



CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER



STATEMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO THE 79th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ON THE IMPACT OF THE REINFORCED ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL BLOCKADE AND ENERGY SIEGE ON CUBA'S HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM. Geneva, May 18, 2026.

All human beings, without distinction of any kind, have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The right to health is fundamental to human rights and to a dignified life. The realization of this right has an impact on all the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this context, we express our deep concern over the serious consequences for Cuba's health system arising from the unilateral economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on that nation for nearly seven decades, which since 29 January has evolved into a qualitatively different phase and even more aggressive in quantitative terms: energy strangulation through a fuel blockade.

The right to health must not be undermined by the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, nor by the use of energy as an instrument of coercion.

The shortages and non-availability of medicines, pharmaceutical reagents, vaccines and medical equipment resulting from the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Cuba seriously affect the Cuban health system.

National health systems rely on a continuous supply of electric power and on logistics, which is today severely hampered in Cuba, leading to a deterioration of health indicators.

Mortality rates are increasing, life expectancy is decreasing, the prevalence of physical and mental disorders and disabilities is rising, as is physical and psychological suffering.

The infant mortality rate in Cuba increased from 4.0 per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 9.9 at present, representing a 148% increase. Had the historical trend been maintained, approximately 1,800 children would have survived during that period.

Due to the instability of fuel and electricity supplies, more than 100,000 patients are currently awaiting surgical procedures, including over 11,000 minors. More than 4,000 cancer patients are on surgical waiting lists and are unable to undergo surgery.

The monitoring of 34,854 pregnant women and radiotherapy treatments for 16,000 patients are subject to recurrent disruptions.

The lack of refrigerated transport prevents the timely vaccination of nearly 30,000 children, while ensuring treatment continuity for around 3,000 hemodialysis-dependent patients amid power outages requires extraordinary efforts by health personnel.

We reaffirm the right to health of the Cuban people. We urge the World Health Organization to document the serious health impacts of the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Cuba and to promote binding humanitarian exemptions aimed at protecting that nation's health system.

We also reaffirm our solidarity with the Cuban people and with their health professionals, who, despite the extreme conditions, continue to work tirelessly to sustain essential services and protect life.