
(1 November 2018)

Madam President,

First of all, my delegation wishes to welcome Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, His Excellency Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla who is with us today.

Myanmar delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Venezuela, Egypt and Singapore, on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement, G-77 and China, and ASEAN respectively.

Madam President,

My delegation joins the overwhelming majority of the UN members in calling for the ending of the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the action of which has no justification whatsoever in a multilateral rules-based system.

Myanmar believes in the fundamental principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and peaceful settlement of disputes as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We are against the extraterritorial application of the blockade and politicization of human rights issues, which are against the international law and the UN Charter. Therefore, my delegation has consistently supported and voted for this resolution for the past 26 years, and we will continue to do so today.

The unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba in the past 56 years, have caused considerable suffering to the people of Cuba. The embargo has been significantly affecting economic, social and environmental development of the Cuban people, particularly women
and children. We fully understand and sympathized with the people of Cuba for their suffering and hardship as we had also been the subject of unilateral sanction for over two decades in recent past.

Therefore, we welcomed with great hope the rapprochement between Cuba and the United States with the resumption of diplomatic relations and the subsequent state visit of President Obama to Havana in 2016. Furthermore, the US had abstained in the GA resolution 75/5 of 26 October 2016. All these developments were positive and encouraging steps towards ending the 56 year long unilateral embargo that would benefit both countries.

Myanmar would like to encourage the United States and Cuba to continue dialogue and negotiations to achieve full normalization of bilateral relations based on the principles of sovereign equality and mutual respect.

Total lifting of the embargo would alleviate the economic and social hardship of the Cuban people, thereby advancing their efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. It would also contribute to economic development of both countries, as well as to the peace, stability and development of the whole region.

We are convinced that the United States and Cuba have the wisdom and capacity to overcome this protracted political problem between the two countries. Myanmar will continue to support every constructive effort to end the embargo as soon as possible.

Thank you.