

Mr. President, Excellencies, Permanent Representatives, distinguished delegates:

The United States government is waging a multidimensional, unconventional war against Cuba—a war that has lasted nearly seven decades and has become harsher and more ruthless over the past seven months.

Now, an energy blockade has been added to the mix; equivalent to a naval blockade, it constitutes an act of war. Access to fuel supplies for Cuba—whether commercial or humanitarian—is being blocked through direct threats, unilateral coercive measures, and even the harassment or intimidation of tankers by U.S. naval military assets.

Repeated threats of military aggression have been issued by the highest levels of the U.S. government, and public sources describe war options and preparations.

Compounding the economic, commercial, and financial blockade are unprecedented actions with extreme extraterritorial reach—such as the use of secondary sanctions. These measures follow a macabre plan to trigger a humanitarian crisis and total destabilization in Cuba, thereby paving the way for, or forcing, a presidential order for an imperialist military intervention—an action that would result in a bloodbath and massive loss of both Cuban and American lives.

When asked whether economic pressure on Cuba would be further intensified, President Donald Trump himself replied—and I quote: "I don't think there is much more pressure that can be applied, short of going in and destroying the place."

In recent months, the humanitarian harm inflicted on our population has multiplied, resulting in a deterioration of the quality of life, a reduction in means of subsistence, and limits on the potential for personal, family, and social development—amounting to a massive, flagrant, and systematic violation of the human rights of an entire people through an act of collective punishment.

These are matters of great importance and urgency that merit not only the attention but also a clear pronouncement from the United Nations and its most universal and representative body, the General Assembly, in accordance with its mandate to preserve international peace and security and to ensure the enjoyment of human rights. Cuban families—especially children, young people, and mothers—endure the suffering caused by prolonged and unbearable blackouts or power outages. Often, when the electricity goes out, the water supply fails as well. They know the anguish of lacking medication for a sick loved one. They are overwhelmed by food shortages and the high prices of basic necessities.

The infant mortality rate has risen from 4.0 to 9.9 per 1,000 live births. This represents the deaths of 1,780 newborns—deaths that could have been prevented under different conditions, had suitable equipment, devices, and treatments been available.

The number of cancer-related deaths in the country has increased significantly. Among children and young people, survival rates have dropped from 85% to 65%. This trend coincides with the harshest periods of the U.S. blockade.

The blockade stifles and kills silently. Addressing this ruthless crime is also a responsibility of the United Nations.

The United States government—and the State Department in particular—spreads the lie that the blockade is not directed against the Cuban people, but only against the government. Ask the people of Cuba whether or not they suffer because of the blockade. Ask the diplomats, correspondents, and other foreigners living in Cuba as well.

We have just heard the shameless intervention of the United States delegate—an intervention that abused established procedures. He did not address a single one of the issues I have raised.

This comes as no surprise, for he represents the government that carried out the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the government responsible for dozens of military interventions and for backing the bloodiest military dictatorships in Latin America and other regions.

It is the government complicit in the genocide taking place in Gaza and in the crackdown on university professors and students who protested against it. It is the government responsible for the militarization of cities for political ends, for the brutal repression of immigrants, for police roundups targeting them, and for the separation of young children from their families. This comes as no surprise, as the delegate represents the government responsible for dozens of extrajudicial executions in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and the Caribbean, carried out under the pretext of actions against alleged international crimes that have never been proven.

These are the authorities responsible for police brutality against protesters in this country and for the significant rise in deaths in custody.

He represents the government responsible for a racially disparate pattern that brutally discriminates against minorities—particularly African American and Hispanic minorities—and for maintaining the largest prison population on the planet, as well as a penal and correctional system rooted in racially disparate patterns.

He also represents a government that pays women lower wages for the same work.

I was surprised by the violation of this Assembly's rules of procedure and by having to listen to that speech before the Assembly had even agreed to hold a debate.

I do not know if we will hear another speech from the United States—which, curiously, was the first country to sign up on the list of speakers, despite having just objected to this debate taking place.

The cynicism of the US delegation in this hall is profound. It delivered a substantive statement filled with worn-out lies in an attempt to censor the Assembly's right to debate precisely these issues.

The very party that abused the rules of procedure to make substantive—albeit slanderous—allegations was, mere minutes earlier (or even while doing so), arguing against the holding of this debate.

It was attempting to infringe upon the General Assembly's right to address this very topic. It was trying to exercise an act of censorship—something that might be possible in a Green Beret camp, but not in this august chamber.

I do not know if, during this session, we will once again hear the US government's tired argument claiming that the fuel blockade against Cuba does not exist, that the blockade is merely a pretext used by the Cuban government to explain its problems, and that the United States is simply exercising its right to refuse to trade with Cuba and to enforce a straightforward bilateral embargo.

It is a fallacy that cannot withstand the slightest scrutiny; it contradicts the actions of the US government regarding both Cuba and all the states you represent. It is a lie that no one—with even a shred of information or decency (qualities the delegate who spoke may well lack)—believes.

Regarding the damage caused by the blockade—and I will present new figures—the losses incurred between March 1, 2025, and February 28, 2026, at current prices, amount to a record figure of \$8.083 billion, a 7% increase over the previous year. The cumulative impact since the onset totals \$178.7 billion at current prices.

Naturally, these figures do not include the extreme impact of the total blockade on fuel supplies to Cuba, which began in February of that same year.

These impacts stem primarily from extraterritorial coercive actions that violate the norms of international law, international trade, and freedom of navigation, while also infringing upon the sovereign prerogatives of the independent states you represent—specifically, your right to engage with Cuba in accordance with your own interests and laws.

Compounding the brutal energy blockade are other measures imposed throughout the year with the same objective: compelling sovereign governments to comply with the illegitimate prohibitions the United States imposes on trade with Cuba.

The United States government pressures sovereign states, citizens, and businesspeople to abandon their ties to Cuba—not out of self-interest, commercial disadvantage, or even mandates from their own governments, but rather at the behest of a foreign regime (in this case, that of the United States), which supposedly holds no jurisdiction or authority over the activities of citizens and businesspeople outside its borders.

As a free, independent, and sovereign state, Cuba rejects the notion that another country should dictate the form of government, economic model, and foreign relations our nation adopts.

Should the United States delegation choose to speak again, we will likely hear the deceitful arguments the U.S. government habitually puts forward—and which the delegate has already previewed—to justify the crime of genocide.

They would likely cite, as purported evidence, figures regarding highly regulated, selective U.S. exports to Cuba—exports that depend on licenses or permits from the U.S. government, in violation of universally accepted rules of trade and freedom of navigation, and which are now restricted almost exclusively to the private sector, a sector that also faces limitations on its economic ties with U.S. counterparts. These exports do nothing to help resolve the major problems causing shortages and suffering for our people. They do not contribute to restoring electricity generation or potable water supply capacity because the U.S. government does not allow it.

The United States government does not permit exports that would support the development of public transport, ensure hospital services, benefit education, or even protect food supplies for the most vulnerable segments of the population.

The delegate failed to mention that the United States government offered humanitarian aid, which was immediately accepted weeks ago.