]  
[3 June 2013]

Costa Rica, en apego a los principios de la Carta de las Naciones, ha apoyado en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas la resolución 67/4 y versiones anteriores de esa resolución adoptadas sobre la necesidad de poner fin al embargo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto a Cuba, en particular a través de la Ley Helms-Burton que además Costa Rica considera constituye un franco obstáculo al comercio internacional.

Esta posición ha sido parte de la política exterior de Costa Rica, la cual aboga por la necesidad de eliminar la aplicación unilateral y extraterritorial de medidas nacionales de un Estado mediante la imposición de sus propias leyes y ordenamientos a terceros países.

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Costa Rica está firmemente convencida que sólo a través del diálogo y los mecanismos multilaterales deben atenderse las diferencias entre países y reitera su total rechazo a las medidas de carácter unilateral que cualquier Estado del sistema aplique contra otro. Costa Rica ha reiterado en varias ocasiones que cualquier tipo de sanciones políticas, económicas o militares impuestas a los Estados debe emanar de las decisiones o recomendaciones que formulen el Consejo de Seguridad o la Asamblea General.

Costa Rica, a nivel nacional, no ha implementado acción alguna en la aplicación de la resolución 67/4, pues no hay acciones a ejecutar, sin embargo, ha sido permanente en su discurso en el ámbito internacional en la necesidad de levantar el embargo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto a Cuba por estimar que luego de tantas décadas, los más afectados son sus habitantes.

Costa Rica ha defendido el derecho a la autodeterminación de los pueblos y deplora toda medida que afecte negativamente a la población civil. No obstante, reconoce la necesidad de que las autoridades cubanas avancen en concordancia con los estándares democráticos, con total respeto de los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales.

Los Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de Costa Rica y Cuba mantuvieron una Reunión Bilateral en enero de 2013, con el propósito de fortalecer las relaciones entre ambos países, especialmente en áreas en donde se han forjado lazos de cooperación como capacitación profesional, ciencia y tecnología, cultura, ecoturismo, educación, medio ambiente, mejores prácticas y salud. Asimismo, en el plano regional, se mantienen constantes comunicaciones entre ambos países como parte de su trabajo a lo interno de la Troika de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y el Caribe (CELAC), mecanismo que durante 2013 preside Cuba.

#### **Côte d'Ivoire**

[Original: French]  
[28 May 2013]

Le Gouvernement ivoirien n'a jamais adopté de mesures économiques ou commerciales compromettant la liberté du commerce international. Fidèle à la politique d'ouverture et de dialogue qu'il mène pour régler les différends entre individus et Etats, il a voté pour toutes les résolutions précédentes sur la question. La Côte d'Ivoire continuera à travailler en ce sens pour parvenir à la pleine mise en œuvre de ces résolutions concernant le blocus, qui continue de peser sur Cuba et le peuple cubain.

#### **Croatia**

[Original: English]  
[29 May 2013]

The Republic of Croatia, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implements resolution 67/4, and has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of said resolution.



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## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]  
[8 July 2013]

El bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, implantado desde el inicio de la Revolución cubana, continúa siendo, más de 50 años después, y a pesar de los reclamos de la comunidad internacional, el principal referente de la política de los Estados Unidos contra la pequeña isla caribeña, en su afán de destruir la Revolución y restaurar su hegemonía sobre Cuba.

Lo anterior se refleja claramente en el sistemático recrudecimiento de la política de asfixia económica y en el fortalecimiento e integración de las legislaciones y disposiciones normativas que rigen esta política.

Por su declarado propósito, el andamiaje político, legal y administrativo en el que se sustenta, el bloqueo califica como un acto de genocidio, en virtud de la Convención para la Prevención y la Sanción del Delito de Genocidio de 1948, y como un acto de guerra económica, de conformidad con la Declaración relativa al derecho de la guerra marítima adoptada por la Conferencia Naval de Londres de 1909. El bloqueo contra Cuba es el sistema de sanciones unilaterales más injusto, severo y prolongado que se ha aplicado contra país alguno.

Como consecuencia de la estricta y agresiva aplicación de las leyes y normativas que tipifican el bloqueo, Cuba continúa sin poder exportar e importar libremente productos y servicios hacia o desde los Estados Unidos, no puede utilizar el dólar norteamericano en sus transacciones financieras internacionales o tener cuentas en esa moneda en bancos de terceros países. Tampoco se le permite tener acceso a créditos de bancos en Estados Unidos, de sus filiales en terceros países y de las instituciones financieras internacionales, como el Banco Mundial, el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) o el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID).

Durante el período que cubre el presente informe, la persecución a las transacciones financieras internacionales de Cuba ha sido uno de los rasgos más distintivos de la aplicación del bloqueo. Además de constituir el principal obstáculo al desarrollo económico y social del país, el bloqueo es el más importante obstáculo para una mayor expansión de los vínculos comerciales de Cuba con el mundo y pone un serio freno a la cooperación internacional que ofrece y recibe el país.

El daño económico ocasionado al pueblo cubano por la aplicación del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba hasta abril de 2013, considerando la depreciación del dólar frente al valor del oro en el mercado internacional, asciende a 1 157 327 000 000 dólares estadounidenses.

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El bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba es ilegal e inhumano, y debe cesar.

## **CAPÍTULO 1.**

### **Continuidad en la política del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba.**

La sistemática demanda de la comunidad internacional a favor del total levantamiento del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba, incluida la creciente oposición a esta política dentro de Estados Unidos, continúa siendo ignorada por el gobierno de ese país, que ha decidido intensificar sus acciones de asfixia económica contra la isla, en particular aquellas relacionadas con la esfera monetario financiera y con un impacto extraterritorial.

La decisión adoptada por el Presidente Barack Obama el 10 de septiembre de 2012 de prorrogar una vez más la Ley de Comercio con el Enemigo, demuestra la determinación del gobierno norteamericano de mantener incólume uno de los elementos vertebrales de todo el andamiaje legal en que se sustenta la política de bloqueo contra Cuba.

En adición, la nueva inclusión de Cuba en la espuria lista de países que patrocinan el terrorismo, solo tiene como fin justificar la feroz persecución de las transacciones financieras de Cuba y el arreciamiento del bloqueo. Con esta acción se busca satisfacer, además, los intereses de un cada vez más reducido grupo anticubano en los Estados Unidos, que pretende apuntalar una política carente de fundamento ético y legal, que es rechazada por la gran mayoría de la población estadounidense y de la emigración cubana residente en ese país.

El territorio de Cuba nunca ha sido utilizado ni se utilizará para cobijar a terroristas ni para organizar, financiar o perpetrar actos de terrorismo contra ningún país del mundo, incluyendo los Estados Unidos. Por el contrario, Cuba ha sufrido durante décadas las consecuencias de actos terroristas organizados, financiados y ejecutados desde el territorio de los Estados Unidos, con un saldo de 3 478 muertos y 2 099 discapacitados. El Gobierno cubano reitera que no reconoce al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos la más mínima autoridad moral para juzgarlo.

#### **1.1 Principales medidas adoptadas por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos y propuestas realizadas que demuestran la continuidad del bloqueo y los intentos de intensificarlo.**

Numerosos y disímiles son los ejemplos que ratifican la continuidad del bloqueo. Según un editorial publicado el 3 de marzo de 2013 por la agencia de negocios y finanzas *Bloomberg*, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos abrió entre los años 2000 y 2006, 11 000 procesos de investigación por supuestas violaciones del régimen de sanciones contra Cuba. En la misma información se indica que para el resto de los países se llevaron a cabo 7 000 indagaciones. Todo ello en un contexto en el que Cuba no representa una amenaza a la seguridad nacional estadounidense, hecho reconocido por las propias autoridades norteamericanas.



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La irracional actuación contra la isla se expresa, además, en los siguientes ejemplos:

- El 9 de mayo de 2013, la OFAC impuso una multa a la compañía *The American Steamship Owners Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association, Inc.*, ascendente a 348 000 USD por violar las prohibiciones establecidas en las Regulaciones para el Control de los Activos Cubanos y en otros regímenes de sanciones contra otros países. La OFAC alegó que la empresa procesó tres reclamos a favor de Cuba por 40 584 USD.
- En abril de 2013, la Organización No Gubernamental británica Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC) decidió comprar 100 ejemplares del libro *The Economic War against Cuba. A Historical and Legal Perspective on the U.S. Blockade*, del autor Salim Lamrani y publicado en marzo de 2013 por Monthly Review Press, casa editorial basada en Nueva York. Sin embargo, la transacción entre el banco de la ONG, la Cooperative, y la cuenta de la editorial Monthly Review en el Chase Bank no se pudo realizar, pues la OFAC bloqueó los fondos y exigió a la CSC explicaciones sobre sus relaciones con Cuba. Rob Miller, director de la CSC, expresó su asombro: “Se usa una legislación extraterritorial sobre las sanciones económicas contra Cuba para impedir la venta de un libro en el Reino Unido que expone el alcance del bloqueo contra Cuba [...]. El carácter ridículo del bloqueo estadounidense se ilustra una vez más con este caso cuando se trata de impedir que los lectores británicos lean un libro publicado por una casa editorial americana”.
- El 14 de abril de 2013, el Buró de Apelaciones de Marcas, adscrito a la Oficina de Marcas y Patentes de EE.UU., rechazó la petición de la empresa cubana CUBATABACO para cancelar el registro de la marca Cohíba a favor de la empresa GENERAL CIGAR. La decisión se basó íntegramente en los argumentos de las Cortes de los Estados Unidos, que ratificaron que las Regulaciones para el Control de Activos Cubanos impiden el reconocimiento de la prestigiosa marca cubana.
- El 5 de marzo de 2013, la OFAC impuso una multa de 139 000 USD a la empresa norteamericana *Eagle Global Logistics (EGL)* de Houston, Texas, asociada a la trasnacional británica *CEVA LOGISTICS*, por permitir que sus subsidiarias en otros países prestaran servicios de transporte de carga hacia y desde Cuba.
- El 22 de febrero de 2013, la OFAC impuso una multa de 43 875 USD a la filial norteamericana de la empresa china *Tung Tai Group*, con sede en San José, California, por concertar contratos de compra y venta de chatarra cubana.
- El 25 de julio de 2012, la OFAC impuso una multa de 6 500 USD al ciudadano estadounidense Zachary Sanders, por viajar a Cuba en 1998 sin licencia del Departamento del Tesoro.
- El 10 de julio de 2012, la OFAC anunció la imposición de una multa por 1 347 750 USD a la empresa *Great Western Malting Co.*, por facilitar que una filial extranjera vendiera malta de cebada de origen no estadounidense a Cuba, entre agosto de 2006 y marzo de 2009.



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- El 29 de junio de 2012, la representante Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) presentó el proyecto de Ley H.R.6067 “Ley de Cooperación para la Seguridad en el Hemisferio Occidental” la que, entre otros aspectos, enmienda la Ley Helms-Burton para evitar la inversión extranjera en el sector petrolero cubano. A su vez, autoriza al Presidente a imponer sanciones a cualquier país del Hemisferio Occidental que tenga cooperación militar con países patrocinadores del terrorismo.
  - El 26 de junio de 2012, esa misma representante presentó el proyecto de Ley H.R.6018 “Ley de Autorización de Gastos para las Relaciones Exteriores”, que pretende prohibir el otorgamiento de licencias de exportación a Cuba y otros países para la transferencia de satélites comerciales u otros componentes o tecnologías incluidas en la lista de artículos controlados del Departamento de Comercio.

## **1.2 Aplicación extraterritorial del bloqueo.**

El reforzamiento del carácter extraterritorial del bloqueo distingue, sin lugar a dudas, a la Administración del Presidente Obama, que ha potenciado el alcance de las legislaciones Torricelli y Helms-Burton, violatorias de normas consagradas en el Derecho Internacional Público y Privado, en tanto socavan la soberanía de terceros países y los derechos de sujetos naturales y jurídicos no sometidos a la legislación norteamericana.

La extraterritorialidad del bloqueo no tiene ni reconoce fronteras. Los mecanismos en vigor para aplicar dicha política transgreden también los principios que rigen las relaciones económicas, comerciales, monetarias y financieras internacionales, así como numerosas resoluciones de las Naciones Unidas y de otros organismos internacionales. Violan también disposiciones de entidades de integración regionales y legislaciones de terceros países, incluidas las adoptadas tras la aprobación de la Ley Helms Burton en 1996.

Los buques mercantes de terceros países que tocan puertos cubanos siguen siendo afectados por la extraterritorialidad del bloqueo. En igual medida se lesionan los intereses de las empresas de terceros países con cualquier afiliación con compañías estadounidenses, así como los de las entidades bancarias que realizan transacciones financieras con la Isla, independientemente de la moneda utilizada en las mismas.

Continúan siendo rehenes de la extraterritorialidad del bloqueo en terceros países<sup>1</sup>:

- a) Las empresas que comercializan productos de origen cubano o que en su elaboración contengan algún componente de ese origen;
- b) Las empresas que pretendan vender a Cuba bienes o servicios cuya tecnología contenga más de un 10% de componentes estadounidenses, aunque sus propietarios sean nacionales de los países exportadores.

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<sup>1</sup> Ver el documento A/67/118, página 32 de la versión en español.

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- c) Los bancos que, en ejercicio de sus derechos, pretendan abrir cuentas en dólares estadounidenses a personas jurídicas o naturales cubanas o lleven a cabo transacciones financieras en dicha moneda con entidades o personas cubanas.
  - d) Los empresarios que realicen inversiones o negocios con Cuba.

Existen innumerables casos recientes de operaciones comerciales de Cuba con empresas de terceros países que no se encuentran bajo la jurisdicción de los Estados Unidos, cuya ejecución ha sido obstaculizada o impedida por las prohibiciones, amenazas y chantajes de Washington, como demuestran los siguientes ejemplos:

- Del 22 al 26 de mayo de 2013, se celebró en La Habana, Cuba, la VI Asamblea General del Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI), luego de tres meses de posposición debido a que los fondos para costear el evento (101 000 USD) fueron bloqueados por el Departamento del Tesoro, en virtud de las leyes del bloqueo. Iglesias solidarias de Europa proveyeron los recursos para su realización mientras se dirime la suerte de los pertenecientes al CLAI.
- El 16 de abril de 2013, el banco suizo *Zürcher Kantonalbank* (ZKB, Banco Cantonal de Zürich) declaró a la *AFP* por intermedio de su vocera, Evelyne Broennimann, que a partir del 1º de mayo suspendería todas las transferencias a Cuba, pues la entidad debía dar fe a sus socios bancarios en EE.UU. de que sus actividades están en consonancia con las normas que establece la OFAC., la cual que puede tomar acciones contra los bancos, como por ejemplo la congelación de sus fondos.
- El 12 de diciembre de 2012, la OFAC dio a conocer la aplicación de una multa por 8 571 634 USD al *Bank of Tokio-Mitsubishi UFJ* de Japón, por procesar transferencias financieras que involucran a un grupo de países, entre ellos Cuba, bajo el argumento de que violaba sanciones económicas impuestas por los Estados Unidos.
- El 11 de octubre de 2012, la Embajada de Cuba en Namibia recibió una carta de la compañía *AON Namibia*, anteriormente *Glenrand MIB*, mediante la que informaba sobre la cancelación del contrato de seguro a los autos de la sede diplomática y la retención de la prima anual, en cumplimiento de las regulaciones del bloqueo, como resultado de la adquisición de Glenrand MIB por la estadounidense *AON*.
- El 19 de junio de 2012, la sucursal en Bostwana de la compañía multinacional de seguros *AON*, comunicó al Consulado de Cuba en ese país que debido a “regulaciones internas”, no podría seguir ofreciendo sus servicios. Al anunciar la medida, el Ejecutivo Principal para las cuentas personales de *AON*, aclaró que se trataba de una decisión de su casa matriz debido a las regulaciones del bloqueo.
- El Instituto Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular no ha podido reparar los equipos de servicios de rehabilitación de la firma Schiller, ante los temores de un banco suizo de posibles represalias si aceptara las transferencias desde Cuba.



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- Por similares razones, la Sociedad Cubana de Cardiología no ha podido pagar su cuota anual de la membresía a la Federación Mundial del Corazón.
  - Por dos años consecutivos, el Instituto Cubano del Libro (ICL) no ha podido pagar las cuotas de su membresía al Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en América Latina y el Caribe, CERLALC, auspiciado por la UNESCO, pues los bancos se niegan a aceptar las transferencias desde Cuba. Invocan como razón principal, el régimen de sanciones norteamericanas.
  - El ICL tampoco ha podido cumplir sus obligaciones de cuotas de afiliación a la Agencia Internacional del Sistema Internacional Normalizado del Libro (ISBN, International Standard Book Number System for Books).
  - El Instituto de Información Científica y Tecnológica (IDICT) no puede acceder a las ventas de la compañía *Swets* de publicaciones científicas, dado que la firma aduce que estaría sujeta a sanciones económicas norteamericanas si mantiene relaciones normales de trabajo con la entidad cubana.

### **1.3 Afectaciones provocadas por el bloqueo en la cooperación internacional, incluida la de organismos multilaterales.**

La cooperación internacional que ofrece y recibe el pueblo cubano tampoco escapa a las consecuencias de la política de bloqueo contra Cuba. Son numerosos los proyectos de cooperación que se ven obstaculizados por la agresividad de las autoridades norteamericanas.

La política contra Cuba ha llegado al punto de intentar paralizar varias de las acciones que se llevan a cabo como parte de los esquemas de cooperación Sur-Sur, ejecutada por especialistas cubanos en varios países en áreas sensibles, como la salud pública.

Asimismo, las agencias especializadas, los fondos y programas, y otras entidades del sistema de Naciones Unidas encuentran serios obstáculos para la realización de sus programas de asistencia al país, en apoyo a las prioridades y políticas de desarrollo nacionales y el cumplimiento de los objetivos de desarrollo convenidos internacionalmente, incluidos los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

En un hecho sin precedentes en el trabajo en Cuba de la Oficina de la Organización Mundial de la Salud/Organización Panamericana de la Salud, un banco canadiense retuvo los fondos para la compra de vacunas contra la influenza para el programa de inmunización del adulto mayor, al no contar con la licencia de la OFAC.

La decisión del Banco Cantonal de Zürich de suspender las operaciones con Cuba afectó el derecho de ciudadanos suizos que por más de 20 años y a través de la organización no gubernamental MediCuba-Suisse, han apoyado proyectos médicos en las áreas de infraestructura y de entrenamiento de personal en la lucha contra el cáncer, pediatría, medicina



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paliativa, psicoterapia y la prevención del VIH/SIDA en diferentes regiones de Cuba, con aproximadamente 300 000 francos suizos anuales.

Asimismo, varios especialistas cubanos se vieron imposibilitados de participar en un taller de normalización de frutas y hortalizas frescas en Costa Rica, celebrado previo a la 17ª Reunión del Comité del CODEX ALIMENTARIUS (FAO) sobre Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas en septiembre de 2012, debido a que el mismo fue financiado por la Secretaría de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos. Cuba fue el único país de la región excluido del intercambio regional sobre buenas prácticas en la esfera.

La empresa sudafricana Mohlaleng Health no ha podido transferir a Cuba 148 500 USD por el pago de una facturación, en el año 2012, de 2400 frascos del producto *Vidatox* (producido por la empresa cubana LABIOFAM), por temor a que las autoridades norteamericanas congelen los fondos.

La empresa cubana LABIOFAM fue objeto de otras sanciones bajo la política de bloqueo, cuando un banco estadounidense se apropió, en una transferencia de rutina, de los fondos destinados a la construcción de una planta de biolarvicidas para ayudar a erradicar la malaria en la República Unida de Tanzania. Esta acción tuvo un carácter extraterritorial en tanto que el proyecto era del gobierno tanzano. La empresa cubana sólo administraba los fondos para la edificación de la planta.

El Instituto de Investigaciones Fundamentales en Agricultura Tropical (INIFAT) no ha podido comenzar la ejecución del proyecto “Conservación de la Biodiversidad Agrícola en Reservas de la Biosfera de Cuba: Conectando los Paisajes Naturales y los Paisajes Agrícolas para lograr los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio”, por demoras, ocasionadas por el bloqueo, en los trámites de las cuentas.

El proyecto, presupuestado en 1.368 millones de USD, es financiado por el Fondo Mundial del Medio Ambiente (con sede en Washington D.C.) e implementado por el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) y la agencia Biodiversity International. De otra parte, la obligación de utilizar euros en la transferencia de los recursos financieros significa la pérdida de aproximadamente el 8% del presupuesto del proyecto de cooperación, equivalente a 109 456 USD.

En el año 2007 se constituyó el Proyecto Trinacional “Corredor Biológico en el Caribe (CBC), con la participación de Cuba, República Dominicana y Haití, con el objetivo esencial de asistir a la nación haitiana. El proyecto cuenta con fondos del PNUMA y la Unión Europea, y una oficina de coordinación en República Dominicana.

Las restricciones impuestas por la política de bloqueo impidieron la compra de un vehículo Mitsubishi para el Punto Focal del CBC en Cuba e imposibilitan el uso de plataformas de sistemas de información geográficas (SIG) patentadas en Estados Unidos, incluso por los técnicos cubanos que laboran en la República Dominicana. La irracionalidad de dicha política

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se expresa también en el congelamiento del salario de un mes por parte de un banco estadounidense, pagado por el PNUMA, de uno de los técnicos cubanos en la Oficina Trinacional.

Especialistas del Instituto Nacional de Oncología y Radiobiología (INOR) a cargo del banco de tumores de ese centro, fueron excluidos de participar en el taller del Sistema LabWare-LIMS, celebrado en Colombia durante la primera semana de junio de 2013 bajo los auspicios de la Red de Bancos de Tumores para la Alianza Latinoamericana y del Caribe, bajo el pretexto de que la empresa norteamericana LabWare, patrocinadora del evento, no podía hacer tratos con Cuba en virtud de las leyes del bloqueo.

## **CAPÍTULO 2.**

### **Afectaciones del bloqueo en los sectores de mayor impacto social.**

#### **2.1 Afectaciones causadas a la salud y la alimentación.**

##### ***Salud pública.***

Para el período comprendido entre mayo de 2012 y abril de 2013, estimaciones muy conservadoras estiman las afectaciones monetarias provocadas por el bloqueo a la salud pública cubana en alrededor de 39 millones de USD, como resultado de la adquisición de medicamentos, reactivos, piezas de repuestos para equipos de diagnóstico y tratamiento, instrumental y otros insumos en mercados lejanos, así como del uso de intermediarios, cuyo efecto combinado incrementa los gastos en el sector.

Las consecuencias del bloqueo en este sector tienen un efecto negativo multiplicador, dado que al incidir en los costos de los productos de uso cotidiano se dificulta su adquisición, se afectan los servicios sociales de base y, por lo tanto, las condiciones de vida de la población.

Entre las afectaciones registradas en este campo figuran las siguientes:

- a) La empresa Servicios Médicos Cubanos S.A. se ve imposibilitada de desarrollar todo su potencial en la oferta de diferentes modalidades de comercialización de los servicios en salud. Las limitaciones que impone el bloqueo impidieron ingresos valorados en cerca de 9.6 millones de USD.
- b) La empresa Medicuba S.A ha sufrido afectaciones significativas debido al incremento de gastos presupuestarios y erogaciones en divisas por la compra de medicamentos, suministros médicos, reactivos para exámenes de laboratorio, material gastable, equipos e insumos utilizados en la actividad estomatológica, así como de otros equipamientos y tecnologías en mercados lejanos. Los gastos adicionales ascendieron a 367 800 USD por incremento de precios y a 11 304 600 USD por gastos operacionales.



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- c) El entrenamiento de los profesionales cubanos de la medicina en las técnicas contemporáneas de asistencia médica, encuentra serias trabas debido al bloqueo. En las actuales circunstancias, no se recibe entrenamiento adecuado en los equipos de Tomografía por Emisión de Positrones (PET) de la marca Philips, vitales para el diagnóstico del cáncer.
  - d) La mayoría de los equipos de imágenes médicas son controlados o incluyen en su composición ordenadores basados en el sistema operativo Windows XP de 64 bits, que requiere ser activado con Microsoft antes de los 30 días después de instalado.

La activación se puede realizar automáticamente por Internet, mediante la conexión directa del ordenador a los servidores de Microsoft o manualmente llamando por teléfono a alguna de las oficinas de dicha compañía en el mundo. Ninguna de las dos opciones está disponible para Cuba, al no tener Microsoft representación en la Isla y rechazarse la activación automática por el servidor de la compañía, debido a que proviene de Cuba.

El Centro Nacional de Genética Médica no ha podido adquirir un Analizador Genético, al ser producido exclusivamente por compañías norteamericanas como *Applied Biosystems*, perteneciente a *Life Technologies*. Este equipo permite realizar la lectura de bases de las secuencias de ADN, herramienta fundamental para el estudio de enfermedades genéticas, como el cáncer de mama hereditario, la poliposis adenomatosa familiar, el cáncer colectoral hereditario no polipósico y el síndrome de von Piel-Lindau.

El Instituto de Gastroenterología no ha podido adquirir un equipo de radiofrecuencia bipolar, para ablación de los tumores hepáticos, pues es producido en los Estados Unidos y comercializado por varias empresas en distintas zonas geográficas, como *Olympus Latin America Inc.*

El Cardiocentro Pediátrico "William Soler" enfrenta serias dificultades para adquirir óxido nítrico, gas fabricado por compañías estadounidenses y europeas. La imposibilidad de adquirirlo en los Estados Unidos obliga a su compra a proveedores más alejados, con el consecuente incremento de los costos, al tratarse de una sustancia que requiere especial cuidado en su transportación.

El óxido nítrico se utiliza en pacientes con crisis de hipertensión pulmonar y distrés pulmonar severo. Su uso es necesario, además, en los centros de atención médica a los pacientes con trasplantes de corazón y pulmón, así como en los casos de circulación fetal persistente del recién nacido y otros.

El Instituto de Nutrición e Higiene de los Alimentos enfrenta dificultades para la determinación de aflotoxinas (toxinas con efecto cancerígeno presente en alimentos contaminados por hongos), pues el ensayo se encuentra detenido hace más de 1 año al no disponer de proveedores que no sean norteamericanos, para obtener el patrón de aflotoxinas B2, G1 y G2.



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El Instituto de Nefrología confronta dificultades con la disponibilidad de kits para tipaje tisular HLA de la firma de origen norteamericano *One Lambda*, que no autoriza su venta a Cuba. La técnica permite establecer los niveles de compatibilidad inmunológica entre receptores y donantes en el Programa Nacional de Trasplante Renal, posibilitando la selección del receptor idóneo. Alrededor de 1500 pacientes integran el banco de receptores y por tanto, requieren ser tipificados inmunológicamente.

Asimismo, los enfermos cubanos con VIH/SIDA están imposibilitados de recibir las combinaciones de antirretrovirales que incluyan el Tenofovir de la firma Gilead. Tampoco se han podido adquirir los medicamentos antivirales kaletra, nelfinavir, ritonavir y Lopir/Rito infantil 80/20 mg, debido a que las compañías norteamericanas que los producen no responden las solicitudes de las empresas cubanas o bien alegan que no pueden comerciar con Cuba.

### ***Alimentación.***

Por su naturaleza, este es uno de los sectores más sensibles afectados por el bloqueo.

Si bien existe la posibilidad de importar productos agrícolas y alimentos desde los Estados Unidos, se continúa impidiendo una relación comercial normal en esta esfera entre ambos países. Las compras siguen enmarcadas en estrictas regulaciones sujetas a un complejo mecanismo de licencias, que opera tanto para los viajes de los empresarios estadounidenses, como para la firma de los contratos, la transportación y los pagos de las transacciones a realizar. En adición, la OFAC se reserva la facultad de cancelar estas licencias sin previo aviso y sin argumentos explícitos.

La empresa ALIMPORT enfrentó, por el concepto riesgo país, pérdidas estimadas en aproximadamente 45 millones USD, al no contar con acceso directo al financiamiento de la banca norteamericana. En adición, la presión que ejerce el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos sobre el sistema bancario y crediticio internacional trae consigo que terceros acreedores incrementen los costos financieros a niveles entre el 8% y 10% anual, pese a que, como tendencia, estos fluctúan entre el 5 y 6%.

ALIMPORT enfrenta afectaciones adicionales estimadas en 20 millones de USD, debido a la imposibilidad de utilizar el dólar estadounidense en sus transacciones. Los bancos cubanos deben comprar monedas de reembolso, lo cual conlleva considerables pérdidas por concepto de riesgo cambiario, influidas, además, por la alta volatilidad de los mercados financieros. Otros 10 millones USD se pierden debido a que las transferencias originadas en Cuba requieren involucrar a varios bancos para alcanzar su destino.

Ante la imposibilidad de exportar productos cubanos al mercado estadounidense y las restricciones que impiden a los barcos de ese país transportar cargas cubanas hacia otros destinos, la flota que viaja desde los Estados Unidos a Cuba retorna a puerto norteamericano sin carga, lo que implica un encarecimiento de los fletes. Por este concepto, la afectación ascendió a 28 millones de dólares estadounidenses en el 2012.

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Del mismo modo, las exportaciones de la empresa cubana CARIBEX, especialmente en colas de langosta y camarón marino, podían haber sido colocadas en el mercado estadounidense. Como consecuencia del bloqueo, tales exportaciones deben pagar aranceles elevados en otros mercados (están libres de aranceles en el mercado norteamericano), lidiar con altos costos de transportación asociados a los riesgos de largas travesías para la mercancía, y enfrentar tipos de cambios onerosos, por la prohibición de utilizar el dólar estadounidense en las transacciones.

Adicionalmente, la reubicación de mercados para la importación de insumos para la industria alimenticia cubana, tales como materias primas para la confección de envases y la conservación de las producciones, pulpas de frutas, edulcorantes entre otros, ha ocasionado pérdidas cercanas a los 3.4 millones de dólares.

## **2.2 Educación, cultura y deporte.**

Garantizar la realización de los derechos de todos los cubanos a la educación, el acceso a la cultura y al deporte, ha sido una prioridad del Estado cubano desde el advenimiento de la Revolución. Sin embargo, el bloqueo impuesto al país genera carencias diarias que afectan el desarrollo de estos sectores.

Como consecuencia de la aplicación de esta política, Cuba continúa sin acceder al mercado norteamericano para la compra de insumos escolares, materias primas y al intercambio de información científica, cultural y deportiva.

Las pérdidas ocasionadas por la necesidad de importar materiales escolares suministrados por proveedores lejanos, significan una reducción del acceso de las escuelas cubanas a medios didácticos que resultan indispensables para la educación preescolar, primaria y especial. El monto de 816 000 USD pagados en adición a la cotización regular para la compra de materiales escolares, equivale a 1 723 módulos para la enseñanza de Ciencias Naturales. Como resultado de esos costos adicionales sólo se pudieron importar 100 módulos didácticos.

En el período que abarca el presente informe, han tenido especial significación las medidas diseñadas para prohibir o condicionar el normal desarrollo de los intercambios académicos, los viajes de estudiantes y profesores, el flujo de información científica por diferentes vías, la difusión y retribución adecuada por los resultados dentro de la esfera académica y la adquisición de insumos, medios e instrumentos para la docencia, la investigación y el trabajo científico en general.

La incertidumbre en el otorgamiento de licencias a instituciones académicas y universidades estadounidenses que desean abrir programas de colaboración, imponiéndoles estrictos condicionamientos, provocan que se pierdan muchas oportunidades y frenan acciones potenciales para la cooperación entre académicos y estudiantes de ambos países.



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La Universidad de Holguín no pudo realizar intercambios académicos con el Centro de Estudios Superiores de Granada (CEGRI), España, centro avalado por la Universidad de Alcalá (Madrid), debido a que en el mismo matriculan estudiantes de varios países de Europa, Asia y Estados Unidos. En todos los casos, el CEGRI realiza los pagos a las universidades que reciben a los estudiantes. Al conocerse que la universidad receptora era cubana, se canceló el intercambio.

El equipamiento informático de la Universidad de La Habana no puede ser renovado debido a la prohibición de la importación de computadoras producidas por los mayores fabricantes mundiales, como *Hewlett Packard*, *Apple Macintosh*, o incluso de firmas que se asocian con fabricantes japoneses como *Toshiba* o *Sony Vaio*. Tal restricción se debe a que la mayoría del mercado está controlado por procesadores producidos por la firma estadounidense *Intel*. Para obtener el equipamiento, Cuba debe recurrir a terceros países con incrementos de los precios que llegan hasta un 30% del precio original.

En la Universidad de Guantánamo existen 5 proyectos de colaboración cuya gestión sufre serias limitaciones debido a las afectaciones en la importación de insumos de laboratorios. Entre esos proyectos figuran los siguientes:

- a) “Formación de capacidades para el manejo costero local en el Sur de Cuba”, que se realiza en colaboración con instituciones canadienses. La llegada de un GPS se retrasó dada la imposibilidad de la contraparte canadiense de adquirirlo en Estados Unidos, cuando se supo el destino del equipo.
- b) Las importaciones para instrumentales del laboratorio del proyecto “Mejoramiento del coto genético”, que se ejecuta con la cooperación de instituciones belgas, también se retrasaron, debido a que los medios contratados contenían componentes procedentes de Estados Unidos. Fue necesario adquirir el instrumental en mercados más lejanos y a precios más elevados.

Miembros de dos grupos de investigación del Departamento de Biología Animal y Humana de la Universidad de La Habana (Invertebrados y Ecología de Aves) no pudieron optar por los fondos del programa de conservación “Conservation Leadership Program”, que ofrece financiamiento a jóvenes de países en desarrollo involucrados en la protección y manejo de los recursos naturales de sus países, debido a que las organizaciones norteamericanas *Wildlife Conservation Society* y *Conservation International*, se han incorporado a la lista de donantes del programa. Anteriormente, otros jóvenes cubanos habían tenido acceso a dicho programa, cuando era auspiciado por las organizaciones no gubernamentales inglesas *British Petroleum*, *BirdLife International* y *Fauna & Flora International*.

La política de bloqueo obstaculiza e impide las relaciones directas y normales con instituciones deportivas internacionales y la participación de atletas en importantes competencias que se desarrollan en los Estados Unidos o en Cuba. La dimensión extraterritorial



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de sus medidas, encarece asimismo el acceso al financiamiento externo y entorpece la adquisición de implementos deportivos.

Entre las principales afectaciones infligidas al deporte cubano se incluyen gastos adicionales ascendientes a 1 070 000 USD por concepto de las importaciones de insumos para disciplinas deportivas como el béisbol, atletismo, softball, tiro con arco, clavado, natación, tenis de campo, pelota vasca, vela y polo, entre otros.

