



Declaration

The violation of our peoples' fundamental rights manifests itself in various ways, and so we, the parliamentarians of the Americas, feel duty-bound to take a stance, as the citizens of our respective countries have entrusted us with the important responsibility of legislating to promote respect for human rights.

This is why, on the occasion of the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations (UN), it rests with us to demand the upholding of the fundamental rights of the people of the Republic of Cuba, which are currently being infringed by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against this Antillean country. The embargo has now lasted close to half a century and many sectors of Cuban society have suffered severely. The cost of essential goods for such purposes as education, infrastructures and telecommunications has sharply increased due to the vast distance between Cuba and the jurisdictions where it must procure them.

The embargo has been decried in 17 separate resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the most recent of which was adopted in 2008 when 185 member countries united to condemn the situation. This is the highest ever number of votes recorded in that forum in favour of a single cause.

We wish, through this declaration, to voice our hope that, at the 64th UN General Assembly, the member countries will express their support for the fundamental principles of international law that aim to establish fraternal and fair relations between States, which principles are just as important as those of equality between sovereign countries, non-interference in the domestic affairs of other States, and the right of a people to self-determination. Our success in garnering such support is pivotal to creating favourable conditions so that all the countries of the Americas may, on an equal footing, look ahead to real opportunities for development.

We urge the parliamentarians of the Americas to join together to denounce the embargo, which is unfair and heavily detrimental to the people of Cuba. We exhort the government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo, if only out of respect for the fundamental rights of the Cuban people.

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