**PERMANENT MISSION OF BELIZE**
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***Statement delivered by H.E. Mrs. Janine Coye Felson, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations, on behalf of Barbados and Belize, to the General Assembly under agenda item 37: Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba***
***28 October 2026, UNHQ***

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Barbados and my own country, Belize. We support the statements delivered on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China. This year's debate carries added urgency.

Recent revisions to the embargo including restrictions on Cuba's access to fuel and an expanding scope of restrictions for third parties are compounding a precarious humanitarian situation. The United Nations itself has confirmed that fuel is ***the*** most critical constraint on its own humanitarian operations. The Secretary-General has warned that the situation is so severe that it could collapse if Cuba's fuel needs go unmet. The consequences are stark. The Cuban people are suffering and the most vulnerable amongst them are being disproportionately affected. And yet those who dare to assist must do so at their own risk.

We urge that humanitarian exemptions long recognized under international sanctions frameworks are honored in practice, and not merely in principle, so that fuel, food, medicine, and medical equipment reach the Cuban people without obstruction, undue delay, or fear of secondary sanctions.

In this regard, we welcome efforts of the United Nations Country Team in Cuba, and of Member States and regional partners that have extended humanitarian assistance. These efforts merit our continued support. So

too does the United Nations Cooperation Framework for Cuba which currently faces a funding gap.

But assistance alone cannot substitute for the end of an unjustified and unlawful embargo and the listing of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Mr. President,

The principles of sovereign equality of states, non-intervention and peaceful settlement of disputes must prevail and the right of self-determination which the International Court of Justice has confirmed as *jus cogens* must be upheld.

As Members of the United Nations, we must defend these principles and we must not rest until every human being enjoys a life of dignity, peace and security. The Cuban people deserve no less.

We stand on the side of the Charter, firm in the conviction that the multilateral system is strongest when its principles are applied evenly and consistently. We support the resolution before the Assembly and in doing so we call on all parties to respect international law, to demonstrate mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to urgently engage in peaceful dialogue in good faith and above all with compassion.

I thank you, Mr. President.