Asimismo, la Selección Nacional de Béisbol aún espera que se salden los pagos adeudados por su participación en el II y III Clásicos Mundiales de Béisbol (2009 y 2013), que suman 2.3 millones de USD, y no pueden ser transferidos a Cuba debido a las leyes del bloqueo.

El 26 de junio de 2012, la OFAC informó a la agencia de viajes *Insight Cuba*, promotora desde el 2011 de la participación de corredores de ese país en la maratón Marabana, que el evento no calificaba como programa “pueblo a pueblo”, e impidió la presencia de 300 atletas norteamericanos en la popular competencia.

La Reunión del Comité Ejecutivo de la Federación Internacional de Baloncesto Aficionado que debió celebrarse en La Habana del 7 al 10 de noviembre de 2012, tuvo que ser cancelada al negar las autoridades norteamericanas las licencias de viajes a los ejecutivos procedentes de Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico.

El bloqueo impide la adecuada promoción, difusión y comercialización del talento cultural cubano, deprime a valores ínfimos los precios de venta del producto cultural del país y ha limitado el disfrute de nuestra música por parte del público internacional. Una de las principales razones reside en el control del mercado que ejercen las grandes transnacionales del arte y la música, que en su mayoría son norteamericanas o tienen una fuerte presencia en los Estados Unidos. Esas grandes empresas dominan los circuitos de promoción y exhibición de los artistas a nivel internacional.

Las instituciones cubanas dejaron de percibir 12.1 millones de USD debido a las afectaciones del bloqueo y la imposibilidad de interactuar en condiciones normales con los circuitos artísticos de Estados Unidos.

En otro ejemplo de la dimensión extraterritorial del bloqueo, el 21 de agosto de 2012, la compañía de pago por Internet *Paypal* limitó la cuenta de una plataforma española para el financiamiento de proyectos culturales cubanos, alegando el incumplimiento de las regulaciones de la OFAC sobre Cuba.

El Instituto Cubano de la Música llevó a cabo, a través de sus empresas, 51 proyectos de trabajo en territorio norteamericano en el periodo que se evalúa, con la participación de 365 músicos y técnicos. Sin embargo, los participantes sólo reciben un viático para sufragar sus gastos diarios, y se les prohíbe comercializar sus presentaciones.

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El Instituto Cubano de Arte e Industria Cinematográficas (ICAIC) no tiene acceso directo a la utilización de la tecnología desarrollada por la empresa norteamericana Dolby, debido a las limitaciones del bloqueo. Los procesos de sonorización de las producciones cinematográficas cubanas se ven obligados a utilizar esa tecnología sin dicho crédito, lo que hace prácticamente imposible su inserción en el mercado internacional del cine. La situación obliga a los profesionales cubanos a asociarse a coproductores extranjeros, con el fin de adquirir las licencias correspondientes.

El servicio de distribución mayorista de música digital Soy Cubano, de la empresa cubana ARTEX S.A., no tiene acceso de forma directa a empresas norteamericanas de distribución mayorista que tienen un alto poder negociador en el mercado mundial. En esas circunstancias, ha sido necesario utilizar empresas intermediarias, con la consecuente disminución del margen comercial.

Por su parte, la Empresa RTV Comercial, encargada de exportar los servicios que generan la Radio y la Televisión cubanas, no puede comercializar sus productos audiovisuales en el mercado estadounidense y otros de la región, debido al control ejercido por el capital proveniente de Estados Unidos. El hecho provoca que los productos cubanos se comercialicen a precios más bajos que el resto de las producciones. Para Cuba, oscilan entre 200 y 300 USD la hora, monto inferior a los precios promedios de los productos audiovisuales del género, cotizados aproximadamente en 600 USD la hora en el mercado internacional.

### **CAPÍTULO 3.**

#### **Afectaciones al sector externo de la economía.**

##### **3.1 Afectaciones al comercio exterior.**

La insularidad y condiciones de desarrollo de Cuba determinan el alto nivel de incidencia del comercio exterior para el acceso a las tecnologías de punta, la movilización de capitales externos, la concesión de créditos, el impulso a las inversiones extranjeras y la cooperación internacional.

Por ello, el sector externo de la economía cubana constituye uno de los principales blancos de la política de bloqueo contra el país.

Durante el período que se analiza, las afectaciones ocasionadas por el bloqueo al comercio exterior cubano ascienden a 3 921 725 790 USD, cifra un 10% mayor que la del año anterior. Los principales daños se registran en los ingresos dejados de percibir por exportaciones de bienes y servicios, que representan el 78% de todas las afectaciones.

El incremento de los costos de financiamiento por la percepción de riesgo país se incrementó un 76% con respecto al período anterior, como resultado de las presiones ejercidas por las autoridades norteamericanas a terceros para obstaculizar o impedir financiamientos a



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Cuba. Los gastos en fletes y seguros por reubicación geográfica del comercio se incrementaron en un 24%.

Asimismo, continúan siendo significativos los daños ocasionados a los sectores del turismo, energía, minería, agrícola e industrial.

Solo en tabaco tipo *Premium*, la empresa cubana TABACUBA hubiera podido colocar ventas en Estados Unidos por aproximadamente 121.5 millones USD, si se tienen en cuenta las características del mercado norteamericano para estos productos.

Otro ejemplo de afectaciones al comercio exterior cubano es el caso de la empresa Mixta Havana Club Internacional, la cual perdió alrededor de 73 millones de USD, por la prohibición de vender sus roncs en el mercado de los Estados Unidos. La estimación se basa en la posición de los roncs que la empresa coloca en el mercado internacional, donde el norteamericano representa casi el 42% del destino de las marcas Premium.

### **3.2 Afectaciones a la inversión extranjera.**

La inversión extranjera en Cuba en los últimos años ha estado dirigida a proyectos de interés nacional con un significativo impacto económico y social. El bloqueo impuesto por el gobierno de Estados Unidos continúa obstaculizando el proceso inversionista extranjero en Cuba. Entre las consecuencias de esa política se pueden citar:

- Se impide el acceso a tecnología de punta que poseen empresas norteamericanas.
- Se niega el acceso al mercado estadounidense para las exportaciones de empresas cubanas.
- Se impide el acceso a financiamientos provenientes de bancos norteamericanos para el desarrollo de las inversiones extranjeras directas en el país.
- Se encarecen los financiamientos que se obtienen por tener que realizarlos en monedas diferentes al dólar estadounidense, lo que incrementa los costos y retrasa los procesos inversionistas.
- Aumento de los costos de flete y transportación marítima.
- Se aplican sanciones extraterritoriales y se ejercen presiones a empresas extranjeras, lo que impide el establecimiento de negocios conjuntos en Cuba.

En el caso de la industria petrolera, el bloqueo provoca el encarecimiento de los contratos con las compañías dueñas de plataformas perforadoras, pues las tecnologías que utilicen no pueden tener más de un 10% de componentes norteamericanos. Esta circunstancia exige a las compañías extranjeras operadoras inversiones adicionales, y por tanto, se hace más costosa la utilización de las plataformas en aguas cubanas.

### **3.3 Afectaciones financieras y bancarias.**

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Como se ha señalado, el reforzamiento de la hostilidad, persecución y acoso del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos al sector bancario y financiero cubano constituye, inequívocamente, el elemento distintivo de esa criminal política durante el período abarcado por el presente informe.

Se ha endurecido el hostigamiento a instituciones financieras y bancarias extranjeras, dirigido a limitar las operaciones hacia y desde los bancos cubanos. Esta situación dificulta el adecuado funcionamiento de los bancos nacionales, a la vez que les obliga a incurrir en costos financieros adicionales.

En este contexto, se observa una tendencia creciente por parte de instituciones financieras y bancarias extranjeras a limitar sus operaciones con Cuba. Aunque las afectaciones resultan difíciles de cuantificar, se pueden identificar las principales dificultades que inciden en el desempeño de las instituciones bancarias cubanas.

Las afectaciones de carácter general a los bancos e instituciones financieras del sistema cubano identificadas fueron:

- a. A partir del 31 de marzo de 2013, Reuters suspendió totalmente su servicio de información bancaria y financiera a las instituciones bancarias cubanas. Esta situación acarrea múltiples dificultades, ya que afecta la obtención de referencias profesionales o formales del mercado (información sobre tipos de cambio, tasas de interés y de precios de materias primas) para la concertación y seguimiento de operaciones financieras que involucran inversiones de la economía nacional.
- b. La eliminación de estos servicios también tiene consecuencias asociadas al encarecimiento de la negociación de las operaciones de tesorería, al tener que hacerse, en todos los casos, por vía telefónica, que resulta más cara e insegura.
- c. Riesgo cambiario que se corre en las transacciones monetarias por diferenciales en los tipos de cambio, al tener que utilizar monedas de pago diferentes al dólar estadounidense.
- d. Limitación de la participación de bancos extranjeros en las operaciones con Cuba, al negárseles en ocasiones los trasposos de fondos o la participación como banco tramitador o avisador en operaciones de cartas de crédito emitidas a través de bancos cubanos.
- e. Limitación del acceso a los servicios bancarios de algunos bancos extranjeros, lo cual acarrea un encarecimiento de las transacciones por tener que tramitar las operaciones a través de bancos de terceros países.



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- f. Imposibilidad de captar transferencias provenientes de América Latina, tanto de personas naturales como jurídicas, pese a la presencia significativa de comunidades cubanas en la región, así como al gran número de familiares de estudiantes latinoamericanos que cursan estudios en Cuba. Estos se ven obligados a enviar sus ayudas familiares por las vías no bancarias.
  - g. Las empresas nacionales no encuentran bancos extranjeros con corresponsalía directa con bancos cubanos, que les permitan canalizar directamente los pagos por sus exportaciones.
  - h. Dificultades en la recepción de transferencias de personas naturales por obstáculos en las coberturas. Son cada vez más los bancos extranjeros que se niegan a servir de intermediarios en una operación en la que Cuba aparezca como destino, aspecto que incluye no sólo a los clientes particulares de los bancos cubanos, sino también a los del sector corporativo.
  - i. Banker's Almanac<sup>2</sup> anunció a varios bancos cubanos que no renovaría la inscripción para dar continuidad a sus servicios de consulta a partir de enero de 2013, debido a su fusión con una firma norteamericana y a las restricciones impuestas por el Departamento del Tesoro de los Estados Unidos.

La consecuencia del anuncio, es la imposibilidad de mantener la práctica de trabajo, asociada a consultas de determinadas informaciones necesarias para efectuar pagos, así como la actualización de los accionistas, bancos corresponsales y otros; **elementos importantes para garantizar que las operaciones no se tramiten a través de instituciones de alto riesgo, lo cual pudiera conllevar a la congelación de fondos.**

Algunas de esas afectaciones se manifiestan en los siguientes ejemplos:

- En el año 2012, una institución bancaria de Europa notificó a otra cubana que por política de su entidad, no estaba en posición de ejecutar una instrucción de pago recibida. Posteriormente, informó que no aceptaban tramitar nuevas operaciones ni efectuar traspasos de fondos, declarando que sólo mantendrían las operaciones que se encontraban vigentes. A finales de ese año, no hubo otra alternativa que cerrar la cuenta corriente en dicho banco, ante las restricciones en su utilización.
- También el año 2012, un banco cubano tuvo que reestructurar una operación con otro extranjero. Ante la imposibilidad de mantener cuentas en dólares estadounidenses (USD) para operaciones de clientes cubanos por bancos foráneos participantes en un préstamo indicado, hubo que convertir a euros las obligaciones y la cuenta de reserva nominadas inicialmente en USD.

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<sup>2</sup> Herramienta primaria de revisión en línea, vía Internet, del status de los bancos, dígame relaciones de propiedad y posición en el sistema mundial, ejecutivos y de corresponsalía.

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En este caso, además, la operación de *forex* (cambio de monedas) no pudo ser realizada directamente, sino a través de una transacción utilizando una cuenta de otro banco cubano. La afectación por este concepto se calcula en 667 268.76 USD.

- En el año 2010 se notificó a Cuba que a partir de marzo de 2012, el Sistema Bancario Nacional no podría utilizar la versión SWIFT NET 7.0 del producto suministrado por S.W.I.F.T. (*Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication*) llamado Swift Alliance Access/Entry (SAA) para la gestión de la mensajería interbancaria a través de dicha red, por contener tecnologías y componentes de procedencia estadounidense. Hasta ese momento, los costos anuales asociados a la utilización del SAA fueron de 141 722.50 USD.

En 2012 se dio continuidad a la implementación de la alternativa contratada del nuevo producto GariGold (GG) para la conexión a S.W.I.F.T., se concluyeron los pagos relativos a su instalación y se ejecutó también el pago por el mantenimiento anual. Lo anterior implicó la erogación adicional de aproximadamente 900 000 USD. A partir de 2013 existirá un incremento de más de 127 000 USD en los gastos de mantenimiento del sistema alternativo.

- A mediados de octubre de 2012, una institución bancaria europea comunicó a un banco cubano que por la política dictada por el grupo financiero al que pertenece, su cuenta debía ser cerrada el día 30 del mismo mes. Similar aviso recibieron otras entidades del sistema bancario cubano que tenían cuentas en ese banco, fundamentalmente para el pago de las facturas a través de S.W.I.F.T., lo que conllevó el cierre de dichas cuentas y la obligación de ejecutar esos pagos con otro banco europeo.
- En diciembre de 2012, la Oficina de Control de Activos Extranjeros (OFAC) multó al banco HSBC, con sede en Londres, por un monto de 375 millones de USD por realizar operaciones con varios países, incluida Cuba. El banco cerró sus operaciones con el Havin Bank, con el que trabajan varias entidades cubanas en el Reino Unido.
- En el año 2013, un banco de América Latina rechazó un pago en euros a través de una entidad bancaria europea, exponiendo que no tramitaban operaciones con Cuba, que el beneficiario de la operación no era su cliente y que, además, el monto era elevado. Dicha operación se realizó con otro banco de la región que accedió a reactivar sus relaciones con el banco cubano vía S.W.I.F.T., a partir de ese momento. Esta situación ocasionó demoras para abrir la nueva carta de crédito.
- El Banco Central de Cuba (BCC) planificó la compra de máquinas clasificadoras de billetes para la Dirección de Emisión y Valores, para lo cual se contactó a la empresa DELARUE, de nacionalidad inglesa, que manifestó interés en el proyecto y envió a Cuba a su directora de ventas y realizó una propuesta técnica.



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Sin embargo, posteriormente dicha compañía comunicó que no podía vender el equipamiento solicitado, debido a que no podían realizar la operación pues la planta de fabricación radicaba en los Estados Unidos. En consecuencia, fue necesario contactar a una empresa alemana para adquirir los equipos, lo que trajo consigo incrementos en los precios y costos de transportación.

### **3.4 La Sección 211 de la Ley Ómnibus de Asignaciones Consolidadas Suplementarias y de Emergencia de los Estados Unidos de 1999 y otras agresiones en el tema de patentes y marcas**

El robo de marcas y patentes cubanas se mantiene inalterable, en virtud de la aplicación de la Sección 211 de la Ley Ómnibus de Asignaciones Consolidadas Suplementarias y de Emergencia de los Estados Unidos de 1999 y de otras violaciones marcarias, pese al fallo del órgano de solución de diferencias de la OMC y del rechazo que esta usurpadora política genera.<sup>3</sup>

El robo de la marca Havana Club por la compañía Bacardí se ha consumado. El 30 de noviembre de 2012, la OFAC informó a la Oficina de Patentes y Marcas de los Estados Unidos (USPTO, por sus siglas en inglés) que no era necesario que emitiera una licencia para la cancelación del registro de la marca Havana Club de la empresa cubana CUBAEXPORT. Cuando finalmente la USPTO se pronuncie, Cuba será despojada de la prestigiosa marca Havana Club en los Estados Unidos, en grosera y franca violación de las leyes internacionales y de las obligaciones de ese país de conformidad con los acuerdos y leyes internacionales en esta esfera.

En otro grave ejemplo de robo de marcas, el 14 de marzo de 2013, el Buró de Apelaciones de Marcas, adscrito a la Oficina de Marcas y Patentes de Estados Unidos, rechazó la petición de la empresa cubana CUBATABACO para cancelar el registro de la marca Cohiba a favor de la empresa General Cigar, propiedad de la compañía sueca Swedish Match. La decisión se basó íntegramente en lo planteado por las Cortes de Estados Unidos, que ratificaron que las Regulaciones para el Control de Activos Cubanos impiden el reconocimiento de la prestigiosa marca cubana.

Hasta el presente se mantienen las intenciones de algunos demandantes contra el Estado cubano en los Estados Unidos de apropiarse como medio de compensación de marcas comerciales y patentes cubanas, amparándose en lo dispuesto en la Ley de Seguro contra Riesgos del Terrorismo, aprobada en el 2002 y con vigencia hasta el año 2014.

## **CAPÍTULO 4.**

### **Afectaciones del bloqueo a otros sectores de la economía nacional.**

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<sup>3</sup> Ver el documento A/67/118, páginas 44 y 45

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Como se ha señalado en anteriores informes de Cuba al Secretario General, el entramado legal que sustenta el bloqueo afecta toda la esfera económica del país.

A los ingresos dejados de percibir, los mayores costos financieros asociados a la obstaculización de las transacciones bancarias y los gastos adicionales en fletes y seguros para las instituciones cubanas, se añaden los costos a la economía nacional resultantes de la inmovilización de los inventarios y las afectaciones por las limitaciones al acceso de tecnologías de punta.

Por sectores, se pueden consignar los siguientes impactos:

- El **sector de la construcción** sufrió afectaciones equivalentes a 11.5 millones de USD, debido a la imposibilidad de acceder a tecnologías constructivas más eficientes, ligeras y con menor consumo de materiales básicos y componentes energéticos. El acceso significaría un ahorro de al menos un 6 % en moneda libremente convertible, en los planes estatales de construcción de viviendas.
- La empresa importadora **COMIMPORT**, encargada de la importación de productos de alta necesidad para la población, enfrentó afectaciones por 63.3 millones de USD, cuando el proceso importador tuvo que lidiar con las trabas de esta genocida política.
- La **actividad turística de Cuba**, vital para la economía del país, continuó experimentando severas consecuencias en las áreas relacionadas con los servicios, las operaciones y aseguramientos logísticos, decisivos para su desarrollo.

Las afectaciones para el sector se estiman en 1 960.18 millones de dólares, marcados principalmente por los ingresos dejados de percibir debido a la prohibición existente para los norteamericanos de acceder a los servicios turísticos cubanos.

Otro ejemplo que se puede destacar, es que los hoteles cubanos solamente pueden utilizar el sistema Amadeus para la comercialización del producto turístico cubano. Se trata de uno de los cuatro grandes Sistemas Globales de Distribución (GDS) internacionales; los otros tres - Sabre, Galileo y Worldspan – pertenecen a empresas estadounidenses. Numerosos intermediarios proveedores de estos servicios evitan las relaciones con las entidades turísticas cubanas por temor a ser multados y a afectar sus ventas en Estados Unidos.

Las empresas turísticas cubanas tampoco pueden anunciarse en los mejores sistemas de servicios en la *web*, como por ejemplo, Google, Yahoo, MSN, por tratarse de empresas norteamericanas.

- El **sector industrial** cubano estima sus afectaciones en 197.2 millones de USD, debido a las limitaciones que impone el bloqueo a la industria ligera, la sideromecánica y la química.



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- El **Grupo ACINOX**, que produce barras corrugadas y mallas electro-soldadas para las construcciones, electrodos para soldar, cables y conductores eléctricos y telefónicos, materiales refractarios y equipos para el bombeo de agua, entre otras producciones, enfrentó afectaciones por un monto de 38.3 millones de USD, debido fundamentalmente a la reubicación de mercados de importación de los insumos para su funcionamiento.

Con ese monto, la línea de trefilado de la Fábrica de Cables “Eleka” podría adquirir los insumos necesarios para producir durante 7 meses y medio conductores eléctricos y telefónicos. De tal manera, se brindaría mayor seguridad al empleo productivo de los trabajadores de las empresas y se contribuiría de mejor manera a los sectores de las comunicaciones y los servicios eléctricos del país.

- En adición a ACINOX, los **grupos industriales de Bienes de Capital (GBK), Bienes de Consumo (GBC), de Refrigeración y Calderas (RC)** y otras empresas cubanas, enfrentan limitaciones tecnológicas al no poder utilizar programas como VmWare, necesarios para virtualizar servidores en redes de computación.
- Las entidades económicas y científicas cubanas tampoco pueden utilizar el sitio *sourceforge.net*, una central de desarrollo de software libre que actúa como repositorio de códigos de fuente para las descargas de programas.
- En el **sector de las comunicaciones**, las afectaciones se valoran en 44.2 millones de USD, resultantes de la imposibilidad de adquirir equipamiento norteamericano u otros con componentes de esa procedencia y de acceder al mercado de ese país. También inciden negativamente la prohibición de ejecutar operaciones a través de bancos norteamericanos, entre otras causas.

Asimismo, Cuba debe destinar importantes recursos a la defensa de su espectro radioelectrónico. Las transmisiones anticubanas originadas en los Estados Unidos totalizaron 2 400 horas semanales, emitidas en 30 frecuencias de radio y televisión. La agresión contra Cuba en esta esfera viola, entre otras, las normas internacionales que rigen el uso del espectro radioeléctrico del Convenio Internacional de Radiocomunicaciones, del cual el Gobierno de Estados Unidos es Parte.

- En área de **energía y minas**, se reportan múltiples afectaciones. La prohibición de exportar a los Estados Unidos cualquier producto que contenga níquel cubano, ha forzado la creación de canales más costosos de distribución y otras medidas paliativas para el comercio de las producciones cubanas de níquel y cobalto. Las afectaciones a las exportaciones de ese rubro se estiman en 51.7 millones de USD.
- La industria cubana de petróleo y gas es blanco de las medidas diseñadas por el Gobierno estadounidense para evitar su desarrollo, el acceso a las tecnologías de avanzada, a los productos petroleros y al financiamiento necesario para su crecimiento.

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Se intenta paralizar el ramo y obstaculizar las modernizaciones, las actualizaciones tecnológicas, el acceso de piezas de repuesto y la participación en el proceso de innovación.

La prohibición a empresas o filiales norteamericanas de brindar servicios petroleros o parapetroleros a Cuba es un elemento adicional de presión sobre la industria nacional. Las fusiones, compras y adquisiciones que normalmente ocurren entre las compañías internacionales del ramo, muchas veces se traducen en el retiro de suministradores del mercado cubano.

- El bloqueo afectó al **sector del transporte** en todas sus esferas (marítima, aérea y terrestre; servicios portuarios y aeroportuarios, desarrollo y mantenimiento de las vías y la red de carreteras). Los daños ocasionados se estiman en 469.3 millones de USD.
- Sólo la **Aeronáutica Civil de Cuba** cuantifica el monto de las afectaciones económicas en 274.2 millones de USD, fundamentalmente por los ingresos dejados de percibir como resultado de la prohibición de las líneas aéreas cubanas de operar en el mercado de Estados Unidos, la imposibilidad de prestar servicios a viajeros estadounidenses que visitan Cuba y de adquirir tecnologías de punta, equipamientos y otros accesorios.
- En el caso del **Instituto Nacional de Recursos Hidráulicos**, la afectación a la empresa importadora CUBAHIDRÁULICA ascendió a 2.2 millones USD, por concepto de reubicación de mercados de importación.
- En la esfera de los seguros la incidencia del bloqueo es significativa, fundamentalmente en el proceso de compra de las protecciones de reaseguro para las carteras de seguros cubanas que realiza **ESICUBA S.A.**
- El sector **de la industria azucarera** sigue enfrentando la prohibición de acceder al mercado estadounidense para la exportación del azúcar desde que fue suspendida en su totalidad la cuota azucarera cubana. La empresa **CUBAZUCAR**, encargada de la comercialización del azúcar cubano, estima los ingresos dejados de percibir en 22 millones de USD.

## CAPÍTULO 5.

### Oposición a la política genocida de bloqueo contra Cuba.

#### 5.1 Oposición interna en los Estados Unidos.

Numerosas personalidades y organizaciones estadounidenses se pronuncian de manera creciente a favor del levantamiento del bloqueo contra Cuba, como lo demuestran los siguientes ejemplos:



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El 24 de abril de 2013, la Representante Kathy Castor (D-FL), envió una carta al Presidente Obama instando a la Administración a cambiar sus políticas hacia Cuba, remover a Cuba de la lista de Estados patrocinadores del terrorismo y crear condiciones para la normalización de las relaciones bilaterales entre los dos países.

El 6 de abril de 2013, la organización religiosa Alianza de Bautistas, con sede en Greenville, South Carolina, publicó una declaración llamando al levantamiento del bloqueo contra Cuba y remover a la isla del listado de países que promueven el terrorismo. La petición se publicó en el sitio web <http://www.lawg.org/>.

El 25 de marzo de 2013, la oficina del Representante Sam Farr (D-CA) circuló en la Cámara de Representantes una misiva dirigida al presidente Obama sobre la libertad de viajes a Cuba, para recabar el apoyo de los congresistas a la misma. El texto insta al Presidente a adoptar las medidas necesarias para que los viajes de los norteamericanos a Cuba se realicen bajo una licencia general.

El 22 de marzo de 2013, durante la conferencia “Reaproximación a Cuba: Bueno para Tampa, bueno para Florida, bueno para los EE.UU.”, organizada en esa ciudad por la Alianza para una Política Responsable hacia Cuba, la Representante Kathy Castor (D-FL) expresó que las restricciones impuestas por Estados Unidos a los viajes y el comercio no tienen sentido. Además enfatizó que no existen pruebas de que Cuba sea patrocinadora del terrorismo.

El 27 de febrero de 2013, el representante demócrata por Nueva York, Charles Rangel, presentó tres proyectos de ley dirigidos a un cambio de la política hacia Cuba: H.R.871, “Ley de Exportación de la Libertad a Cuba de 2013”; H.R.872 “Comercio Libre con Cuba”, y H.R.873 “Ley para la Promoción de las Exportaciones Agrícolas y Médicas de los Estados Unidos a Cuba de 2013”. Estas iniciativas proponían autorizar los viajes de los ciudadanos estadounidenses a la Isla, revocar las leyes del bloqueo, sacar a Cuba de la lista de Estados patrocinadores del terrorismo y autorizar las transferencias directas entre instituciones bancarias de ambos países, entre otras disposiciones.

El 24 de febrero de 2013, el senador Patrick Leahy (D-VT), durante una entrevista en el programa *State of the Union* de CNN, declaró la conveniencia de solucionar temas de interés para ambos países, tales como el bloqueo y la libertad de viajar.

El 21 de febrero de 2013, durante una entrevista en el programa *Starting Point* de CNN, el Representante James McGovern (D-MA) exhortó a su gobierno a negociar formalmente y de manera directa con Cuba una amplia gama de temas, que incluya las restricciones a los viajes y el “embargo económico”.

El 20 de febrero de 2013, el Grupo de Estudios Cubanos (CSG) publicó un documento titulado “Restablecimiento de la autoridad ejecutiva sobre la política de los Estados Unidos hacia Cuba”, en el que califica a la Ley Helms-Burton como una “política fallida, anticuada y contraproducente”. Propone su derogación y la de todas las regulaciones relacionadas. Recomendando, además, varias acciones que modifican sustancialmente el bloqueo.

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El 24 de enero de 2013, Peter Kornbluh, jefe del Programa de Documentación sobre Cuba del Archivo de Seguridad Nacional, publicó un artículo en la revista *The Nation* con recomendaciones al Presidente Obama. Entre ellas incluye eliminar el bloqueo y expandir las categorías de norteamericanos autorizados a visitar Cuba por medio de una licencia general.

El 17 de enero de 2013, el académico Ted Piccone, del *Brookings Institution*, publicó un “memorando” dirigido al Presidente Obama, con recomendaciones para cambiar la política hacia Cuba, entre ellas, levantar el “embargo”.

El 16 de enero de 2013, el *Washington Post*, publicó en su columna “Opiniones” un comentario del Vicepresidente del Consejo Nacional de Comercio Exterior, Jake Colvin, quien afirmó que el criterio del ex-Senador Chuck Hagel a favor del levantamiento del bloqueo contra Cuba es compartido por la mayoría de los norteamericanos que reconocen el fracaso del bloqueo como medio para cambiar el sistema político cubano.

El 9 de enero de 2013, la organización religiosa Church World Service, a través de su Presidente, el Reverendo John L. McCullough, instó al gobierno del Presidente Obama a continuar facilitando los viajes de las organizaciones religiosas a Cuba, a eliminar todas las trabas para los de los ciudadanos norteamericanos y a adoptar políticas y acciones que reduzcan las tensiones entre ambos gobiernos.

El 25 de octubre de 2012, el periódico *Tampa Bay Times* publicó un editorial que critica al senador Marco Rubio por promover impedimentos a los contactos “pueblo a pueblo” e instó al gobierno de Estados Unidos a eliminar el bloqueo, a desoír los cuestionamientos de los extremistas de Miami, a eliminar todos los obstáculos a los viajes y a reducir el poder desmedido de la OFAC.

El 18 de octubre de 2012, el diario *Los Angeles Times* publicó un editorial en el que llamó al gobierno de Estados Unidos a eliminar las “anticuadas políticas de la Guerra Fría”, como el “arcaico” bloqueo a Cuba.

El 6 de septiembre de 2012, las agencias AP y DPA informaron que el ex-Presidente James Carter, en la reunión anual del Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina, se pronunció a favor de la normalización de las relaciones bilaterales entre Cuba y Estados Unidos y por el levantamiento del bloqueo, ya que daña al pueblo cubano y resta credibilidad a ese país.

El 5 de septiembre de 2012, la Reverenda Dra. Joan Brown Campbell envió una carta al Presidente Obama, abogando por el levantamiento del bloqueo y la libertad de cinco cubanos injustamente presos en cárceles norteamericanas por luchar contra el terrorismo que desde los Estados Unidos se practica contra la Isla.

El 31 de agosto de 2012, miembros de los Comités Ejecutivos de las organizaciones Cubanoamericanas por las Relaciones (C.A.F.E., por sus siglas en inglés) y Fundación para la



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Normalización de las Relaciones Estados Unidos - Cuba, enviaron una carta a los Comités Nacionales Republicano y Demócrata, exhortándolos a no tratar a la comunidad cubana como un bloque monolítico favorable al bloqueo, ya que en su mayoría apoyan la normalización de las relaciones entre ambos países. Refrendaron su apoyo a las medidas del gobierno que han facilitado la reunificación familiar, los viajes y el envío de remesas y manifestaron su deseo de que el Gobierno de Estados Unidos permita que los estadounidenses también visiten Cuba.

El 10 de mayo de 2012, los participantes en un evento en el Centro de Política Internacional, con sede en Washington D.C., se cuestionaron los efectos del bloqueo en el sector petrolero e insistieron en la necesidad de establecer un mecanismo de cooperación entre Cuba y Estados Unidos, que permita una colaboración eficaz entre ambas partes.

## **5.2 Oposición internacional al bloqueo.**

En el contexto internacional es abrumadora la oposición a la inhumana política contra el pueblo cubano, como lo demuestran los innumerables foros que adoptan declaraciones y comunicados especiales a favor del cese de dicha política.

En el período que abarca este informe, se destacan los siguientes ejemplos:

- En la 21ª Cumbre de la Unión Africana, celebrada en Addis Ababa del 25 al 27 de mayo de 2013, los Jefes de Estado y Gobierno participantes adoptaron la resolución Assembly/AU//Res.1(XXI), que hace un fuerte llamado al levantamiento del bloqueo económico y comercial contra Cuba.
- El 16 Mayo de 2013, las organizaciones Centro Europa-Tercer Mundo, la Asociación Internacional de Abogados Democráticos y la Asociación Americana de Juristas, circularon el documento A/HRC/23/NGO/16, en el marco del 23º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, que contiene una declaración conjunta de denuncia del bloqueo económico contra Cuba y solicitan al Consejo de Derechos Humanos que establezca un procedimiento especial sobre las medidas coercitivas unilaterales.
- El 1º de mayo de 2013, durante la presentación de Cuba al Grupo de Trabajo del Examen Periódico Universal del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, 22 delegaciones criticaron el bloqueo de Estados Unidos contra Cuba y se refirieron al mismo como un obstáculo a la realización de los derechos humanos en la isla.
- La Declaración adoptada en la V Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y/o Gobierno de la Asociación de Estados de Caribe, celebrada en Pétiön Ville, Haití, del 23-26 de abril de 2013 reclamó el fin del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba.
- En la Declaración Final del X Consejo Político de la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA-TCP), celebrado en Caracas el 28 de febrero de 2013, condenó la continuación del bloqueo de Estados Unidos contra Cuba.

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- La III Cumbre de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de África y América del Sur (ASA), celebrada en Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial, del 20 al 23 de febrero de 2013, adoptó la Declaración de Malabo, cuyo párrafo 27 insta a que se aplique la resolución de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas 67/4 titulada “Necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba”.
  - La I Cumbre de la Comunidad de Estados de América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Santiago de Chile el 28 de enero de 2013, adoptó un comunicado especial condenando en términos enérgicos la política de bloqueo contra Cuba.
  - En la Primera Cumbre CELAC-Unión Europea, celebrada en Santiago de Chile entre el 26 y el 27 enero de 2013, se aprobó la llamada “Declaración de Santiago” sobre el nuevo diálogo CELAC-Unión Europea. El párrafo 6 del documento rechaza las medidas coercitivas unilaterales contrarias al derecho internacional y reafirma las posiciones de ambos bloques en relación a la disposiciones extraterritoriales de la Ley Helms-Burton
  - La Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA-TCP) emitió una declaración con motivo de la celebración en Caracas del VIII Aniversario de la Alianza, el 15 de diciembre de 2012, en la que sus países miembros condenaron el criminal bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero que mantiene los Estados Unidos contra el pueblo de Cuba.
  - La 7ª Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y Gobierno del Grupo Asia-Caribe-Pacífico (ACP), celebrada en Guinea Ecuatorial del 13 al 14 de diciembre de 2012, adoptó la Declaración de Sipopo, la cual también condenó las medidas coercitivas unilaterales contrarias al derecho internacional y rechaza la Ley Helms-Burton.
  - El 26 de noviembre de 2012, la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA-TCP) emitió un Comunicado rechazando la inclusión de Cuba en la lista de Estados patrocinadores del terrorismo y condenando asimismo la aplicación del bloqueo contra Cuba.
  - La XXII Cumbre Iberoamericana de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, celebrada en Cádiz (España), los días 16 y 17 de noviembre de 2012, acordó un Comunicado Especial sobre la necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico y financiero impuesto por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América a Cuba, incluida la Ley Helms-Burton, en el que se reitera “el más enérgico rechazo a la aplicación de leyes y medidas contrarias al derecho internacional como la Ley Helms-Burton y exhorta al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América a que ponga fin a su aplicación”. Dicho comunicado incita “al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América a que cumpla con lo dispuesto en 20 sucesivas resoluciones aprobadas en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y ponga fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero que mantiene contra Cuba”.



