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*“Peace is not Absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”*-Ronald Reagen, Former President of USA.

**Topic:** Assessing the effectiveness of sanctions on Cuba

The US and Cuban relations have had many ups and downs, most notably during the Cuban Missile Crisis. In February 1962, John F Kennedy proclaimed an embargo on trade between the United States and Cuba, in response to certain actions taken by the Cuban Government, and directed the Departments of Commerce and the Treasury to implement the embargo. Entities and sub entities under the control of, or acting for or on behalf of, the Cuban military, intelligence, or security services would disproportionately benefit such services or personnel at the expense of the Cuban people or private enterprise in Cuba were restricted from trade. Many of these were ministries, real estates, hotel etc.

The embargo has had significant negative effects on the Cuban economy and on the standard of living of Cuban citizens. As reported by the Government of Cuba in the 2012 report of the Secretary-General, the overall losses caused by the embargo amounted to $108 billion by the end of December 2011. These losses were caused mainly by the higher transaction costs resulting from the embargo. Furthermore, Cuba’s inability to connect to United States Internet service has contributed significantly to its low level of Internet access, which in turn affects all economic and social sectors in the country. The services sector has been the major source of foreign exchange earnings in Cuba. the export of medical personnel to Venezuela continued to be of particular importance as, in return, Cuba receives oil from that country. Tourism continues to be one of the main driving forces of the Cuban economy and development. The ban prohibiting United States citizens from travelling to Cuba has had serious economic effects on the Cuban tourism industry. the embargo continues to affect citizens in third countries and stop their ability to trade with and invest, and the citizens of the United States too are affected by the embargo because they are unable to interact with Cuba in the economic, academic, and social fields. But Vietnam’s situation was also same as both nations are still under a communist government, at a recent UN meeting in 2023, Vietnam shared the difficulties faced by the Cuban people due to the impact of the embargo imposed on the nation, Vietnam has joined other countries in opposing the US economic and trade embargo on Cuba, urged the United States to end its embargo of the island nation. Vietnam also **contributed to the Report of the General Secretary on compliance with Resolution A/RES/74/7 "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".**

Steps can be taken by the UN and Vietnam. In the increasing hostility and bad livelihood of people in Cuba, Vietnam calls for an end to the embargo of goods, services, trade and tourism, and active participation of countries for this cause. Vietnam believes in the formation of an organization for the economic recovery by the participation of many countries including Vietnam. With this, peace can be established between the US and Cuba and the rest of the world and fast recovery of Cuba, if it is recognized.

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