



NEWSLETTER

December 2022

In this edition

- [Celebrate Another Year of Solidarity](#)
- [Revolutionary Red](#)
- [The Federal Government and Cuba](#)
- [UN Votes on the Blockade](#)

Celebrate Another Year of Solidarity



Celebrate another Year of Solidarity

6:30pm Tuesday 13th December 2022

QCU Level 2

16 Peel Street, South Brisbane.

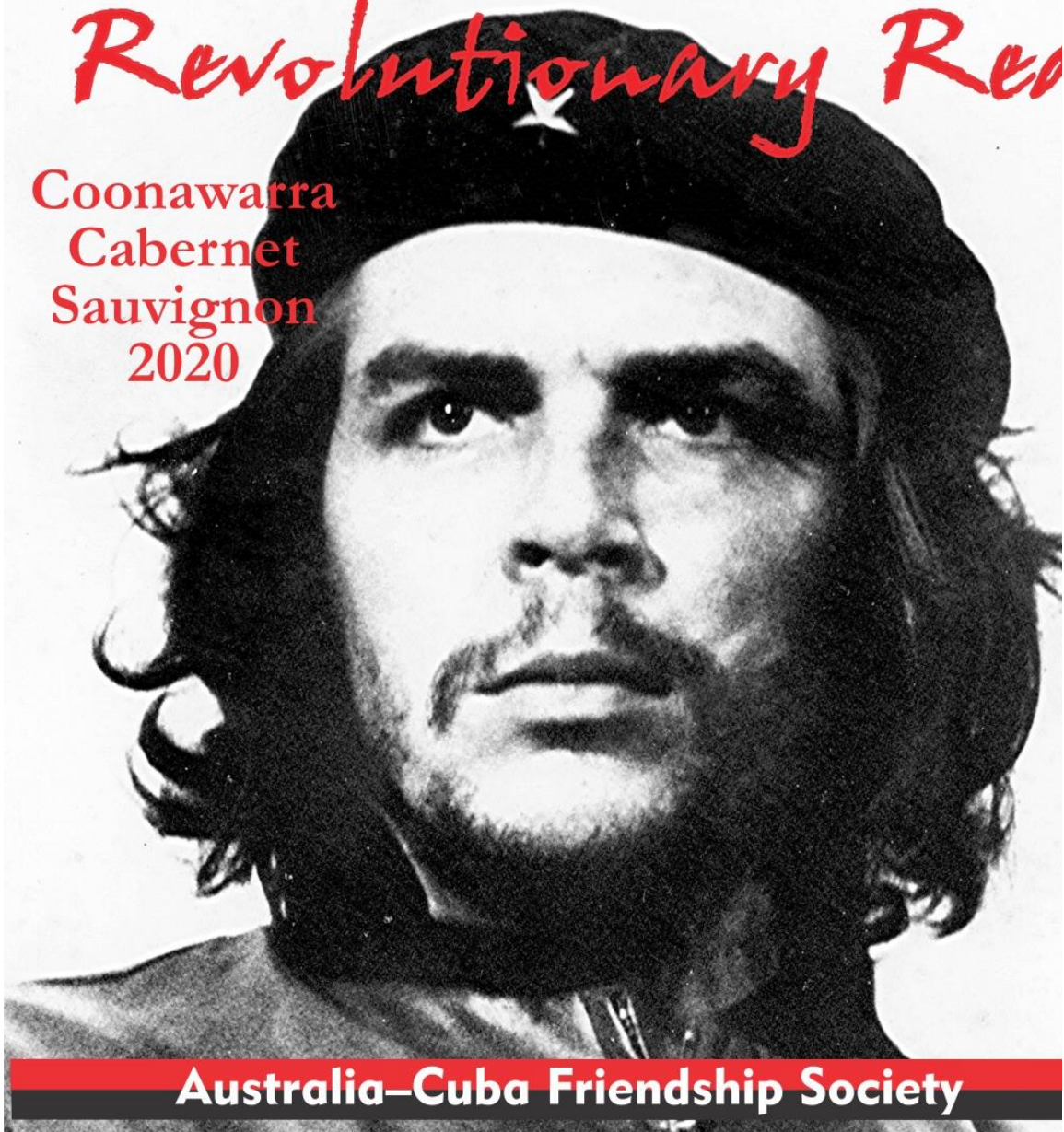
Bring a plate to share!