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- La Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el órgano más democrático y representativo de la comunidad internacional, en una nueva votación histórica se pronunció inequívocamente el 13 de noviembre de 2012 en contra del bloqueo, al aprobar por 188 votos a favor, 3 en contra y 2 abstenciones, la resolución titulada “Necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba”. En el debate sobre el tema participaron 19 delegaciones, entre ellas 7 representantes de organizaciones, grupos de concertación y organizaciones regionales y subregionales: el Grupo de los 77 más China, el Movimiento de los Países No Alineados, la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y del Caribe (CELAC), CARICOM, el Grupo Africano, la Organización de la Conferencia Islámica y el Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR). Otras 17 delegaciones explicaron su posición en contra del bloqueo una vez adoptada la resolución.
  - La XXXVIII Reunión Ordinaria del Consejo del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA), reunido en sesión ministerial en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, aprobó el 19 de octubre de 2012, la Declaración “Fin del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de Estados Unidos contra Cuba”. El texto declara que el bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de Estados Unidos contra Cuba viola el Derecho Internacional, es contrario a los propósitos y principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, a las normas del sistema internacional de comercio y la libertad de navegación. Asimismo, condena enérgicamente la aplicación de cualquier ley o medida contraria al Derecho Internacional como las Leyes Helms-Burton y Torricelli, y exhorta al gobierno de Estados Unidos a que ponga fin a su aplicación.
  - Durante el debate general del sexagésimo séptimo período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en septiembre de 2012, altos dignatarios y representantes de 45 países miembros de las Naciones Unidas, condenaron explícitamente el bloqueo y llamaron a ponerle fin.
  - Los Jefes de Estado y Gobierno de la Unión Africana, reunidos en Addis Abeba, Etiopía del 15 al 19 de julio de 2012, adoptaron en su XIX Período de Sesiones Ordinarios, la resolución Assembly/AU/Res.1(XIX), en la que expresan su apoyo a la resolución cubana contra el bloqueo y hacen un llamado al levantamiento de esa política.

### **Conclusiones.**

En el año 2009, después de haber asumido el liderazgo del país, el recién estrenado Presidente Obama anunció un nuevo comienzo con Cuba y manifestó su convicción que se podía llevar la relación entre los Estados Unidos y Cuba en otra dirección.

Sin embargo, más allá de lo expresado entonces y de la engañosa retórica ulterior, la realidad es que durante los cinco últimos años se ha producido un persistente recrudecimiento del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos contra

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Cuba, especialmente de su dimensión extraterritorial, a pesar del rotundo rechazo internacional que concita dicha política.

Durante este período, la pertinaz persecución y obstaculización de las transacciones financieras internacionales de Cuba, se ha convertido en la prioridad de la política de asfixia económica que se mantiene por más de 50 años contra el pueblo cubano.

Cuba reitera que el mantenimiento de esta política constituye una violación masiva, flagrante y sistemática de los derechos humanos de todo un pueblo y que la misma califica como un acto de genocidio en virtud de la Convención para la Prevención y la Sanción del Delito de Genocidio de 1948, al tiempo que viola también los derechos constitucionales del pueblo norteamericano, pues quebranta su libertad de viajar a Cuba, y transgrede los derechos soberanos de muchos otros Estados por su carácter extraterritorial.

El bloqueo contra Cuba, amparado en la fallida visión de pretender rendir por hambre a todo un pueblo, es un acto de violación del derecho internacional, contrario a los propósitos y principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y una trasgresión al derecho a la paz, el desarrollo y la seguridad de un Estado soberano.

Como ya se señaló, el daño económico ocasionado al pueblo cubano, desde que se aplica el bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba, asciende a 1 157 327 000 000 dólares estadounidenses, considerando la depreciación del dólar frente al valor del oro en el mercado internacional.

El bloqueo continúa siendo una política absurda, obsoleta, ilegal y moralmente insostenible, que no ha cumplido ni cumplirá el propósito de doblegar la decisión patriótica del pueblo cubano de preservar su soberanía, independencia y derecho a la libre determinación.

El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos debe levantar de manera inmediata e incondicional el bloqueo. Cuba agradece nuevamente el creciente respaldo de la comunidad internacional y solicita su apoyo para lograr poner fin a esta injusta, ilegal e inhumana política.

### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

[Original: English]  
[19 April 2013]

It is the consistent position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to oppose all kinds of sanctions including economic, commercial and financial embargoes on sovereign States.

The unilateral and extraterritorial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba constitutes an obvious infringement upon the sovereignty of Cuba, in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, undermines the freedom of trade and navigation and the most fundamental norms of coexistence and respect among sovereign States,



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and constitutes a human rights violation by denying the people's right to life and right to development, and thus deserves strong denunciation by the United Nations and international community.

The United States' blockade policy against Cuba which has persisted for decades has caused Cuba serious losses amounting to hundreds of billions of United States dollars in the economic and social fields and also impacted third countries that have normal economic and trade relations with Cuba, thus remaining the main obstacle to the socioeconomic development of the country *and its people's living*. As such, the United States' criminal, inhumane and anachronistic blockade policy of the United States against Cuba should terminate, without delay, in conformity with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the demands of the international community.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constantly supports the efforts of the Government and people of Cuba to end the United States' embargo and will continue to further expand and develop the economic and trade relations with Cuba in the future.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

[Original: French]  
[31 May 2013]

Le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo exprime sa profonde préoccupation face au maintien du blocus économique, commercial et financier imposé à Cuba par les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, malgré les nombreuses résolutions de l'Assemblée générale appelant à sa levée.

Une fois de plus, la République Démocratique du Congo se joint à la volonté exprimée par la Communauté Internationale à travers l'adoption, par 188 Etats membres, de la Résolution 67/4, et appuie ainsi toute nouvelle résolution visant la rupture dudit blocus.

Le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo apprécie l'importance que le Secrétaire général continue d'accorder à cette question et soutient toute initiative s'efforçant d'engager Cuba et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique sur la voie d'un dialogue constructif et fructueux pouvant conduire à la levée complète du blocus."

#### **Djibouti**

[Original: English]  
[8 May 2013]

The Republic of Djibouti wishes to reaffirm its fundamental commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law. Further, the Republic of Djibouti has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 67/4, and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the above-

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mentioned resolution and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

#### **Dominica**

[Original: English]  
[13 April 2013]

The Commonwealth of Dominica has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures which in any way hinder the freedom of trade and navigation with and to Cuba.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica vehemently opposes the extraterritorial enforcement of national legislation that demonstrates disregard for, and undermines the sovereignty of other states. Dominica views such actions as contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and customs and principles of sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The Government of Dominica embraces Cuba as a member of the United Nations, ALBA and a sister nation in the Caribbean Sea. Our strong historic ties and solidarity in a number of areas of cooperation such as education, health, and sport, have created an enduring friendship between our peoples.

Dominica has consistently and unreservedly voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 67/4. Dominica expresses its continued concern at the hardship and human suffering caused by the ongoing unilateral imposition of the embargo against Cuba, despite overwhelming international support for multiple resolutions that have called for an end to this blockade.

#### **Dominican Republic**

[Original: Spanish]  
[21 May 2013]

El Gobierno dominicano en sus relaciones internacionales se desenvuelve ajustado a las normas y principios que sustentan las relaciones de cooperación e intercambio entre las naciones, fundamentados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y las demás normas del derecho internacional. En consecuencia, se abstiene a promulgar y/o aplicar leyes que contravengan esas normas y principios.

#### **Ecuador**

[Original: Spanish]  
[8 May 2013]

La Misión Permanente del Ecuador ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas debe informar que, en coherencia con su tradicional política de condena al ilegal bloqueo impuesto desde hace algunas décadas por los Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba y su pueblo, en el



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Ecuador no se ha promulgado ni está en vigencia, ninguna ley o medida que pudiera consistir en un bloqueo de carácter económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba.

Al mismo tiempo, exige el inmediato e incondicional levantamiento de todas las medidas unilaterales impuestas por los Estados Unidos de América en contra de la nación caribeña, que causan graves daños económicos y sociales y ocasionan al pueblo una crisis humanitaria de gran magnitud.

La posición ecuatoriana, que considera totalmente inaceptable la extensión extraterritorial de medidas unilaterales impuestas contra un tercer país, como las contenidas en la Ley estadounidense sobre la “democracia cubana” de 1992 y la Ley Helms-Burton de 1996, se ha hecho manifiesta en el apoyo constante que el Ecuador ha dado a las sucesivas Resoluciones aprobadas sobre este tema en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

## **Egypt**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

The Arab Republic of Egypt has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 67/4 in line with its consistent position that unilateral sanctions imposed outside the United Nations framework are not a course of action that Egypt can condone.

The embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba constitutes a clear violation of the principles of multilateralism and is in breach of the principles of the UN Charter and the norms of international law, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and mutual trust.

The unjust and unjustifiable embargo causes undue economic and social hardship on the Cuban people. It also has harmful effects the vital sectors of the Cuban economy. This embargo is an anachronism from a bygone era that must be lifted.

The embargo has an extended effect on companies and citizens from third countries. These extraterritorial effects violate the sovereign rights of many Member States. Egypt is deeply concerned over the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the embargo which is an added argument in favour of the prompt elimination of those unjustified sanctions.

## **El Salvador**

[Original: Spanish]  
[31 May 2013]

La República de El Salvador, siempre respetuosa de los principios y propósitos consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, y plenamente consciente de la necesidad de eliminar la aplicación unilateral de medidas de carácter económico y comercial contra otro Estado que afecten al libre desarrollo del comercio internacional, reitera su apoyo a la

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necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto contra Cuba.

El Salvador considera que el bloqueo es una acción lamentable que ha generado un grave impacto al progreso y desarrollo de un Estado soberano, y ha irrespetado la dignidad y soberanía de su nación.

Asimismo, señala que la vigencia de leyes nacionales de aplicación extraterritorial transgrede los intereses legítimos de entidades o personas bajo la jurisdicción de la República de Cuba y la libertad de todas las formas de comercio y navegación, asimismo se convierte en un fuerte obstáculo en todos los esfuerzos emprendidos por el pueblo cubano hacia el desarrollo y el bienestar.

El Salvador apoya el cese inmediato a este bloqueo, no sólo en cumplimiento al Derecho Internacional, sino también porque considera que representa un acto que ha infringido dolor y sufrimiento al pueblo cubano.

La República de El Salvador considera que todos los esfuerzos que la Comunidad internacional hoy en día realiza en pro de la paz, la cooperación, el desarrollo y la justicia social, los derechos humanos, la integración política económica y social, la unidad y solidaridad de los países, se ven gravemente cuestionados por acciones como el embargo al pueblo cubano, el cual continúa trayendo a nuestras memorias un capítulo de la historia que todos deseamos superar definitivamente.

El Salvador desea manifestar su preocupación por las permanentes afectaciones que impactan al Sistema de Salud y la seguridad alimentaria de la población cubana, producto del bloqueo; lo cual obliga al Estado cubano a procurarse insumos en mercados distantes y en muchas ocasiones con el uso de intermediarios, lo que provoca una alta desviación de recursos financieros que podrían ser utilizados en otras áreas del desarrollo.

La República de El Salvador se une al llamado de la mayoría de los Estados miembros de la ONU en su respaldo a la Resolución 67/4 de la Asamblea General, en ese sentido, pide terminar con estas medidas en contra de la República de Cuba, e informa, de conformidad con la citada Resolución, que nunca ha promulgado ni aplicado leyes o medidas cuyos efectos extraterritoriales afecten negativamente los derechos soberanos del Estado cubano y de sus ciudadanos.

El Salvador se une nuevamente al incesante clamor que hace la Comunidad internacional, el cual cada día va cobrando un mayor protagonismo en diferentes espacios de reflexión internacionales y regionales, y reitera su llamado para que se ponga fin a la aplicación del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba y se inicie un proceso de diálogo respetuoso con ese país, sobre la base del respeto a su soberanía y al derecho inalienable del pueblo cubano a la autodeterminación.

## **Equatorial Guinea**



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[Original: Spanish]  
[31 May 2013]

La república de Guinea Ecuatorial, de conformidad con los principios de su Constitución Nacional y su fiel compromiso a defender y preservar los Principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y el Derecho Internacional, expresa una vez más su preocupación por la continuación del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba, por entender que va en detrimento del desarrollo del pueblo Cubano.

Estamos convencidos de que, en un mundo cada vez más globalizado, arrasado por la crisis económica y financiera internacional, mantener el aislamiento económico, comercial y financiero contra un Estado no puede ser la vía adecuada para resolver las controversias.

En este sentido, Invitamos a la comunidad internacional a una profunda reflexión sobre este asunto y para que redoble sus esfuerzos a fin de promover un diálogo positivo entre las partes con miras a lograr el levantamiento definitivo del bloqueo.

En consecuencia, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial en su afán de ver un mundo más armonioso, reitera su apoyo incondicional a las resoluciones de la Asamblea General que versan sobre la necesidad de poner fin a este bloqueo que ya dura más de medio siglo.

#### **Eritrea**

[Original: English]  
[26 April 2013]

The Government of the State of Eritrea has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 67/4.

Eritrea is strongly opposed to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which is inconsistent with the principles of international law.

Eritrea joins other States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws or measures, which are having adverse effects on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

#### **Ethiopia**

[Original: English]  
[30 April 2013]

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia considers that the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba adversely affects the living standards of the people of Cuba and reaffirms its adherence to the principle of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

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The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia therefore reaffirms its support of United Nations resolution 67/4 and calls for an end to the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia believes that constructive dialogue is necessary to foster mutual trust and understanding among the nations of the world.

### **European Union**

[Original: English]  
[29 April 2013]

The European Union believes that the United States' trade policy towards Cuba is fundamentally a bilateral issue. Notwithstanding, the European Union and its Member States have been clearly expressing their opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States' embargo, such as that contained in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

In November 1996, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted a regulation and a joint action to protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the European Union against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation, which prohibits compliance with that legislation. Moreover, on 18 May 1998, at the European Union/ United States Summit in London, a package was agreed covering waivers to titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act; a commitment by the United States administration to resist future extraterritorial legislation of that kind; and an understanding with respect to disciplines for the strengthening of investment protection. The European Union continues to urge the United States to implement its side of the 18 May 1998 Understanding.

### **Fiji**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

Fiji reaffirms its Government's support for resolution 67/4. Fiji reiterates its Government's position that all States should refrain from imposing economic sanctions of the nature referred to in the resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Fiji has not taken any measures that might impair economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Fiji. On the contrary, Fiji is intent on developing cooperative relations with all countries and in this regard fully supports the call for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba.



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## Gabon

[Original: French]  
[30 April 2013]

En novembre 2012, le Gabon avait voté en faveur de l'adoption de la résolution 67/4, à l'instar de la majorité des États Membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et demeure attaché à l'application des paragraphes 2, 3 et 4 de ladite résolution, par les États Membres.

Le blocus va à l'encontre des principes d'égalité souveraine des États, de la non-intervention et de la non-ingérence dans leurs affaires intérieures et de liberté du commerce et de la navigation internationaux, tous prévus par la Charte des Nations Unies et le droit international.

Le Gabon reste préoccupé tant par la poursuite des mesures visant à durcir et élargir le blocus économique, commercial et financier appliqué à Cuba que par les conséquences qui en résultent pour la population cubaine et les Cubains résidant hors de Cuba.

## Gambia

[Original: English]  
[24 May 2013]

The Gambia continues to be opposed to the enactment or application of such laws, acts or measures against Cuba that impede the free flow of international trade and navigation. The embargo against Cuba contravened the fundamental principles of international law, international humanitarian law, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, violating the sovereign equality of States and of non-intervention and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other Member States. The embargo has no legitimate or moral justifications given the fact that it continues to undermine the essential rights to economic emancipation and to development of the Cuban people...it must come to an immediate end.

As a responsible member of the international community, the Gambia therefore joins other Member States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws, measures or policies that impede the free flow of international trade and navigation as they are contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

It is our fervent desire that the relevant UN resolutions echoing collective concerns on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" will be respected and implemented without further delays.

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## Georgia

[Original: English]  
[15 May 2013]

Georgia reaffirms its support for the resolution 67/4 and has not promulgated or applied laws or taken any measures against Cuba that would prohibit or restrict the economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Georgia.

## Ghana

[Original: English]  
[6 June 2013]

For the past fifty years, Ghana has never supported the imposition of the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America on Cuba and has therefore not promulgated or applied any laws, whose extraterritorial effects could adversely affect Cuba. Ghana is convinced that the unilateral embargo by the United States against Cuba does not conform to the obligations that Member States have assumed under the Charter of the United Nations or international law.

Ghana strongly believes that the indefensible embargo is morally unacceptable as it denies a sovereign State and a member of the international community the benefits derived from international trade and is therefore against the embargo and any law that violates two cardinal principles of international law. These principles are the non-interference in the internal affairs of States by others and the right of all nations to determine their own paths of social development. Ghana remains committed to these principles and has always supported the United Nations General Assembly resolutions which, among other things, call for an end to the embargo.

Ghana wishes to appeal to the United States of America to heed the clarion call made at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) over the years, for the lifting of the embargo, urges her to reconsider her stance against Cuba and to treat the latter as an independent State which has the right to choose its own path of development.

Recent developments have shown that it is important to invoke our collective moral authority in a renewed call to all nations to reflect a spirit of cooperation, multilateralism, interdependence, as well as diversity in our cultural and ideological foundations, in all our international dealings, without exception. The people of Cuba, who have suffered for well over five decades in their quest for freedom deserve to benefit from their hard work and commitment to social justice. The time has come for the international community to lend its support to that cause.

Ghana would like to urge Member States of the United Nations to desist from any policy which depicts or promotes unilateralism in utter disregard of the Charter of the United Nations,



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its core values and fundamental principles as well as the aspirations and values of another Member State.

Cuba, has over the years, played host to thousands of students from Africa, who have studied in that country and upon completion of their courses in various professions, contributed and continue to contribute to the development of their respective nations.

For these reasons, Ghana wishes to call for an end to the anachronistic economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba and hopes that Cuba will be allowed to enjoy its share of the benefits of international trade.

### **Grenada**

[Original: English]  
[23 May 2013]

Grenada views the continued imposition of the economic commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, by the United States of America, as a violation of the norms and values that govern the peaceful coexistence of States which contradicts the purpose and principles of the United Nations as expressed in Article 1 of the Charter.

Moreover, Grenada is convinced that the political independence of States is a matter of sovereignty and proposes that the Cuban people should be entrusted with the task of demanding change if it is their political will to do so.

Grenada argues that the actions constituting the embargo are tantamount to a violation of the sovereign right of the Cuban people to exert control over the fate of their country, while negatively impacting the progress of human development and well-being; the latter identified as preconditions to the establishment of peaceful and friendly relations between nations according to Article 55 of the Charter.

Consequently, the Government of Grenada neither promulgates, applies, nor condones laws or measures that would encroach on or undermine the sovereign rights of any State; nor any unilateral application of economic and trade measures that would restrict a State's capacity building ability.

In the midst of serious economic and social challenges, as a result of the embargo, Cuba has extended and continues to extend a hand of friendship and solidarity to fellow developing countries around the world. Though limited in its possibilities, the spirit of cooperation and brotherhood demonstrated by the Cubans is essential to world peace and stability.

Against this backdrop, Grenada joins with the rest of the United Nations General Assembly in its call for the removal of the measures imposed on the Government and people of Cuba by the United States of America through its economic, financial and commercial embargo.

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As an advocate for the principles of the United Nations Charter, Grenada recognizes the sovereign equality of States, and therefore supports General Assembly Resolution 67/4 calling for an immediate end to the embargo against Cuba. Grenada argues that the right of one State to determine its economic and commercial partners need not exclude the right of a second State to political independence and self-determination.

## **Guatemala**

[Original: Spanish]  
[31 May 2013]

La República de Guatemala, en cumplimiento de la resolución de la Asamblea General 67/4, se permite informar que el Estado de Guatemala no ha promulgado ni aplicado leyes ni medidas de ningún tipo contrarias a los principios y propósitos consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, así como contrarias a la libertad de comercio y navegación internacionales.

En consecuencia con lo anterior, Guatemala expresa que no existe impedimento legal o reglamentario al libre tránsito o libre comercio entre Guatemala y Cuba.

Por todo lo anterior, Guatemala rechaza cualquier medida unilateral que riña con los principios de libre comercio y de derecho internacional e insta a aquellos países que aún mantienen estas disposiciones en su ordenamiento jurídico interno a que tomen las medidas necesarias para derogarlas o dejarlas sin efecto.

## **Guinea**

[Original: French]  
[22 May 2013]

Le Gouvernement de la République de Guinée demeure préoccupé par la persistance du blocus économique, commercial et financier imposé depuis des décennies au peuple cubain. Fidèle à ses engagements internationaux, la Guinée réaffirme solennellement son adhésion aux principes d'égalité et de souveraineté des Etats et de non-ingérence dans leurs affaires intérieures et demande instamment la levée immédiate et sans condition de ce blocus injuste qui a causé tant de souffrances au peuple cubain.

Raison pour laquelle la République de Guinée votera en faveur de toute résolution réaffirmant la nécessité de mettre fin à cet embargo.



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**Guinea-Bissau**

[Original: French]  
[19 April 2013]

La Guinée-Bissau réaffirme que les pratiques commerciales discriminatoires et l'application extraterritoriale des lois nationales sont contraires aux besoins de promouvoir le dialogue et de faire prévaloir les principes et les objectifs énoncés dans la Charte des Nations Unies.

Le Gouvernement de la Guinée-Bissau n'a, ni voté de résolution contre Cuba et ni actionné, au niveau interne, de mécanismes visant la mise en oeuvre de sanctions, puisqu'elles sont de caractère unilatéral et contraires aux normes du Droit International, respectivement concernant la libéralisation du Commerce et de la navigation.

Notre Pays, entre-temps, regrette que cet embargo de plus de 53 ans, continue à affecter le peuple Cubain avec des dommages importants aux niveaux, économique, financier, sanitaire et autres.

Malgré la décision de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies d'avoir, successivement adopté des résolutions ces dernières années, par une grande majorité de ses membres pour la levée de l'embargo, n'ayant quoi que ce soit de signes de flexibilité de la part des Etats-Unies d'Amérique dans sa politique persistante sur l'embargo économique, commercial et financier contre le Cuba.

La République de Guinée-Bissau reconnaît l'importance que le Secrétaire-Général de l'ONU donne à cette question et appelle à l'observation stricte de cette Résolution.

Elle appelle également la Communauté Internationale à continuer ses efforts pour que les deux pays trouvent un dialogue constructif, afin d'établir des relations entre les deux Etats.

**Guyana**

[Original: English]  
[11 April 2013]

The Government of Guyana has consistently demonstrated its unwavering respect for and adherence to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those stated in General Assembly Resolution 67/4.

To this end, Guyana has not enacted any legislation or adopted any policies or practices the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States.

Guyana has also, as a matter of principle, maintained a consistent position of firm opposition to the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of

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America against Cuba and reiterates the call for an end to this policy. Guyana encourages the process of dialogue between the United States of America and Cuba.

The Government of Guyana is in full compliance with and remains fully supportive of General Assembly Resolution 67/4.

#### **Haiti**

[Original: French]  
[10 June 2013]

La République d'Haïti, soucieuse du respect des conditions fixées dans la résolution 67/4 de l'Assemblée générale, prend toutes les dispositions pour s'abstenir de promulguer ou d'appliquer des lois et règlements dont les effets territoriaux portent atteinte à la souveraineté d'autres États et aux intérêts légitimes d'entités ou de personnes placées sous leur juridiction ainsi qu'à la liberté du commerce et de la navigation.

De plus, le Gouvernement Haïtien entretient d'excellentes relations d'amitié, d'échanges et de coopération avec le Gouvernement cubain.

#### **Holy See**

[Original: English]  
[16 May 2013]

The Holy See has never drawn up or applied economic, commercial or financial laws or measures against Cuba.

#### **Honduras**

[Original: Spanish]  
[21 May 2013]

El Gobierno de Honduras no promulga, ni aplica leyes y medidas unilaterales de carácter económico y comercial contra otros Estados que afecten el libre desarrollo del comercio internacional, en cumplimiento de sus obligaciones con la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y el derecho internacional.

#### **India**

[Original: English]  
[11 May 2013]

India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the above-mentioned resolution and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.



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India has consistently opposed any unilateral measure by countries that impinge on the sovereignty of another country. These include any attempts to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

India recalls the Final Documents adopted by the sixteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Tehran, Iran on 26-31 August 2012 on this subject, as well as other high-level decisions of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

#### **Indonesia**

[Original: English]  
[11 June 2013]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba has caused hardship for the people of Cuba.

The continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba violates the principles of the sovereign equality of states and of non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, international humanitarian law, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among states.

Indonesia urges states that applied laws and measures of an extraterritorial nature that affected the sovereignty of other states, the lawful interests of their subjects or of other persons under their jurisdiction, and freedom of trade and navigation to renounce from such action. Indonesia continues to support this resolution and calls for the immediate cessation of such an embargo.

#### **Iran (Plurinational State of)**

[Original: English]  
[13 June 2013]

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its serious disappointment at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba, despite the annual adoption of the General Assembly resolution, calling for the lifting of and an end to the embargo against Cuba by the Government of the United States.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its strong belief that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the principles of international law governing relations among States and contradicts the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for promoting solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among nations. Such measures continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and will hamper the efforts of the Cuban Government to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development

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Goals. In that context, the embargo continues to constrain the efforts of the Cuban Government and people to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote health and education, which are indispensable means for the achievement of economic and social development.

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba, which has lasted for decades, serves no purpose other than that of inflicting tremendous hardship and suffering on the people of Cuba, especially women and children. The embargo has seriously jeopardized the legitimate rights and interests of Cuba and other States, as well as freedom of trade and navigation, and therefore has to be immediately lifted, as requested by the General Assembly in all relevant resolutions. Differences and problems among countries should be resolved through peaceful means and dialogue, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for sovereignty of Member States.

The adoption of the General Assembly resolutions, with such a wide range of support and for so many years, clearly indicates the strong objection of the international community to unilateral economic coercive measures in general, and the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba in particular. It is also a sign of increasing sympathy with the struggle of the Cuban Government and people to put an end to this unlawful and inhumane embargo. Furthermore, as the international community faces major challenges, such as the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis and food crises and thus increased poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of the embargo seems more unjustifiable than ever and deserves stronger objections at the international level.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recalls the Final Document of the Non Aligned Movement Summit, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 26 to 31 August 2012, where the Heads of State or Government of the Non Aligned Movement reiterated their call to "the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the UN Charter and international law, and to the principle of neighbourliness, is causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba." They once again urged "strict compliance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6 65/6, 66/6 and 67/4 of the UN General Assembly." Furthermore, the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement expressed their "deep concern over the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the embargo against Cuba and rejected the reinforcement of the measures adopted by the Government of United States, aimed at tightening the embargo, as well as all other recent measures carried out by the Government of the United States against the people of Cuba." They reiterated that "those measures constitute a violation of Cuba's sovereignty and a massive violation of the human rights of its people."

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains opposed to the application of unilateral economic and trade measures by the United States of America against other countries that block the flow of people, trade and finance, as well as to the extraterritorial application and effects of such national legislations on the sovereignty of other States. The sanctions are contrary to the



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principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been experiencing economic coercive measures, shares the concern of the Cuban Government and people and therefore emphasizes the urgent need to put an end to such measures and the full implementation of the content of General Assembly resolution 67/4.

## **Jamaica**

[Original: English]  
[27 May 2013]

The Government of Jamaica remains opposed to the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that would obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade and economic cooperation.

To this end and in keeping with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government of Jamaica has not promulgated any law, legislation or measures that would infringe on the sovereignty of a State or its lawful national interests.

In support of this position, the House of Representatives of Jamaica has since 2009, approved the resolutions supporting the removal of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, noting that it affects the free flow of trade not only in the region, but in the hemisphere.

Jamaica continues to strongly oppose the unilateral and coercive economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba, and the application of laws and measures aimed at extending the reach of the embargo to include third countries. The embargo against Cuba is severely and unjustifiably damaging to the well-being of the Cuban people.

Consequently, the Government of Jamaica reiterates its support for General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and urges all States that continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible.

## **Japan**

[Original: English]  
[17 April 2013]

The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind that are referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution 67/4.

The Government of Japan believes that the economic policy of the United States towards Cuba should be considered primarily as a bilateral issue. However, Japan shares the concern,

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arising from the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (known as Helms-Burton Act) and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, that, if the application of such legislation causes undue hardship in relation to the economic activities of the enterprises or nationals of a third party, the legislation is likely to run counter to international law regarding the extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

The Government of Japan has been closely following the situation in relation to the above-mentioned legislation and the surrounding circumstances, and its concern remains unchanged. Having considered the matter with the utmost care, Japan voted in favour of resolution 67/4.

### **Kazakhstan**

[Original: English]  
[24 May 2013]

In its foreign policy, Kazakhstan is guided by the principles of international law and stands for the rights of nations to develop according to their own way of development.

Kazakhstan strongly condemns any unilateral acts which affect sovereignty of another State. Kazakhstan has never accepted any national regulations that infringe, impede or retard the development of foreign countries, including in their economic, commercial and financial spheres. In this regard, Kazakhstan, like the overwhelming majority of the international community, calls for lifting the embargo against Cuba and the cessation of all acts which are contrary to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

### **Kenya**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

Kenya shares the views of the international community in its continued opposition to the sanctions and embargo against Cuba.

Kenya has never unilaterally promulgated, applied laws nor measures of any kind that have extra-territorial effects affecting the sovereignty of other States.

Kenya will continue to oppose the blockade against Cuba that has negatively affected the citizens of Cuba and in line with the African Union's position, and calls for the immediate lifting of the long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on Cuba, so as to allow that country to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for its sustained development.



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**Kiribati**

[Original: English]  
[17 April 2013]

The resolution holds moral and humanitarian considerations which, when adopted, will positively contribute to improving the general welfare and well being of the people of Cuba.

**Kuwait**

[Original: English]  
[8 April 2013]

The State of Kuwait supports the implementation of the aforementioned resolution with an emphasis on the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Furthermore, the State of Kuwait has always voted in favour of the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the lifting of the United States embargo imposed on Cuba.

**Kyrgyzstan**

[Original: Russian]  
[21 May 2013]

In accordance with the fundamental principles of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Kyrgyz Republic had not promulgated or applied any laws or measures with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States.

**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

[Original: English]  
[14 May 2013]

It is unfortunate that the embargo imposed by the United States of America over the past years against Cuba, an independent and sovereign country, continues to be in effect. Such an embargo with its extraterritorial implications has not only hindered the progress of Cuba in its socio-economic development and caused untold suffering to its people, but has also violated the principles of international law and those of the sovereign equality of States as well as of freedom of international trade and navigation. As far as the Lao People's Democratic Republic is concerned, in adhering to and complying with all principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international laws, it has neither promulgated nor introduced any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the above resolution.

**Lebanon**

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[Original: English]  
[6 June 2013]

The Government of Lebanon fully complies with General Assembly Resolution 67/4 concerning the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. This is a standing position of Lebanon, based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and International law stressing the need to respect the sovereignty of States.

#### **Lesotho**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

The Kingdom of Lesotho recalls that, despite the adoption of resolutions for more than two decades by the United Nations General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the embargo persists.

The Kingdom of Lesotho once again expresses its deep concern at the continuation of that unilateral and extra-territorial measure, which is in contravention of the principles of the multilateral trading system, international law, and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in internal affairs. The Kingdom of Lesotho is deeply concerned about the harmful effects that the economic, commercial and financial embargo has on the people of Cuba.

During the reporting period, the Kingdom of Lesotho has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of Cuba. Lesotho's vote in favour of the adoption of relevant General Assembly resolutions on the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba is a clear reflection of its commitment to eliminating this kind of unilateral measure, and of its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism.

#### **Liberia**

[Original: English]  
[17 May 2013]

Liberia has consistently expressed its concern at the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo, unilaterally imposed upon Cuba for a protracted period of time, which violates the basic norms of international law and good friendly relations, including international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and principles and norms that govern peaceful co-existence of States.



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Respecting its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government of Liberia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 67/4.

The Government of Liberia maintains its support for actions by the United Nations aimed at lifting the trade restrictions on Cuba, and reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

#### **Liechtenstein**

[Original: English]  
[18 April 2013]

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 67/4. The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein is furthermore of the view that legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations having extraterritorial effects is inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

#### **Malawi**

[Original: English]  
[22 May 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Malawi does not have any sanctions or embargo against the Government of Cuba. The Government of Malawi continues to enjoy excellent bilateral relations with the Government of Cuba through a Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation (JPCC) and other multilateral fora such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The Government of Malawi further wishes to reiterate its denunciation of the unilateral promulgation and application of repressive laws and regulations such as the “Helms-Burton Act” of 1996, which goes against the Charter of the United Nations which affirms the freedom of trade among nations. In this regard, the Government of Malawi joins the rest of the International Community in calling for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Government of Cuba. These sanctions only serve to perpetuate the suffering of the ordinary people of Cuba.

#### **Malaysia**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

The Government of Malaysia had voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 67/4.

The Government of Malaysia opposes all forms of unilateral economic, commercial and financial sanctions and embargoes that run against the norms of international law, which contradict the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the rules-based multilateral trading system. Such unilateral economic measures may not only restrict free and

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unfettered business across borders, but also hamper social development such as the employment opportunities and the living condition of the general population.

In this regard, the Government of Malaysia is in full support of the international community's efforts, as contained in the General Assembly resolution 67/4 and other relevant resolutions, which call for an end to the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on any members of the United Nations.

#### **Maldives**

[Original: English]  
[7 May 2013]

The Republic of Maldives does not impose any sanctions against any country without an explicit mandate from the General Assembly or the Security Council of the United Nations, or from those international organisations of which the Maldives is a member of. Accordingly, the Republic of Maldives has not imposed any sanctions on Cuba nor has it enacted any laws or regulations that would contravene the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 67/4 to which the Republic of Maldives voted in favour.

