

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL BERMÚDEZ, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA. FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT.
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021, NEW YORK.**

Mr. Secretary-General,

Mr. President,

I come to speak on behalf of a people who have been starved into surrender for more than six decades. In April 1960, in an infamous and long-secret memorandum, Lester Mallory, a dark US State Department official, wrote the foundations of the blockade policy against Cuba, aimed at causing hunger, desperation and the overthrow of the government.

Sixty-one years have passed and the blockade imposed to provoke hunger and desperation is not only maintained, but has been tightened in an opportunistic manner in times of pandemic.

The losses caused to the country, from April 2019 to December 2020 alone, amount to a total of over 9.1 billion dollars, reflecting the genocidal nature of a

are the root causes of underdevelopment, which favor extreme poverty and with it the hunger and exclusion suffered by the great majority.

This scenario becomes more complex for developing countries, which bear the brunt of an external debt that has already been paid a thousand times over. Some, like Cuba, also suffer the application of unilateral coercive measures, in violation of international law, which hinder their legitimate right to development.

Excellencies,

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in 2020, between 720 and 811 million people suffered from hunger; more than 2.3 billion, 30 percent of the world's population, lacked access to adequate food and malnutrition persisted in all its forms, threatening the achievement of Sustainable