Come along to our end of year event! Our final gathering for 2022 will be hands-on, with the labelling of our next batch of Revolutionary Red! An enjoyable way to end our very successful year of solidarity with Cuba!

Revolutionary Red
Raise a Glass for Cuba!

Revolutionary Red

Coonawarra
Cabernet
Sauvignon
2020



Australia-Cuba Friendship Society

Buy your Revolutionary Red now!

Great for the Christmas hamper!

Take it to the New Year BBQ!

The perfect gift for your socialist friends!

Satisfy your inner revolutionary self!

A real conversation starter!

\$20 / Bottle

Our next batch of Revolutionary Red has arrived. A quality 2020 Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon from one of the premier Cab Sav regions of Australia.

To purchase or more information contact info@acfs-brisbane.org.au

The Federal Government and Cuba

Australia-Cuba Friendship Society (Brisbane Branch)

lachlan@acfs-brisbane.org.au

20th October, 2022

Senator the Hon. Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dear Minister,

re: Relations between Australia and Cuba

I am writing to you seeking action by the Australian Government on maintaining and improving relations between Australia and Cuba.

At the recent National Consultation of the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society held in Canberra on 15-16 October 2022, delegates noted that Australia has voted in favour of the United Nations resolution "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" annually since 1996. Our members welcome the bilateral stance taken by the Australian Government on this issue and urge you to again vote in favour of this resolution when it is presented to the United Nations General Assembly in early November, 2022.

However, there are two additional matters of concern our members wish to raise with you. Firstly, we wish to discuss banking relations with Cuba, and the impact that unilateral coercive measures applied by the United States against Cuba are impacting on Australian sovereignty and the capacity of Australians to engage with Cuba. Secondly, we wish to raise the content of the DFAT website and how the wording might be improved.

Improving relations with Cuba

For 26 years the Australian Government has voted against the US blockade of Cuba in the United Nations General Assembly annual vote. But what does it mean?

Australia formally established diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1989 and Cuba established an embassy in Australia in 2008. There have been growing relations through tourism, investment and scientific cooperation. However the extraterritorial impacts of the US blockade have impacted on the relationship. This is particularly notable in the banking sector, where virtually all Australian banks refuse to transfer money between the two countries. Recently this threatened the operations of the Cuban embassy in Australia. Moreover the ability of the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society to transfer money to Cuba for solidarity projects, has been severely curtailed.

Tackling the issues

Following extensive discussion of these issues at the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society's National Consultation held in October in Canberra, members voted to embark upon a campaign of lobbying members of the Federal Parliament with three aims;

- ensuring Australia would continue to vote in favour of Cuba's resolution to the UN General Assembly,
- take action to give effect to the vote, in particular to allow bank transfers between Australia and Cuba, and
- Reword the entry about Cuba on the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website.

Subsequently members wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, and other local members of Parliament. We have had an response from the Minister, and a number of other Members of Parliament, and the matter of banking was raised in the Senates Estimates hearings by independent Senator David Pocock.

What have we achieved

Members of the ACFS are pleased that Australia has maintained its opposition to the blockade in the recent vote in the UN General Assembly.

In response to our request the Minister has said, 'We will consider updates to the Cuba information page on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website to ensure it reflects Australian Government policy.'

Where next?

The current Government has recently re-constituted the Parliamentary Friends of Cuba, chaired by the Deputy Speaker, Sharon Claydon.

While the banking issue remains a serious impediment to our solidarity work, the possibility of engaging with the Parliamentary Friends to build better relations and resolve issues has been created.