#### **Mali**

[Original: French]  
[17 May 2013]

Le Gouvernement de la République du Mali a toujours voté en faveur des résolutions de l'Assemblée générale relatives à la nécessité de lever le blocus économique, commercial et financier imposé à Cuba.

Le Gouvernement de la République du Mali, qui appuie pleinement la résolution 67/4, n'a ni promulgué de lois ou appliqué de mesures du type de celles visées dans le préambule de ladite résolution.

Comme par le passé, le Mali maintient sa position en faveur de la levée du blocus imposé à Cuba.

#### **Mauritania**

[Original: French]  
[17 May 2013]

Le Gouvernement de la République Islamique de Mauritanie exprime son désaccord et son opposition concernant tous les aspects de l'embargo économique, commercial et financier imposé à Cuba par les États-Unis d'Amérique.



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La République Islamique de Mauritanie reste attachée aux objectifs et principes de la Charte des Nations Unies, et en particulier aux principes d'égalité souveraine des États, de la non intervention et de la non ingérence dans les affaires intérieures, ainsi qu'à la liberté du commerce et de la navigation.

## **Mauritius**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

Mauritius has not promulgated any law or measure aimed at imposing unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

The Republic of Mauritius enjoys excellent bilateral relations with Cuba. With regard to trade relations, although exports to Cuba have been negligible, Mauritius imported goods worth MUR 5.3 million from Cuba in 2012, an increase of 26% as compared to figures for 2012.

## **Mexico**

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 May 2013]

El Gobierno de México reitera una vez más su firme rechazo a la aplicación de leyes o medidas unilaterales de bloqueo económico contra algún Estado miembro de las Naciones Unidas, así como a la utilización de medidas coercitivas que no tengan respaldo legal en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

México destaca que este tipo de medidas producen severas consecuencias humanitarias que son contrarias al derecho internacional y significan el abandono de la diplomacia y del diálogo como vías idóneas para solucionar las controversias entre los Estados.

México reafirma su histórica posición de principio de que cualesquier tipo de sanciones políticas, económicas o militares impuestas a algún Estado sólo pueden emanar de las decisiones o recomendaciones que formulen el Consejo de Seguridad o la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. El multilateralismo seguirá siendo la mejor vía para resolver controversias y garantizar la convivencia pacífica entre los Estados.

México nuevamente subraya que la observancia del derecho internacional, de las normas y principios que rigen la convivencia pacífica entre las naciones, sin importar asimetrías o diferencias, y el diálogo respetuoso, son instrumentos insustituibles para superar las diferencias entre Estados y garantizar un clima de paz internacional.

El Gobierno mexicano ha compartido con la comunidad internacional su firme posición en contra de aquellas leyes nacionales que pretenden ser aplicadas extraterritorialmente en terceros países, en razón de que son contrarias al derecho internacional. En congruencia con lo anterior,

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el Estado mexicano desde el 23 de octubre de 1996 promulgó la “Ley de Protección al Comercio y la Inversión de Normas Extranjeras que Contravengan el Derecho Internacional” que está en vigor, con objeto de prohibir la realización de actos que afecten el comercio o la inversión, cuando tales actos sean consecuencia de los efectos extraterritoriales de leyes extranjeras.

El Gobierno de México una vez más deja constancia de que sus relaciones en los planos bilateral y multilateral con otros Estados se sustentan en principios generales de derecho internacional, que norman la convivencia pacífica y civilizada entre naciones soberanas en el mundo moderno. Los principios enunciados han tenido solidez y continuidad en las relaciones entre México y Cuba.

En congruencia con lo anterior y en un gesto de gran significado para las relaciones entre ambos países, en 1992 el Gobierno de México votó a favor de la Resolución que el Gobierno de la República de Cuba presentó, por primera vez, a la aprobación de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, con el propósito de rechazar y poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba.

Desde entonces, México ha ratificado los principios de su política exterior y ha votado favorablemente durante 21 años consecutivos la resolución sobre este tema que Cuba ha sometido a la aprobación de la Asamblea General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas.

México y Cuba mantienen lazos históricos inquebrantables sustentados en un clima de confianza renovada, observando invariablemente los propósitos y principios consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, en particular la convivencia pacífica, el respeto a la soberanía y a la igualdad soberana de los Estados, y la no injerencia en sus asuntos internos. Con base en ello, a través del diálogo bilateral, así como en el marco de foros y mecanismos regionales e internacionales competentes, México ha promovido oportunidades de cooperación y diálogo respetuoso.

México y Cuba tienen suscrito un Acuerdo de Complementación Económica, ACE-51, en el marco del Tratado de Montevideo 1980, con vigencia indefinida. Durante la Visita Presidencial a Cuba, ambos países suscribieron un Marco General de Negociación para la Ampliación y Profundización del Acuerdo de Complementación Económica No. 51 suscrito entre los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y la República de Cuba, mediante el cual los dos países esperan alcanzar una mayor integración al incorporar nuevas preferencias arancelarias y profundizar las existentes.

México y Cuba firmaron el 30 de mayo de 2001 un Acuerdo de Promoción y Protección Recíproca de las Inversiones (APPRI), aprobado por unanimidad por el Senado mexicano el 11 de septiembre del mismo año. El Acuerdo entró en vigor el 3 de mayo de 2002.

En el ámbito hacendario-financiero el Gobierno de México no ha promulgado ni aplicado leyes o medidas unilaterales de bloqueo económico o financiero contra ningún país, por lo que



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respeto plenamente lo estipulado en la resolución 67/4 de la Asamblea General de la ONU, manteniendo relaciones con Cuba de conformidad con los intereses de ambos países.

En septiembre de 2011, el Gobierno de México planteó al de Cuba el interés de PEMEX de participar en la exploración y explotación de hidrocarburos en la Isla. Así, durante la Visita Presidencial a la Isla, los titulares de PEMEX Exploración y Producción, y de la Unión Cuba Petróleo, firmaron una carta de intención no vinculante, para que la paraestatal Petróleos Mexicanos valore las posibilidades de participar e invertir en la exploración y explotación de hidrocarburos en Cuba, en los bloques contiguos a la zona económica exclusiva de México, siempre con pleno respeto a la soberanía de ambas naciones.

Durante la visita oficial del entonces Presidente de México a Cuba realizada los días 11 y 12 de abril de 2012, éste reiteró que “México condena y seguirá condenando el bloqueo económico injustificado que se mantiene contra la isla desde hace medio siglo”.

El Gobierno de México ha sostenido también su firme oposición al aislamiento económico y político-diplomático de Cuba. Por ello, de manera decidida ha apoyado su incorporación a todos los mecanismos regionales de integración a fin de favorecer los intercambios económicos y comerciales, la cooperación y el desarrollo. En ocasión de la referida Visita Presidencial a La Habana, se subrayó la importancia de una participación activa de Cuba en la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC).

En la reunión realizada en el marco de la Cumbre de CELAC en Santiago de Chile, en enero de 2013, entre los presidentes Enrique Peña Nieto y Raúl Castro Ruz, se acordó fortalecer y relanzar la relación bilateral entre ambos países. Adicionalmente, se han realizado acercamientos como la visita del Director General de Bancomext en marzo pasado; y, en abril, la visita de trabajo de la Subsecretaria para América Latina y el Caribe, durante la cual se revisó el estado en que se encuentran los principales asuntos de la relación bilateral y se trazaron nuevas rutas de colaboración.

A la luz de lo anterior, el Gobierno de México reitera nuevamente su firme compromiso a contribuir de manera activa y decidida a la vigencia del derecho internacional en lo que se refiere a este tema de la Agenda de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

## **Mongolia**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

The Government of Mongolia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 67/4. Mongolia has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution.

## **Montenegro**

[Original: English]

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[28 May 2013]

The Government of Montenegro reaffirms its commitment to the purpose and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in resolution 67/4. The Government of Montenegro is ready to further develop cooperation with Cuba both at the bilateral and multilateral level.

## **Morocco**

[Original: French]  
[26 April 2013]

Le Royaume du Maroc réitère son engagement résolu en faveur des buts et principes de la Charte des Nations Unies et des principes cardinaux du Droit International.

Le Royaume du Maroc a, de tout temps, favorisé le développement de relations amicales entre les Etats Membres des Nations Unies.

## **Mozambique**

[Original: English]  
[19 April 2013]

The Republic of Mozambique has never promulgated, applied or contributed to the application of any of the laws or regulations mentioned in the said Resolution. It was in this context that the Republic of Mozambique voted in favour of the aforementioned Resolution and it reiterates its unconditional support for its provisions, appealing to the United Nations to ensure that all Member States take the resolution into consideration.

## **Myanmar**

[Original: English]  
[17 May 2013]

As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, Myanmar has steadfastly adhered to the principled position of the Movement in strongly opposing the use of unilateral trade and economic sanctions imposed on developing countries for political purpose. They are counter-productive and undermine human rights, particularly the right of peoples to development.

As a country confronted with similar unilateral sanctions for the past decades, Myanmar fully understands the extent of the hardship and suffering caused by the unilateral sanctions, as they usually affected the people directly, especially vulnerable groups such as of women and children. As such, we have a sympathetic view that the embargo imposed on Cuba has caused huge economic damage and hardship to the country and its people, preventing the country from fully developing its economic potential.



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In light of the positive changes taking place in Myanmar, most of the unilateral sanctions imposed on the country have been gradually eased or lifted by the EU and the United States since 2012. It has paved the way for better opportunities for promoting trade, investment and employment for the country bringing benefits to its people. Likewise, the decades-long embargo imposed on Cuba should also be lifted soonest to ease the economic hardship and sufferings to its people.

Myanmar, on its part, has not promulgated any laws or regulations of the kind which could hamper freedom of trade or international navigation.

## **Namibia**

[Original: English]  
[29 May 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Namibia upholds the principle of peaceful coexistence of nations, respects the sovereign equality of States, and believes in fair and open trade among nations. The embargo imposed on Cuba and its people by the United States is contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, the UN Charter, and the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Namibia remains concerned about the promulgation and application of all laws and measures constituting an economic, commercial, or financial embargo against Cuba, especially the extraterritorial nature of such laws and measures. Since the attainment of its independence, Namibia, has taken steps to strengthen trade relations with Cuba. In 1991, the two countries established a Permanent Joint Commission (IJC) on economic, scientific, trade, educational and cultural cooperation. Since its inception, the IJC has met bi-annually. Cuba has recently indicated that their economy can no longer sustain the hosting of Joint Commissions and informed the Ministry that they needed some flexibility because of the current economic conditions prevailing in that country. It is therefore decided to maximise the use of the Missions and also to take advantage of high level visits instead of the hosting of Joint Commissions. In this way, the first Namibia-Cuba Consultative Meeting on wide-ranging issues of bilateral concern between the two countries was held in Havana on 25 June 2012.

### **Twelve official visits to Cuba by senior officials were undertaken during 2012:**

- National Housing Enterprise to attend FECONS Fair and conclude discussions with UNECA;
- Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for the training program of Namibian amateur boxers;
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism regarding the translocation of the donated game;
- President of the National Assembly of People's Power, Dr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada paid an official visit to Namibia;
- The Director-General of NBC visited Cuba to finalise the history of Namibia film project;
- The Cuban Journalist, Hedelberto Blanch visited Namibia on the SWAPO Party historical book;

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- Two long serving locally recruited staff members of the Embassy and their spouses visited Namibia;
  - The representative from Cuban Ministry of Public Health visited Namibia to negotiate the draft agreements;
  - A group of 8 young Namibian boxers arrived in Cuba for training in preparation for the SADC Zone 6 Youth Games in Zambia;
  - Hon. Richard Kamwi, Minister of Health and Social Services paid an official visit to Cuba to discuss and finalise outstanding agreements;
  - Officials from the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture visited Cuba to benchmark the Ministry's activities and programmes in the areas of sports, youth, culture and arts development with their Cuban counterparts;
  - At the invitation of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment and the Havana International Trade Fair Organising Committee a Namibian delegation from the Ministry of Trade and Industry attended FIHAV.

**Bilateral Agreements signed in 2012:**

- On 15 June 2012, Protocol Agreement was signed between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba and Ministry of Defense of Namibia;
- On 04 July 2012 and agreement on scientific and technological cooperation and the facilitation of animal donations to Cuba from Namibia was signed between Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism and Major General (R) Miquel Luis Abud Soto, Director of the National Zoo Park of Cuba, in Windhoek, Namibia;
- In October 2012, Mr. Alfred Ilukena, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, concluded and signed the collaboration of Technical Assistance for Academic and Professional Activities agreement between Namibian Ministry of Education and the university of Pedagogical Science of the Cuban Ministry of Education on the Development "Yes, I Can" literacy program by the use of audio visual strategy;
- In October 2012, Specific Agreement for Cuban Medical Services to Namibia was signed between the Cuban Ministry of Public Health and Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services for One Hundred and Twelve (112) medical professions and medical technologists and engineers;
- In November 2012, the representative of NCCI and Vice President of Cuban Chamber of Commerce signed an agreement on cooperation between the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) and Cuban Chamber of Commerce during FIHAV 2012.

Bilateral relations between Namibia and Cuba continue to be excellent, and thus, the Government remains committed to the necessity of an immediate end of all sanctions imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. We believe that the measures imposed against Cuba have serious negative implications for the overall development and well-being of the Cuban populations. Namibia strongly supports General Assembly resolution 67/4 and calls for an immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against the Republic of Cuba, in conformity with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. Every year we have always and will continue to make statements of support in the General Assembly calling for the removal of the embargo against the people of Cuba.



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**Nauru**

[Original: English]  
[17 April 2013]

The Government of Nauru has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Cuba.

The Government of Nauru is committed to the decisions of General Assembly resolution 67/4 of 13 November 2012.

**Nepal**

[Original: English]  
[2 July 2013]

The Government of Nepal has firmly adhered to the provision of General Assembly resolution 67/4 and has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures contrary to the resolution.

**New Zealand**

[Original: English]  
[13 May 2013]

The Government of New Zealand reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 67/4. The Government of New Zealand has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo against Cuba. New Zealand has no trade or economic legislation or measures that restrict or discourage trade or investment to or from Cuba.

**Nicaragua**

[Original: Spanish]  
[22 April 2013]

El Gobierno Unidad y Reconciliación Nacional de Nicaragua, de conformidad con los propósitos y principios consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y los principios del derecho internacional reafirma una vez más su firme y decidido respeto a la igualdad soberana de los Estados, al principio de no intervención y no injerencia en los asuntos internos y la libertad de comercio y navegación internacionales, establecidos en diversos instrumentos internacionales, así como otros principios indispensables para la paz y la convivencia internacional.

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Asimismo, Nicaragua reitera el derecho de cada Estado a elegir su propio sistema social, político y económico sin ningún tipo de injerencias externas. Por tanto, condenamos y rechazamos la aplicación de estas medidas coercitivas unilaterales de carácter extraterritorial.

Nicaragua, expresa una vez más su solidaridad incondicional con el gobierno y pueblo de Cuba y manifiesta que ni ha promulgado ni promulgará ninguna ley que afecte los derechos económicos, comerciales y financieros del hermano pueblo y Gobierno de Cuba, ni ha aplicado, ni aplicará medidas que pudieran poner restricciones al comercio con Cuba, ya que esto sería contrario a los propósitos de la resolución 67/4. De igual manera, la legislación nicaragüense no reconoce la validez de la aplicación de medidas coercitivas que tienen un efecto extraterritorial, por tanto, condenamos y rechazamos la aplicación de estas medidas.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua, desde la aprobación de la mencionada resolución, más bien ha seguido profundizado y continuará profundizando aún más, sus relaciones políticas, económicas, comerciales, de complementariedad, de solidaridad y de cooperación para el desarrollo con el pueblo y Gobierno de Cuba, tanto a nivel bilateral como a través de los diferentes mecanismos de integración, unidad y cooperación que existen en nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe, particularmente a través de la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América/Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos y PetroCaribe, así como, en nuestra Comunidad de Estados de América Latina y el Caribe de la cual Cuba ejerce la Presidencia Pro-Tempore (CELAC)

Nicaragua reitera su más profundo rechazo y condena por la continuidad y recrudecimiento del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto contra Cuba por los Estados Unidos de América, acción que, no solo no contribuye en nada al clima necesario de diálogo y cooperación que debe prevalecer en las relaciones internacionales entre Estados soberanos, sino que también es el principal obstáculo al desarrollo de ese hermano país y a sus esfuerzos por mantener sus principales logros, en lo económico y social.

En medio de este cruel e inhumano bloqueo y sufriendo sus consecuencias, la respuesta del hermano pueblo y gobierno cubano hacia la comunidad internacional es cada vez más solidaria e internacionalista, con más envío de más doctores, más educadores, más cooperación solidaria, más comercio justo, para contribuir al verdadero desarrollo de todos los pueblos del mundo.

La incondicional ayuda del pueblo y Gobierno de Cuba a Proyectos Sociales en beneficio del pueblo nicaragüense se ha ido incrementando año con año sustancialmente, particularmente en las áreas de salud y educación.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua condena nuevamente el criminal bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica contra Cuba y reitera su firme compromiso de respeto irrestricto a las normas y principios del derecho internacional y hace nuevamente un nuevo llamado al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América para que cumpla con las 20 resoluciones aprobadas por la Asamblea General que



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expresan el sentir del universo de la comunidad internacional que exige se ponga fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de Estados Unidos de América contra el heroico pueblo y Gobierno de la hermana República de Cuba.

## **Niger**

[Original: French]  
[14 June 2013]

Le Gouvernement de la République du Niger, profondément attaché au respect des principes de l'égalité souveraine des États, de la non-ingérence dans les affaires intérieures, de la liberté du commerce entre les nations et de navigation tels que consacrés par la Charte des Nations Unies et le droit international, n'a pris aucune mesure qui contrevienne aux dispositions de cette résolution.

Au contraire, la République du Niger et la République de Cuba entretiennent de bonnes relations de Coopération depuis la signature de l'Accord général de Coopération entre les deux pays en 1994. Depuis lors, le champ et les activités de cette coopération se sont développés et se sont élargis. Les deux pays tiennent régulièrement des consultations bilatérales ce qui témoigne de la volonté politique de leurs hauts dirigeants de raffermir les liens de coopération et de solidarité entre eux, pour le bonheur de leurs peuples.

Du reste, le Gouvernement du Niger estime que chaque pays, chaque peuple, a le droit légitime de définir librement son modèle de développement avec les mêmes chances et opportunités de succès, conformément aux principes contenus dans la Charte des Nations Unies.

Pour toutes ces raisons, la République du Niger reste solidaire avec la République sœur de Cuba dans le combat qu'elle mène pour la levée du blocus économique, commercial et financier imposé par les États Unis d'Amérique.

## **Nigeria**

[Original: English]  
[13 May 2013]

The Federal Government of Nigeria maintains friendly relations with all States and does not favour unilateral measures to settle political disputes. Consequently, the Federal Government reiterates its support for ending the embargo against Cuba.

## **Norway**

[Original: English]  
[29 May 2013]

The Government of Norway reaffirms its position in favour of resolution 67/4.

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Norway does not promulgate or apply laws and measures referred to in resolution 67/4. Norway does not apply trade or economic legislation against Cuba that restricts or discourages trade or investment to or from Cuba. On the contrary, Norway is in favour of increased cooperation with all parts of Cuban society, including commercial relations.

#### **Oman**

[Original: English]  
[23 May 2013]

The Government of Oman is not applying any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the said resolution, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation and reaffirmed as well the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

#### **Pakistan**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

Pakistan is fully in observance of Resolution 67/4.

#### **Panama**

[Original: Spanish]  
[3 June 2013]

El Gobierno de la República de Panamá, desde el inicio de las relaciones diplomáticas con el Gobierno de la República de Cuba, ha manifestado su interés y compromiso en seguir manteniendo y fortaleciendo los lazos de amistad y cooperación entre ambos gobiernos.

A lo largo de nuestras relaciones diplomáticas, a la fecha, Panamá y Cuba han suscrito veintidós (22) acuerdos plenamente vigentes, de los cuales 14 son inter-institucionales en distintos ámbitos de la cooperación, entre ellos: Lucha Contra el Narcotráfico, Convenio Básico de Cooperación, Convenio de Cooperación Cultural y Educativo, Convenio de Supresión de Visas en Pasaportes Diplomáticos, Mecanismos de Consultas Políticas, Convenio de Reconocimiento Mutuo de Educación Superior, Acuerdos de Servicios Aéreos, Acuerdo Comercial de Alcance Parcial, Acuerdo de Asistencia Jurídica en Materia Penal.

En la actualidad ambos países mantienen negociaciones tendientes a poner en marcha instrumentos de cooperación adicional, a nivel de proyectos tales como: Proyecto de Acuerdo para la Promoción y Protección de las Inversiones, Proyecto de Acuerdo para Evitar la Doble Imposición en la Explotación de Aeronaves, Acuerdo de Colaboración y Asistencia Técnica entre el Sistema Estatal de Radio y Televisión de Panamá y el Instituto Cubano de Radio y Televisión, Tratado sobre Traslado de Personas Sancionadas y la ampliación del Acuerdo de Alcance Parcial.



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Históricamente, Panamá ha condenado el bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero a Cuba por parte de los Estados Unidos de América, hecho demostrado en los apoyos tanto en la resolución 67/4 del Período de Sesiones de la Asamblea General de la ONU, celebrado en septiembre de 2012, como en las diversas resoluciones aprobadas anteriormente por esta Asamblea; así como en otros foros regionales e internacionales.

Panamá considera oportuno continuar con el diálogo y las consultas orientadas a encontrar la mejor solución al problema para el pueblo cubano en base a los principios contenidos en el Derecho Internacional, así como, en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

Panamá rechaza firmemente las medidas coercitivas de carácter unilateral con efecto de extra-territorial que sean contrarias al Derecho Internacional y a las normas comúnmente aceptadas de libre comercio establecidas en todos los mecanismos multilaterales de comercio e integración en los que el país participa.

Panamá continuará apoyando todos los esfuerzos encaminados a poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba, de conformidad con la Carta de la ONU y el Derecho Internacional.

Panamá mantiene una fructífera relación comercial con Cuba en varios ámbitos como lo demuestran las cifras que a continuación se aportan.

- Desde el mes de enero hasta septiembre del 2012, las exportaciones panameñas con destino a Cuba registraron un total de B/. 1,755,877.00. Mientras que en el mismo periodo las importaciones de origen cubano que ingresaron a Panamá registraron un total de B/. 776,962.00.

#### *Zona Libre de Colón*

- En el año 2012, las importaciones con origen de Cuba que ingresaron a la Zona Libre de Colón fueron por un total de B/. 2,320,236.00. Mientras que en el mismo periodo las reexportaciones registraron un total de B/. 254,806,494.00.

#### *Inversión*

- Panamá y Cuba cuentan con un Convenio sobre Promoción y Protección Recíproca de Inversiones, fue Firmado en Panamá el 27 de enero de 1999, aprobado mediante Ley No. 5 de 3 de mayo de 1999 (Gaceta Oficial No. 23.793 de 11 de mayo de 1999), el Canje de notas para la entrada en vigencia se dio 24 de mayo y 26 de julio de 1999 y entró en vigencia el 26 de julio de 1999.

#### *Turismo*

- En el año de 2012 ingresaron por el Aeropuerto Internacional de Tocumen un total de 5,960 ciudadanos provenientes de Cuba.

### **Papua New Guinea**

[Original: English]  
[2 July 2013]

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The Government of Papua New Guinea reaffirms its support for General Assembly resolution 67/4 that advocates the end of the economic embargo against Cuba, which Papua New Guinea has consistently endorsed.

Papua New Guinea does not have any restrictive legislative or other measures against Cuba but on the contrary encourages the development of constructive and friendly relations between both countries under the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Papua New Guinea is therefore not supportive of extraterritorial application of laws and regulations that infringe on the sovereignty of other United Nations Member States.

### **Paraguay**

[Original: Spanish]  
[9 July 2013]

La República del Paraguay observa plenamente la resolución 67/4 titulada "Necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba", no habiendo aplicado medidas o leyes del tipo indicado en la misma.

Asimismo, la República del Paraguay no reconoce en su legislación la aplicación extraterritorial de leyes internas que atentan contra la soberanía de otros Estados. Considera que dicha práctica vulnera principios del derecho internacional.

En política exterior, el Paraguay -en su condición de Estado fundador de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas- defiende y reivindica los principios constitucionales que rigen su relacionamiento internacional, conforme al artículo 143 de la Constitución Nacional: la independencia nacional, la autodeterminación de los pueblos, la igualdad jurídica entre los Estados, la solidaridad y la cooperación internacional, la protección internacional de los Derechos Humanos, la libre navegación de los ríos internacionales, la no intervención, y la condena a toda forma de dictadura, colonialismo e imperialismo.

Asimismo, el Paraguay reivindica los artículos 1° y 2° sobre los propósitos y principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas de fomentar entre las naciones relaciones de amistad basadas en el respeto al principio de la igualdad de derechos y al de la libre determinación de los pueblos y a los Principios Generales del Derecho Internacional, considerando que la aplicación extraterritorial de leyes internas atenta contra la soberanía de otros Estados, la igualdad jurídica entre los Estados, el principio de la no intervención afectando además el libre comercio y navegación internacionales.



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En el ámbito de las Naciones Unidas, el Paraguay ha apoyado sistemáticamente las resoluciones pertinentes de la Asamblea General en que se solicita poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba y ha expresado en varias oportunidades su oposición a éste, como lo han hecho los países de América Latina y el Caribe, junto a los cuales se ha reclamado que se le ponga fin de inmediato.

## Peru

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 May 2013]

El Perú sigue plenamente comprometido con los principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y del derecho internacional, en particular, con los principios de igualdad soberana de los Estados, la no intervención y no injerencia en los asuntos internos, y la libertad de comercio y navegación internacionales.

El Perú considera que la aplicación extraterritorial de la legislación interna que se manifiesta con el bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto contra Cuba constituye un acto unilateral contrario a la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, del derecho internacional y los principios básicos del sistema multilateral de comercio.

Desde 1992, oportunidad en la que el Perú voto a favor de la resolución 47/19 presentada por Cuba para la aprobación de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el gobierno peruano ha votado, de manera sucesiva, a favor de todas las subsiguientes resoluciones relativas a este asunto.

En este sentido, el Perú no ha promulgado ni aplicado ninguna ley o norma que puedan afectar la soberanía de otros Estados o que afecten la libertad de comercio y navegación.

El Perú considera que estas medidas coercitivas afectan el crecimiento económico de Cuba y retrasan su desarrollo social y humano. Al respecto, el gobierno peruano expresa su profunda preocupación por los efectos adversos sobre la calidad de vida y bienestar de los ciudadanos cubanos, en especial en materia de alimentación, salud y otros servicios sociales esenciales al negarse el acceso a créditos privados, alimentos, medicinas, tecnología y materiales indispensables para el desarrollo de Cuba.

El Perú, al oponerse sistemáticamente al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto contra Cuba, continúa promoviendo el comercio e intercambio económico con Cuba. El comercio bilateral, si bien incipiente, ha aumentado considerablemente en los últimos años, al igual que las conexiones aéreas entre Lima y La Habana, lo que avizora no solamente un flujo considerable de turistas desde Sudamérica hacia Cuba, sino también una oportunidad para profundizar más la relación bilateral.

Finalmente el Perú considera que el bloqueo económico comercial y financiero contra Cuba es incompatible con la dinámica de la política regional, que recientemente se ha visto

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marcada por el regreso de Cuba a los foros de diálogo y cooperación de las Américas, incluido el hecho que Cuba ejerce actualmente la Presidencia Pro-Témpore de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC).

## **Philippines**

[Original: English]  
[29 May 2013]

The Philippines' activities in line with resolution 67/4 are as follows:

### ***Agreement on Cultural and Educational Cooperation (2001):***

Since 2003, Cuba has provided university scholarships for financially-disadvantaged Filipinos in courses in medicine and hydraulics engineering. The scholarships include provide free tuition, board, lodging and an allowance of 80 Cuban pesos (US\$4.00) per month.

There are currently seven (7) Filipino scholars currently in Cuba. Five (5) are studying medicine at the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) and two (2) are studying hydraulics engineering. In addition, two (2) Filipino scholars have already finished their studies in medicine in 2009.

### ***Agreement on Sports Cooperation between the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Cuban Instituto Nacional de Deportes, Educación Física y Recreación (INDER) (2003):***

Cuban coaches have contributed to the training of young Filipino boxers, including Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco Jr., who won a silver medal at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Philippine boxing teams have participated in the Cuban boxing circuit in preparation for major boxing championships.

A five-member team trained for the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2009 World Championship through the Cuba National Boxing Championship and the Roberto Bolado Memorial Cup (Havana, April to May 2008).

Another 10-member Philippine boxing contingent trained in Havana in October 2008 for the 1st International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) Youth Boxing Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico (23 October to 2 November 2008).

Two Cuban boxing coaches from Cuba Deportes, the Cuban Sports Minister's agency for professional sports training, also trained the Philippine National Boxing Team from January 2009 to February 2010.



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The Philippine Secretary of Agriculture Proceso J. Alcala led a six member delegation to Cuba on 16-24 September 2012, with one of the results being a draft agreement between the Philippines and Cuba on Agricultural Cooperation. Secretary Alcala has extended a personal invitation to his Cuban counterpart, Minister of Agriculture Gustavo R. Rodriguez, to visit the Philippines this year in order to finalize and sign the draft agreement.

On 17-22 May 2012, the Representative for Asia of Labiofam S.A., a Cuban enterprise manufacturing products for human and veterinary use, visited the Philippines to promote Vidatox CH-30, a new alternative homeopathic product for anti-cancer treatment, as well as other Labiofam products such as Biorat, Griselef, Bactivec and other veterinary vaccines, to the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Medicine, the University of the Philippines, and farmers, fishermen have expressed interest in Labiofam's products, and Unilab Inc., the largest pharmaceutical company in the Philippines, signed a confidentiality agreement with Labiofam, which is a step towards consolidation of business links between two companies.

The Philippines and Cuba also worked out a draft Philippine-Cuba Plan of Action, a two-year program of cooperation in the areas of agriculture, biotechnology, culture, education, fishing, maritime, cooperation, public health, press (media), sports, trade and investment.

## **Qatar**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

The State of Qatar has not implemented any economic sanctions against Cuba. The State of Qatar continues to support resolution 67/14 as it is in line with the State of Qatar's general foreign policy, which is based on the promotion of international peace and security, friendship and cooperation with all States and rejection of all forms of political or economic coercion. According to the general fiscal and economic development policy of the State of Qatar, which is based on the principle of international partnership and solidarity and initiatives to overcome difficulties and challenges to the strengthening of international cooperation on Financing for Development, the Government of the State of Qatar is moving forward towards achieving such goals according to the following principles.

- The establishment of a global economic system consistent with justice and full inclusion;
- Support for, and achievement of, the globally agreed Millennium Development Goals and promotion of sustainable development;
- Full commitment to the establishment of just and democratic societies for development; and
- The effective use of trade and investment opportunities and the fight against poverty.

Therefore, the foreign and economic policy of the Government of the State of Qatar, in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, supports efforts to lift the economic embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America.

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**Russian Federation**

[Original: Russian]  
[3 June 2013]

The Russian Federation's position of principle in respect of this resolution is well known. Our country fully shares the view of the overwhelming majority of members of the international community in firmly rejecting the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba and in calling for its earliest repeal.

We consider that the continuation of the commercial, economic and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba is anachronistic and serves the sole purpose of hindering the island's economic development.

We are convinced that ending the embargo against Cuba and normalizing United States-Cuban relations as whole would help to improve the island's situation.

We expect that the decisions by the United States Government to relax some aspects of the blockade regime (the removal of some of the restrictions on visits by United States citizens to their relatives in Cuba and on the sending of monetary and postal transfers) will be followed by other actions in order to lift the blockade once and for all.

**Rwanda**

[Original: English]  
[2 July 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implements resolution 67/4, and reaffirms its support for the said resolution, and has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble contrary to the said resolution. Furthermore, Rwanda is able to state that there are no legal or regulatory impediments to free transit or trade between Rwanda and Cuba, and Rwanda voted in favour of resolution 67/4.

**Saint Kitts and Nevis**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

In light of Saint Kitts and Nevis' commitment to international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its obligations under same, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis wishes to emphasize that it has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures restricting the freedom of trade and navigation that impinge on the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction.

Practices that violate the provisions of resolution 67/4 and that attempt to coerce citizens of third states to comply with foreign legislation do not augur well for international peace and



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good neighbourliness. Measures of this nature ought to be reviewed with the aim of conforming to international law.

Saint Kitts and Nevis therefore, remains opposed to the extraterritorial application and effects of national legislation on the sovereignty of States as contravening the tenets of international law regarding the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and harmonious coexistence.

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis reiterates its support for General Assembly Resolution 67/4 entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" and once again calls for an immediate end to this unilateral action.

#### **Saint Lucia**

[Original: English]  
[2 April 2013]

Saint Lucia, in compliance with international legal obligations, and in compliance with international legal obligations, and in compliance with the commitment to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, the Government of Saint Lucia has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure, or taken any other action that would contravene the exercise of sovereignty by a Member State in its lawful interests, or obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade or economic cooperation.

The Government of Saint Lucia reiterates the consistent economic, educational, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and Saint Lucia in furtherance of socio-economic advancement and sustainability.

Saint Lucia reiterates its position on the extraterritorial application of national legislation and considers it to be contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The Government of Saint Lucia has consistently supported the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

#### **Saint Vincent & the Grenadines**

[Original: English]  
[2 May 2013]

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines strongly opposes the extraterritorial application of national legislation that demonstrates disregard for the sovereignty of States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines views such actions as contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principles of sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

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The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political or economic coercion against other States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has no laws that in any way restrict the freedom of trade, navigation, economic cooperation or other commercial activity with Cuba. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enjoys very friendly relations with Cuba, and continues to engage in solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba through a variety of constructive, cooperative and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has consistently and unreservedly voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses its continued grave concern at the hardship and human suffering caused by the ongoing imposition of the embargo against Cuba, despite overwhelming international support for multiple resolutions that have called for an end to this blockade. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines views the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba as outmoded, unjust, and illegal.

#### **Samoa**

[Original: English]  
[22 April 2013]

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa reaffirms its absolute commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including, in particular, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which also form fundamental principles of international law. Consequently, Samoa has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the General Assembly Resolution 67/4.

#### **San Marino**

[Original: English]  
[11 April 2013]

The Republic of San Marino has always and generally been against any imposition of any embargo and therefore, it is against the imposition of the unilateral embargo against Cuba, as a mean of pressure, and because of the serious repercussions on the populations.

