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The World Condemns a Criminal, Illegal and Useless Policy Autor: Juventud Rebelde Publicado: 02/11/2017 | 05:12 pm

The World Condemns a Criminal, Illegal and Useless Policy

The world voted against the blockade and supported the legitimate right of Cuba and its people to life and development, since it is an example of solidarity and dignity. United States is alone, once again isolated by the arrogance of its Government

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Chaired by the ambassador of Bolivia, Sacha Llorenti, in his capacity as vice president of the 72nd. General Assembly for the regional group of Latin America and the Caribbean, the plenary session that debated and voted on the Resolution Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba began at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning.

After 23 addresses - which included that of Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla and a second by the US delegation, whining that his country had been singled out as reluctant to take its seat, for which the representatives of the Trump administration were booed -, the international community voted: 191 giving the Yes to the Resolution condemning the blockade, while only two countries were isolated with their No: United States and the usual partner-acolyte, Israel.

In general, the speeches (of which we present a summary), in addition to condemning the hostile policy of the over 55-year-old blockade, challenged it as a violation of human rights, rejected whatever unilateral policy of

sanction and coercion as methods applied against other states, and urged to continue the dialogue between Cuba and the United States with respect and equality to advance relations.

As an expression of solidarity condolences were expressed to the American people for the terrorist attack suffered the day before and to Argentina and Belgium, since citizens of these countries were also victims in the act occurred in Manhattan.

African Group (Ambassador of Gabon): An unequivocal lifting of the blockade must not only be done because it is the right thing to do, but also because of Cuba's contribution as a responsible member of the international community in Africa, both for its independence and for the maintenance of health in their populations.

Group 77 + China (Ambassador of Ecuador): "The Group regrets once again that the blockade imposed 55 years ago against the sister Republic of Cuba continues to be fully applied and reinforced" and "the prolonged effects on the Cuban population" are of concern. The damage to foreign investment and foreign trade in Cuba is translated into economic limitations and social impact and the group fears that if the blockade continues, Cuba's development would be undermined and its sustainable development limited.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations - ASEAN (Ambassador of Singapore): The end of the US blockade against Cuba, would advance UN General Assembly's efforts towards an inclusive Agenda aimed at 2030 for sustainable development adding ASEAN's voice against Washington's asphyxia policy.

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States-CELAC (Ambassador of El Salvador): "This blockade of the United States is contrary to the letter, spirit and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of international law. It is contrary to the will of the international community. " The Charter of the United Nations must not be impinged by any member state, which happened in the case of the United States regarding Cuba.

Caribbean Community-CARICOM (Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): "Our concern has been the development of the region. And the blockade against Cuba is an impediment to regional development. " This United States policy is unnecessary and undesirable in the hemisphere and faces almost universal opposition.

Organization for Islamic Cooperation (Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire): "The time has come to put an end to the blockade and that the Cuban population can enjoy the benefits of sustainable development, so that no one is left behind."

Non-Aligned Movement NAM (Ambassador of Venezuela): It is as illegal as useless and NAM reiterates its opposition to unilateral coercive measures due to its extraterritorial implications and its illegal nature that are applied as pressure against developing countries.

As a representative of Venezuela, he said that the policy of interventionism and interference by the US in the region has a long history of coups d'etat, wars, sanctions and invasions. Our country is also attacked by the US., However, our people will know how to defend their sovereignty. They are wrong, we are children of Bolívar and Martí: we shall win.

Nikki Haley, US ambassador: She made clear that her government is determined not only to maintain the blockade against Cuba and to vote No "even if we are left alone," but also disparaged the UN itself: "this Assembly wastes its time and the United States is subjected to all kinds of ridiculous claims" and "what the General Assembly does, today and every year, is a political theater."

Vietnam's Ambassador: The resurgence of the blockade is inhuman, "is contrary to international law and has

prevented the Cuban people from enjoying their human rights," which has not prevented Cuba from responding to emergency calls from all over the world , which is why "we want to commend Cuba's contribution to humanity".

Paraguay's Ambassador: "Paraguay joins the voices of the states calling for the end of the blockade", it rejected the coercive measures and assured that dialogue and goodwill relations are the best way to resolve the differences, so he urged Cuba and the United States not to go back on the progress achieved previously.

India's Ambassador: The international community must increase its efforts to seek an environment free of sanctions and blockages. The question of the blockade has been dealt with annually by the General Assembly for more than 25 years and has continuously rejected this imposition of rules with extraterritorial effects and coercive measures that harm the advance of the peoples. Its continued existence undermines multilateralism and the credibility of the United Nations.

Ambassador of Bolivia: "They want to teach us lessons on democracy those who call this a theater want to teach us lessons on human rights, those who have promoted torture, this discourse of exceptionality is not only dangerous and undermines the UN Charter, but it shows arrogance of the United States against all the peoples of the world. The United States "is not exceptional, but it is unique. It is unique because it promotes the blockade against Cuba, and is unique in its disrespect for the international community."

Egypt's Ambassador: The measures against Cuba have had repercussions in all sectors and on the life of its population, limiting its access to health, food and development, among others, he said. "Egypt will continue to defend the Cuban people's rights and demands and we ask that the US measures against Cuba be withdrawn immediately."

Russian Ambassador: "We looked favorably on the US abstention in 2016. However, we expected a complete improvement in relations, but with the new Government it did not happen. What has happened are steps back in issues of great importance. And today we hear a hostile policy, the same spirit of the cold war, with fabricated pretexts."

Colombia's Ambassador: Colombia has always expressed its support for Cuba by voting in favor of the resolution and this proves its position against the imposition of coercive measures of the States, which violates the principles of non-interference and self-determination. States must foster their relations of understanding and solidarity in order to strengthen trust and cooperation to face the challenges we have at a global level.

South Africa's Ambassador: We are disappointed that the current US Government have chosen to walk backwards in relations with Cuba, which reinforces Washington's isolation and hurts the Cuban people. I ask that third countries derogate the norms and laws that are a hindrance to the development of Cuba and its people.

China's Ambassador: The world is experiencing great changes, novelties and adjustments and exchanges on an equal footing as part of this general trend. The recovery of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba was an important step and China hopes that both will continue leading the normalization process and that the United States will repeal the blockade.

Mexico's Ambassador: "The elimination of the blockade would make easier for Cuba to update the economic and social model and recover after the passage of Hurricane Irma, while opening new opportunities for the development of Cuban society at the same time. Mexico and Cuba have an intimate relationship, and we reiterate our willingness to continue to work together."

Panama's Ambassador: In reiterating our vote, we also vote for the renewal of the rapprochement between the United States and Cuba and we reaffirm our high commitment to multilateralism as a way to achieve goals.

Nicaragua's Ambassador: Almost 60 years after the steadfast resistance of the Cuban people, Cuba continues to be an example of humanism, solidarity, cultural and educational development. The blockade continues and the positive steps taken by the Obama administration have been reversed.

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