



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

By

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King
Permanent Representative**

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

United Nations General Assembly

2 November 2022

New York

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Mr. President, Permit me to take this opportunity to extend fraternal greetings to His Excellency Mr. Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parrilla, the Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, who joins us today. My delegation wishes also to align itself with the statements of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and China and the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter.

Mr President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stands unwaveringly in solidarity with our sister, Caribbean nation Cuba, and we reiterate our un-equivocal support for this resolution calling for an immediate end to the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States. This resolution has received near unanimous support since 1992, sending a firm and clear message that the international community rejects this anachronistic, illegal, and illegitimate blockade.

For six decades the Cuban people have suffered under the weight of this hurtful policy of maximum pressure and aggression, designed to isolate Cuba, cripple its economy, and cause damage to the well-being of its people. Despite it all, for those six decades, the indomitable spirit of the Cuban people has persevered. In the face of its own monumental challenges, Cuba's achievements have been remarkable and heroic, and it has remained steadfast in demonstrating solidarity with many of the Member States of the United Nations, *including my own country*, on numerous occasions, by extending support in the areas of healthcare and humanitarian assistance. Cuba and its people epitomize the spirit of solidarity, integrity and cooperation that is paramount to our rules-based international system. We thank Cuba for its enduring selfless generosity.

We deplore Cuba's permanence on the unilaterally constructed List of State Sponsors of Terrorism. This classification is wholly objectionable, as there exists no legitimate evidence to establish that Cuba supports or harbours terrorist entities of any type. This improper and absurd characterization is unhelpful to the global fight against the scourge of terrorism, and Cuba's name ought to be removed from such designation with immediate effect. Further, we reject the enforcement of unilateral legislation with extra-territorial effects and therefore remain deeply disturbed by the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the blockade through the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.

We recognize the May 2022 announcement by the Biden administration to reverse previously instituted harsh policies regarding travel and remittances. This is indeed a step in the right direction. However, these measures still fall short of meaningfully supporting Cuba and normalizing relations between the two countries. Unquestionably, only the complete lifting of the blockade will truly make life easier and demonstrate respect for the fundamental human rights of the Cuban people.

Mr. President, Soaring inflation and the rise in global food prices are creating undue hardship across the world, and many countries, regardless of their economic status, are struggling to confront these challenges. For Cuba, these multidimensional issues are made worse by the continuation of the blockade, that has cost the country's economy billions of dollars and denied it countless developmental opportunities. It is past time for this unjust instrument of oppression to end.

Accordingly, we believe that dialogue and constructive engagement between our two respected friends and partners, Cuba and the United States, are essential for the mutual benefit of both countries, as well as for the strengthening of our hemispheric relations, regional integration and multilateral diplomacy.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to vigorously advocate for the complete lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade, that flagrantly violates the sacrosanct principles of international law. This is necessary to enable Cuba to achieve its development goals and full prosperity – this is Cuba's right and legitimate aspiration.

Mr. President, It is our sincere hope that the overwhelming support for this resolution today will serve as renewed encouragement for the United States to finally cast aside this harmful policy, delink the Cuban Revolution from the Presidential, Senatorial, Congressional and Gubernatorial politics of Florida, unshackle the Cuban people, and work towards building a new and positive relationship with Cuba.

I thank you.