#### **Sao Tome and Principe**

[Original: English]  
[22 April 2013]



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The Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe affirms the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nation, multilateralism in international relations, the fundamental principle of free trade and other international legal instruments.

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe condemns any unilateral decision that seeks to restrict the economic, commercial and financial freedom of one State. In this case, considering that these coercive measures impeding its social and human development, had a direct impact on the Cuban people and especially on the most vulnerable sectors of society and are affecting Cuba's economic growth.

In manifesting the excellent relation of cooperation and friendship with Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe has always voted in favour of the resolution against the embargo, and once again renews its support for resolution 67/4.

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe congratulates itself with the decision taken by the United States in 2012 and encourages both the United States and Cuba to seek in a peaceful and neighbourly spirit solutions to improve relations in order to strengthen peace and cooperation all over the world.

#### **Saudi Arabia**

[Original: Arabic]  
[7 May 2013]

#### **Trade and economic relations between Saudi Arabia and Cuba**

On several occasions, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance has stated that Saudi Arabia would welcome the opportunity to foster and increase trade between the two countries. Cuba has made a request through the Saudi export support programme to purchase Saudi materials and products. In 2011, trade between the countries amounted to 1,500,000 Riyals.

#### **Bilateral agreements**

In 1427 A.H., Saudi Arabia and Cuba signed a general cooperation agreement that covers cooperation in all areas, including trade and related investment and double taxation. Cuba hopes to expand its economic relations with Saudi Arabia through the conclusion of an agreement (memorandum on political consultation) that would see the establishment of a joint Cuban-Saudi Arabian committee. Certain parts of that agreement concern economic relations.

#### **Assistance provided by Saudi Arabia to Cuba**

The Saudi Fund for Development contributed \$15 million towards the renovation of a maternity and children's hospital and \$30 million towards a project for improving and expanding the Havana water system.

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## **Cultural relations**

Cuba has expressed interest in cultural cooperation. To that end, some Cuban painters will participate in an exhibition organized by the Ministry of Culture and Information entitled “The Kingdom as Painted by the World’s Artists”, to be held in 2014. Cuba has also welcomed Saudi Arabian students who have expressed a desire to enrol in its universities. The Ministry of Higher Education also participated in the 22nd Cuban Book Fair, which was held in Havana from 14 to 24 February 2013. The Ministry of Health recently contracted a number of Cuban specialist doctors to work in Government hospitals.

## **Senegal**

[Original: French]

[14 June 2013]

Le Sénégal qui avait voté en faveur de cette résolution demandant la levée du blocus s’est toujours conformé aux dispositions de ce texte et n’a édicté aucune loi ni aucune mesure commerciale, économique ou financière visant à limiter ou à décourager le commerce ou les investissements à destination ou en provenance de Cuba.

## **Serbia**

[Original: English]

[28 May 2013]

The Republic of Serbia, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming its commitment to the rules and principles of international law, fully implements resolution 67/4, and has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures, or acts of the kind referred to in the Preamble to the said resolution.

Serbia has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the General Assembly and voted in its favour in this regard. The Republic of Serbia calls for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, expressing the desire of the overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States.

## **Seychelles**

[Original: English]

[9 May 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles once again fully endorses the content of General Assembly Resolution 67/4.



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Seychelles rejects the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, and calls on States to refrain from applying such measures as they affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities under their jurisdiction, and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Much has changed since the embargo was initially imposed. Globalization should create conditions for global solidarity and partnership among nations. Lifting the embargo would be in keeping with the spirit of the times.

The embargo not only contravenes the fundamental norms of international humanitarian law and the principles of multilateralism, but is also contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the United Nations Charter and the Millennium Declaration.

The significance of the embargo on the Cuban economy continues to be of great concern to the world community, and its humanitarian impact on the Cuban people, especially in the health care and food areas, is particularly saddening.

Those consequences are exacerbated by the adverse effects of the global economic, and financial, energy and food crises that seriously compromise Cuba's efforts to further improve its level of development. The blockade continues to cause irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural development of Cuba as it deprives its people of their rightful opportunities emanating from free trade.

As a fellow island nation, Seychelles also recognizes the particularly crucial role that trade plays on island development, as island societies are often more likely to be import dependent and are 12 times more vulnerable to fuel price shocks.

#### **Sierra Leone**

[Original: English]  
[20May 2013]

Consistent with its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and International Law, Sierra Leone has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 67/4. Sierra Leone supported the resolution and is convinced that the lifting of the discriminatory trade practice and the extraterritorial application of domestic law would not only help to alleviate the socioeconomic condition of the Cuban people, but also promote dialogue, good neighbourliness and cooperation among States.

#### **Singapore**

[Original: English]  
[15 April 2013]

The Government of Singapore reaffirms its support of General Assembly resolution 67/4. Singapore has consistently supported resolutions calling for an end to the United States trade

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embargo on Cuba since 1995 and voted in their favour.

### **Solomon Islands**

[Original: English]  
[15 April 2013]

Solomon Islands remains saddened to see remnants of the cold war persist to this day and age. The United States of America's economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Government and people of Cuba continues to place the children and people of Cuba in a difficult situation. Solomon Islands calls for the unconditional lifting of the blockade in line with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

Solomon Islands acknowledges the spirit, the resilience and the generosity of the Government and people of Cuba in educating, sheltering and clothing children from a multitude of States who are studying there despite the imposed hardship.

### **Somalia**

[Original: English]  
[11 April 2013]

Somalia has no laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the present resolution, in conformity with obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

### **South Africa**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

The continued imposition Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is a flagrant violation of the right to peace, development, security, the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. Further to this, the blockade constitutes a violation of the International law and its imposition shows disregard for the noble principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

After 50 years, the embargo has done nothing but hurt the people of Cuba economically. The situation was further aggravated by the global financial and economic crisis, energy crisis and food crisis, as well as challenges of climate change which have affected many countries.

The embargo affects all categories of trade, including humanitarian material such as food and medicine supplies. It's also applied extraterritorially. Thus, ships that dock in Cuba are banned from also docking in the U.S. for six months, even if those ships bring humanitarian goods, and companies outside the U.S., including Canadian companies, are also subject to



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United States sanctions. Many traders that wish to conduct business with Cuba are mostly afraid because they risk losing access to the vastly larger United States market. This also affects foreign banking institutions as they have fines levied against them for conducting operations with Cuba.

The embargo is therefore hindering the Cuban economic recovery, and also negatively impacts tourism, foreign direct investments and currency transfers.

It is therefore against this backdrop that South Africa reiterates its support in expressing opposition to all aspects of this blockade and the unilateral action by the United States of America against Cuba.

#### **South Sudan**

[Original: English]  
[8 July 2013]

The Republic of South Sudan reiterates its profound concern at the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. In line with the majority of Member States of the United Nations and the African Union Resolutions, Assembly/AU/Res.1(XXI), Assembly/AU/Res. (XVII), Assembly/AU/Res.1(XIX) and Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXI), the Republic of South Sudan calls for the lifting of the embargo endured by the Cuban people for over half a century. The Republic of South Sudan considers that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba is a unilateral act contrary to the principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of the multilateral trading system. The Republic of South Sudan considers that these coercive measures are affecting Cuba's economic growth and impeding its social and human development.

#### **Sri Lanka**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

Sri Lanka does not approve of the use of unilateral economic measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. Sri Lanka is of the view that implementation of such measures impede the rule of law and transparency of international trade and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Sri Lanka has not promulgated any laws and measures referred to in the preamble of Resolution 67/4.

Sri Lanka has continuously supported the adoption of this resolution at the United Nations General Assembly and taken the position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba needs to end.

#### **State of Palestine**

[Original: English]

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[10 May 2013]

The State of Palestine, suffering from the devastating humanitarian and economic impact of the blockade imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, reaffirms its principled position in support of General Assembly resolution 67/4 of 13 November 2012 and all relevant United Nations resolutions and positions adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement and Group of 77 and China, calling for an end to the trade embargo imposed against the Republic of Cuba.

The State of Palestine, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law has never promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 67/4.

The State of Palestine enjoys full diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba and will continue to strengthen political, economic and cultural relations with the Republic of Cuba.

## **Sudan**

[Original: English]  
[26 April 2013]

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan pursues a policy of full respect of international law and the principles and purpose of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. Consistent with its principled stand, the Sudan opposes the imposition of sanctions on developing countries for their devastating impact on the efforts of those countries to achieve sustainable development and because they constitute a violation to the Charter of the United Nations. To that effect, the delegation of the Sudan participates every year in the debate of the General Assembly on the agenda item and votes beside the majority of Member States, in favour of General Assembly resolutions prohibiting the imposition of such unilateral measures and sanctions. The Government of the Republic of the Sudan reaffirms that it does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that could, by being applied outside its own national borders, affect the sovereignty of any State. The Government of the Republic of the Sudan calls for the repeal of laws that impose such measures.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Sudan opposes the economic and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has caused great damage and suffering to Cuban people and violated its legitimate rights and interest, being a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and showing disregard for their lofty and noble principles.

Sudan itself continues to suffer from the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on it by the United States of America since November 1997. Such unilateral sanctions are in violation of the legitimate right of the Sudan and Cuba and all developing countries and their people to choose their own political, economic, and social system that fully respond to their aspirations.



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Since the adoption of this General Assembly resolution, the Government of the Republic of the Sudan has put the issue at the forefront of the multilateral system to mobilize support for the elimination of all forms of unilateral coercive economic measures on developing countries.

The Sudan is increasingly promoting its bilateral relations with the Republic of Cuba. In this regard, the Joint Ministerial Commission between Sudan and Cuba was convened from May 2007 to June, 2007 in Havana, and the Sudan's delegation was headed by the Minister of International Cooperation along with other high-ranking officials. The joint Ministerial Commission is the mechanism embodying all sectors of cooperation between the two countries. As means of fostering bilateral ties and combating the negative effects of the embargo, the Joint Ministerial Commission is expected to enhance and consolidate relations between the Sudan and Cuba in all fields.

An advance step in bilateral relations between the two countries was taken when the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations was accredited as Ambassador to Cuba in December 2007. Furthermore, the bilateral relations between the two countries have been accomplished by exchanged visits of senior officials to both countries.

The Sudan participated at the Ministerial Level in the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009, and called in its statement for the immediate end of the embargo against Cuba. In its bilateral meeting with the Cuban officials the Sudan reiterated its commitment to enhancing bilateral relations with Cuba in all fields.

## **Suriname**

[Original: English]  
[15 May 2013]

The position of the Republic of Suriname is to remain committed to the purposes and principles as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to upholding the principles of International Law. In this connection, the Government of the Republic of Suriname has never promulgated or applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 67/4.

The Government of the Republic of Suriname is of the considered view that sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and other relevant norms governing international relations should be respected at all times.

## **Swaziland**

[Original: English]  
[29 April 2013]

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The Kingdom of Swaziland reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at ending the blockade against Cuba.

Once again the Secretary-General has been requested to submit a report to the General Assembly's 68<sup>th</sup> session on the implementation of the latest resolution 67/4.

The blockade against the Cuban people remains the main obstacle to the development of the country and to the national efforts to maintain its major economic and social achievements and to improve the quality of life of Cuban men, women and children.

It is therefore our fervent hope that the Cuban people will be able to rely on the support of the international community in their legitimate demand that the blockade imposed on them by the United States of America be lifted and that Cuba will enjoy all the freedoms, rights and privileges enjoyed by all sovereign nation states without any hindrance.

The Kingdom of Swaziland views the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba since 1960 and further enforced by the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, as a violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. In addition to being unilateral and contrary to the spirit of the United Nations Charter, and to the principle of good neighbourliness, the embargo has caused huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. The blockade has not only caused incalculable suffering to the people of Cuba but also undermines the legitimate economic interests of third countries.

In line with all previous United Nations resolutions on this item, among others, the Kingdom of Swaziland believes that constructive dialogue is necessary to foster mutual trust and understanding as well as harmony and peaceful co-existence among all nations of the world.

The Kingdom of Swaziland supports the draft resolution before the General Assembly on this agenda item.

#### **Syrian Arab Republic**

[Original: Arabic]  
[31 May 2013]

The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that unilateral coercive measures in all their forms are illegal and constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. They are in blatant contradiction with the rules and principles which govern relations between States, especially the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and the need to develop friendly relations between States and promote the stability and well-being of their peoples.



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The Syrian Arab Republic rejects, as a matter of principle, the imposition by States or regional entities of any unilateral measures, whether economic, commercial or financial, for the purposes of coercing developing States in political or economic terms, or forcing them to take specific steps or modify their policy. Unilateral measures constitute a collective punishment for the people as a whole, undermine the United Nations system and adversely affect its powers. Moreover, they hamper international trade and the full realization of the rights provided for in human rights instruments.

The Syrian Arab Republic refers to the fact that unilateral measures such as halting development aid for certain developing countries, breaking off economic relations with those States, imposing an economic, commercial and financial embargo on them, prohibiting financial and exchange operations with them, and preventing investments into and out of certain developing States, in addition to the exercise of various forms of pressure and provocation on other Governments in order to force them to adopt such unilateral measures, reduce the opportunities for the peoples of affected States to achieve sustainable development.

Moreover, those measures stir up feelings of hostility towards the West. The majority of such measures have been and continue to be imposed by Western States, especially the United States of America and certain European States, in order to weaken the Governments of United Nations Member States and impose their own will on them, contrary to the wishes of the peoples of the concerned States and their national and regional interests.

The Syrian Arab Republic also affirms that the embargo which the United States of America has imposed on Cuba for more than five decades is unlawful and is inconsistent with the standards adopted by the international community for interaction between States.

The embargo has subjected Cuba to various kinds of economic, social and political harm. It has intensified the suffering of the Cuban people and affected their intensive efforts to achieve well-being and prosperity. The embargo has placed the United States of America in a position which cannot be justified under any circumstances from a legal or moral point of view, one that is politically at odds with the overwhelming majority of United Nations Member States.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates the call of the Sixteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (Tehran, 26 to 31 August 2012) for an end to the embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba. It recalls that, during the Second South Summit (Doha, 2005), the Group of 77 and China rejected unilateral coercive measures and appealed to the United States of America to bring an end to its embargo on Cuba.

Proceeding from its position of principle in respect of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, and on the basis of the right of peoples to pursue all legitimate means to protect and strengthen their economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Syrian Arab Republic voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 67/4, which

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emphasized the need for compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. In the resolution, the Assembly reiterated its call upon all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind imposed on Cuba, and called urgently for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba for more than five decades.

We call upon the General Assembly, in accordance with its mandate and its relevant resolutions, to take the necessary measures to put an end to the hostile practices, policies of embargo and unilateral economic measures contrary to international law that have been adopted by certain States towards their immediate geographical neighbours and towards other States that are far away from them in geographical terms.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls for the intensification of international efforts to disclose the effects of the extreme coercive measures and to put an end to that phenomenon connected to the West's endeavour to hold sway over the countries of the South and their resources.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls for the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba to be eliminated in all its forms, and for the unilateral measures imposed by the United States of America and other western States on a number of countries, including Syria, to be brought to an end.

The Syrian Arab Republic hopes that the international community will make its voice heard through the United Nations General Assembly and other international institutions and organizations, and that the United States of America will respect, and all its institutions will fully observe, that voice.

## **Tajikistan**

[Original: English]  
[27 May 2013]

The Government of Tajikistan reaffirms its position in support of the resolution 67/4.

Tajikistan is committed to the principles of international law and supports the fundamental rights of nations to freely choose their own ways of development. Taking into account, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and noninterference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade, Tajikistan believes that such economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and hamper the efforts of the Government of Cuba to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Furthermore, given that the international community is facing major challenges such as the global financial and economic crisis and the resulting increase in poverty, unemployment and



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malnutrition, the imposition of embargoes and sanctions will be more unjustifiable than ever and deserve appropriate reactions at the global level.

Such actions are in contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

Tajikistan enjoys friendly diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba. Tajikistan will continue to undertake further measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with Cuba.

### **Thailand**

[Original: English]  
[22 May 2013]

In principle, Thailand does not support the imposition by one country of its national law on another country which, in effect, compels a third country to comply with it. In Thailand's view, such an act would be contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Thailand has maintained neither legal provisions nor domestic measures of such nature, and continued to discourage them.

Thailand firmly believes in, among others, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in others' internal affairs as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation. Any economic or political exercise should be achieved through voluntary and constructive cooperation, and in conformity with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Such unilateral embargoes imposed against Cuba has undermined economic development of the country and caused suffering for its people.

For these reasons, The Royal Thai Government has, for over two decades, consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to trade and economic embargo on Cuba, and will continue to do so.

### **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

The Republic of Macedonia fully implements resolution 67/4.

### **Timor-Leste**

[Original: English]  
[3 July 2013]

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The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non intervention and non interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

In this regard, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 67/4 and reiterates that it has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures referred to therein.

The Government of Timor-Leste is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures and supports the immediate and unconditional lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

## **Togo**

[Original: French]  
[05 July 2013]

Conformément aux buts et principes de la Charte des Nations Unies, le Togo a toujours œuvré pour le respect de l'égalité souveraine des États, de leur intégrité territoriale ainsi que pour la non-intervention et la non-ingérence dans leurs affaires intérieures. De même, il appuie sans réserve le principe de la liberté du commerce et de la navigation, principe consacré par de nombreux instruments juridiques internationaux.

En conséquence, le Togo rejette systématiquement tout recours à des mesures unilatérales visant à exercer des pressions sur des États.

C'est pourquoi, il n'a jamais promulgué ni appliqué des lois ou règlements visant à porter atteinte à la souveraineté d'autres États et/ou aux intérêts légitimes d'entités ou de personnes placées sous leur juridiction.

Aussi, le Gouvernement Togolais a-t-il constamment soutenu la démarche du Gouvernement cubain qui appelle à la levée de l'embargo imposé à Cuba par les États-Unis d'Amérique

## **Tonga**

[Original: English]  
[18 April 2013]

The Kingdom of Tonga adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and accepted under international law, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non intervention and non interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Thus, the Kingdom of Tonga has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 67/4. The Kingdom of Tonga maintains friendly and diplomatic relations with Cuba.



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## **Trinidad and Tobago**

[Original: English]  
[6 June 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago remains fully committed to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in particular to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non- intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Government believes that discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws do not accord with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law. Accordingly, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter and in international law, Trinidad and Tobago does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against other countries.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago enjoys friendly, diplomatic, economic, and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba and consistently supports sub-regional, regional and international efforts to promote constructive dialogue aimed at a cessation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against that country, which has created real challenges to sustainable human development in Cuba.

This position is reinforced in regional and inter-regional bodies to which Trinidad and Tobago is a member, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); the Organization of American States (OAS); the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC'); the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP,) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

## **Tunisia**

[Original: French]  
[23 May 2013]

La Tunisie n'applique pas de lois ni de mesures unilatérales à effet extraterritorial.

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## **Turkey**

[Original: English]  
[18 June 2013]

The Republic of Turkey does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 67/4; expresses concern at such measures that adversely affect the living standards of people; and reaffirms its adherence to the principles of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Government of Turkey maintains its stance that differences and problems between States should be settled through dialogue and negotiations.

## **Turkmenistan**

[Original: English]  
[12 April 2013]

Turkmenistan supports the adoption of the aforementioned resolution. Moreover, Turkmenistan's national legislation contains no provisions on limitation of freedom of trade and navigation.

## **Tuvalu**

[Original: English]  
[29 May 2013]

The Government of Tuvalu reiterates its position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the need for promoting dialogue and ensuring the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations amongst all nations. Such discriminatory trade practices continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights and efforts of the Cuban Government and people to achieve the internationally agreed development and social goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Tuvalu has not promulgated or applied laws or any measures against Cuba, therefore the Government of Tuvalu fully supports the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba in line with the unequivocal and continued request of the majority of United Nations Member States. This will allow the Republic of Cuba to further consolidate and enhance its corporation with Small Islands Developing States like Tuvalu.

## **Uganda**

[Original: English]  
[21 June 2013]



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Uganda enjoys normal economic, commercial and financial relations with Cuba. Uganda does not recognize or honour the embargo which is a unilateral measure.

#### **Ukraine**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

Ukraine does not have any legislation or regulations whose extraterritorial effects could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and international navigation.

Equally, the Government of Ukraine does not accept application of measures of the kind referred to above and adheres, in its relations with other countries, to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the freedom of trade and navigation.

#### **United Arab Emirates**

[Original: English]  
[10 April 2013]

The United Arab Emirates voted in favour of resolution 67/4, and it acts according to its obligations in light of the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and International Law. Therefore, the United Arab Emirates affirms the necessity for all countries to enjoy, in accordance with international law, the freedom of trade and navigation in international waters. Hence, the United Arab Emirates does not apply any economic, commercial or financial embargo against Cuba, nor does it allow the application of such measures outside international legality.

#### **United Republic of Tanzania**

[Original: English]  
[12 April 2013]

The United Republic of Tanzania reiterates its solidarity and support to the Government and People of Cuba in calling for the immediate end of economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. The embargo continues to impede on Cuba's economy and development and affect the daily lives of Cubans.

Its termination, as called by numerous resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 67/4 would open up greater opportunities for the Cuban people who despite the protracted restraints have continued to render valuable support and assistance to many nations, including the United Republic of Tanzania in several fields such as health, agriculture and education. Tanzania acknowledges the positive steps undertaken by President Obama's administration and encourages the Administration to take further steps towards ending the embargo.

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## Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]  
[23 April 2013]

La República Oriental del Uruguay ha expresado reiteradamente su oposición al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero que se mantiene contra Cuba y sus efectos sobre el bienestar del pueblo cubano como consecuencia de medidas coercitivas de carácter unilateral que afectan el libre intercambio y la práctica transparente del comercio Internacional.

Cabe resaltar que Uruguay mantiene una política exterior favorable al libre comercio y a la navegación y no reconoce en su legislación la aplicación extraterritorial de leyes domésticas de otros Estados. Considera que dicha práctica, además de vulnerar principios generalmente aceptados del derecho internacional, constituye una forma de presión que obstaculiza el diálogo en lugar de favorecerlo.

En virtud de lo expuesto, la República Oriental del Uruguay no ha promulgado ni aplicado ninguna ley, decreto o medida de cualquier naturaleza, que pudiera quedar comprendida entre aquellas a las que hace referencia la resolución 67/4 de la Asamblea General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas.

## Vanuatu

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu fully endorses the content of resolution 67/4.

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu hereby informs that Vanuatu does not have any laws and regulations having extraterritorial effects, because such laws or measures impact upon the sovereignty of other States and are thus inconsistent with international law.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu underscores the importance of trade and commerce to SIDS not only would have wide repercussions on their ability to develop, but also adversely affects their right to development.

## Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]  
[17 May 2013]

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela no aplica ni aplicará medidas unilaterales con efectos extraterritoriales que vulneren los derechos de soberanía e independencia política de otros Estados, así como los derechos humanos de su población, con arreglo a los postulados constitucionales que sustentan su actuación en el concierto de naciones expresados en el



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humanismo, la cooperación, la solidaridad entre los pueblos y la firme vocación pacifista guiada por su irrestricto apego a las normas y principios del derecho internacional.

El Gobierno de Venezuela reitera su firme rechazo a la aplicación de medidas unilaterales con efectos extraterritoriales por considerar que tales acciones contravienen las normas y principios del derecho internacional, consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y otros instrumentos jurídicos internacionales; y violan la libertad de comercio y navegación, y las normas del sistema de comercio internacional.

Asimismo, reafirma su condena a la aplicación de las disposiciones extraterritoriales de las Leyes Torricelli y Helms-Burton, las cuales han provocado daños adicionales graves a la economía cubana durante las dos últimas décadas en sus relaciones económicas con terceros países y con subsidiarias de empresas estadounidenses.

Desde 1991, Venezuela ha respaldado en forma decidida las 21 resoluciones que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas con abrumadora mayoría ha venido adoptando sobre esta cuestión, así como los pronunciamientos de otros foros políticos, en rechazo a este tipo de acciones de carácter hostil que atentan contra la convivencia pacífica entre las naciones y la legalidad internacional.

El Gobierno Bolivariano reitera su llamado al Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, Barack Obama, a fin de que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América ponga fin al despiadado bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero al que su país ha sometido al hermano pueblo de Cuba. Una eventual respuesta favorable a este llamado de la comunidad internacional demostraría el compromiso de ese país a favor de la legalidad internacional, manifestada en el respeto irrestricto de los principios y propósitos de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

Esta política de confrontación promovida y aplicada por los Estados Unidos por décadas ha afectado el bienestar de la población cubana, la cual ha visto vulnerados sus derechos humanos como consecuencia de la aplicación de esas medidas ilegales. En tal sentido, el Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela urge a los Estados Unidos de América dar estricto cumplimiento a las resoluciones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6 y 67/4.

Por tanto, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela reitera su condena ante el reforzamiento del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos contra Cuba, medidas que en modo alguno contribuyen con el necesario clima de diálogo y cooperación que debe imperar en las relaciones internacionales entre Estados soberanos e independientes, en consonancia con el espíritu y propósito de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y la Resolución 2625 (XXV) relativa a la Declaración sobre los principios de derecho internacional referentes a las relaciones de amistad y a la cooperación entre los Estados, aprobada por la Asamblea General el 24 de octubre de 1970.

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El Gobierno Bolivariano observa con preocupación las medidas aplicadas recientemente por la Administración del Presidente Barack Obama, como lo revela la aplicación, en diciembre de 2012, de multas injustas e ilegales, contra entidades bancarias que operan en la isla caribeña, alegando supuestas violaciones al régimen de sanciones económicas, comerciales y financieras unilaterales.

De acuerdo con la información contenida en el informe del Secretario General relativo a la aplicación de la resolución A/RES/67/4, las grandes pérdidas económicas y financieras provocadas por el bloqueo ascienden a más de un billón de dólares.

Esas decisiones de carácter punitivo abarcan también la prohibición de las autoridades estadounidenses de vender a Cuba equipos tecnológicos para el sistema de salud. De modo que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, con sus políticas de permanente agresión, viola flagrantemente los derechos humanos del pueblo cubano, en especial el derecho a la salud, al bloquear la venta de equipos y medicamentos a ese hermano país latinoamericano.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela hace suyos los reiterados pronunciamientos efectuados por el Movimiento de Países No Alineados, la Cumbre Iberoamericana de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, la Cumbre de América Latina y el Caribe-Unión Europea (ALCUE) y la Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de la Comunidades de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC) y la Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC), entre otros foros, en repudio a la aplicación de medidas unilaterales con efectos extraterritoriales por ser contrarios al diálogo y la cooperación como expresiones concretas del multilateralismo inclusivo y transparente.

De igual manera, vale destacar el Comunicado Especial de la Cumbre de Jefas y Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), efectuada en Caracas, del 2 al 3 de diciembre de 2011, mediante el cual los mandatarios expresaron:

1. "...su más enérgico rechazo a las medidas económicas coercitivas y unilaterales aplicadas por motivos políticos contra países soberanos, que afectan el bienestar de sus pueblos y están concebidas para impedirles que ejerzan su derecho a decidir, por su propia voluntad, sus propios sistemas políticos, económicos y sociales.
2. Reiteraron su más enérgica condena a la aplicación de leyes y medidas contrarias al Derecho Internacional como la Ley Helms-Burton, incluyendo su efecto extraterritorial y exhortaron al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América a que ponga fin a su aplicación.
3. En consecuencia, reclamaron al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América que, en cumplimiento de las sucesivas resoluciones aprobadas por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y en respuesta a reiterados llamados de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, ponga fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero que mantiene contra



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Cuba, que es contrario al Derecho Internacional, causa daños cuantiosos e injustificables al bienestar del pueblo cubano y afecta la paz y la convivencia entre las naciones americanas”.

Por otra parte, los Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores del ALBA-TCP reunidos en ocasión de la VI Cumbre de las Américas, llevada a cabo en Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, del 14 al 15 de abril de 2012, adoptaron un Comunicado Oficial, mediante el cual sus miembros decidieron en solidaridad plena con esa hermana nación latinoamericana:

4. “...Exigir al Gobierno de Estados Unidos el cese inmediato del inhumano bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero contra Cuba, y que dé inicio al proceso de diálogo con base en el respeto a la voluntad soberana y a la autodeterminación del pueblo cubano...”

Asimismo, durante la XVI Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno del Movimiento de Países No Alineados, celebrada en Teherán, República Islámica de Irán, los mandatarios al reiterar su rechazo categórico al bloqueo expresaron “su profunda preocupación por el creciente carácter extraterritorial del embargo contra Cuba y rechazaron el reforzamiento de las medidas adoptadas por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos para recrudecer el embargo, así como todas las demás medidas recientes aplicadas por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos contra el pueblo de Cuba. También instaron al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos a devolver a la soberanía cubana el territorio que ocupa actualmente la base naval de Guantánamo, y a poner fin a las transmisiones agresivas de radio y televisión contra Cuba. Reiteraron que esas medidas constituyen una violación de los derechos humanos de su pueblo”.

Venezuela está persuadida de que la comunidad internacional debe mantener sus esfuerzos para exigir el cese de la puesta en práctica de medidas coercitivas unilaterales que buscan coartar el derecho soberano de los Estados a decidir, en correspondencia con el derecho de autodeterminación, su modelo político y social, con las realidades y particularidades de sus respectivos países y pueblos. Considera que bajo ninguna circunstancia se debe privar a los pueblos de sus propios medios de subsistencia y desarrollo.

Finalmente, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ratifica su firme apego al respeto irrestricto de las normas y principios del derecho internacional, por lo que reitera su llamado al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América para que cumpla con lo dispuesto en las 21 resoluciones aprobadas por la Asamblea General y ponga fin al despiadado y criminal bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero que mantiene ilegalmente contra Cuba por más de cincuenta años.

**Viet Nam**

[Original: English]  
[22 May 2013]

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The United States' policy of blockade and embargo against Cuba over the past many decades represents a violation of international laws in general and free trade law in particular, an infringement of fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, contravening the common desire of nations in the world to build sound and equal international relations, regardless of political systems and in respect for each nation's right to choose its own path of development.

The United Nations General Assembly has for many consecutive years adopted with an overwhelming majority resolutions demanding that the United States end its economic, trade and financial blockade and embargo policies and laws against Cuba, the most recent of which is Resolution 67/4 adopted with 188 votes in favour.

It is the view of Viet Nam that the differences between the United States and the Republic of Cuba should be solved through dialogue and negotiation, in the spirit of mutual respect, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and non-interference in the other's internal affairs.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the related General Assembly resolutions and believes that the United Nations will soon produce concrete initiatives and measures to rapidly implement the adopted resolutions in order to put an immediate end to the blockade and embargo against Cuba.

Once again, Viet Nam confirms its friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people and resolves to do its utmost with other peace-, freedom - and justice-loving peoples in the world to help the Cuban people overcome the consequences of the above-mentioned immoral and illegal blockade and embargo policy.

## **Yemen**

[Original: English]  
[24 June 2013]

It should be noted that for some 35 years, the Republic of Yemen has enjoyed outstanding diplomatic relations with the fraternal Republic of Cuba at the economic, social and cultural levels. Yemen has consistently sought to develop and strengthen those relations in the joint interests of both countries and peoples. It has concluded several bilateral cooperation agreements with the fraternal Republic of Cuba at the diplomatic, economic, cultural and medical levels. As a result of those agreements, Cuban citizens have been sent to Yemen and educational missions have gone to Cuba, and there has been active cooperation in a number of areas.

Yemen therefore supports the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.



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## **Zambia**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Zambia opposes the unilateral coercive measures directed at any State Member of the United Nations as it is in violation of the Charter of the Organization, international law and international humanitarian law.

Zambia therefore maintains the support on the call for all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures referred to in the resolution that hinder freedom of trade and navigation, and urges States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime.

## **Zimbabwe**

[Original: English]  
[15 April 2013]

Zimbabwe, once again wishes to express its concern over the illegal and ruinous economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba. Zimbabwe is dismayed that instead of being removed, the embargo is actually being reinforced resulting in greater suffering for the people and tremendous disruptions to the Cuban business activities and financial transactions.

The majority of Member States have continued to reject the passing of national laws with extra-territorial impact and all other coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions which are targeted mainly against developing countries that seek to reassert their sovereignty. Zimbabwe, which is also a victim of these ill-conceived, illegal and immoral sanctions fully understands their impact.

Zimbabwe has during the past twenty years stated that the embargo against Cuba contravenes the fundamental norms of international law, international humanitarian law, the United Nations Charter and all the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States. The embargo is also a violation of the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. These principles were reaffirmed in the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law adopted on 24 September 2012 in which Heads of State and Government strongly urged States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

Zimbabwe therefore joins other countries in condemning the punitive embargo on Cuba and calls for its unconditional lifting so that the people of Cuba can be left alone to pursue their economic and social destiny.

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### **III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system**

#### **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

#### **Cuba's Recent Economic Performance**

Since February 2008, when Raul Castro was officially appointed President of Cuba, economic and institutional transformation has moved at an accelerated pace. Administrative changes such as the reorganization of state agencies, the improvement of the business climate, anti-corruption measures, and changes aimed at boosting agricultural activity were undertaken. These changes gained new momentum with the approval of the “Lineamientos de la Política Económica y Social” (LPES) in April 2011, which serves as the roadmap for updating the Cuban economic model.

The reform process took place amid the dramatic rise in global food and energy prices, the sharp decrease in the international price of one of Cuba’s main exports -nickel-, the grave damages caused by several hurricanes and tropical storms that battered Cuba in recent years, and the global economic crisis. These factors, coupled with some structural limitations of the Cuban economy and the severe external constraints to its economic growth exacerbated by the 1962 embargo, created the “perfect storm”. These situations triggered additional efforts to update the economic model.

In 2012 Cuba's economy grew 3.1%, slightly less than the government target of 3.4%. Slower growth occurred despite an expansion in investment associated with the reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Sandy, which affected important crops. Cuba’s restricted access to purchase supplies, machinery and equipment from abroad, as well as to export their products – as a consequence of the embargo- severely affected economic performance in 2012. The surplus in fiscal revenues was allocated to: (i) capitalize state enterprises, (ii) finance reconstruction costs associated with the damages from Hurricane Sandy, and (iii) fund bank lending to the agricultural industry as well as to non-agricultural cooperatives.

During 2012, various policy measures consistent with the provisions of the LPES were enacted to improve and streamline economic performance. These include public subsidies for home repairs and the construction of new housing, which entered into force in January 2012.

