

July 12th, 2024

Mr.

JOSEPH BIDEN

President of the United of America

Mr President,

As you are aware, for decades of unilateral sanctions and coercive measures, the Cuban economy has been one of the most heavily impacted in the world and is currently, socially, at a point of no return. During the Barak Obama administration –of which you were a part- progress was made in a historic step towards the easing of those sanctions and the normalization of diplomatic relations between two neighbors who should not deprive each other of their mutual cooperation simply because they have political systems with different ideological inspiration.

There is no record in our post-war history, since the founding of the United Nations System, of any international normativity that stipulates that relations between States must be governed or conditioned according to their level of ideological alignment, which would imply the end of sovereignty and self-determination as fundamental pillars upon which the world governance system has been established in peace since the end of World War II. Precisely based on this reasoning, Obama himself recognized the anachronism of some unilateral measures against states like Cuba.

In May of this year, the State Department decided to remove Cuba from the list of countries not cooperating fully against terrorism, a fair and correct decision that we applauded at the time. Despite this, in a contradictory manner, your country's' authorities insist on keeping Cuba included on another list –the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism-. ***How can it be asserted, at the same time, that a country cooperates in the global fight against terrorism while simultaneously accusing it of openly supporting it?***

Without any evidence, Cuba is accused of having links to terrorist activities of which it has also been a victim and harsh sanctions are imposed based on this presumption, directly impacting its population and permanently destabilizing its economy.

Furthermore, maintaining Cuba's inclusion on the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism constitutes a coercive measure that is difficult to justify in the 21st century when equality among states must be a reality. This unjust decision also affects the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – the ethical pillar of contemporary international relations-, by impacting the most vulnerable sectors of the Cuban population, who have been severely affected recently by the devastating effects of the pandemic, exacerbated by the lack of medicines and equipment to address the emergency.

The difficult situation that the Cuban economy is going through can be explained - among other factors - by the unilateral sanctions applied by the United States, which have been condemned for their unilateralism by the United Nations system and by many people and institutions in various occasions and opportunities. In the United Nations General Assembly, the blockade against Cuba has been condemned in more than thirty resolutions by an absolute majority.

In Cuba, Mr. President, the situation is beginning to be dramatic. This reflects a critical juncture that can *and should* be corrected if justice is done with Cuba's demonstrated efforts to fight against, and not with, terrorism.

The unprecedented wave of Cuban migrants to the United States is perhaps the most illustrative example of the devastating impact and suffering caused by extreme measures against the Cuban economy, resulting from its inclusion in the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. The extraterritorial effect of financial blockade measures against Cuba also affects the interests of our countries, including the banking and business sectors.

The active participation of the Cuban government in the construction of the Peace Accord signed in Havana in 2016 between the State of Colombia and “Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia” (FARC), coupled with its recent role as a guarantor country in the dialogue seeking peace between the Colombian State and the “Ejército de Liberación Nacional” (ELN), Cuba demonstrates the humanitarian will for peace and not for war that animates Cuba and its government.

In summary, Mr. President, the reasons we present for requesting that Cuba be removed from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism are grounded in a compelling **humanitarian appeal** aimed to alleviate the situation of millions of innocent people and our profound conviction that the Cuban government is seriously committed against terrorism and promoting peace in the region and the world. No country should compromise, with political purposes, the seriousness of the fight against the scourge of terrorism.

Therefore, we ask you to consider sending this clear message of humanism and understanding beyond the legitimate ideological differences that cannot and should not justify acting otherwise. The people of Cuba and the countries we represent will recognize your historical gesture, Mr. President.

Respectfully,



Sam Nujoma

FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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