

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CUBA H.E.
MANUEL MARRERO CRUZ
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF COVID-19
AND BEYOND
29 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Mr. Secretary General,
Mr. President,
Distinguished Heads of State or Government,
Permanent Representatives,

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected health, finance, economy, employment and society of all countries, with more negative effects on developing nations.

Faced with increasing expenditures in health to tackle the pandemic and diminished revenues due to the paralysis of economy and international trade, fiscal and commercial deficit and the balance of payments in developing countries are rising, as well as food insecurity.

The current global crisis has been aggravated by the United States of America's protectionism, its trade wars and unilateral coercive economic measures on sovereign

States, contrary to the UN Charter, international law and multilateral trade regulations.

Cuba has been subject for 60 years to a tight economic, commercial and financial blockade of extraterritorial application, imposed by the government of the United States of America, which is the main obstacle to the economic and social development of our country. The blockade has been tightened even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, hindering the acquisition of medicines, essential medical equipment and supplies, denying the most basic right: the right to life.

In light of these unprecedented challenges, concrete, supportive, inclusive, just, innovative and coordinated responses are urgently required. Global problems need global solutions, without discrimination or political, economic or any other kinds of exclusion.

We support the initiatives for debt relief, although they are insufficient; the unpayable external debt borne by the countries of the South must be eliminated, which, worsened by the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, threatens the sustainable development of peoples.

Commitments regarding official development assistance, increase of external financing under fair conditions and access to markets and technology transfer must be fulfilled.

Peoples of the world need effective and immediate solutions. The time for action is now. Urgent actions are needed, not words.

Thank you.