New regulation regarding the distribution of unused land also came into force with the objective of stimulating agricultural activity and, in particular, reducing food imports (Cuba imports 80% of the food it consumes). The new regulation seeks to consolidate the process of distribution of vacant land so that it is put to productive use. In addition, a new regulation governing the activities of the Basic Units of Cooperative Production (UBPCs) came into effect in August 2012. It intends to align their operation with the regulations governing the other two forms of agricultural cooperatives i.e Credit and Services Cooperatives and Cooperatives for Agricultural Production.

To expand the domestic market and provide employment options in the non-state sector, the Cuban Government authorized the formation of non-agricultural cooperatives. The first



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stage aims at creating 230 cooperatives, each with an independent management structure, in approximately 47 sectors related to transportation, construction, as well as personnel, domestic and professional services (including translation, IT services, and accounting).

A new tax law designed to adjust the tax structure to the new economic reality entered into force in January 2013 (the previous law was from 1994). It includes special regimes and tax benefits for the agricultural sector and explicitly contains a section on tax regulations for the self-employed.

A new immigration law designed to ease the procedures and requirements for traveling abroad, as well as for entering Cuba, came into force in January 2013. This law expands opportunities for Cuban emigrants to return to Cuba to take advantage of the emerging domestic market, and of the new forms of non-state economic entrepreneurship and management.

### **The Effects of the United States Embargo: recent developments**

In 2012 no efforts to relax the embargo were observed on the part of the United States Government. In May 2012, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States' Treasury Department (OFAC) updated the guidelines for implementing travel regulations for United States citizens, making travel requirements more cumbersome. Moreover, this year the United States government refused to renew the registration of iconic Cuban trademarks, including Havana Club (rum) and Cohiba (cigars), with the effect of short and long-term foreign exchange losses for the country. In 2013, the Government of United States included Cuba, once again, among the States listed as sponsors of terrorism by the Secretary of State. Countries on the list are subject to strict sanctions that go beyond the ban on arms-related sales to include controls over commercial exports, and prohibitions of economic assistance. OFAC reported that in 2012 it blocked 253.1 million dollars, a 33% increase over the figure for 2011. Because this unilateral measure targets not only the Government of Cuba but also its nationals, including entities and individuals, the reported figure includes assets in which either the Government of Cuba or a Cuban national has an interest, as defined by OFAC. Some of these assets may be owned by third parties.

According to the latest report from the Cuban Government, the economic damage accumulated up to December 2011 since the embargo began in February 1962 in current prices, exceeds 108 billion dollars (equivalent to 158% of Cuba's GDP in 2011).

### **Cuban economic performance in 2013**

In 2013 the Government forecasts 3.7% GDP growth. New reforms will be implemented in 2013 to update the economic model, including a gradual process to create wholesale markets for the agricultural sector. Improvements in the distribution of agricultural products are also in the pipeline, with pilot programs starting in the provinces of Havana, Mayabeque and Artemis. Moreover, the Government announced larger subsidies for home repair and construction, improved credit facilities, and the expansion of non-agricultural cooperatives and pilot programs to improve efficiency in large state-owned corporations. A major policy issue under discussion in the political sphere is the gradual elimination of the dual monetary scheme.

The embargo limits key policy options. Advances in the process of updating the economic model are hampered by the embargo and the inclusion of Cuba, since 1982, among the states sponsors terrorism designated by the United States's Secretary of State. The embargo's



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restrictions inhibit and even block international banking and financial transactions with Cuba. These highlights the extraterritorial nature of the embargo imposed on this nation by the United States<sup>4</sup>. In this regard, in mid-2012, the OFAC imposed the highest fine in history on a foreign bank for doing business with Cuba. The Dutch bank ING was forced to pay \$619 million for conducting financial transactions with Cuba.

For decades the Cuban economy has been subject to strong external constraints. These were exacerbated by the 2009 economic and financial crisis, as well as by the rise in global food and energy prices. The United States embargo and the additional sanctions derived from the inclusion of Cuba among the states sponsors of terrorism designated by the United States Secretary of State, acutely affect its economic and social development, and causes severe impact on its population. Currently the embargo significantly limits the potential positive effects of the measures implemented to update the country's economic model. The need to end the 50 year-old embargo is urgent.

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

#### **Overall situation: effects of the embargo on food security and on agriculture, fisheries and the food industry**

The main changes since the last reporting period can be summarized as follows:

- (i) Cuba's cereal production in 2012 is estimated at 758,000 tonnes (rice in milled equivalents), about 3.6 percent above the 2011 output, mainly reflecting an increased rice crop. Total cereal production is 14 percent higher than the average of the previous five years.
- (ii) Paddy production officially rose by 25 percent in 2011 to 566,000 tonnes (387,000 tonnes, milled basis), supported by increased cultivation and large gains in productivity. A further 2 percent increase to 580,000 tonnes has been estimated for 2012, supported by a continued expansion of plantings. Production of maize in 2012 is estimated at 371,000 tonnes, an increase of almost 5 percent from the previous season. Imported volumes of cereals have remained steady in recent years, around 2 million tonnes, and in 2012-13 they are expected to cover almost three-quarters of the country's domestic utilization.

The main effects of the embargo on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and the food industry should continue to be viewed from two different perspectives:

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<sup>4</sup> Resulting from the extraterritoriality of the blockade and the strict enforcement of laws for this purpose, merchant vessels from any country which touched Cuban ports remain unable to enter U.S. ports for a period of 180 days. Other similar measures which make it extremely difficult and costly to conduct economic and trade transactions between Cuba with the rest of the world are described in the "Report by Cuba on Resolution 66/6 of the General Assembly of the United Nations," July 2012. <http://www.cubavsbloqueo.cu/informebloqueo2012/InformeIngles/indexing.html>.



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- (a) The problem is brought about by the impossibility of taking full advantage of the export potential (i.e. coffee, honey, tobacco, live lobsters and aquaculture products) to the nearest market (the United States). This has implied major losses, since it has been necessary to sell to markets located further away with the resultant higher marketing and distribution costs, negatively affecting the country's foreign exchange earnings and its capacity to purchase basic products, especially food.
  - (b) High costs for inputs needed for agricultural, fisheries and livestock production (fuel, spare parts for agricultural machinery, animal feeds, phyto- and zoo-sanitary products and fertilizers as well as top technological products such as herbicides, low toxicity insecticides, and other highly effective pesticides or veterinary pharmaceuticals, disease diagnostic kits which in many cases are only produced by United States firms) decreases profitability and lowers the country's ability to satisfy local food demand.

Overall, the embargo has very negative implications for Cuba's balance of trade and foreign exchange earnings, as well as for the country's supply of food and agriculture products. The embargo affects the import of food products for human consumption, particularly those destined to meet social programmes, as restrictions limit their quantity and quality, thus having a direct effect on the food security of the vulnerable segments of the population.

An additional problem resulting from the embargo relates to the difficulty for Cuba to access external multilateral financing for development programmes in agriculture and rural development in general, and the related unavailability of resources for rehabilitating and modernizing agricultural equipment and infrastructure.

### **Effects of the embargo on selected agricultural commodities**

#### *Cereals*

Cuba's cereal (rice milled equivalent) production in 2012 was estimated at 758,000 tonnes, about 3.6 percent above the 2011 output and 14 percent up from the average of the previous five years. Planting activities of the main 2013 paddy crops were launched in April and are set to continue until July. Based on expectations of normal climatic conditions and continued expansion in plantings, paddy output is forecast to grow by a further 3 percent in 2013 to 600,000 tonnes. Paddy production remained relatively unchanged in 2012 increasing 2 percent to 580,000 tonnes from the previous year. Paddy production was officially estimated to have reached 566,000 tonnes in 2011 recovering fully from the losses prompted by poor rainfall in 2010.

In spite of recent gains and the favourable production outlook for the coming season, the country is highly dependent on imports: current forecasts indicate import levels of 400,000 tonnes of rice (to be imported in 2013); 720,000 tonnes of coarse grains (to be imported in 2012-13 (July/June)); and wheat imports projected to reach about 800,000 tonnes. Overall, cereal imports account for more than 70 percent of domestic utilisation.

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In general, despite the Government's efforts to liberalise and promote domestic food production in recent years, dependence on imports remains high, mainly as a result of the low availability of agricultural inputs. These factors are also behind the relatively slow growth in paddy production over the last season, even though Government efforts to curb imports, in particular of rice, have recently involved stepping-up investment in agricultural machinery, irrigation and drainage infrastructure. Preferential trade agreements with Viet Nam since 2010 have instead facilitated the provision of much of the island's annual rice needs, with Brazil and Argentina also emerging as alternative suppliers more recently.

### *Oilseeds*

Oilseed production in Cuba is not significant and, as a result, the country depends almost entirely on imports to supply its vegetable oil and meal needs. Commodities dominating imports are soybeans, soy oil and soy meal. Recently, Brazil started providing assistance to Cuba for the cultivation of adapted, high-yielding varieties on the island. Brazil and Argentina have become the main suppliers of soybeans and derived products. Both Mexico and Canada have, on occasion, shipped small volumes to Cuba. Countries from which Cuba imported non-soybean oils and meals include Argentina, Mexico, European Union, Canada and China. Imports of soybeans and derived products from United States resumed in 2002, largely replacing purchases from other regions. However, a United States measure introduced in 2005 is considered to have kept imports from that country below the level that could otherwise be achieved, while permitting purchases from other countries, notably soy oil imports from Brazil, to expand again.

### *Raw Sugar*

According to the latest estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Cuba produced 1.6 million tonnes of sugar in 2012-13, which is about 17 percent above the average level for the period of 2007-11. The increase in output confirms a moderate recovery of production initiated in 2010, driven by investment in the sugar productive capacities at both farm and factory level. In addition, price incentives provided support for expansion. Sugar consumption is estimated to reach 645,000 in 2012-13, unchanged from 2011-12 season. Because of rising production, exports increased by 50 percent in 2012-13 from their levels of 2002-03. As a result of the embargo, Cuba does not have access to the United States market under the raw sugar tariff rate quota.

### *Meat*

National meat production has been growing slowly and stood at 300,000 tonnes in 2012. Pork is the most important category, followed by beef and then poultry. Imports of meat for 2012 were 267,000 tonnes. The principal meat imported is poultry, followed by pork and then beef. In 2012, 210,000 tonnes of poultry were imported, of which 75 percent originated in the United States, while a further 20 percent was supplied by Brazil. Brazil is the main source of imports of beef and pork, followed by the United States. Despite the recent changes in government policy in favour of the development of national agriculture, productivity increases are hampered by restricted access to financial resources and technologies and limited infrastructure. Restrictions on the importation of technology and genetics means that the lowest cost or most convenient source of supplies cannot necessarily be accessed.

### *Dairy Products*



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Since 2005, milk production has increased substantially in Cuba and is estimated at 600,000 tonnes for 2012. Imports account for approximately 50 percent of consumption, in terms of milk equivalent. Milk powder is the principal item imported, with supplies coming from Oceania, Latin America and Europe. The national dairy sector is one of the priority areas of the food policy of the Government of Cuba, which aims to become less dependent on imported food. The high prices on the international dairy market have led to the authorities increasing producer prices in order to stimulate national milk output. Constraints on the sector's growth are the high cost of imported feed and limited availability of fuel for transport and distribution.

### *Fish Products*

Almost all of Cuba's fish exports consist of high-value products, notably frozen shrimp and lobster, which are in strong demand on the international market. The economic crisis has had a negative impact on demand for these species. However, the embargo prevents access to the United States market, which is one of the most important markets for fish and fish products. As a result, Cuba exports to more distant markets with the resultant higher marketing and distribution costs. Export earnings amounted to an estimated \$59.2 million in 2011 for a total volume of 4,500 tonnes (product weight), representing, in value terms, a decrease of 21 percent compared to 2010. Fish imports, consisting mainly of low-value fish products, increased in 2011 reaching an estimated \$29.8 million for a total volume of 16,000 tonnes (product weight): a growth of 20 percent in value terms with respect to 2010.

### *Coffee*

Although coffee is not the major commodity, it is important for livelihoods of small farmers. Coffee rust disease is a significant threat to coffee plantations in the region, as experienced during the last season, and the embargo could limit procurement and use of fungicides to protect plantations from the disease.

### **FAO technical assistance to Cuba**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to support the government in promoting rural development and fisheries with emphasis on food security. In addition, FAO is assisting Cuba in sharing its extensive knowledge on urban and peri-urban agriculture with other neighbouring countries in the Region. In this context, FAO recently assisted the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture in organizing a regional seminar entitled "*Seminario Internacional de Agricultura Urbana y Periurbana*", which took place in Havana on 14-17 May 2012, within the framework of the Convention "Trópico 2012" and the IV Congress on Tropical Agriculture.

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy severely affected nine municipalities of the Region of Santiago de Cuba resulting in damages that dramatically reduced the availability of food in the short and medium-term for almost 500,000 people, placing them at risk of food and nutrition insecurity. A project to carry out emergency activities for the immediate recovery of farmers' livelihoods and help reduce food vulnerability in the afflicted population began in December 2012. The initiative aims to restore the capacities of 50 urban and 30 suburban production units in order to ensure food production in those areas with the highest population density.



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Six projects were approved under the Technical Cooperation Programme, which aims to provide FAO's technical expertise to its Member countries through targeted, short term and catalytic projects. One of these projects is targeted to the improvement of capacities for sustainable production of honey and other bee products, while another aims at the genetic improvement of swine in suburban and rural areas of La Havana.

Within the framework of the South-South Cooperation Programme, a tripartite agreement was signed between Cuba, Cape Verde and FAO on 13 May 2011, whereby Cuba would provide technical assistance to Cape Verde through an expert and 12 technicians over a period of 18 months. The main objective is to plan and carry out activities in the following areas within Cape Verde's National Programme for Food Security: horticulture and vegetable production, water management, small animal farming, hydroponic vegetable gardening and packaging of vegetable products. In December 2012, the main results of South-South Cooperation between Cuba and Cape Verde were presented by a representative of the Cape Verde Ministry of Agriculture at the Global South-South Development Expo at UNIDO, Vienna. Although the Cuban representative could not travel to Vienna, the strong partnership between FAO, Cuba and Cape Verde was acknowledged.

FAO is part of two joint programmes funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, in association with other resident agencies. With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, and the World Food Programme, as well as institutions under five ministries, FAO implements the programme "Support for the fight against anaemia in vulnerable groups in Cuba", and is responsible for activities involving food production and processing. The total budget of the joint programme is \$8.5 million and FAO is responsible for administering \$3.3 million.

The second joint programme, "Support for new decentralization initiatives and production stimulation in Cuba", is implemented jointly with UNDP, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as with the Ministries of Agriculture and Economy and Planning. The overall budget of the joint programme is \$7 million, of which FAO is responsible for \$1.1 million to support activities dealing with food production, processing and training.

Technical support for the life-cycle management of pesticides continues to be provided to Cuba as part of the regional initiatives under the project funded by the European Commission to support capacity-building related to multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, for the clean-up of obsolete pesticides, pesticides management and sustainable pest management. The project has supported the inventory of obsolete pesticides, strengthening pesticide registration and raising awareness of pesticide issues. In June 2012, Cuba participated in a regional workshop held in Grenada that addressed the harmonization of pesticide registration within the Caribbean, the compilation of the database of obsolete pesticide stocks and the communication programme for sustainable management of empty pesticide containers.

The FAO funded project "Using two Pig Semen Processing Centers as a way of breeding pigs in suburban and rural areas of Havana", is a two-year pilot project (February 2013 - January 2015) which potentially could be extended to the rest of the country. The project will provide the Pig Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture the necessary support to



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develop the pig sector, through training and practical guidance by short-term consultants services and FAO livestock officers, as well as through the provision of supplies and equipment considered essential to achieving project results.

Within the framework of the FAO/World Organization for Animal Health initiative on the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases, priority has been given to the following diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, influenza (HPAI/H5N1, pH1N1), New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), bovine spongiform encephalopathy and rabies. Cuba has several measures in place for the prevention, control and elimination of these diseases.

FAO provided technical support and assistance to develop tools for Cuba to establish their National Information System Mechanism for applying the new monitoring approach for the Global Plan of Action on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Cuban delegation participates routinely through the FAO Commission and its intergovernmental working group on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in the development of the policy framework of the Second Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Indicators and targets for Plant Genetic Resources and preparation of Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources.

### **Effects of the embargo on projects implemented by FAO in Cuba**

Because of the embargo on Cuba, projects implemented by FAO in the country are affected in terms of their procurement procedures, as resources that could be imported from the United States of America have to be imported from European, Asian and other markets at much higher prices and with additional freight costs. It would be cheaper to purchase the goods in the United States, which would in turn make more funds available for the purchase of additional resources for projects.

In this regard, the embargo affects the purchase of equipment and other inputs for projects, including the purchase of computers. It also leads to difficulties in the processing of payments and banking transactions from and to suppliers, as well as difficulties in banking processes affecting FAO personnel.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

The Agency's assistance activities to all of its Member States, including Cuba, are governed by Art. III/C of its Statute, which reads as follows:

"In carrying out its functions, the Agency shall not make assistance to members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this Statute."

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However, the existing embargo poses certain difficulties to the implementation of the Agency's Technical Cooperation programme in Cuba. The procurement of essential equipment and material (such as radiopharmaceuticals) is quite often subject to cost increases and time delays as the number of vendors able to procure for and/or ship to Cuba is very limited. At the same time restrictions apply to the participation of Cuban nationals in IAEA-organized training activities or meetings in the United States and vice versa. In accordance with the above mentioned Article of its Statute, the Agency tries to overcome these difficulties, to the extent that it can, for example, by sending Cuban nationals for training in other countries, in order to meet the requirements of the Agency's Technical Cooperation programme in Cuba.

### **International Civil Aviation Organization**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) held its Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6) in Montréal from 18 to 22 March 2013 and the issue of the United States embargo against Cuba was raised. Cuba presented a Working Paper ATConf/6-WP/37 entitled: *"Impact of the United States Economic, Commercial, and Financial Embargo against Cuba in the Civil Aviation Sector"*. The report of the Conference states the following:

"1.2.2 Regarding the information provided by Cuba on the impact in the civil aviation sector due to the United States (US) embargo, the delegations from three Member States supported Cuba's position and the recommendations proposed in the paper. They argued that the US embargo was a unilateral decision, contrary to the spirit of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, and stated that it impacted adversely on the development of civil aviation in Cuba. Further, they expressed the view that ATConf/6 was the appropriate forum at which to address the issue, as the Conference dealt with the sustainability of air transport. The US stated that the matter was a bilateral political issue and was not suitable for discussion during the Conference. The Secretariat advised that the issue had been addressed during the 37th Session of the ICAO Assembly, which was the governing body of the Organization, and stated that ATConf/6 did not have the authority to resolve the issue. In closing, Cuba advised of its intention to bring the issue to the attention of the upcoming 38th Session of the Assembly [Montréal, 24 September to 4 October 2013]."

**Please find below activities undertaken during the period June 2012 to 3 June 2013 by ICAO's Technical Co-operation Bureau (TCB) in Cuba.**

#### **Implementation Activities:**

There are presently no national projects being implemented by ICAO/TCB in Cuba, however, Cuba is a member of the following Regional Projects currently underway:

#### **RLA/06/801 – Technical Cooperation of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC)**

This project, funded by 22 participating States of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), has as an objective the provision of administrative assistance in the



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management of the LACAC Secretariat. The project became effective 1 January 2007 and has been extended through 2014. The project provides continuous support in numerous activities to the LACAC Secretariat such as administrative management training, meetings, seminars, processing of fellowships and travel arrangements, amongst others.

#### **RLA/09/801 – Implementation of Performance-Based Air Navigation Systems in the Caribbean Region**

This project, which began in 2009 and is funded by participating States/Territories and organizations: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France (French Antilles), Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands), United States, the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS), the Central American Corporation for Air Navigation Services (COCESNA) and the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA). The project has as an objective the provision of assistance to States in the Caribbean Region to foster the implementation of performance-based air navigation systems leading to a seamless global ATM system.

#### **RLA/99/901 – Regional Safety Oversight System**

This project, which began in January 2000 and is funded by participates States (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela), has as an objective the establishment and operation of a safety oversight system in the American Continent with the required technical, logistic and administrative support in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on International Aviation and its Annexes.

#### **Development Activities:**

ICAO/TCB is currently developing a project (CUB/13/601) through the Delegation of Cuba to ICAO for the acquisition of civil aviation related publications. The framework of the project has been agreed upon and it is expected that the project will begin implementation activities shortly.

#### **International Fund for Agricultural Development**

[Original: English]  
[14 May 2013]

IFAD maintains an open dialogue with the Government of Cuba, through its representatives in Italy, on all matters pertaining to rural development, agricultural production and food security in the country. Cuba also participates in IFAD's Governing Council as a Member State, and since September 2012, it has been reintegrated into IFAD's regular lending and programme of work. In addition, IFAD keeps a fluid dialogue and cooperates with FAO and other UN agencies present in the country.

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## **International Labour Organization**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

Cuba is treated in the same way as any other Member State of our Organization and actively participates in the Annual International Labor Conference and other bodies of the ILO. The ILO Office in Mexico continues its technical cooperation program on employment and decent work issues in Cuba. During the biennium 2012/13, ILO is providing technical assistance in three substantive areas:

(a) Promotion of productivity and decent work on developing responsible workplace practices through the implementation of SIMAPRO's methodology (System for integrated measurement and advance of productivity) based on labor competencies in the sugar industry.

(b) Strengthening of capacity building of constituents in the consolidation of safety and health program, with special emphasis on the reduction of work-related accidents in the sugar industry.

(c) Strengthening capacity building of constituents in the SOLVE methodology application in sugar mills.

Our organization ratifies its view that the United Nations is the appropriate forum to address questions related to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

## **International Maritime Organization**

[Original: English]  
[17 April 2013]

As a Member State of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Cuba benefits from participation in the meetings of IMO bodies and is a recipient of the technical co-operation programmes available (IMO regional programmes "Support to maritime development, Latin America", "Support to maritime development, Caribbean" as well as global programmes, as applicable).

IMO maintains collaborative relations with all Latin American Member States, including Cuba. Since the early 1980s, IMO has collaborated closely with ROCRAM (acronym from its name in Spanish: Red Operativa de Cooperación Regional de Autoridades Marítimas de las Américas), a Latin American maritime operative network for regional co-operation among maritime administrations of the Americas, which comprises South America, Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

IMO's assistance to Latin America is guided by the maritime strategies of the region which are revised every five years and the Organization will continue to focus on supporting their implementation. ROCRAM countries have addressed issues such as safety standards and training aspects and also marine environment protection through regional strategies, with numerous training activities organized in co-operation with IMO. In this context, and in pursuance of the decentralization policies adopted by IMO, most of IMO's support is



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channelled through ROCRAM by virtue of an MoU signed with the ROCRAM Secretariat<sup>5</sup>. Through this instrument, ROCRAM is assigned responsibility for the management and execution of regional technical co-operation activities identified by the respective countries, including Cuba, as priorities in building capacities for the effective implementation and enforcement of IMO's global maritime standards.

From 1 January 2011 until 31 December 2012, Cuba, through its Ministry of Transport, had the duties of ROCRAM Secretariat (SECROGRAM). As a result of the embargo imposed by the United States of America, IMO encountered some difficulties in transferring funds allocated to SECROGRAM for the delivery of activities IMO delegates to ROCRAM. With other ROCRAM Secretariats, the funds allocated for the training activities were transferred to a special bank account opened by SECROGRAM in a national bank. In the case of Cuba, all the funds had to be managed through UNDP in Cuba because it was not possible for the Ministry of Transport to handle a bank account in US Dollars.

In the two years that Cuba held SECROGRAM, it organized and delivered the following activities:

Regional workshop on the management of International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), special areas and particularly sensitive sea areas, held in Ecuador in April 2011;

Regional training course on the use of dispersants (International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation 1990 (OPRC level 3)), held in Peru in August 2011;

Regional training course on International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) and International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Codes, held in Argentina in April 2012;

Regional workshop on the ratification, implementation and enforcement of the Anti-fouling Systems (AFS) Convention and on the control, monitoring and enforcement to implement the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, held in Peru in August 2012; and

Regional workshop on the implementation of Annex VI (Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from ships) of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention, the Nairobi Convention on Ship Wreck Removal 2007 and the Hong Kong Convention on Ship Recycling, 2009, held in Uruguay, in September 2012.

Cuba also continues to receive technical assistance from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre - Wider Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib), a Regional Activity Centre based in Curaçao, which aims to assist countries in the Wider Caribbean region to prevent and respond to major pollution incidents in the marine environment.

## **International Telecommunication Union**

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<sup>5</sup> ROCRAM Secretariat (SECROGRAM) is a roving Secretariat which is transferred every two years.

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[Original: English]  
[21 May 2013]

The situation of harmful interference to the broadcasting services (sound and television) of Cuba from stations mounted on-board aircraft under the jurisdiction of the Administration of the United States has not changed.

This longstanding issue has been considered previously by the ITU Council, Plenipotentiary Conference and World Radio Conferences, and continues to be permanently on the agenda of the Radio Regulations Board.

In conformity with the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference held in 2007, which concluded (inter alia) that: "a broadcasting station operating on board an aircraft and transmitting solely to the territory of another administration without its agreement cannot be considered in conformity with the Radio Regulations," and, on request from the Radio Regulations Board, a letter has been sent to the President of the United States of America dated 13 February 2013, urging the concerned Administration to consider this issue with a view to its timely resolution.

The letter also recalls that, in accordance with provision No. 197 (Article 45) of the Constitution of ITU, "All stations, must be established and operated in such a manner as not to cause harmful interference to the radio services of other Member States... and which operate in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations." In addition, pursuant to No. 198 (Article 45) of the Constitution of ITU, "Each Member State undertakes to require the operating agencies which it recognizes and the other operating agencies duly authorized for this purpose to observe the provisions of No. 197 above."

A reply to this note has not been received as of this date.

#### **Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for operational activities for development, Cuba**

[Original: English]  
[12 June 2013]

Cuba is a high human development country and has already achieved many Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The main challenge is to maintain the quality of social services and sustain already achieved MDGs.

In 2012, marking the second year of this important structural transformation, the Cuban Government continued implementing a process known as "the updating of its economic model" through the "Lineamientos de la política económica y social" (Guidelines for economic and social policy), which was approved by the Congress of the Communist Party in April 2011. This process focuses on national priorities such as economic efficiency and productivity, the national food security strategy and the import substitution policy. Additionally national authorities have indicated a strong commitment to maintain the social development standards and their accomplishments.



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Guideline number 112, of the “Lineamientos” calls for the promotion of multilateral collaboration, with particular reference to the United Nations System. In that regard the UN System is supporting national authorities in addressing emerging issues and challenges.

Hurricane Sandy, considered one of the most devastating hurricanes to have struck the eastern provinces in the past 50 years, passed through the country in October 2012, directly hitting the country's second largest city, Santiago de Cuba. Despite national and local authorities' preparedness measures, tens of thousands of homes were totally or partially destroyed. Agriculture and food facilities, communications and electrical infrastructures, and social institutions among others, were severely damaged. National Authorities stated that the recovery process will require years of hard work and effort.

The United Nations Country Team in Cuba is composed of FAO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. Additionally non-resident agencies like ECLAC, IAEA, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNHABITAT, UNIDO and UNWOMEN have important programmes and initiatives in Cuba.

In 2012, Cuba's second United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (2014-2018) was formulated. The UNDAF formulation process offered a critical space for dialogue with the government, and for the UN system to position itself strategically in the context of the national updating process. The UN system in Cuba effectively defined, in cooperation with key national authorities, its substantive contribution to important social and economic structural transformations.

In this context, the embargo is pervasive in the social, economic and environmental dimensions of human development in Cuba, particularly affecting the most vulnerable socio economic groups of the Cuban population.

Each United Nations agency, fund and programme has contributed with its specific inputs to the UN Secretary-General's Report. This chapter presents the most significant cross-cutting issues that are negatively impacting the UN system's humanitarian and development cooperation in Cuba.

#### **Purchase of inputs at competitive prices and limitations on import of US-patented goods, services and technologies:**

Cuban national companies and foreign companies established in Cuba are not allowed to purchase products, components or technologies in the US territory, even though the US is the closest, most competitive and most diversified market. Alternative adequate markets are more distant, resulting in higher import costs and delays in delivery time. Goods, services or technologies produced by the US, covered by US patents, or containing any component produced and/or patented by the US, are not available to Cuba.

Consequently, budgetary resources are required to cover additional costs derived from embargo conditions, which could have been used to more effectively achieve the expected programmatic development results.

This context has negatively impacted the development and humanitarian assistance provided by the UN System to Cuba. This is particularly relevant for projects supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and focused on vulnerable groups.

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For example, the delivery of humanitarian assistance was affected in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy. Immediate relief, vital aid and reconstruction materials had to be acquired under difficult conditions imposed by the embargo in terms of access and transportation, resorting to third country purchases and imports, longer acquisition processes as well as payments in a third currency. This situation resulted in late arrival times and high costs.

The daily work of the UN agencies, funds and programmes in Cuba is directly affected by these US policies. The UN System in the country can rarely benefit from global UN corporate contracts with US companies to purchase and have access to equipment and services such as computers, software licenses, internet services, etc. Therefore, it is necessary to identify providers exclusively for these offices, with higher prices and administrative costs.

#### **Development credits granted by international financial institutions and financial services from US Banks:**

The embargo has limited Cuba's access to development credits granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This has narrowed the possibility of obtaining resources to financially support Cuba's national and/or local development plans.

UN local offices in Cuba cannot make use of corporate accounts with US Banks nor use the US Dollar as a payment currency. These offices have to use additional administrative measures to undertake programme finance operations, resulting in higher costs to the office and a higher administrative burden entailed by the use of third country banks. The related incremented costs have been covered by UN and project funds from other donor countries.

Additionally, as a result of the embargo, Cuban UN staff on official missions do not have access to bank services, conditioning their capacity to cover costs, especially in case of emergency, due to lack of access to credit cards. The embargo has also affected the UN international staff's financial transactions, salaries, banking and insurance services.

#### **UN Staff missions to UN headquarters in the USA:**

Cuban UN staff required to travel to UN headquarters in New York or Washington, D.C. have to request their visa well in advance and the visas are not always granted on time. Additionally, longer and costlier alternative routes via third countries need to be booked due to the lack of regular direct flights from Cuba to New York or Washington, D.C. This negatively affects the exchange of experiences between Headquarters and the UN in Cuba, as it hampers the participation of UN system staff in corporate trainings and official meetings.

#### **Exchange of expertise:**

Cuban experts and researchers invited to events in the United States have experienced difficulties in obtaining timely visas. This situation affects professional exchanges and partnership building in key areas of development.

#### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**



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[Original: English]  
[24 May 2013]

Cuba is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. As such, as in previous years, UNHCR receives and decides asylum claims under its mandate and contributes to providing assistance to the refugee population. Thus far, Cuba has maintained its de facto policy of *non-refoulement* protection and assistance in the education and health sectors to refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate, but does not offer the possibility of local integration. Therefore, and in the absence of prospects for voluntary return in most of the cases, the only durable solution for refugees in Cuba is resettlement sought by UNHCR in third countries.

Cuba's readiness to become a party to the international refugee and statelessness instruments and to engage in finding solutions to the refugee situation within the country are most probably dependent on a change in its bilateral relations with the United States of America. In this sense, any measure contributing to ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba would be a positive step that could lead towards Cuba's accession.

## **United Nations Children's Fund**

[Original: English]  
[3 June 2013]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to affect the living condition, education and development of Cuban children, adolescents and families. It also disrupts the sustainability of the progress achieved towards the Millennium Development Goals, in particular regarding the equity and protection of the rights of children and adolescents.

### **Impact of the embargo on some fundamental rights of children and adolescents in Cuba**

#### *Health*

As expressed by the Ministry of Health, the health sector continues to be affected by the embargo, because markets are located in faraway places, leading to an increase in the prices of expendable materials and medical instruments, as well as medicines, reagents, and spare parts and equipment.

As informed by the Ministry of Health, institutions providing medical services have been affected, especially emergency and surgical units as well as other specialized services for children and pregnant women, because of the lack of medicines, diagnostic equipment, expendable materials, spare parts and necessary medical equipment.

In the framework of the Country Programme, UNICEF provides support with the purchase of several basic supplies, for instance, the MMR (Measles, Mumps, & Rubella) vaccine for one-year old children. The country faces material shortages and a limited access to markets, which makes it necessary for UNICEF to import supplies from Europe to assist the Government to provide quality medical services to children and pregnant women, which elevates the costs of such assistance.

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## *Education*

In spite of Cuba's efforts to guarantee free access to education, the effects of the embargo have an impact on the quality of educational services, as has been observed by the UNICEF Country Office.

The Ministry of Education reports that, as a result of this policy, Cuba does not have access to the US market to purchase school supplies, among other inputs, which results in an increase of average freight costs and a direct impact on the quality of education.

Information received from the Ministry of Education provides the following concrete examples:

- Limited purchasing of educational resources for Labor Education, Geography, specialized laboratories for language schools and replacement of outdated technology, mainly computers, TV and video equipment.
- In the area of artistic education, the impact is particularly felt because of the regularly high prices of specialized books, equipment and musical instruments.
- Limited academic exchange with US universities and research centers hinders the development of professors and school teachers.
- Scarce supplies of English books and specialized dictionaries hinder the development of language teachers, as well as science, information technology and technical professionals.
- The country's restricted access to the Internet limits the availability of updated and timely information needed to strengthen the quality of education.

### **Impact of the embargo on the Country Programme of Cooperation:**

The commercial limitations already mentioned also apply to the supplies that UNICEF needs to import in order to support work plan implementation and the achievement of results, causing an increase in prices and longer purchasing processes of up to 120 days. It is estimated that access to the US market would also reduce the cost of freight and logistic expenses.

Additionally, it should be noted that restrictions currently existing in Cuba to bank transfers from and to the country using USD are estimated by UNICEF to increase transactions costs by up to 3%.

## **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

[Original: English]  
[21 May 2013]

The Doha Mandate adopted at UNCTAD XIII in April 2012 notes that "States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that



impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, and that affect commercial interests. These actions hinder market access, investments and freedom of transit and the well-being of the populations of affected countries. Meaningful trade liberalization will also require addressing non-tariff measures including, inter alia, unilateral measures, where they may act as unnecessary trade barriers." <sup>6</sup>

### *Trends in Cuba*

The embargo has had significant negative effects on the Cuban economy and on the standard of living of Cuban citizens. The Government of Cuba reported that the overall losses caused by the embargo amounted to \$108 billion by the end of December 2011.<sup>7</sup> The losses are attributed to the additional costs incurred by the Cuban government, enterprises, and citizens in obtaining goods, services, and finance.

