Mr. President,

India associates itself with the statement made by Thailand on behalf of G-77 and Venezuela on behalf of NAM.

We welcome the distinguished Foreign Minister of Cuba among us here today.

Mr. President,

India welcomes the restoration of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States; the historic visit of the President of United States to Cuba in March this year; and further positive developments in this context since then.

Mr. President,

The General Assembly has considered the issue of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba annually for more than two decades now.
It has consistently rejected the imposition of laws and regulations with extra-territorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures that hurt the progress and prosperity of the people the world over.

The General Assembly has also called upon all States, in conformity with their obligations under the UN Charter and international law, to refrain from promulgating and applying and to repeal and invalidate laws and measures that have extra-territorial effects affecting the sovereignty of other States.

There can be little doubt that the continued existence of this embargo, in contravention of world opinion as expressed by this Assembly, undermines multilateralism and the credibility of the United Nations itself.

Mr. President,

As the world’s largest democracy with abiding faith in multilateralism, India stands in solidarity with the international community in its unambiguous rejection of domestic laws having extra-territorial impact.

Embargoes impede the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected country, in particular children and women. They also hinder the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to development, food, medical care and social services, among other things.

Mr. President,

Successive reports of the Secretary General have established - and this year’s report is no exception - that the embargo, particularly through its extraterritorial effects, has adversely affected the Cuban people and the development efforts of the country.

At the same time, we would like to acknowledge the notable socio-economic and developmental achievements of the Cuban people, in particular the high HDI ranking of Cuba and its achievement of several MDGs. The continued embargo would severely impact Cuba’s ability to implement the comprehensive 2030 Agenda.

Cuba’s expertise in healthcare, achieved despite such conditions, enabled it to respond quickly and effectively, in a substantial manner, to the call made by the UN General Assembly two years ago to all nations to respond to the Ebola crisis in Africa.

While launching the transformative '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', the world leaders have again strongly urged all States to refrain from any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.
The international community needs to re-double its efforts to promote an environment free from sanctions and embargoes.

Mr. President,

India hopes that the ongoing positive development in relations between Cuba and the United States would lead to the withdrawal of this embargo at the earliest.

India supports the draft resolution moved by Cuba.

I thank you.