



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CUBA, H.E. BRUNO EDUARDO RODRÍGUEZ PARRILLA.
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT.
GENEVA, FEBRUARY 23, 2026.**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Representatives,

The government of the United States, the military superpower, is increasing its aggressive escalation against Cuba.

It is now imposing an energy blockade and intends to create a humanitarian catastrophe, using as a pretext the absurd assertion that Cuba constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to its national security.

These are criminal and illegal actions, which constitute a ruthless collective punishment against the Cuban people, who for 67 years have suffered deprivations and hardships caused by the longest-standing and cruelest system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any country.

Cuba poses no threat to the United States or to any other country. Nor has it supported any hostile actions against the United States, nor allowed its territory to be used against any other nation. On the contrary, we are—and will continue to be—a peace-loving nation committed to solidarity.

It is not Cuba that implements Monroe Doctrine-inspired National Security and National Defense strategies with overt aims of domination, nor the country that deploys military forces and violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States.

It is not Cuba that has kidnapped a constitutional president; that flagrantly violates the Peace Zone of Latin America and the Caribbean; nor that carries out extrajudicial executions on the high seas or within the territorial waters of other countries. Cuba is not the one that maintains over 800 military bases worldwide, nor the one that promotes subversion against other governments.

It is the United States, not Cuba, that turns punitive tariffs into weapons of aggression and applies its laws—or utilizes its courts—extraterritorially, in flagrant violation of the UN Charter and International Law.

Remaining indifferent to these attempts to impose a global tyranny places all States at risk.

If we do not build a broad and solid international coalition, setting aside our political or ideological differences, we will all suffer the consequences.

We have always been ready to engage in dialogue with any country, including the United States, on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual respect, non-interference, and International Law. We are not willing to yield to threats, nor to renounce our self-determination.

Cuba does not attack anyone, but it will firmly defend its sovereignty and independence.

We value and appreciate the expressions of international solidarity that highlight the isolationism of the United States' policy of economic suffocation and warfare against the Cuban people.

Mr. President,

It is urgent that the Conference on Disarmament fulfills its important responsibility, particularly in an increasingly dangerous and challenging global scenario.

The UN Charter and International Law are under direct attack. Nuclear arsenals are being modernized and expanded. Emerging technologies—including those related to artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, space assets, and quantum technology—are increasingly being integrated into weapon systems. The risk of militarization of outer space is growing.

The United Nations' disarmament machinery is weakening, and aggressive militaristic rhetoric is proliferating. There is an attempt to impose the unacceptable doctrine of "peace through force", while arms control agreements are abandoned.

The United States' failure to renew the New START Treaty demonstrates its warmongering stance.

While military spending is growing rapidly, Official Development Assistance is fast declining. After a decade of consecutive increases, arms expenditures have already reached a historic record of \$2.7 trillion annually. A single country—the United States—will spend the exorbitant amount of \$901 billion this year on increasingly deadly weapons.

It is irrational and suicidal that, on our planet, resources continue to be prioritized for war instead of being allocated to the fight against hunger, poverty, inequalities, and climate change.

Mr. President,

The total elimination of nuclear weapons, in a transparent, verifiable, and irreversible manner, is and must continue to be the highest priority in the field of disarmament.

We will continue to advocate for the universality and implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first international instrument to establish that these weapons are not only inhuman, immoral, and ethically indefensible, but also illegal.

Our peoples have the right to live on a planet without nuclear weapons.

We support the immediate commencement of negotiations at this Conference to adopt, as soon as possible, a treaty prohibiting the arms race in outer space, and another treaty providing unconditional and legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States that nuclear weapons will never be used against them.

Cuba will continue to defend multilateralism, International Law, and peace—indispensable pillars for a more just and secure world.

Thank you.