The losses incurred for the health and food sectors amounted to \$10 million during the period of May 2011 to April 2014 for the former, and \$132 million for the period of March 2011 to March 2012 for the latter.<sup>8</sup> These losses were caused mainly due to the higher transaction costs resulting from the embargo. Moreover, it has been estimated that Cuba would have earned more than \$222 million in exporting food and rum to the United States in the absence of the embargo against Cuba.<sup>9</sup> As for foreign direct investment, Cuba received inflows of \$110 million in 2011.<sup>10</sup> It has been assessed that there could have been \$350 million worth of foreign direct investments (FDI) coming from the United States had there been no embargo. <sup>11</sup> Meanwhile, neighboring country Dominican Republic received \$2,371 million in the same year.<sup>12</sup>

The embargo also was a serious constraint for advancing science and technology in Cuba due to the United States' significant position in these areas. Cuba's inability to connect to United States Internet service providers significantly contributes to its low level of Internet access, which in turn adversely affects all economic and social sectors in the country. Also, the negative impact of the extraterritorial application of the embargo is substantial as United States firms are frequently involved in international mergers and business partnerships. This extraterritorial application not only negatively affects Cuba, but also deprives third countries of business opportunities with Cuba.

It has been estimated that the Cuban economy grew 2.8 per cent in 2011, up by 0.4 per cent from the previous year. Among 24 countries in Central and Latin America, Cuba ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the GDP growth rate. In October 2012 Hurricane Sandy hit Cuba causing a widespread damage which amounted \$2 billion for the country. <sup>13</sup> Cuba was still recovering from the devastation of almost \$10 billion caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. Reconstruction of the infrastructures and the buildings which were damaged by these Hurricanes can be costlier

<sup>6</sup> UNCTAD document, "The Doha Mandate", paragraph 25, TD/500/Add.1, 31 May 2012.

<sup>7</sup> UN document, "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba: Report of the Secretary-General", A/67/118, 16 August 2012, p.29.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., pp.35 - 37.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p.38.

<sup>10</sup> UNCTADSTAT

<sup>11</sup> A/67/118, p. 41, op.cit.

<sup>12</sup> UNCTADSTAT. See bar chart in the ANNEX for the trends in FDI inward flows in Cuba and Dominican Republic.

<sup>13</sup> Havana Times.org. <http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=81443>



than it would be if there was no embargo as Cuba has to import goods and services from elsewhere even if the United States exports them at competitive prices and quality.

As observed in the UNCTAD statistics provided in the ANNEX, the trends in Cuba's trade in merchandise in 2012 did not change from the previous year. UNCTAD estimates that Cuba exported \$5.6 billion and imported \$14.4 billion worth of merchandise, representing a decline of \$128 million and an increase of \$323 million, respectively, from 2011. The deficit in trade in merchandise was \$8.7 billion in 2012, an increase of \$451 million from 2011. The main export items in 2012 were "Ores and metals", accounting for \$3.6 billion or 63 per cent of the total, followed by "All food items" and "Manufactured goods". As to the destination of Cuba's exports, the EU was the major buyer of Cuban merchandise, accounting for about 34 per cent of the total.

The main import items in 2012 were "Manufactured goods" and "Fuels", accounting for \$6.8 billion or 47 per cent of the total for the former and \$5.3 billion or 37 per cent, followed by "All food items". As to the origins of Cuba's imports, Latin America and the Caribbean were the largest suppliers, accounting for one half of the total. The Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 allows United States exports of agricultural products to Cuba with many restrictions and requirements. This measure has made the United States the largest exporter of agricultural products to Cuba, although the level of United States exports declined annually over 2009 to 2011.<sup>14</sup> Brazil's agricultural exports to Cuba superseded those of the United States in 2011, but in 2012 the latter became the largest exporter again. However, the restrictions and requirements imposed on United States agricultural exports are limiting the potential growth of the exports.

The services sector has been the major source of foreign exchange earnings in Cuba. The trends in Cuba's trade in services in 2012 did not change from the previous year. UNCTAD estimates that Cuba exported \$11.8 billion and imported \$2.4 billion of services in 2012; the resulting \$9.4 billion surplus represented a \$622 million increase from 2011. The category of "Other services" took the major shares of exports, followed by "Travel". For "Other services", exports of medical personnel to Venezuela continue to be of particular importance as in return Cuba receives oil from Venezuela on preferential terms. Tourism continues to be one of the main driving forces of the Cuban economy and development. In 2012, 2,838,169 people visited Cuba, 4.5% more than in 2011.<sup>15</sup> With access to the United States market blocked, the tourism sector remains heavily dependent on Canadian visitors.<sup>16</sup> Canadian tourists accounted for 38 per cent of the total international visitors followed by the EU accounted for 27 per cent.<sup>17</sup> The travel ban of United States citizen to Cuba has had serious economic implications for Cuba. The damage caused by restrictions imposed on United States citizens travelling to Cuba remains significant with the tourism industry losing more than \$2.3 billion annually.<sup>18</sup> Remittances from relatives living abroad including in the United States are also a significant source of hard currency.<sup>19</sup> The United States relaxed remittance restrictions in January 2011. With regard to the import of services, "Transport" was the dominant category.

<sup>14</sup> "Cuba: Issues for the 112th Congress", Congressional Research Service, February 24, 2012, p.43.

<sup>15</sup> Caribbean Tourism Organization Latest Statistics 2012, April 11, 2013, the official tourism website of the Caribbean Tourism Industry.

<sup>16</sup> EIU Cuba Country Report, April 2013, p.19.

<sup>17</sup> Caribbean Tourism Organization Latest Statistics 2012, op.cit.

<sup>18</sup> A/67/118, p.40, op.cit.

<sup>19</sup> "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba: Report of the Secretary-General", A/66/114, 16 August 2011, p.102.



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### *Developments in the United States*

There have been no significant actions taken concerning the embargo. A number of legislative proposals have been made during the 112th Congress. Some would have the United States lift or ease the embargo, while others conversely would further strengthen it.

### *Conclusion*

There has been no significant change in the United States embargo. It continued to severely impact the production, trade and the welfare of Cuba impeding its development. The embargo measures impose severe economic, commercial and financial restrictions against Cuba with the attendant costs for the country. Furthermore, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy could add to the hardship of the Cuban people. The substantial losses incurred due to the embargo include the foregone opportunities to strengthen infrastructures, build an efficient and vibrant economy, and improve the living standard of Cuban citizens. Particularly given the country's potential for developing knowledge-intensive and high value-added industries, the inability to conduct trade with the United States has profound implications for the country. The extraterritorial application of the United States embargo continues to affect citizens in third countries and impedes their trade with and investments in Cuba. The impact of the extraterritorial application is considerable. Finally, the citizens of the United States are affected as well by the embargo in terms of the inability to interact with Cuba in the economic, academic and social fields.

## ANNEX

### Cuba's Merchandise Exports in Millions of US Dollars

Partner	Commodity Group	2008 *	2009 *	2010 *	2011*	2012 *
European Union (EU 27)	All food items	344	333	396	425	522
	Ores and metal	540	445	892	1411	1491
	Fuels	0	5	3	9	10
	Manufactured good	11	26	39	55	56
	Total	895	809	1330	1899	2078
Latin America and Caribbean	All food items	5	18	39	26	34
	Ores and metal	1	13	25	25	24
	Fuels	0	30	50	52	69
	Manufactured good	272	346	401	496	585
	Total	279	407	515	599	712
United States of America	All food items	0	0	0	0	0
	Ores and metal	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuels	0	0	0	0	0
	Manufactured good	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0
Rest of the world	All food items	740	476	690	804	753
	Ores and metal	2019	1366	2369	2411	2036
	Fuels	28	23	25	37	36
	Manufactured good	10	28	35	38	46
	Total	2798	1893	3120	3291	2871
World	All food items	1090	827	1125	1256	1309
	Ores and metal	2561	1824	3287	3846	3550
	Fuels	29	58	78	99	115
	Manufactured good	293	399	476	589	687
	Total	3973	3109	4966	5789	5661

\* Estimates

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, based on UN COMTRADE and IMF Direction of Trade databases

Notes: All food items (SITC 0+1+22+4)

Ores and metal (SITC 27+28+68)

Fuels (SITC 3)

Manufactured goods (SITC 5 to 8 less 667 and 68)



### Cuba's Merchandise Imports in Millions of US Dollars

Partner	Commodity Group	2008*	2009*	2010*	2011*	2012*
European Union (EU 27)	All food items	452	283	405	584	564
	Ores and metal	62	33	36	48	45
	Fuels	44	22	32	97	80
	Manufactured good	2862	1812	1929	2408	2471
	Total	3421	2150	2402	3138	3160
Latin America and Caribbean	All food items	700	388	578	701	732
	Ores and metal	49	29	58	18	40
	Fuels	4753	2904	3971	5133	5177
	Manufactured good	1060	728	841	1115	1196
	Total	6561	4048	5449	6967	7145
United States of America	All food items	976	671	448	442	565
	Ores and metal	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuels	0	0	0	0	0
	Manufactured good	28	18	14	13	12
	Total	1006	689	462	455	577
Rest of the world	All food items	509	175	202	240	226
	Ores and metal	129	40	70	77	77
	Fuels	13	33	34	55	57
	Manufactured good	3746	2484	2880	3127	3139
	Total	4397	2732	3186	3499	3498
World	All food items	2636	1517	1634	1967	2087
	Ores and metal	242	102	163	143	162
	Fuels	4811	2959	4038	5284	5314
	Manufactured good	7696	5042	5664	6664	6818
	Total	15384	9619	11499	14058	14381

\* Estimates

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, based on UN COMTRADE and IMF Direction of Trade databases

Notes: All food items (SITC 0+1+22+4)

Ores and metal (SITC 27+28+68)

Fuels (SITC 3)

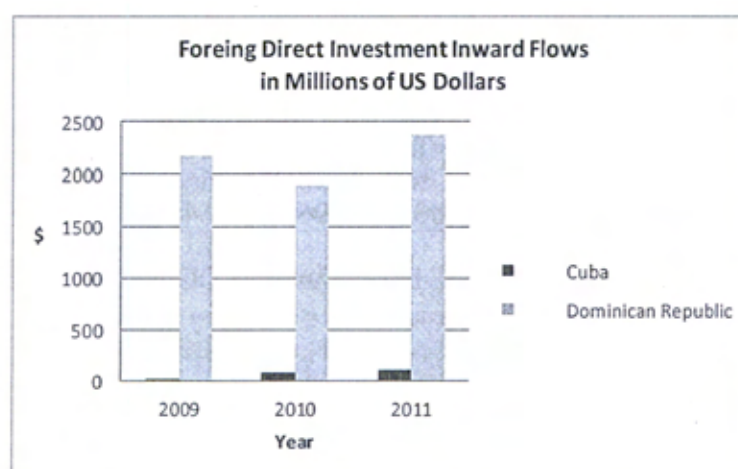
Manufactured goods (SITC 5 to 8 less 667 and 68)

### Cuba's Service Exports and Imports in Millions of US Dollars

Flow	Services Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Exports	Transport	1620*	1437*	1772*	1913*	1928*
	Travel	2258	2051	2187	2318	2447*
	Other services	5374*	4956*	6253*	6755*	7409*
	Total services	9252	8444	10212	10986	11783*
Imports	Transport	1546*	965*	1154*	1424*	1516*
	Travel	160*	212*	230*	236*	260*
	Other services	373*	496*	538*	552*	612*
	Total services	2079	1673	1923	2213	2388*

\* Estimates

Source: UNCTAD and WTO (estimates)



Source: UNCTADSTAT

### United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]  
[12 June 2013]

Cuba has maintained a high human development index ranking, having attained 59th place among 187 nations in 2012. Many of the MDGs have been achieved, some long before these goals were agreed upon. The main challenge is to maintain the quality of social services and sustain already achieved MDGs. Cuba was recently recognized by FAO as one of 15 countries to have successfully reduced hunger before 2015.



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The Cuban development model is changing. The document called “*Lineamientos de la política económica y social*” (Guidelines for Social and Economic Policy) was approved during the Communist Party Congress in April 2011. These “*Lineamientos*” are innovative and challenging. The driving force behind the “*Lineamientos*” is the acceleration of the economy, where the local level has an important role in the forthcoming decentralization framework. Universal social services and social development remain a priority for the Government and will continue to be a concern of the state while the traditional social protection network is adjusted to ensure a more effective focus as well as sustainability.

Guideline number 112 in the “*Lineamientos de la política económica y social*” calls for the promotion of multilateral collaboration, with direct reference to the United Nations System. In that regard the UN System is supporting national authorities in addressing emerging issues and challenges.

UNDP has been cooperating with national authorities in priority areas such as: promoting food security; supporting the national policy to reduce levels of imports; supporting local governments and their economic development strategies; introducing and applying measures for adaptation to climate change, especially in food production; contributing to sustainable development and a more effective disaster risk reduction; and supporting the national response to HIV/AIDS, and sexual diversity.

The UNDP partnership with Cuban authorities is based on a long-standing relationship. UNDP has supported major local and national development strategies and policies over the last 40 years. The current cooperation is carried out within the 2008-2013 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the 2008-2013 UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD).

In 2012, the United Nations System in Cuba, in close alliance with the Government, developed the 2014-2017 UNDAF through a participatory process that included consultations with a wide range of national and local stakeholders such as institutions, academic and research centers, universities and local governments, to name a few. Aligned with the cooperation areas identified in the UNDAF, the UNDP and its main development partners also formulated the 2014-2017 Country Programme Document.

Both documents address identified priority areas of cooperation contributing to the implementation of the “*Lineamientos*”. Fostering sustainable human development will continue to be at the heart of UNDP’s cooperation. UNDP will also promote South-South cooperation and technology and knowledge transfer. The main areas that are addressed in the new UNDAF and CPD include: sustainable economic development; food security; quality and sustainability of social services, including building respect for diversity; the use of renewable energy; strengthening of local governments; environmental sustainability and disaster risk management. Gender and youth will be cross-cutting themes.

### **Specific effects of the US embargo**

In 2012, the situation remained very similar to previous years.

The embargo affects the external economic relations of Cuba, and its impact can be observed in all spheres of the country’s social and economic activities. It affects opportunities



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for national and local development and creates economic hardship for the population. The embargo impacts the population's most vulnerable groups and human development in general.

According to official estimates, the cumulative direct and indirect losses to the Cuban economy due to the embargo since the early 1960s until December 2011, amount to US\$ 108 billion.

The embargo has limited Cuba's access to development credits granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This has narrowed the possibility of obtaining resources to financially support Cuba's national and/or local development plans.

The travel of Cuban experts and researchers to the United States in the framework of cooperation agreements, has also been limited due to the process to obtain visas. Therefore, it has also been difficult to establish partnerships and to collaborate with US universities and research institutes, and to promote exchanges among experts from both countries.

The embargo causes negative consequences for external cooperation initiatives, creating many difficulties for programme and project implementation due to trade restrictions or prohibitions on purchasing inputs from US companies and their subsidiaries. In addition, the embargo places restrictions on shipping line companies whose vessels reach Cuban harbors, which in turn limits the availability of transportation, and delays the loading of goods until ships with available cargo space arrive. Intermediary costs and long distance transportation also negatively impacts the access to key inputs and the final cost of imported project goods and equipment. Likewise, development projects have to purchase and import products from more distant places at much higher costs.

This has directly impacted all UNDP development projects and is particularly detrimental in time-sensitive and emergency activities, both by increasing the transaction costs of procedures to obtain project inputs, and by increasing transportation costs of the imported goods. Projects have been affected by important delays in the purchase and distribution of project inputs, negatively impacting timely implementation of project activities and results.

This situation was particularly harmful in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy, when prompt arrival of humanitarian aid was required to address the needs of the disaster-affected population. As an example, more than 220,000 dwellings (17,000 totally destroyed) were affected by Sandy, which left a very high number of homeless families which had lost their belongings. The purchase of zinc sheets for roofs, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, plastic tarpaulins for roofs and other immediate aid goods had to be done under the conditions imposed by the embargo, which resulted in higher costs and longer times of arrival. The most impacted by this situation were the affected communities and populations which had to wait a considerable period of time before receiving emergency aid.

This has also been the case in all projects related to food security and local development, whereby the time necessary to get access to and import agricultural inputs, such as irrigation systems, machinery and agricultural tools has been long and complex. In general, procurement processes take longer, delaying project activities and their results. As a consequence, financial proposals and new projects have to consider an extended period of time only for procurement processes and they also have to allocate additional financial resources to cover incremental



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costs that otherwise could be granted to development activities. These costs are covered by funds provided by all donors.

The projects financed by the Global Fund, for which UNDP serves as the principal recipient, provides medicines, reagents, and laboratory equipment, aimed at benefiting 14,636 people of all ages living with HIV/AIDS. They are purchased from third countries, and from secondary suppliers at prices significantly higher than those on the international markets. Even under UNDP Long Term Corporate Agreements with international suppliers, the embargo restrictions hinder purchases through this mechanism when such products are manufactured or have a U.S.-manufactured component. In these cases, the providers have to obtain a license from OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) to deliver services or products to projects in Cuba, a bureaucratic process that takes much time and effort.

The embargo also affects the daily work at the UNDP office in Cuba placing it at a disadvantage, compared to other country offices. There are limitations to the benefits that could be gained from corporate long term agreements to effectively implement and monitor development and emergency activities. These result in higher transaction costs of at least 15 percent due to the participation of intermediaries, higher costs on the purchase of ICT equipment and services, and access to software licenses. Access to internet services is also negatively impacted, which limits the effective use of corporative platforms.

UNDP's Cuba office is also affected by not being able to use corporate accounts with US Banks or in US dollars as a payment currency. The office has to use additional administrative measures to undertake programme finance operations, such as the use of third country banks, resulting in higher costs to the office and its projects and a higher administrative burden. The related incremented costs have been covered by UNDP and project funds from other donors, therefore affecting the use of resources that otherwise could be used for development activities.

Another way in which UNDP is affected by the embargo is that national staff needing to travel to UNDP headquarters in New York have to request their visas well in advance. Although this situation has improved lately, there have been several cases in which visas could not be granted on time and travel plans had to be changed or cancelled. Similar situations have occurred when Government officials have had to attend HQ meetings. With no direct flights from Havana to New York, booking longer, alternative air routes, via third countries, also ends up being more expensive. Moreover, this hinders the participation and representation of UNDP's staff from Cuba in corporate trainings and official meetings, limiting the capacity of the office to follow up on the latest systems, policies and guidance, implemented in other countries to effectively reach development and emergency goals and impacts. These negative impacts are also experienced by Cuban authorities and experts, when they have to travel to U.N. HQ and to other meetings, in terms of costs and difficulties in obtaining timely U.S. visas.

## **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

[Original: English]  
[28 May 2013]

UNESCO is not a funding agency, but rather a specialized technical agency within the United Nations system. It is difficult, therefore, to quantify the damage of the embargo on programmes run by the Organization within its fields of competence - education, science, culture and communication

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and information. However, from a qualitative point of view, the embargo continues to have an impact in UNESCO's fields of competence and the following observations can be made.

The situation has remained relatively unchanged since 2012. In the area of education, the embargo continues to have an impact on the availability of educational resources, linked to trade restrictions that prevent their purchase at more competitive prices. In the area of science, the embargo continues to limit the ability to purchase up-to-date scientific materials. In the area of culture, the embargo continues to have an impact on the ability to obtain historic preservation materials, supplies for cultural industries and cooperation with American restitutions that might otherwise collaborate, including through exchanges. In the area of communications and information, Cuba remains unable to acquire underwater fibre-optic cables from United States firms, software licenses and certain equipment. Although there are more possibilities for academic and cultural exchanges, these continue to be limited by visa policies that make travel and study movements difficult.

The embargo also impacts on the operations of the UNESCO Office in Havana as well as on participation programme activities implemented by the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO, including the receipt of funds, bank transfers to service providers, and resulting in additional costs for the Organization in air tickets, communications etc. Staff and their families are also affected personally such as in bank transfers and international communications.

### **United Nations Environment Programme**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

From the environmental perspective, the embargo imposed by the United States not only affects Cuba, but also affects the Caribbean subregion and the United States itself.

Conservation efforts in the Caribbean Island Hotspot<sup>20</sup> are fragmented, incomplete, and lack a necessary common strategy, since Cuba is excluded from several of the most important projects in the subregion, due to the fact that, they are being implemented with United States funds. For example there are Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects such as the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, a large-scale initiative aiming at protecting 20% of the marine and coastal habitats of Caribbean countries associated with the initiative by 2020, and Cuba cannot participate. This not only affects Cuba from benefiting from the projects, but also affects the Caribbean subregion in the sense that in these cases the subregion cannot be approached completely as a whole.

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<sup>20</sup> The Caribbean Hotspot consists mainly of three large groups: the Bahamas, the Lesser Antilles, and the Greater Antilles (Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cuba, and Hispaniola, which includes the Dominican Republic and Haiti) with Cuba, Jamaica and Hispaniola constituting 90% of the land area.



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The embargo also significantly affects the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems shared between Cuba and the United States. For the proper management of natural resources shared by both countries, including migratory birds and marine life, common conservation strategies and agreements between the Governments and or agencies/organizations of both countries should be in place, and this is not possible due to the embargo. There is currently an environmental agreement on migratory birds between United States, Mexico and Canada, but there are no agreements between United States and Cuba despite the fact that the affluence of migratory birds between these two countries is very large as with the mentioned North American countries.

The embargo eliminates the possibility of implementing of common strategies for the integrated management of the environment and natural resources that surround these two countries and important integrated progress cannot be made with the absence of agreements and dialogue between the two Governments to focus on their shared environments.

Much of UNEP's work is also carried out through South-South cooperation that involves knowledge transfer, capacity building and technical support from Cuba to other countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region (and vice-versa), by way of training events, capacity-building activities, workshops and others.

UNEP has a number of projects being implemented in Cuba some of which are affected by the embargo, such as the Caribbean Biological Corridor which is under implementation through an agreement between Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic, and now Jamaica as a Permanent Observer. The impact of the embargo on this project is exemplified in the context of remotely sensed and spatial data gathering and processing for the Caribbean Biologic Corridor. Lack of access to technology and equipment may hamper the harmonization required for the three countries involved as such devices are not made available to Cuba.

The continuing embargo translates into missed opportunities for environmental cooperation in the region.

Other examples of impact linked to the embargo are outlined below:

(a) As United States companies are not allowed to sell equipment, technology, products and others to Cuban companies, the Cubans are forced to buy them in other markets, increasing cargo travel times to Cuba and subsequently increasing carbon emissions associated with transport;

(b) Cuba continues to increase energy efficiency, under its energy revolution programme, as well as promote recycling and other green technologies. The aim is to decrease oil consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and to achieve general resource efficiency. However, technologies that could benefit this endeavour are not allowed to be sold to Cuba by United States companies or their subsidiaries in other countries. The same is true of other products of non-American companies that contain parts or components provided by American companies or subsidiaries that could assist in advancing such developments<sup>21</sup>;

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<sup>21</sup> In the context of remotely sensed data as mentioned above, gathering imagery for the Caribbean Biologic Corridor, lack of access to technology and equipment may hamper the harmonization required for the three countries involved as such devices are not made available to Cuba. Project vehicles also require additional costs as United States manufactured units

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(c) Cuba is one of the world's leaders in biological research, with thousands of graduates from the country's ten universities and institutes devoted to working in ecology, producing important technologies and products, including biotechnology applications. Cuba also possesses significant knowledge in natural resources conservation. However, these technologies or products are not allowed to be sold in the US.

d) The participation of Cuban experts in environmental and sustainable development conferences and training activities is often constrained by travel restrictions and thousands of dollars are spent for more expensive and often longer routes for travel;

(e) The embargo also restricts Cuba's access to information from leading scientific and technical journals and publications, as well as Internet access to specialized companies and institutions in the United States. This limits access by Cuban academics, engineers and students to cutting-edge developments in energy and environmental sciences, which could increase their capacities of implementation of sound environmental technologies. Connectivity restrictions also limit Cuba's ability to implement and comply with certain environmental treaties that require the constant use of the Internet;

(f) Both the United States and Cuba have an interest in oil exploration and exploitation in shared marine areas. Joint environmental impact studies and environmentally friendly methods of operation are currently not possible as a result of the embargo. The 2010 oil spill underlines this issue as a matter of urgency;

(g) Both countries are located in regions with critical biological corridors that could benefit from full regional cooperation;

(h) The United States and Cuba are located in a region where disasters, particularly hurricanes, are seriously affecting ecosystems and populations. Both countries are working to attain higher levels of prevention of and preparation for disasters. In this sense, cooperation would benefit both countries, as well as other countries of the wider Caribbean area;

(i) Cuba has been recognized under various criteria as a country that has given high priority to environment and sustainable development. The recently concluded Yale and Columbia Universities Environmental Performance Index study placed Cuba in ninth place of a world ranking. Despite this, the United States has always opposed Cuban projects in the GEF Council.

(j) Another consequence of this embargo is the limited access to international loans and international financial institutions which is affecting Cuba's ability to move towards sustainability. This has led to the general claim by Cuba that the embargo is hampering their sustainability efforts.

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*cannot be procured.*



The elimination of the obstacles that limit normal exchange between the two countries would contribute to advancement in sustainable management of shared ecosystems, cooperation between scientific and academic communities and the increased contribution of both countries in the fight against climate change, ecosystem management, natural disasters and the prevention of accidents. It would also benefit other countries where the United States and Cuba have cooperative programmes.

## **United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

[Original: English]

[3 June 2013]

The mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is to coordinate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to assist member States in achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to human settlements. The United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba limits free trade and the transfer of scientific and technological know-how and expertise for peaceful and humanitarian purposes, and thus has a negative impact on Cuba's human settlements-related goods, services and technologies. The embargo, in this way, negatively affects the ability of the Government of Cuba to implement the Habitat Agenda and attain the Millennium Development Goals related to human settlements.

UN-Habitat wishes to make two observations related to its mandate and effectiveness of its activities in Cuba.

### **I. The first part is related to the implementation of the resolution in the long run which implies:**

(a) A stable and a speedy import supply of construction materials, tools and equipment (technology), as well as energy and raw materials for the construction and maintenance of human settlements, and for their reconstruction after natural disasters;

(b) The transfer of more efficient and ecologically sound technologies and the use of patents originating from the United States of America, or commercialized by United States companies and other companies around the world;

(c) Access to energy, energy-saving technologies and oil, which are also important assets in the provision of basic urban services such as transport, solid waste collection and disposal, water supply and sanitation, and emergency response to hazards, including fires, floods and hurricanes, so that Cubans can use efficient and environmentally sustainable alternatives;

(d) Access to low-cost chemicals and equipment for water and wastewater treatment needed to improve the quality and affordability of these services, and, in turn, their impact on environmental and public health;

(e) Settling of outstanding claims on properties previously owned by United States citizens or naturalized Cuban citizens, which will improve the use and rehabilitation of important facilities and the rationality and coherence of urban and real estate development; and

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(f) Granting of visa and travel permits needed for scientific, technical and cultural exchanges, particularly for planners, architects, engineers and social scientists, for the purpose of advising their Cuban counterparts in the design, planning and management of housing and human settlements.

In essence, from the human settlements perspective, the implementation of Resolution 67/4 will not only improve the quality of social, economic and environmental human settlements planning and management in general, but will, in particular, also promote important improvements in the human settlements conditions of the poor and disadvantaged segments of the Cuban population.

**II The second observation is in relation to UN-Habitat's latest activities in Cuba and plans for the near future, both of which stand to benefit from the implementation of Resolution 67/4:**

(a) During the reporting period, UN-Habitat has been collaborating with its counterparts, the Cuban National Housing Institute and the Physical Planning Institute, in developing cooperation projects and promoting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, while at the same time supporting Cuba's contribution to south-south cooperation. More recently, UN-Habitat has been collaborating with these institutions in realizing a *National Housing Sector Profile*.

(b) UN-Habitat is currently implementing its first Country Programme 2011-2013 in Cuba. The programme has three main work areas: urban governance and climate change; urban infrastructure, basic services, and the environment; as well as support for the housing sector.

(c) UN-Habitat has recently implemented a project, "*Cuba-Colombia South-South Cooperation: Improving citizen's participation and capacities in Adaptation to Climate Change and Risk Reduction Processes*", which will support the conception and implementation of community initiatives linked with climate change impacts and disaster risk reduction. Eight municipalities of Cuba will be directly involved, in close relationship with four Colombian municipalities. In this project, UN-Habitat is collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Commerce and Foreign Investment, the National Housing Institute, the Physical Planning Institute and the Agenda 21 offices in selected municipalities.

(d) After hurricane *Sandy* in October 2012, UN-Habitat is actively participating in the reconstruction process in the cities of Santiago and Holguín.

**United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

[Original: English]  
[2 May 2013]

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) currently has ongoing technical projects which aim at assisting the Government of Cuba in further strengthening its industrial capabilities and competitiveness in priority industrial sectors, in line with the new political, economic and social strategies announced in 2011. UNIDO activities in Cuba have been concentrated mainly in the following areas:



- Use of renewable energy in productive application as a source of alternative energy supply;
- Support for the fulfilment of international environmental agreements (mainly the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer);
- Support in strengthening agro-industrial value chains, in particular in shrimps production;
- Technical support in Food Security programmes;
- Strengthen South-South cooperation in areas related to industrial development.

Currently, UNIDO is participating in the ongoing UNDAF 2013 – 2017 exercise in Cuba. Cuba is also included in the global knowledge management system for private sector development, financed by the MDG Achievement Fund and donor countries, which aims at enhancing the United Nations system's knowledge capabilities for delivering policy advice, institutional capacity building and pilot projects.

### **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that, while the embargo remains in place, the Caribbean region continues to be confronted with a number of serious challenges related to the trafficking of illicit drugs, firearms and organized crime. Together with other Caribbean countries, Cuba finds itself between the world's largest cocaine producers in Latin America and the world's largest drug consumers, namely, North America and Europe.

UNODC is in the process of strengthening its presence in the Caribbean to support member States, including Cuba, in their efforts to counter these challenges. In close cooperation with CARICOM, UNODC is about to finalize and launch a Regional Programme for the Caribbean to address regional and country level needs in preventing and countering organized crime and drug trafficking as well as their deep and negative impact on society. The Regional Programme also foresees a UNODC presence in the Caribbean.

Cuba is a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms. UNODC encourages Cuba to consider ratifying and implementing the Protocols on the Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. In addition, UNODC invites Cuba, pursuant to note verbale CU 2013/58, to voluntarily respond to the Omnibus questionnaire regarding the instruments to which it is party, in order to better inform technical assistance activities in the country and region.

Cuba ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2007. The Review Mechanism of the Convention was launched in 2010 to review the implementation of the Convention by State Parties, to highlight good practices that could be replicable in other countries and to identify the gaps in the implementation through a peer review methodology regulated in the Terms of Reference and Guidelines of the Mechanism. In addition, this peer



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review process helps States to identify and substantiate specific needs of technical assistance to be delivered when appropriate and requested. Cuba has been reviewed by Brazil and Guatemala and is reviewing Nicaragua, together with Nepal. The authorities of Cuba conducted the country review in a proactive manner and with a high level of political commitment to the process. In November 2012 UNODC launched the Regional Anti-Corruption Academy in Panama. The Academy offers a variety of courses to government officers from Central American and Caribbean countries, including Cuba, on the ways to prevent and combat corruption, as well as international tools available to do so.

Cuba participated actively in the 22nd United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and intervened when the Commission considered agenda items 4 and 5: "Thematic discussion on the challenge posed by emerging forms of crime that have a significant impact on the environment and ways to deal with it effectively" and "Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice" respectively.

In July 2012, a mission of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) visited Cuba, its first mission to the country since 1999. According to the Board's 2012 Report, the Government of Cuba, a party to all three international drug control conventions, is firmly committed to the goals and objectives of those treaties. The national drug control policy is primarily focused on the prevention of drug abuse, and health services are provided free of charge to the entire population. Active counter-narcotics efforts have prevented drug trafficking from having a significant impact on the country. There is no evidence of any major illicit cultivation of drug crops or illicit manufacture of drugs in the country. The controls applied to the licit movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are satisfactory. The Government regularly provides to the Board the information required under the international drug control treaties, although with some delay and minor discrepancies. The mission discussed with the Government, among other things, the availability of narcotic drugs for the treatment of pain, which is lower in Cuba than in some other countries in the Caribbean. According to the latest survey, conducted in 2006, the prevalence of drug abuse in the country is low. The mission also discussed with the Government the need for a new survey on drug abuse to enable a comparison of drug abuse data and identify any new trends in drug abuse in the country.

UNODC understands the need for increasing the technical assistance and initiatives in the Caribbean, including Cuba, and will continue to actively seek resources to carry them out.

### **United Nations Population Fund**

[Original: English]  
[2 July 2013]

During 2012 and 2013 the embargo has been strengthened through the tightening of controls related to international financial transactions, including payments and transfer of funds to the United Nations agencies and other international organizations, along with the prohibition to Cuba to hold accounts in United States dollars in banks in third countries or have access to credit from United States banks, their subsidiaries in third countries, or international institutions like the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank.



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In this context, the implementation of the on-going UNFPA Country Programme continues to face serious difficulties particularly for the acquisition and purchase of commodities, equipment, medicines and laboratory materials produced by the United States or covered by United States patents. In the case of United States product suppliers, it is almost impossible to attain them. As a result of this situation, Reproductive Health commodities, generally, have to be purchased in other regions, with a consequent increase in costs of transportation and freight charges.

Alternative adequate markets are also more distant, resulting in higher importation costs and delays in delivery time. In many cases providers request to be paid by bank transfers outside the country due to the lack of bank liquidity in the country. All these measures affect the sexual and reproductive health and family planning programmes that allow women and youth to make responsible and informed choices in Cuba.

Based on the above scenario, additional budgetary resources are required to cover additional costs. Although the Country Office has started the formulation and negotiation of a resource mobilization strategy in order to deal with financial limitations and allow the Office to expand its work in the country, the embargo limits the flow of international sources of assistance to Cuba.

In sum, it can be stated that this context affects the basic standards of reproductive health of the Cuban people, undermining the sustainability of the ICPD goals and Millennium Development Goals.

### **United Nations World Tourism Organization**

[Original: English]  
[23 May 2013]

During the period March 2012 and March 2013, the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo to Cuba continued to be applied to general activities, including the restriction on United States citizens to travel to Cuba, directly affecting the Cuban tourism sector.

