



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations**

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**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Statement**

by

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King**

Permanent Representative

of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

To discuss the

**Draft Resolution entitled: “Necessity of ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”**

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
New York

**Thank you, Mr. President,**

At the outset, I extend greetings to H.E. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba who is with us today.

Mr President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its unwavering support and solidarity to the Government and people of Cuba. We also align with the statements of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Non-Aligned Movement and the G77 plus China.

Since 1992, the nations of this Organization have collectively reaffirmed their support to the Government and people of Cuba by calling for the immediate end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States. Today, my delegation stands in full solidarity with our sister Caribbean nation and reiterates its unequivocal support in favour of *resolution A/75/L.97 “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba”*.

The unambiguous message of this resolution and the near unanimous support it enjoys, does not only signal the international community’s rejection of an antiquated policy; it also represents the overwhelming majority’s firm adherence to the sacrosanct principles of international law, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The blockade against the indomitable Cuban people, was unjustifiable, illegal and illegitimate at its inception, and six decades later—this still holds true!

President Obama acknowledged this and took a courageous and historic decision to put an end to the anachronistic policy of confrontation and isolation. During the last four years, however, there have been efforts to undermine and reverse the small, yet significant progress achieved under Obama's administration; whilst at the same time progressively and systematically intensifying an aggressive US policy against Cuba.

We deplore these policies, inclusive of the extension of the economic blockade to permit, under the Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, the possibility of taking legal action in United States Courts against entities dealing commercially with properties legally nationalized in Cuba during the 1960s, as well as including Cuba in the unilateral List of State Sponsors of Terrorism of the Department of State, as announced in January this year.

By any measure, the blockade imposed on Cuba remains an unmitigated failure and serves only to aggravate the suffering of the Cuban people. It is also not merely a bilateral issue between Cuba and the United States, but due to its extraterritorial nature, it violates the sovereign rights of many other states. We entrust President Biden to continue with Obama's bold decision to normalize relations. We hope that he can inspire congressmembers to find solace in their hearts, and in their infinite wisdom, lift the blockade.

In the midst of the pandemic and against disruptions arising from human failing and folly, Cuba continues to demonstrate its resolve and determination to forge ahead. Our Caribbean sister-nation epitomizes the spirit of solidarity, integrity and cooperation which is central to our rules-based international system.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, our CARICOM brothers and sisters, and indeed, the majority of members of the United Nations have, and continue to benefit significantly from Cuba's solidarity and support, especially in the area of health care and humanitarian assistance. We are forever grateful!

The continuation of the blockade would only exacerbate Cuba's financial woes, complicating its ability in the scaling up of the manufacturing of vaccines to respond appropriately to the pandemic - at a time when the international community has been calling for equitable access to vaccines. In this respect, we applaud the government in its development of vaccines, including the Soberana, and Abdala with a 92.2 percent efficacy, to respond to the pandemic.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enjoys friendly, robust and mutually respectful relations with both Cuba and the United States of America. We believe that dialogue and constructive engagement between our friends are essential for our hemispheric relations, regional integration and multilateral diplomacy. In this respect, we encourage Cuba and the United States of America to re-build their relationship and continue towards normalization, which we hope will result in the complete elimination of the blockade.

We will continue to strenuously advocate for the complete lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade, which is critical for the people and Government of Cuba to achieve full prosperity. We are confident that today's resolution will receive, once again, the overwhelming support of this Assembly and serve as a

clarion call for the United States to traverse the just path and correct this unlawful policy. Thank you and peace profound!