UN Votes on the Blockade

Voting Ended		03-Nov-22		12:04:52	
Item 36 - Draft resolution A/77/L.5					
Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AFGHANISTAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAMEROON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINLAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KUWAIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEPAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAUDI ARABIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALBANIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CANADA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FRANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KYRGYZSTAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NETHERLANDS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SENEGAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALGERIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CENTRAL AFR REP....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GABON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAO PDR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW ZEALAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SERBIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ANDORRA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHAD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GAMBIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATVIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NICARAGUA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEYCHELLES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ANGOLA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHILE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GEORGIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LEBANON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NIGER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIERRA LEONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ANTIGUA-BARBUDA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHINA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GERMANY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESOTHO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NIGERIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SINGAPORE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARGENTINA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COLOMBIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GHANA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIBERIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NORTH MACEDONIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLOVAKIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARMENIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMOROS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GREECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIBYA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NORWAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLOVENIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AUSTRALIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRENADA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIECHTENSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOLOMON ISLANDS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AUSTRIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COSTA RICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GUATEMALA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITHUANIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAKISTAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOMALIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZERBAIJAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COTE D'IVOIRE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GUINEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LUXEMBOURG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PALAU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOUTH AFRICA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BAHAMAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CROATIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GUINEA-BISSAU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MADAGASCAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PANAMA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOUTH SUDAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BAHRAIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CUBA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GUYANA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALAWI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAPUA NEW GUINEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BANGLADESH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CYPRUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAITI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALAYSIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARAGUAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SRI LANKA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BARBADOS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZECHIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HONDURAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALDIVES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PERU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUDAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BELARUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEM PR OF KOREA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HUNGARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILIPPINES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SURINAME
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BELGIUM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEM REP OF THE C...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICELAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWEDEN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BELIZE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DENMARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARSHALL ISLANDS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PORTUGAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWITZERLAND
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BENIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DJIBOUTI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDONESIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAURITANIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QATAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SYRIAN ARAB REP...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BHUTAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOMINICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRAN (ISLAMIC REP...)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAURITIUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REP OF KOREA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAJIKISTAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOLIVIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOMINICAN REP...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRAQ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEXICO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REP OF MOLDOVA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THAILAND
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOSNIA-HERZEGOVI...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECUADOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRELAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MICRONESIA (FS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROMANIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TIMOR-LESTE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTSWANA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EGYPT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ISRAEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MONACO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUSSIAN FED...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TOGO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BRAZIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EL SALVADOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITALY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MONGOLIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RWANDA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TONGA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BRUNEI DARUSSAL...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EQUATORIAL GUINEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JAMAICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MONTENEGRO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAINT KITTS-NEVIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRINIDAD-TOBAGO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BULGARIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ERITREA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JAPAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOROCCO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAINT LUCIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TUNISIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BURKINA FASO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESTONIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JORDAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOZAMBIQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAINT VINCENT-GR...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TURKMENISTAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BURUNDI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESWATINI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KAZAKHSTAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MYANMAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAMOA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TUVALU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CABO VERDE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHIOPIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KENYA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAMIBIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAN MARINO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TÜRKÛYE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAMBODIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FIJI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KIRIBATI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAURU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAO TOME-PRINCIPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UGANDA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IN FAVOUR:185	<input type="checkbox"/>	AGAINST:2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ABSTENTION:2

UN General Assembly Votes 185–2 to end the Blockade

For the 30th time the world says 'No!'

Ben Norton

Reproduced from [Multipolarista](#)

For the 30th year in a row, almost every country on Earth voted at the United Nations to oppose the six-decade US blockade of Cuba.

On November 3, the UN General Assembly voted an overwhelming 185 to two to condemn Washington's suffocating embargo.

The only countries that supported the illegal blockade were the United States itself and the [Israeli apartheid regime](#).

Just two nations abstained: Brazil's far-right Jair Bolsonaro administration, and the NATO client regime in Ukraine.

Moreover, the real number of member states that would have voted against the blockade is 186. However, Venezuela was unable to do so because its UN voting rights were temporarily suspended, due to [Venezuela's inability to pay](#) member fees to the United Nations, ironically because of the illegal U.S. blockade and sanctions against it.

There are 193 member states of the United Nations. This means that 96% of the countries on Earth voted to condemn the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

In June 2021, the [vote was almost exactly the same](#). The only difference was that Colombia's previous right-wing government had abstained, whereas its [new left-wing President Gustavo Petro](#) opposes the blockade.

Explicitly stated goal of U.S. blockade: 'to weaken the economic life of Cuba' and 'bring

about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government'

The [US embargo was officially declared in 1962](#), but in reality Washington began imposing illegal unilateral sanctions almost immediately after the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959.

Why has the United States waged such relentless economic war on Cuba for so many decades? An [internal State Department memo from 1960](#) clearly explains Washington's imperial intentions.

In the document, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Lester D. Mallory admitted that the "majority of Cubans support [Fidel] Castro" and there "is no effective political opposition."

"The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship," he concluded.