The Caribbean sub-region grew in international tourist arrivals by 2% in 2012. The United States outbound market contributed importantly to this growth, sending over 50% of the tourists to the sub-region. This means that 13 million United States tourists visited the Caribbean (including Mexican Caribbean) and only slightly more than 70.000 United States citizens visited Cuba, as a result of the limitations imposed.

If we estimate that around 15% of the United States citizens travelling to the Caribbean would have travelled to Cuba, if there were no limitations and that, according to estimates of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the average expenditure per stay of a United States tourist to the Caribbean is \$975, this would have implied 2 million United States tourists travelling to Cuba in 2012 and \$1.95 billion in receipts for the Cuban tourism sector.

United States cruise companies are dominant in the Caribbean cruise market and none of the 140 cruises operating in the area can call at Cuban ports. Cruise companies estimate that, out of the 7 million United States citizens that buy cruises to the Caribbean, around 1 million

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would visit annually the Cuban ports, if they were allowed to. This is also preventing Cuban companies from supplying goods and services to these cruises, with an estimated loss of \$80 million in potential sales. Additionally Cuban marinas lost over \$12 million from yachts and sailing boats from the United States. The United States doesn't participate either in sports sailing competitions organized by Cuban marine clubs.

Embargo measures affecting e-commerce, internet usage and credit card transactions, as a means of payment for air ticket sales and tourist services are affecting tourism operations in Cuba, raising their costs and preventing Cuban-based entities from competing in the same playing field with other destinations in the sub-region. Credit card processing is affecting travel agencies and the charges applied to the financial transactions related to Cuba, which are considered high risk, are above the average charges.

Out of the four major Global Distribution Systems (GDS) in the world, Cuban hotels can only use one, Amadeus, as the other three are United States companies: Sabre, Galileo and Worldspan. This situation prevents Cuban tourist entities from establishing a flow of business with tourism intermediaries. Neither can they advertise their products in internationally renowned United States web portals, such as Google, Yahoo, MSN.

Another area affected by the embargo is procurement for the tourism sector, especially due to the high costs of the geographical relocation of the suppliers, which imply higher prices, and higher transportation and insurance fees, due to the long distance that needs to be covered by the supplier markets and also the non-mobility of resources to keep large stocks of merchandise. This also implies higher financial costs, because of the need to access the more expensive commercial credit, compared to softer State and bank credit, which is difficult to obtain as a consequence of the pressure from the United States government on third countries and because of the currency exchange rate variations, as the US dollar cannot be used as the purchasing currency. The total increase on procurement expenses due to the embargo could be estimated at some \$30 million.

In all, national and international tourism in Cuba, for the period March 2012 to March 2013, has been affected by the economic, commercial and financial measures of the embargo imposed by the United States Government with an estimate that could reach an amount of \$2,1 billion dollars.

## **Universal Postal Union**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2013]

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the Universal Postal Union is not directly involved in implementing resolution 67/4, which only affects Member States.

The UPU has always regarded Cuba as a full fledged member of the organization. As such, Cuba enjoys the same rights and obligations as other UPU members. In 2013, Cuba specifically benefited from several scholarships for staff members for different trainings (follow up of the national quality of service plan, compensation and sustainable development). Furthermore a UPU consultant supported the follow up of the national quality of service plan.



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Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that Cuba was re-elected as a member of the Postal Operation Council of the UPU at the last UPU Congress held in 2012 and serves on a number of the Council's committees and Working Groups.

## **World Food Programme**

[Original: English/Spanish]  
[3 June 2013]

The United States embargo continues to have a negative impact on the Cuban economy as well as on the operational conditions of our agency. The high cost of importation of agricultural equipment and inputs is a key limiting factor for high agriculture productivity in Cuba. Most Cuban farmers can only access a limited amount of agricultural inputs; new technology and equipment is also hard to come by. As a result, Cuba is unable to produce all its food requirements forcing the Government to import a significant proportion of food commodities to meet the requirement of its national food-based social safety nets programmes. This represents a significant budgetary burden for the country threatening those most dependent on social safety nets and imposing significant challenges to food security in Cuba.

Limitations imposed by the embargo restrict WFP's ability to procure services and products from US-based companies or companies that process payments through United States subsidiaries, affecting directly projects as well as the on-going running of our office.

This year, for example, WFP Cuba purchased 38 photometers for primary health care centres to measure haemoglobin levels as part of our activities to prevent and control anaemia among children and pregnant women. Anaemia prevalence continues to be high in Cuba, especially amongst children under two years of age, jeopardizing their development potential and hence that of the country. These were purchased from a European firm; had it been possible to access US markets the cost would have been almost exactly halved and therefore WFP would have been able to purchase double the amount of photometers. Payments for purchases are also made more difficult by the impossibility of using US banks or their subsidiaries.

Procurement and shipment of food and non-food commodities are also delayed due to the above-mentioned logistics challenges. Because of the embargo, vessels are obliged to make a stopover in a neighbouring country for transshipment. This causes delays and additional costs which also affect WFP shipments.

WFP on-going work in Cuba is also affected by difficulties in purchasing equipment at more competitive prices. For example, WFP was not able to find IT equipment for our offices locally. Regionally some companies were also not able to supply us, as was the case with a Panama-based company which offered very competitive prices for computers but could not sell to Cuba as it was a subsidiary of a United States company. This applies also to the purchase of car spare parts and office stationary, increasing our regular costs. Moreover, voice and data communications are abnormally high, since they have to avoid US infrastructure."

## **Executive Summary**

The blockade affects the health and wellbeing of the Cuban population due to its negative impact on access to essential equipment, reagents, and medicines. Costs for acquiring essential items are elevated by having to channel purchases through subsidiary companies and third countries and this affects all facilities in the unified health system, with direct impacts on health services, health research, epidemiological surveillance and disease control. Quality of care is jeopardized as the blockade is associated with the need to employ less than optimal protocols and technologies for diagnosis and treatment, while incurring delays in treatment and resolution times.

The blockade also affects human resources for health in Cuba by decreasing the available opportunities for scientific exchange and interaction among relevant peers. Limited internet connectivity and lack of access to important scientific journals negatively impact access to information and scientific knowledge in the country, which is crucial for generating and sharing new knowledge.

The blockade impacts PAHO/WHO's technical cooperation with the country as well as its day-to-day operations through higher administrative costs by requiring the purchase of office equipment and materials in third countries and severe limitations regarding internet access and available software.

The Organization also notes the negative effect of the blockade on global health and public health in general. By excluding Cuba's participation in regional or global activities or programs, it, in fact, affects the global advancement of knowledge and its application to improve health for all.

## **Impact on the population, the health sector, and personal health**

In economic terms, according to Cuban Government sources, the estimated cost in the health sector from the beginning of the blockade up to May 2013 amounts to \$2,398 million. This cost is due primarily to the need to acquire medicines, reagents, spare parts for equipment, instruments and other supplies from remote markets, often through intermediaries, which increases the final cost. Higher costs for acquiring essential medicines and products limits the resources available for investment in key public health related infrastructure, such as housing, roads, water, and sanitation. The limitations imposed by the blockade have been aggravated by the current world economic crisis.

Additionally, the blockade slows public health development by not allowing access to loans or donations from international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. It limits access to donations from philanthropic organizations and American civil society. This impact is complex and less direct, which means that it is difficult to calculate its magnitude and monetary cost.



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## Health services

Costs for acquiring essential items are elevated by having to channel purchases through subsidiary companies and third countries and this affects all facilities in the unified health system, with direct impacts on health services, health research, epidemiological surveillance and disease control. Quality of care is jeopardized as the blockade is associated with the need to employ less than optimal protocols and technologies for diagnosis and treatment, while incurring delays in treatment and prolonged resolution times. Public health in the country may be compromised by the lack of necessary resources to address epidemiological threats.

*Examples of limited access to essential medicines and equipment are:*

- Institute of Cardiology and Surgery reported being unable to purchase non-fluoroscopic three-dimensional anatomical mapping equipment produced by United States companies. Consequently, patients have to be sent to Italy for these procedures with increased costs.
- “Hermanos Ameijeiras” Hospital reported that it did not have access to the GreenLight KTP treatment for patients with Prostatic Hyperplasia. Large companies in the United States that make the endoscopic, laparoscopic, and bipolar resectoscope or laser KTP equipment, cannot conduct business with Cuba and the procurement of these materials through other countries make the costs non-viable. The hospital also has limited access to drugs for the treatment of prostatic and gallbladder cancer, such as Mitomicin C, Zoladex, and Casodex, as well as limited access to other anti-androgens. The hospital also reported lack of access to monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma.
- Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, whose primary function is research, is affected by the lack of access to biological products and reagents, as well as the lack of key laboratory equipment used in research projects and clinical care. The Institute reported difficulty in the acquisition of Temozolamida, a cytostatic used in the postoperative treatment of primary tumors of the Central Nervous System; anti-parkinson drugs such as Rotigotine and anti-degenerative drugs used in the treatment of dementia such as Donepezil and Rivastigmina; as well as other products such as Mestinon used for cases of Myasthenia Gravis. They also noted the lack of equipment such as the Gamma knife used in the radiosurgery of tumors and arteriovenous malformations of the central nervous system, and difficulties in the procurement of valves for the treatment of hydrocephalus in children.
- Institute of Gastroenterology highlighted the lack of bipolar radiofrequency equipment (RFITT) for the ablation of liver tumors as well as the protease inhibitor drug. The institution also has shortages of US-produced drugs that are essential in the treatment of chronic incapacitating diseases, such as infection by the hepatitis B virus in children and adolescents, or infection of the hepatitis C virus, which when treated in a timely manner can prevent the progression to Cirrhosis of the liver and its complications.
- National Center of Medical Genetics reported that it has not been able to acquire a Genetic Analyzer, a piece of equipment produced exclusively by companies in the United States. This



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equipment makes it possible to conduct base readings of DNA sequences, an essential tool for the study of genetic diseases. The center also points out the lack of reagents such as the b-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide 3'phosphate reduced form sodium salt (NADPH), which impedes the realization of several of the techniques to measure genotoxicity, both environmental and endogenous. The Amniomax, produced by a US firm, is the most efficient and complete medium for the culture of human cells, used in all the cytogenetic laboratories worldwide for the purpose of obtaining chromosomes for the prenatal diagnosis of high-risk pregnant women. At times the prenatal diagnosis of high-risk pregnant women has been stopped across the entire country due to the delay of the product's arrival in Cuba.

- "William Soler" Pediatric Cardiology Center reported difficulties or inability to acquire Nitric Oxide, a gas manufactured by US companies. This gas is used on patients with pulmonary hypertension crises or emergencies and severe pulmonary distress. It is also needed in other cases such as heart and lung transplants, persistent fetal circulation in newborns, among others. The cardiology department reported difficulties with the procurement of the US drug Bosentan, used in pulmonary hypertension in cases of non-operable Eisenmenger Syndrome, where response to the drug Sildenafil is not as expected or when it produces side effects.
- Institute of Nutrition and Food Hygiene reported difficulties in the determination of aflatoxins, which are carcinogenic toxins present in food contaminated by fungi. This test has been discontinued for over a year because of the lack of a supplier for the pattern of aflatoxins B2, G1, G2.
- Orthopedic Hospital "Frank País" reported difficulties in the acquisition of prosthetic hand joints for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis. They contacted a potential supplier in the United States but the products would have to be acquired through a branch in France, delaying arrival and resulting in higher costs. Currently patients must travel abroad or receive palliative operations for the treatment of their deformities.
- Electromedicine Institute reported having difficulty purchasing accessories and replacement parts for multiparameter monitors and defibrillators from US manufacturers. In order to obtain the parts they must be purchased through a third country which makes them more expensive and it is often difficult to obtain the required amounts. In addition, they noted the inability of staff to obtain training for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) equipment, which is first-rate equipment for the diagnosis of cancer. The training center for this technology is in Cleveland, United States, which makes the participation of Cuban specialists very difficult. They also reported that there are nine cobalt machines for the teletherapy treatment of cancer patients in Cuba. The radioactive capsule of these machines should be replaced every six years. The first case of a capsule needing to be replaced occurred in 2009, and currently five capsules need to be replaced. Representatives from the company report that they need approval from the Department of the Treasury of the United States to supply the replacements and they have not yet been granted permission.



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## Research

The blockade continues to limit scientific exchanges, in spite of recognized advances in innovation and science in the country. It limits exposure to and interaction with relevant peers as well as access to relevant information in the corresponding topics.

The Cuban scientific community cannot easily access fellowships and grants from the United States for further studies and training or for the development of research projects. There are also limitations with the procurement and access to important scientific journals published in the United States. This access has become even more difficult now that Cuba has been disconnected from the HINARI scientific information system. There are also continued difficulties for the publication of Cuban scientific articles in scientific journals published in the United States, and the blockade has hindered the inclusion of drugs and vaccines produced in Cuba in research protocols and clinical trials conducted in the United States.

The payment of the quotas to the International Associations/Global Health Professionals Federations is difficult. For example, the yearly payment of the Cuban Society of Family Medicine has to be done in person when one of its members participates in one of the Organization's events. The Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology has faced a similar situation with its subscription to the American Microbiological Society. This situation limits the participation of health professionals from Cuba in the international arena.

The blockade has also made the country's representation in international organizations and conferences located in United States difficult due to delays or non-issuance of visas.

## Information Technology and Knowledge Management

The country does not have underwater access to fiber optic cable, which limits internet connectivity and increases costs for internet services. This limits Cuban participation in virtual forums, in scientific communities of practice and in relevant research events. It also limits access to public software. Many websites have prohibited access to Cuba, especially pages located in the United States.

*Examples of sites and software that cannot be accessed from Cuba:*

- Sites for Google developers (developers.google.com and code.google.com), which were created to facilitate the free exchange of information and code source among developers of all sorts of software;
- Sourceforge.net, which is one of the most complete software repositories available;
- Sites belonging to Nvidia, which is a company that produces graphic visualization and scientific computation technologies and whose repositories of information and software are essential for modeling and scientific simulation, as well as for the display in advanced imaging diagnostics systems;
- Oracle denies the download of the virtual programs for Java and Adobe flash installers, essential technologies for a broad range of services (E.g., Elluminate, Youtube, etc.) and tools (E.g. Greenstone, BigBlueButton, etc.).

## Impact on PAHO/WHO technical cooperation

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Due to the blockade, the operationalization of technical cooperation in the PAHO/WHO Country Office in Cuba incurs higher administrative costs. The procurement of necessary equipment and office supplies is difficult and more expensive. This leaves fewer resources for technical cooperation activities with the country.

The PAHO/WHO Representative Office in Cuba has been unable to access computer equipment, maintenance or other supplies whose acquisition is centrally managed by PAHO Headquarters in the United States for all Country Offices. This makes it difficult to maintain the uniformity of the technology across the Organization. This requires that all technology, technical services and guarantees be acquired from more distant regions with a subsequent cost increase. It is also impossible to directly purchase software programs that PAHO has standardized for its use.

The inability of Cuban staff in the PAHO/WHO Country Office to access information and professional development tools places them at a disadvantage and on unequal terms with colleagues in other offices. This is largely due to internet related difficulties and the high number of web pages that do not allow Cuba access to view or download information, including free software.

The blockade can also directly impact technical cooperation programs. The funds needed to purchase influenza vaccines for the immunization program of older adults in Cuba had to be held in a Canadian bank as a result of not having the OFAC license. This was a first time occurrence that will hinder future transactions if it is implemented regularly.

In conclusion, the negative effect of the blockade expands beyond just the Cuban population and extends to global health and public health in general. By excluding Cuba's participation in regional or global activities or programs, it, in fact, affects the global advancement of knowledge and its application to improve health for all.

[Text in Spanish]

### *Resumen Ejecutivo*

El bloqueo afecta la salud y bienestar de la población cubana por su impacto negativo en el acceso a equipos, reactivos y medicamentos esenciales. Los costos de adquisición de materiales esenciales son elevados por la necesidad de canalizar compras a través de empresas subsidiarias o terceros países, lo cual afecta todas las instituciones del sistema único de salud, con impacto directo en los servicios de salud, la investigación en salud, la vigilancia epidemiológica y el control de enfermedades. La calidad de los servicios se ve comprometida dado que el bloqueo está asociado con la necesidad de utilizar protocolos y tecnologías menos que óptimos para el diagnóstico y tratamiento, incurriendo en retrasos y prolongando el tiempo de resolución.

El bloqueo también está afectando los recursos humanos para la salud en el país, disminuyendo las oportunidades para el intercambio científico e interacción entre pares. La conectividad limitada al Internet y las limitaciones para la adquisición y/o suscripción de revistas científicas importantes tienen



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un impacto negativo en el acceso a información y conocimiento científico en el país, lo cual es crucial para generar y compartir nuevos conocimientos.

El bloqueo afecta el programa de cooperación técnica de la OPS/OMS con el país y las operaciones cotidianas debido a gastos administrativos más elevados por ser necesario la adquisición de equipos y materiales de oficina en otros países y las limitaciones severas en cuanto al acceso a Internet y software.

Finalmente, la Organización plantea el efecto negativo del bloqueo sobre la salud global y la salud pública en general, no sólo limitada a la de población residente en Cuba. Al excluir la participación de Cuba en actividades o programas de alcance regional o global, de hecho se afecta el avance mundial del conocimiento y su aplicación para mejorar la salud de todos.

#### *Impacto a la población, al sector salud y a la salud individual*

En términos económicos, según diferentes fuentes del Gobierno de Cuba, el costo estimado en el sector salud desde el inicio del bloqueo hasta mayo del 2013, asciende a 2,398 millones de dólares estadounidenses. Este costo se debe principalmente a la necesidad de adquirir medicamentos, reactivos, piezas de repuestos para equipos, instrumental y otros insumos, en mercados alejados, haciendo necesario recurrir muchas veces a intermediarios, con lo que el costo final se incrementa más aún. Los costos más elevados en la adquisición de productos y medicamentos esenciales, limitan los recursos disponibles para la inversión en infraestructura esencial relacionada con la salud pública, como viviendas, carreteras, agua y saneamiento. Estas limitaciones que impone el bloqueo se han visto agravadas por la actual crisis económica mundial.

Adicionalmente, el bloqueo a Cuba frena el desarrollo de la salud pública al no permitir el acceso a préstamos ni donaciones de instituciones financieras internacionales como el Banco Mundial y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, limitando también el acceso a donaciones de la filantropía y la sociedad civil estadounidense. Este impacto es complejo y menos directo, por lo que es difícil calcular su magnitud y costo monetario.

#### *Servicios de salud*

Los costos de adquisición de materiales esenciales son elevados por la necesidad de canalizar compras a través de empresas subsidiarias o terceros países, lo cual afecta todas las instituciones del sistema único de salud, con impacto directo en los servicios de salud, la investigación en salud, la vigilancia epidemiológica y el control de enfermedades. La calidad de los servicios se ve comprometida dado que el bloqueo está asociado con la necesidad de utilizar protocolos y tecnologías menos que óptimos para el diagnóstico y tratamiento, incurriendo en retrasos y prolongando el tiempo de resolución. El no contar con los recursos necesarios para encarar las amenazas epidemiológicas puede afectar a la salud pública.

*Ejemplos de acceso limitado a medicamentos y equipos esenciales son:*

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- Instituto de Cardiología y Cirugía se ha visto con dificultades para la compra de equipo de mapeo anatómico tridimensional no fluoroscópico producido por empresas estadounidenses, por lo que se tienen que enviar pacientes a Italia elevando los costos.
  - Hospital "Hermanos Ameijeiras" informó que no dispone para el tratamiento de los pacientes con Hiperplasia Prostática del Láser verde o GreenLight KTP. Las grandes empresas estadounidenses que fabrican estos equipos endoscópicos, laparoscópicos, el resectoscopio bipolar o el láser KTP, no pueden comercializar con Cuba y su adquisición a través de otros países hace que los costos no sean viables. El hospital también tiene limitación en acceder a medicamentos para el tratamiento del cáncer prostático y vesical, fundamentalmente el Mitomicín C, Zoladex, Casodex así como otros antiandrógenos. Informan que tampoco cuentan con anticuerpos monoclonales para el tratamiento del adenocarcinoma renal avanzado.
  - Instituto de Neurología y Neurocirugía, cuya actividad fundamental es la investigación, se ve afectado por el bloqueo en la falta de acceso a los productos biológicos empleados como reactivos, así como el equipamiento de laboratorio, que son utilizados en proyectos de investigación y en el diagnóstico y tratamiento en las áreas clínicas. El Instituto destaca la dificultad en la obtención de Temozolamida, citostático empleado en el tratamiento postquirúrgico de tumores primarios del Sistema Nervioso Central, antiparkinsonianos como el Rotigotine y fármacos del grupo de los antidegenerativos empleados en casos de demencia como el Donepezil y la Rivastigmina; además de otros productos como el Mestinón empleado en el caso de la Miastenia Gravis. Destácase también la carencia de equipo como el Gamma knife empleado en la radiocirugía de tumores y malformaciones arteriovenosas del sistema nervioso central, y dificultades en la adquisición de válvulas para el tratamiento de la hidrocefalia en niños.
  - Instituto de Gastroenterología señala carencia del equipo de radiofrecuencia bipolar (RFITT), para ablación de los tumores hepáticos y del medicamento inhibidor de proteasa. Se señala además que esta institución tiene carencias de medicamentos de producción estadounidense indispensables en la terapéutica de enfermedades crónicas que provocan incapacidad, como la infección por el virus de la hepatitis B en niños y adolescente, y la infección de virus de la Hepatitis C que cuando se inicia el tratamiento de manera oportuna, impide la progresión hacia la Cirrosis Hepática y sus complicaciones.
  - Centro Nacional de Genética Médica señala que no ha podido adquirir un Analizador Genético, equipo que producen exclusivamente compañías estadounidenses. Este equipo permite realizar la lectura de bases de las secuencias de ADN, resultando una herramienta fundamental para el estudio de las enfermedades genéticas. El centro destaca además la falta de reactivos como el b-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide 3'phosphate reduced form sodium salt (NADPH), lo que le impide la realización de varias de las técnicas para medir la genotoxicidad tanto ambiental como endógena. El Amniomax producido por una firma estadounidense, es el medio más eficiente y completo para el cultivo de células humanas usado a nivel mundial en los laboratorios de citogenética para el cultivo de líquido amniótico, con el objetivo de obtener cromosomas para garantizar el diagnóstico prenatal a embarazadas de alto riesgo. En ocasiones



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el diagnóstico prenatal a embarazadas de alto riesgo tuvo que ser suspendido en todo el país por la demora en llegar a Cuba del producto, debido a la necesidad de intermediarios.

- *Cardiocentro Pediátrico “William Soler”* informa dificultades o imposibilidad de adquirir Óxido Nítrico, gas fabricado por compañías estadounidenses requiriendo su adquisición por otros países más alejados, incrementando los costos. Este gas se usa en pacientes con crisis de Hipertensión Pulmonar y distress pulmonar severo, siendo además necesario utilizarlo en otros centros como los trasplantados de corazón y pulmón, y pacientes con circulación fetal persistente del recién nacido, entre otros. El cardiocentro informa dificultades con la adquisición del medicamento Bosentán, de procedencia estadounidense, utilizado en la Hipertensión Pulmonar en casos de Síndrome de Eisenmenger no operables, cuya respuesta al Sildenafil no es la esperada o le produce efectos secundarios.

- *Instituto de Nutrición e Higiene de los Alimentos* señala dificultades para la determinación de Aflotoxinas, que son toxinas con efecto cancerígeno presente en alimentos contaminados por hongos. Este ensayo se encuentra detenido hace más de 1 año, al no disponer de proveedor para el patrón de aflotoxinas B2, G1, G2.

- *Hospital Ortopédico “Frank País”* reportó dificultades en la adquisición de prótesis para las articulaciones de las manos en pacientes con Artritis Reumatoide. El hospital contactó un posible proveedor en los EUA, pero los productos tendrían que ser adquiridos a través de una sucursal en Francia, lo cual retrasaría el arribo de los productos e incrementaría el gasto en flete. Actualmente los pacientes deben viajar al extranjero o bien, dentro del ámbito nacional, someterse a operaciones paliativas en los tratamientos de sus deformidades.

- *Instituto de Electromedicina* destaca que se ha visto obstaculizada la compra directa de piezas y accesorios de repuesto para los monitores multiparamétricos y desfibriladores de empresas estadounidenses. Para contar con estas tecnologías se hace necesario adquirirlas a través de terceros países, lo que las encarece en demasía y a menudo imposibilita su obtención en las cantidades necesarias. Se destaca también la imposibilidad de entrenamiento adecuado en los equipos PET (tomografía por emisión de positrones), los cuales son de primera línea para el diagnóstico del cáncer. El centro de entrenamiento para esta tecnología se encuentra en Cleveland, EUA por lo que se hace muy difícil la asistencia de especialistas cubanos. Se informa también que en Cuba existen nueve equipos de cobalto para el tratamiento de teleterapia a los pacientes con cáncer. A estos equipos se le deben sustituir la cápsula radioactiva cada 6 años. Desde el año 2009 a la fecha se ha necesitado sustituir alrededor de 5 cápsulas y los representantes de esta firma plantean que necesitan licencia del Departamento del Tesoro de Estados Unidos de Norteamérica para su suministro, y según informan ellos, hasta la fecha no han podido conseguirla.

### ***Investigación***

El bloqueo continúa limitando el intercambio científico, pese al reconocido avance en la innovación y la ciencia en el país. Limita la exposición y la interacción con los pares pertinentes en otros países, así como el acceso a la información relevante en los temas correspondientes.

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La comunidad científica cubana queda en una posición de limitado acceso a becas y subvenciones de los EUA para estudios y capacitación ulterior y desarrollo de proyectos de investigación. Hay limitaciones para la adquisición y/o suscripción de importantes revistas científicas estadounidenses, intensificadas desde que Cuba ha sido desconectada del sistema de información científica de HINARI. Continúan las dificultades para la publicación de artículos científicos cubanos en revistas científicas publicadas en EUA, y así también el bloqueo ha dificultado la inclusión de medicamentos/vacunas producidos en Cuba, en protocolos de pesquisas desarrolladas en EUA.

El pago de las cuotas a las Asociaciones Internacionales/Federaciones Mundiales de Profesionales de la Salud se ve en dificultades, como el caso del pago anual de la Sociedad Cubana de Medicina Familiar que tiene que hacerse directamente, cuando alguno de sus miembros participa en eventos de la organización. Similar situación han confrontado el Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología con su suscripción a la *American Microbiological Society*. Esta situación también limita la participación de profesionales de la salud de Cuba en la arena internacional de un mundo globalizado.

El bloqueo también dificulta la representación del país en Organismos Internacionales con sede en EUA, debido a retrasos o no emisión de visas.

### ***Tecnología de información y gestión del conocimiento***

El país no tiene acceso a cable de fibra óptica submarino, lo cual limita la conectividad e incrementa los costos de servicio de Internet. Este hecho limita la participación cubana en foros virtuales, en comunidades científicas de práctica y en eventos relevantes de la investigación. Limita también el acceso a software de uso público. Existen muchos sitios Web a los que Cuba tiene prohibido el acceso, especialmente páginas radicadas en los EUA.

*A continuación se citan algunos ejemplos importantes de sitios que no pueden ser accedidos desde Cuba:*

- Sitios para desarrolladores de Google (developers.google.com y code.google.com), que se crearon para facilitar el libre intercambio de información y código fuente entre los desarrolladores de todo tipo de software;
- el sitio sourceforge.net que constituye uno de los repositorios de software más completos existentes;
- los sitios de la compañía *Nvidia*, productora de tecnología gráfica de visualización y de computación científica que cerró también sus sitios, siendo estos repositorios de información y software imprescindibles para el trabajo de Modelación y Simulación Científicas, así como para la visualización en sistemas avanzados de procesamiento de imágenes para el diagnóstico;
- *Oracle* niega la descarga de los programas virtuales de los instaladores de flash Java y Adobe, tecnologías esenciales para el uso de una amplia gama de servicios (Ej: Elluminate, Youtube, etc) y herramientas (Ej: Greenstone, BigBlueButton, etc).

### ***Impacto en la cooperación técnica de la OPS/OMS***



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Debido al bloqueo, la operacionalización de la cooperación técnica en la Oficina de País de la OPS/OMS en Cuba, incurre en costos administrativos más elevados. La compra de equipos e insumos necesarios para oficina se dificulta y los costos se encarecen, con la consecuente disminución de los recursos remanentes para la cooperación técnica con el país.

La Representación de la OPS/OMS en Cuba se ve imposibilitada de acceder a equipos de cómputo, mantenimiento u otros suministros cuya adquisición se gestiona centralmente por la Sede de la OPS en los EUA, para todas las Oficinas de País, por lo cual se hace difícil mantener la uniformidad de la tecnología. Esto obliga a que se tenga que adquirir toda la tecnología y servicios técnicos y de garantía en otras regiones mucho más distantes, con el consiguiente incremento de costos. En esta misma línea, tampoco es posible la compra directa de programas computadorizados que la OPS utiliza en forma estándar.

La falta de acceso a información y capacitación profesional por parte del personal de la oficina de la OPS/OMS en Cuba, los pone en desventaja y en condiciones de desigualdad respecto a sus colegas en otras Oficinas de País. Esto se debe en gran parte a los problemas relacionados con Internet y el alto número de páginas Web que no permiten el acceso desde Cuba para ver o bajar información, incluyendo software gratuito.

El bloqueo económico a Cuba ha afectado al programa de cooperación técnica de la Organización también. En oportunidad de compra de vacunas de influenza para el programa de inmunización del adulto mayor, los fondos fueron retenidos en un banco canadiense por no contarse con la licencia de la OFAC para ello, situación que ocurre por primera vez y que en caso de implementarse de forma regular, dificultará transacciones futuras.

En conclusión, la Organización plantea el efecto negativo del bloqueo sobre la salud pública en general, no sólo limitada a la de población residente en Cuba. Al excluir la participación de Cuba en actividades o programas de alcance regional o global, de hecho se afecta el avance mundial del conocimiento y su aplicación para mejorar la salud de todos.

## **World Intellectual Property Organization**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

As a result of the embargo, the following circumstances have been observed in Cuba as an obstacle to the country's advancement in the field of intellectual property (IP), and directly impact on its technological, social and economic development:

(a) By restricting access of Cuban citizens to the United States of America, the embargo limits the possibilities of human resources development on American soil. As a result, specialized Cuban professionals may not fully benefit from higher specialization opportunities in the field of intellectual property, available especially in the United States. These include, notably, the opportunity to get acquainted with successful experiences in the Implementation of Technology Transfer Offices, technology management, IP valuation and IP collateralization - issues of extreme relevance for the effective use of the intellectual property system;

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(b) Visa restrictions also hinder the possibilities of Cuban intellectual property professionals to participate in WIPO's regular training programs, meetings and other events organized in the territory of the United States;

(c) Restricted telecommunications infrastructure also hinders the wide-spread dissemination of WIPO's on-line distance learning courses in Cuba, despite the efforts and commitment of local authorities to foster a nation-wide culture of respect for intellectual property Videoconference facilities - which allow a most efficient, cost-effective means of communication especially for educational and training purposes -are also unavailable, since a major portion of the technical equipment and software tools, originating from the United States of America, may not be acquired;

(d) Poor telecommunication facilities also have a negative impact on and obstruct the access of Cuban nationals to WIPO on-line databases and other digital services in the field of IP. This situation, in particular the on-line access to patent information databases, including Patentscope and others, only available through the internet, is detrimental to the advancement of technological research and other innovation programs carried out by the Government of Cuba in the field of environmental, medical and life sciences, bio and nano-technologies;

(e) The embargo also affects the availability of information technology equipment and software for the performance of administrative operations regarding filing-granting procedures, in particular patent and trademarks search and examination services. Although the country is administratively equipped to perform such functions thanks to a capillary presence of provincial branches of the Cuban Industrial Property Offices, the lack of specialized software critically hinders such performance. External procurement formalities to obtain the required equipment and software are extremely burdensome. This situation continues to cumulatively delay the services which these offices are required to render and prevents the normal growth and expansion of such services. Most importantly, this situation stifles the possibility to take full advantage of the functionalities available under WIPO's Intellectual Property Automated System (IPAS), since some of the system's operating tools are not freely accessible for users in Cuba. As such, the possibilities of expansion and customization of IPAS to the needs of Cuban users (both in the capital and in the provinces) are seriously compromised;

(f) The extraterritorial effects of the embargo extend to the financial arena as well. Payments from Cuba to WIPO under the WIPO-administered Treaties (Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the Madrid System) may only be effected in Euros or Swiss francs - not in United States dollars, in order to avoid the restrictions imposed by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Likewise, payments from WIPO to the Cuban IP Office must be made in the same currencies. The cost of these indirect transactions for the purpose of avoiding the United States banks amounts to considerable financial losses, and discourages the use by Cuban nationals of the PCT and Madrid systems.



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## World Meteorological Organization

[Original: English]  
[29 April 2013]

The World Meteorological Organization has been providing support to projects, meteorological equipment and instruments as well as co-sponsoring meteorological conferences in Cuba.

The blockade may have affected or limited the access of the Meteorological Service of Cuba to projects or to the acquisition of some equipment produced in countries adhering to this blockade. However, the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba did not affect the normal fulfillment or mutual scientific-technical relations between WMO and the Met Service of Cuba, and/or between the Cuban Met Service and the rest of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the region or the world.

During the blockade, the Met Service of Cuba could exchange meteorological, hydrological and climatological data with other NMHSs or Regional Centres, without restrictions. Also, the Cuban Meteorological Service received all available WHO technical documentation produced in the Secretariat for distribution to all Member countries.

The most important point is that the National Meteorological Service of Cuba could receive the available technical documentation that allowed the Service to serve its users, as well as to permit its staff to attend meetings organized by WHO or other meteorological centres in the region or the world, e.g. TCs (Technical Commissions), WGs (Working Groups) or Lectures at the scientific and technical level.

Cuba has remained active in the activities of WMO Regional Association IV, including its participation in the recent sixteenth session of RA-IV that took place in Willemstad, Curaçao from 12 to 29 April 2013.

## World Trade Organization

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2013]

Although in the World Trade Organization, Members do not address the implementation of United Nations resolutions in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, there are various World Trade Organization forums and mechanisms where the United States, Cuba and other Members can address issues relating to their WTO rights and obligations including *inter alia* obligations with regard to non-discrimination, prohibition of quotas and the possibility of invoking exceptions to these obligations.

As in previous years, in 2012 this issue was raised in a number of instances, including in the Dispute Settlement Body on 25 June, 23 July, 31 August, 28 September, 23 October, 19 November and 17 December 2012. Similarly, this matter was referred to in the General Council meetings of 25-26 July and 3 October 2012.

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