



## **DECLARATION**

### **“ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL BLOCKADE IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES AGAINST CUBA”**

The Latin American Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), gathered in the Ministerial Session of its 51st Regular Meeting in Caracas on 10 and 11 December 2025.

#### **RECALLING,**

The mandate given by the Member States of SELA to the Permanent Secretariat (Article 4, Decision No. 377) to submit an annual report on the enforcement of the Helms-Burton Law and the imposition of economic sanctions by the United States of America against Cuba; that such sanctions by the United States not only adversely affect a Member State of SELA, but also seek to impose certain rules on the international community as regards its economic relations with Cuba;

Decision No. 112 of the Latin American Council, “Imposition of Economic Measures of a Coercive Nature,” as well as Decisions Nos. 356 and 360, which reject the implementation of unilateral measures that may affect the free development of international trade, in violation of international law and the most basic principles of regional coexistence; Decisions 377, 390, 401, 421, 432, 438, 444, 453, 463, 477 and 482 of the Latin American Council, on the “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba;”

The Declaration “Ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba,” adopted by consensus by the Member States of SELA at the following Regular Meetings of the Latin American Council: XXXV, on 29 October 2009; XXXVI, on 28 October 2010; XXXVII, on 21 October 2011; XXXVIII, on 18 October 2012; XXXIX, on 28 November 2013; XL, on 28 November 2014; XLI, on 28 November 2015; XLII, on 27 October 2016; XLIII, on 30 November 2017; XLIV, on 27 November 2018; XLV, on 27 November 2019; XLVI, on 17 November 2020; XLVII on 30 November 2021; XLVIII on 30 November 2022; XLIX, on 6 December 2023; and L on 11 December 2024; all held in Caracas, Venezuela;

The relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly over the past 33 years, whereby an appeal is made to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States of America against Cuba;

## BEARING IN MIND

The need to reaffirm, among other principles, the sovereign equality of all States, non-interference in the countries' internal affairs, and the freedom of trade and navigation, as established in numerous international legal instruments;

The declarations issued by Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State or Government at the Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States concerning the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba;

The concern among Member States about the continued enactment and enforcement of laws and regulations, such as that enacted on 12 March 1996, known as the "Helms-Burton Law," the extraterritorial impact of which affects the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, and the freedom of trade and navigation;

The declarations and resolutions arising from different intergovernmental forums, bodies and governments that reflect the rejection by the international community and public opinion to the enactment and implementation of such measures;

That during 2025 the persecution and prosecution of Cuba's international financial transactions continue to be one of the most distinctive features of the application of the blockade. In addition to constituting the main impediment to the economic and social development of the country, the blockade is the most significant obstacle to a greater expansion of Cuba's commercial links with the world and affects international cooperation with some countries;

The inclusion of Cuba in January 2021 in the unilateral list of States Sponsors of Terrorism generates severe consequences for the country's economy, mainly in the financial banking sector, reinforces the dissuasive and intimidating effects towards third parties in their commercial relations with Cuba, as it limits the obtaining of credits and the payment of goods and supplies essential for the country's development;

That between 2017 and 2020 the United States administration adopted more than 240 measures aimed at affecting the most sensitive sectors of the Cuban economy and creating despair among its people, which remain in full force;

That the analysis contained in the "Follow-up report on the application of the Helms Burton Law, 2018-2019," authored by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, describes in depth the impact of the blockade on various economic sectors of the Republic of Cuba, as well as the extra-territorial nature of the measures and provisions adopted in this connection by the United States of America;

Estimated losses for the period March 2024 to February 2025 amounted to US\$7.556 billion as a result of the United States government's policy of maintaining maximum pressure on Cuba, the rigorous application of the economic, commercial and financial blockade as its fundamental axis, and the additional tightening measures applied in the last 12 months, which continued to involve unilateral measures with the greatest impact on the Cuban population and economy, thereby reproducing and aggravating the devastating effects of this unilateral coercive policy, the longest and most extensive in history;

That the blockade continues to be the main obstacle for the development of all the potentialities of the Cuban economy, for the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

**DECLARES:**

1. The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is incompatible with and in violation of International Law, contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the rules of the international trading system and freedom of navigation;
2. The Latin American Council strenuously condemns the enforcement of any law or measure contrary to the International Law, such as the Helms-Burton Law; therewith, it calls upon the Government of the United States to put an end to its implementation;
3. The Permanent Secretariat must continue to examine this issue of special relevance for the external relations of the region, in accordance with Decision N° 482, and keep the Latin American Council informed about its evolution by maintaining this item on its agenda;
4. The Latin American Council requests the Government of the United States to comply with the provisions of consecutive Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, and therewith, to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade that remains in force against Cuba;
5. The Latin American Council of SELA, with Bolivia and Uruguay abstaining, Guyana and Peru expressing reservations, Paraguay opposing, and Ecuador dissociating itself, recalls and reasserts, together with the other countries present in person or virtually, Decision N° 112 of the Latin American Council in relation to the "Imposition of economic measures of a coercive nature" and Decisions N° 356 and 360, which refuse the application of unilateral measures that affect the free development of international trade and violate international law and the most essential principles of regional coexistence.