The top State Department official insisted that "every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba."

Washington's goal, Mallory wrote, was to make "the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government."

On October 28, there was a similar UN General Assembly vote in which the United States and apartheid Israel once again showed themselves to be rogue states on the international stage. An overwhelming 152 member states voted against just five to tell [Israel to give up its illegal nuclear weapons](#) and abide by the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

UN commission: U.S. blockade has starved Cuba of \$144.4 billion and is 'the most severe and

prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any country'

In the 2022 General Assembly resolution, the UN Development Program (UNDP) stated clearly that the U.S. “embargo limited the acquisition of medicines and medical equipment and supplies, it affects the external economic relations of Cuba, and its impact can be observed in all spheres of the country’s social and economic activities.”

“The embargo has an impact on the population’s most vulnerable groups and on human development in general,” the UNDP wrote, adding that it “affects opportunities for national and local development and creates economic hardship for the population.”

The UN body cited official estimates that the illegal U.S. blockade caused Cuba’s economy to lose \$144.4 billion from the early 1960s to 2020.

In the resolution, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) added that the U.S. blockade also affect third countries and companies, not just Cuba, writing,

The embargo imposes strict limitations on the Caribbean nation, with extraterritorial effects that hinder its relations with third countries and affect the well-being of the Cuban population.

The UN commission noted that the Donald Trump administration imposed an additional 240 unilateral sanctions on Cuba, and that the Joe Biden administration has renewed the criminal economic measures.

“The numerous United States sanctions produce real harm that obstructs the access of Cuban citizens to basic goods and violates their rights,” the UN ECLAC wrote.

These policies are an obstacle to economic, social and environmental development.

“In short, the numerous United States sanctions constitute the most severe and prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any country and continue to hinder the development of the potential of the Cuban economy,” the UN commission concluded.

United Nations bodies condemn the illegal U.S. blockade for harming Cubans

The UN [resolution A/76/405](#), officially titled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba,” was voted on at the 77th session of the [28th plenary meeting of the General Assembly](#).

The document received more than 170 pages of responses from dozens of member states and UN bodies explaining why Washington must end its illegal blockade.

Numerous international organizations explained how the U.S. embargo greatly harms the Cuban population as a whole.

The **UN Development Program** wrote:

In pandemic conditions, the embargo remains in place, and its negative impact has been more specific and significantly larger than in previous years, particularly on commerce and financial activities.

The embargo limited the acquisition of medicines and medical equipment and supplies, it affects the external economic relations of Cuba, and its impact can be observed in all spheres of the country’s social and economic activities.

The embargo also maintains the restrictions on the use of the United States dollar and on imports from Cuba. It affects opportunities for national and local development and creates economic hardship for the population.

The embargo has an impact on the population's most vulnerable groups and on human development in general.

According to official estimates, the **cumulative direct and indirect losses for the Cuban economy owing to the embargo from the early 1960s until March 2020 amount to \$144.4 billion at current prices.**

The **UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean** wrote:

During the Administration of President Donald Trump, over 240 coercive measures were activated against Cuba in the framework of the United States embargo against the island, and these still remain in force.

In fact, on 7 September 2021, the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, extended the law regulating the embargo against Cuba under the so-called Trading with the Enemy Act, until 14 September 2022.

In a memorandum addressed to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, the President ordered the extension of the sanctions that heavily limit trade with Cuba under these rules. Former President Trump had renewed these in September 2020.

The embargo imposes strict limitations on the Caribbean nation, with **extraterritorial effects that hinder its relations with third countries and affect the well-being of the Cuban population.** These restrictions deepen the multiple challenges imposed on the island by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and multiply its adverse socioeconomic, health and financial effects. On several occasions, they have **hindered the arrival of humanitarian aid in Cuba.**

...

The numerous United States sanctions produce real harm that obstructs the access of Cuban citizens to basic goods and violates their rights.

These policies are an obstacle to economic, social and environmental development.

...

In short, **the numerous United States sanctions constitute the most severe and prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any country** and continue to hinder the development of the potential of the Cuban economy.

