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STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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OF ZAMBIA

ON

THE AGENDA ITEM 40
NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND
FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

29 October 2013
New York

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Mr. President

I have the honour to address the assembly on the matter relating to the resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba. My delegation therefore wishes to align this statement with the one delivered by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group and Iran on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. President

Zambia is concerned that after more than two decades, the General Assembly is still debating an agenda item over which there has been overwhelming consensus. This is so, because despite the clear message from the United Nations, the United States has maintained the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Unless immediate efforts are undertaken to bring back normalcy in economic relations, history will judge all of us in the United Nations family rather harshly.

The cold war is long-past and in its place nations have been trying to consolidate the era of international cooperation, with the United Nations playing a center stage. My delegation, therefore, strongly urges that we do not lose this opportunity for all inclusive global prosperity and for securing the peaceful co-existence of future generations.

My delegation wishes further to stress that the US embargo against the people of Cuba cannot have a place in the 21st century. Instead, the world should rightly focus its attention on uplifting the livelihoods of all people in all nations, Cuba included. Indeed, the Cuban nation should be helped to consolidate its growth and development in a manner that allows for free participation of all citizens. In other words, the unilateral embargo has no role in an era of “setting the stage” for Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is on this score that we stand with the global chorus for the unconditional lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

As a member state of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Zambia has no doubt that the time is ripe for Cuba and the United States to free themselves from a standoff of long-gone era when the majority of their current citizens had not even been born. The present generations know little of the cause of the age old impasse, hence we must give them a chance to enjoy normalcy. We therefore, reiterate our call to the United States to lift the embargo.

Mr. President

During the 67th General Assembly session, Zambia was one of the 188 countries that supported this resolution. Our stance is rooted in principle and we wish to use this occasion to re-state our solidarity with the Cuban people. We remain concerned that, to date their development is being unnecessarily impeded. This is in direct contradiction to the spirit of the international cooperation we have all been aspiring for. For this reason, my delegation is confident that this Assembly will once again deliver a clear message of its support, which His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, the Foreign Minister of Cuba will take back to the Cuban people.

I thank you, Mr. President.