

DECLARATION OF THE CUBAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST THE BLOCKADE

The blockade imposed by the government of the United States of America against Cuba for six long decades has left its mark in the life of all Cubans.

When Cuba declares that the blockade is a cruel and genocidal policy it is not only referring to the damages caused to its economy, which obviously have a real impact on all Cuban families' projects and dining tables. Cuba is also referring to those children whose sight has been affected forever; the cancer patients deprived from the medicines indispensable to treat their condition; the lack of the necessary implements to promote the inclusion of persons suffering from some sort of disability. Cuba refers to the need to invest much more time and resources to manufacture medicines or vaccines that are later on placed at the disposal of any nation that may need it, because there is no hostile action capable of eroding the humanist character of our project.

Cuba has been subject to actual attrition, hardships and losses.

Cuba is referring to difficulties that cannot be figured out by those who want to put up a business and develop an economic or social project, particularly the young people who deploy their initiatives under this system of sanctions, only because their society has attempted to be different and because their people have chosen to take a path of justice which the government of the United States of America insists on punishing. All of this should be taken into account when rendering judgment on our economic model and holding the Cuban State as the only one responsible for economic difficulties, thus turning a blind eye to the historical responsibility that the government of the United States of America has in relation to the economic situation facing the Island.

The blockade is meant to cause real damages to the quality of life of persons. Void of all sensitivity, it violates the rights to health, food, culture; the enjoyment of a healthy environment; the education of a proud, noble and hardworking people. It is an inhumane policy that also violates the principles that should prevail in the relations among peoples and States. It restricts trade possibilities in all spheres between Cuba and the United States of America, which would otherwise benefit the peoples from both

countries as well as the peoples from the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The pandemic was a timely opportunity for the government of the United States of America to show its good will. Quite on the contrary, it strengthened the measures imposed against our country in an attempt to isolate us even by imposing restrictions on trips, markets and fuel supplies. In view of that situation, our people responded with more resilience, patience and creativity; more solidarity with other nations affected by the pandemic; new heroic attitudes despite the increasing discomfort caused by the difficulties of the everyday life.

Families have borne the brunt of this situation. For decades, their ties have been hurt; their separation have been encouraged; their capacity to peacefully meet the needs of their members and design a collective project that could make a contribution to the society that we are has been impaired. The Biden administration has announced some measures that should somehow have an impact on this situation and we expect they could be implemented for the benefit of all Cubans.

Every year since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly has been adopting, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution against the unjust blockade. We appreciate that important support as well as the support from thousands of civil society organizations from all over the world, even in the US, which call for an end to that unjust and illegal policy and we call for the government of the United States to comply with the will expressed by the international public opinion.

We, the Cuban civil society organizations that sign this Declaration reaffirm our right to live without a blockade, to build our own path with sovereignty and self-determination and call for an end to that inhumane, immoral and illegal policy that violates the fundamental human right of the entire Cuban people: the full right to life.

Havana, July 7, 2022