



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MS. SOPHIA TESFAMARIAM,  
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF  
ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE DEBATE ON  
AGENDA ITEM 36, ENTITLED “NECESSITY OF ENDING THE  
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA”**

*New York, 02 November 2022*

**Mr. President,**

1. The State of Eritrea has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

2. For our Group, the consideration of this issue is of crucial importance in terms of the endeavor that unites us: to achieve strict respect for the purposes and principles of this Organization, as enshrined in the Charter.
3. The unjust and abusive blockade against Cuba constitutes, without a doubt, one of the most serious, prolonged and systematic violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.
4. On 3 February, this policy of siege, intimidation and harassment arrived at its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its entry into force, which is inadmissible.
5. The blockade against Cuba, in addition to being morally and politically shameful, by attempting to subjugate a small peaceful and supportive country by means of extreme pressures, transgresses the very foundations of this Organization, which is why it also qualifies as illegal.

**Mr. President,**

6. Article I of the UN Charter states, as one of its purposes, "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples".



7. However, the blockade not only violates the right of Cubans to conduct their affairs in a sovereign manner, without interference, but also restricts the other States of the world from freely developing their commercial ties with Cuba.
8. Any nation in the world, rich or poor, is exposed to reprisals by the U.S. authorities if it maintains economic relations with Cuba. This punitive and extraterritorial nature of the blockade has been reinforced as never before after the full application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act in May 2019, which has opened up the possibility of filing lawsuits in U.S. courts against international companies operating with properties nationalized by the Cuban State.
9. Being a fundamental piece in the declared purpose of successive governments of the United States to undermine the social project of the Cuban Revolution, the blockade threatens the political independence of Cuba, which is contrary to what is advocated in Article 2 of the Charter on relations among the Members of the Organization.

**Mr. President,**

10. The economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba is probably one of the issues that have been most systematically and forcefully condemned by the international community over the years.
11. This Assembly has overwhelmingly approved, on 29 occasions, a resolution demanding the end of this policy.
12. Despite this unequivocal message from the most representative and democratic body of the United Nations, the United States has continued to act unilaterally, punishing the Cuban people, maintaining a colossal barrier to normal relations between Cuba and the United States and hindering Cuba's relations with the rest of the world.
13. The rejection of this aggravation of the Cuban people is not a question of sympathies or ideologies; it is a matter of defending justice, international law and the elementary sense of humanity that should prevail in the world.
14. To oppose the blockade against Cuba is to act on behalf of hundreds of thousands of families who are victims of a logic of domination that is inconceivable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



GROUP OF FRIENDS  
IN DEFENSE OF THE  
CHARTER OF THE  
**UNITED NATIONS**

15. Year after year, the reports of the Secretary-General presented under this item illustrate the numerous and sensitive affectations caused by the blockade to the Cuban population. There are children and young people who suffer these impacts, mothers and the elderly who live in deprivation and are victims of a harmful and inhumane blockade, driven by political motivations.

**Mr. President,**

16. Article 13 of the UN Charter confers on this Assembly, among its functions and powers, the promotion of international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields.

17. Given that the blockade against Cuba is a major impediment to the achievement of this objective, as well as an obstacle to increasing the valuable contribution that Cuba can make to international cooperation, the General Assembly will be failing in its functions until this harmful policy is eliminated.

18. We express our solidarity with the people and the Government of Cuba, we demand the immediate and unconditional end of the blockade and we call upon all Member States of the Organization to support once again the draft resolution to be submitted by the Cuban delegation.

I thank you, Mr. President.