



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

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H.E. Dennis Francis
President of the United Nations General
Assembly
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States

Geneva, 26 October 2023

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the World Council of Churches to express our steadfast support for the annual resolution condemning the ongoing blockade imposed on the Republic of Cuba. As an organization dedicated to promoting justice, peace, and solidarity among nations, we firmly believe that the blockade against Cuba runs counter to the principles of international law, justice, and human rights that the United Nations stands for.

For over six decades, the people of Cuba have endured economic hardships, limitations on access to essential goods, and restrictions on their right to self-determination due to this protracted embargo. These measures have had a significant impact on the lives of ordinary Cubans, hindering their access to healthcare, education, and basic essentials. The World Council of Churches believes that it is imperative for the international community to express its collective disapproval of such punitive measures that affect the most vulnerable members of society, and which are counter to human rights and dignity.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize our hope that the United Nations General Assembly takes this opportunity to consider the supporting the removal of Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. It is our conviction that Cuba has made significant strides towards peace and stability in the international arena, contributing positively to various international initiatives and showing a commitment to regional cooperation.

As an organization founded on a faith imperative that believes in, and advocates for reconciliation and dialogue as instruments of peace, we would like to see a more inclusive and constructive relationship between the United States and Cuba. Removing Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism would be a meaningful step towards normalizing relations and fostering cooperation on issues of global importance, including climate change, public health, and economic development.

In conclusion, we respectfully urge the United Nations General Assembly to continue its support for the annual resolution condemning the blockade on Cuba and to consider the removal of Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. We believe these actions will promote peace, justice, and solidarity among nations, which are fundamental principles that both the World Council of Churches and the United Nations hold dear.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to seeing progress towards a more equitable and peaceful world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pillay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay
General Secretary
World Council of Churches

CC: H.E. Linda Thomas Greenfield, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations