

October 16, 2019

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON.
Canada

(sent by mail and email - chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister,

As you are aware, on the 6 and 7 of November 2019, for the 28th time, the General Assembly of the United Nations, will debate a resolution on Cuba about the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba.

For 27 consecutive years, the United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly adopted successive resolutions demanding the United States to put an end to the blockade imposed on Cuba.

The resolution will be debated in an environment in which the United States has intensified its efforts to apply the blockade beyond its own borders, applying extraterritorial measures that are considered illegal and beyond U.S. jurisdiction.

I am writing to you to encourage the Government of Canada to once again vote in favour of the Resolution on Cuba, as it has done traditionally.

The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States against Cuba for nearly six decades is the most unfair, severe and prolonged system of unilateral sanctions ever applied against any country.

On April 17, 2019, the United States decided to activate Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, which allows, as of May 2, lawsuits to be filed in US courts against Cuban or foreign companies that have legitimate commercial dealings or invest in properties legally nationalized in Cuba during the 1960s. The implementation of Title III violates International Law, the principles of the UN Charter, the rules established by the World Trade Organization and the sovereignty of other States. Its main goal is to hamper Cuba's capacity to attract direct foreign investments to support its development.

In addition, since April 2019, the United States has implemented other major coercive measures related to financial transactions.

The US blockade constitutes the main obstacle to the development of the Cuban economy in all its potential, and for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, because of its extra-territorial nature, the blockade is

the principal hurdle for the development of Cuba's economic, commercial and financial relations not only with the US but with the rest of the world as well.

Because of all its negative and serious implications for the Cuban people and the economy, Cuba will continue to work towards the complete elimination of the blockade.

So then, on **November 6th and 7th, 2019** the Cuban Government will once again present to the UN General Assembly the draft resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba".

In closing, I hope the Government of Canada will maintain its traditional position of fairness and independence, and vote in favour of the Resolution on Cuba.

Sincerely,

Rolando Hernandez
on behalf of
Organizing Group, Association of Cuban Residents of Ottawa
(Asociacion de Cubanos Residentes en Ottawa - ACRO)