The **International Labor Organization (ILO)** wrote:

The embargo has intensified in recent years and has significantly constrained development possibilities in Cuba, greatly impacting the living conditions of the Cuban people. Among the effects, just to name a few:

- **Restrictions on the transfer of remittances** still imply a higher indirect tax burden on salaries legitimately earned abroad and sent for household spending on basic human needs such as food, clothing, education, housing, water and sanitation.
- **Limitations on commerce and financial transactions** still represent a serious bottleneck and an additional cost for business development and job creation, especially in sectors like agriculture and tourism, as decent work largely depends on productive investment and access to financing.
- **Limited access to technology transfer** implies further difficulties for enterprises, as well as for social and economic development.

The implementation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act intensifies the embargo by **affecting business and investment opportunities in Cuba for third-country investors**; the creation of new job sources; and decent work in Cuba.

The direct and indirect effects of the embargo on the Cuban economy and people affect not only the enterprises, but even more their workers and the population in general. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is particularly concerned about the **impacts on children, workers and the elderly**. Ending the embargo would turn the overall loss into an opportunity for productive investment, employment generation and new business opportunities,

as well as for achieving the Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social hasta 2030 and other reforms aimed at improving the economic and social system, for example monetary unification and the expansion of self-employment schemes.

In the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic recovery, the embargo is limiting the possibilities for the country to implement jobs and economic recovery strategies.

The **UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)** wrote:

Given that Cuba is subject to an embargo, projects implemented by FAO in the country are affected with regard to the procurement of equipment and supplies that complement the technical assistance because the resources that could be imported from the United States have to be imported from far more distant markets, at much higher prices and higher freight costs. If acquisitions could be made in the United States, it would be much cheaper and more activities could be supported through the available budget.

The most recent **embargo measures against Cuba, under which third-country companies trading with Cuba can be sued in United States courts, have had a negative impact on Cuban trade by drastically reducing the commercial partners that operate in the country.** This has had a direct impact on the procurement operations that FAO carries out in Cuba in the framework of its technical cooperation projects.

...

Under the embargo, conditions hinder the processes of payments and banking transactions to and from suppliers who provide services for cooperation projects and to the FAO country office. This is demonstrated by banks' rejections of transfers from FAO for sales to Cuba; the impossibility for suppliers to offer products to Cuba obtained from other North American companies; and the inability of suppliers to transfer funds to Cuba for payment of services contracted in the country.

In addition, **banks reject commercial and financial transactions by Cuban enterprises in United States dollars and in other currencies, which hinders payment for certifications of Cuban products** with a high potential to be commercialized in Europe.

FAO staff continue to be affected by expensive and long formalities in banking processes.

A summary of the negative effects caused by the embargo in some of the sectors in which FAO is providing technical support and other sectors included within its country programming framework is presented below.

The losses originated mainly in:

- (a) Price differences owing to changes in the import market;
- (b) Additional costs related to freight insurance;
- (c) Additional costs owing to a freeze of assets;
- (d) Monetary damages;
- (e) Losses owing to lack of access to the latest technology from the United States;
- (f) Relocation of exports.

The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** wrote:

the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to express concern regarding the **negative impact that extraterritorial sanctions have on human rights**.

...

Seven United Nations human rights experts reiterated this in a message, **requesting the United States of America to lift its economic and financial embargo on Cuba that is obstructing humanitarian responses** to help the country's health-care system fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

...

Particular difficulties were reported in countries subject to unilateral coercive measures, including Cuba, to obtain medical equipment vital to fight the pandemic, including oxygen supply and ventilators, protective kits and spare - parts software

...

The Human Rights Council expressed its grave concern that, in some countries, **such measures impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the populations, with particular consequences for women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.**

...

the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reiterated her call for the lifting of unilateral sectoral sanctions, given their negative impact on human rights, including the right to health.

...

four mandate holders of the Special Procedure of the Human Rights Council stressed that **unilateral sanctions impinge on the right to development** and called on countries that impose unilateral sanctions to withdraw or at least to minimize them to guarantee that the rule of law and human rights, including the right to development, are not affected.

They explicitly referred to Cuba as a targeted country and pointed out that **owing to the unilateral sanctions some countries sink into poverty because they cannot get essential services like electricity, housing, water, gas and fuel, let alone medicine and food.**

...

the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that sanctions can create severe and undue suffering for individuals who have neither

perpetrated crimes nor otherwise bear responsibility for improper conduct. **When sanctions target an entire country, or address entire economic sectors, it is the most vulnerable people in that country—those who are least protected—who are likely to be worst harmed.**
