

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 18th FORUM OF CUBAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST THE BLOCKADE

We, the representatives of Cuban civil society organizations, with the support of social actors and organizations, religious and fraternal institutions and nationals, gathered at the Forum of Cuban civil society organizations against the blockade:

1. Unequivocally condemn the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States of America on the Cuban people for six long decades, the longest regime of unilateral coercive measures ever imposed against a country.
2. Denounce the immense economic damage to the Cuban nation caused by this criminal policy, amounting to over 154 billion dollars at current prices, as well as the incalculable human and psychological damage to several generations of Cubans.
3. Reject and denounce the stepping up of the blockade during the nationwide battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the appeals made by the Secretary General of the United Nations, the then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to lift the sanctions during that period.
4. Repudiate the intensification of such criminal policy under the Trump Administration, which implemented a total of 243 new measures to stifle the national economy, significantly reduce the quality of life and standard of living of the population and affect basic services to the population such as health care. Such actions stress the genocidal, illegal and immoral nature of the blockade.
5. Denounce the fact that the Biden Administration continues to apply with full force the blockade, the damages of which to our country during the first 14 months of his Administration amounted 6.3 billion dollars. We call on President Joe Biden to take more vigorous actions than those announced last May, aimed at reversing the inhumane measures put in place by his predecessor in the White House.
6. Reject the illegal, unjustified and unilateral decision of the Trump Administration to include Cuba in the illegitimate list of States sponsors of terrorism, which significantly increases our country's difficulties to insert and operate in the international financial system, and we demand its immediate removal from such list, in accordance with the clean record of our country in this matter.
7. Stand in solidarity with the suffering of our compatriots in the face of the heavy material losses caused by the devastating Hurricane Ian and join the "Urgent Appeal" to President Biden by several US organizations led by the Peoples Forum, demanding the suspension of the blockade for at least six months to allow the reconstruction of the country.
8. Denounce the harmful effects of the blockade on the activity of social actors and organizations of the country as well as on the new forms of non-state management, which undermine efforts to spur Cuba's economic and social

development and to implement decisions, including Conventions, adopted by multilateral for a and supported by the international community.

9. Denounce once again that this criminal policy generates shortages and suffering for the Cuban families with a sensitive humanitarian impact; hinders access to medicines, medical equipment, technologies and state-of-the-art therapeutic treatments that alleviate and cure numerous illnesses; and violates the right to life of the entire Cuban population. The blockade is a flagrant, massive and systematic violation of the human rights of all Cubans and qualifies as an act of genocide under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
10. Reaffirm the Declaration adopted by the Cuban civil society organizations last July that evidences the impact of this cruel and genocidal policy on all spheres of Cuban society. We likewise reiterate that the blockade is the main obstacle to the development of the country and to the fulfillment of the National Program for Economic and Social Development and the 2030 Agenda.
11. Reaffirm the right to self-determination of the Cuban people to build their own political, economic and social system without foreign interference. We condemn the media war against the Cuban nation; reject all kinds of threats and coercion, and reiterate our determination to continue fighting and defeating the blockade, and to continue building a socialist, prosperous, sustainable, independent and sovereign homeland with all and for the good of all.
12. Appreciate the solidarity of civil society organizations, social movements and actors from around the world, including from the United States, who demand and end to this hostiles, obsolete and unjust policy, and we urge them to maintain their support to the Cuban people until it is lifted once and for all.
13. Support the draft resolution "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" submitted during the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and request the support of the Member States of the organization as an unequivocal demonstration of the decision of the international community to put an end to this cruel, inhuman and illegal policy.

Havana, October 28, 2022