



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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**STATEMENT BY H.E. Mr. OSCAR LEON GONZALEZ, AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY
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FIFTH COMMITTEE
SECOND RESUMED 66TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AGENDA ITEM 136: IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.
NEW YORK, 24 MAY 2012.**

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, my delegation wishes to thank Mr. Warren Sach, Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services, for the information provided last 14 May on the financial situation of the Organization, as well as for the update on the issue at hand in this meeting.

We also endorse the statements made by the distinguished delegations of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Nonetheless, we would like to place on record some comments, in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

It is explained to us that the financial situation of the Organization has improved in comparison with previous periods.

We are aware of the difficulties faced by many members of the Organization, including my country, when contributing to its budgets. In the context of the financial crisis of recent years, we should highlight however that most of us who have been affected by the crisis and whose capacity to pay to the UN budgets has been damaged, are not responsible but victim of such phenomenon.

We wish to stress the need to unconditionally meet the financial obligations to the Organization in full and on time.

That is the only way to pay off the debts to troop and police personnel contributing countries for peacekeeping operations, which at present amount to 774 million dollars, without resorting to the harmful practice of cross-borrowings between the accounts of closed and active missions.

Moreover, if all States meet their obligations, it will be possible then to return, under normal conditions, the surplus cash in the accounts of closed missions to Member

States, without some seeking the rest subsidize their obligations, which they refuse to honor despite not facing any obstacle to it.

In this respect, Mr. Chairman, we express our rejection of unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to international law and hamper various developing countries' payments to the UN budgets. The Presidency of G-77 has already referred to the difficulties faced by some members of the Group, in relation to the operation of the bank accounts of their missions accredited to the Organization.

The countries affected by the host country's actions, which contravene all its obligations in this regard, should not be listed as in arrears in their payments or subject to the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, concerning the suspension of their right to vote. Such situation, already experienced last year, requires a careful consideration and an eventual clear decision by the General Assembly in that respect.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the obstacle it faces as a developing country and the consequences of the crisis, Cuba firmly maintains its commitment to multilateralism, which is manifested not only by its active participation in the United Nations, but also by its compliance with its financial obligations.

Additionally, for over 50 years, Cuba has been suffering the consequences of the unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the US Government. However, Cuba is up to date with its payments to the Regular Budget, has already made its payments to the Capital Master Plan, and is making huge efforts to keep fully current with its payments for peacekeeping operations and international tribunals.

To Cuba, the impossibility to use the US dollar in its international transactions, including in payments to international agencies, due to the criminal blockade we are suffering, causes our transactions to be constantly subject to the market's currency fluctuations, which affects negatively our capacity to pay. In this connection, it is important to take into account the difficulties faced by Cuba when contributing to the United Nations, as it has to use a third party to carry out its transactions, as a result of the blockade's regulations.

Cuban bank transfers to international organizations have been frozen on several occasions, even those made in Euros. Also, the US Government does not cease to prevent the cooperation between the United Nations and our country.

A shameful example took place in January 2011, when the US Government seized 4.207 million dollars from the funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, aimed at executing cooperation projects with Cuba to combat AIDS and tuberculosis.

This deliberate act to hinder the execution of three projects, whose significant impact on the affected population is well-known, is illegitimate and has no other reason than the will to continue intensifying the blockade policy against one of the most vulnerable sectors of the Cuban Government and people.

Likewise, since the end of 2006, Swiss banks UBS and Crédit Suisse, which possess most of the bank accounts of the international organizations based in Geneva, have been refusing to directly process bank transfers from Cuban institutions, such as the Cuban Intellectual Property Office and other law firms based in Cuba, for payments to the World Intellectual Property Organization, under international treaties, for the registration and renewal of patents and trademarks of Cuban companies or with Cuban capital. Both banks followed the orders of the United States and have joined the application of extraterritorial laws.

The blockade policy against Cuba must stop. The economic, financial and commercial siege unilaterally applied against Cuba is the main obstacle to the sustainable development of our country. The blockade's extraterritorial character violates the rules and principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations. The General Assembly has expressed its opposition on 20 occasions to the blockade against Cuba, and still the voice of the peoples remains unheard.

Mr. Chairman,

Let us briefly comment on the ongoing work of the Fifth Committee.

After the conclusion of the first resumed session, we are struck by the alarming news we receive everyday on the implementation of budgetary and administrative decisions made by the General Assembly.

Posts that have been rejected in the framework of the regular budget are now sought to be validated through voluntary contributions, such as those in the Office of the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect.

The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has made a peculiar interpretation of the debate on the services to be provided to the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programmes. Special Political Missions benefit from mechanisms to support peacekeeping operations without being mandated. And so the list is increasing.

All this has happened after we had a few weeks ago, in this very Committee, one of the most decisive discussions on what accountability means in the Secretariat and how transparently its work should be done. The problem does not seem to have a solution. It is imperative for the Secretariat to assume its responsibility on accountability, as approved by the General Assembly.

Our delegation wishes to make it clear that it rejects the ongoing events. The Secretariat must implement the decisions of the General Assembly without selectivity, which distorts its agreements. The current developments are at least counterproductive and break all the promises of transparency and dialogue with Member States that have been made in recent weeks.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the cooperation we have received from the Committee on Contributions in following up on the status of our contributions to the Organization's budgets, including through the online tool made available to us.

To conclude, we wish to reiterate the readiness and political will of Cuba to honor its financial obligations to the United Nations.

Thank you