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## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CALLS FOR REMOVAL OF CUBA FROM USA LIST OF STATE SPONSORING TERRORISM**

**Windhoek, Namibia - May 23, 2024**

The National Assembly strongly condemns the continued designation of the Republic of Cuba as a state sponsoring terrorism by the United States of America. This designation undermines the substantial contributions by the people of the Republic of Cuba to international peace and security and disrespects the principles of sovereignty and mutual respect among nations.

This statement comes at a critical time following a series of significant international developments. On 16 April 2024, the National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution expressing solidarity with Cuba and its people and urging the United States of America to remove Cuba from its list of state sponsoring terrorism. This resolution underscores Namibia's commitment to international justice, fairness, and respect for the sovereign rights of nations.

The timing of this statement is also influenced by recent actions by the US government. According to reports, on 15 May 2024, the US Secretary of State submitted another report to the Congress, which arbitrarily lists countries that allegedly do not fully cooperate with US counterterrorism efforts. While Cuba was not included in this specific list for the first time in years, it remains unjustly labeled as a state sponsoring terrorism. This dual approach highlights the inconsistency and political nature of the US's designation process.

### **Key Points of the Namibian Resolution:**

1. **Solidarity with Cuba:** The National Assembly's resolution expresses unwavering solidarity with Cuba, recognizing the country's efforts and contributions towards global peace and security. It highlights Cuba's compliance with international legal standards and its active cooperation with the international community.
2. **Condemnation of the US Designation:** The resolution condemns the US's unilateral and unfounded designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism. This designation not only misrepresents Cuba's actions but also serves as a pretext for imposing coercive economic sanctions that severely impact the Cuban people.
3. **Humanitarian Impact:** The National Assembly is deeply concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the US designation on Cuba. The sanctions associated with this designation have led to significant economic hardships, limiting Cuba's ability

to engage in international trade and access essential goods, thereby exacerbating poverty and suffering among its population.

4. **Advocacy for Dialogue and Diplomacy:** The resolution calls for constructive dialogue, diplomacy, and mutual respect in addressing global challenges, including terrorism. It emphasizes that international relations should be governed by principles of fairness, justice, and equality, rather than coercive measures and unilateral actions.
5. **Commitment to International Law:** The resolution reaffirms Namibia's commitment to upholding the principles of sovereignty, non-interference, and respect for international law. It underscores the importance of each nation's right to self-determination and independence, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter.
6. **Call to the International Community:** The National Assembly urges the international community to join in supporting Cuba and advocating for its removal from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism. It calls for a united effort to combat terrorism through mutual understanding, cooperation, and respect for the sovereignty of all nations.

#### **Parliamentary Debate Highlights:**

During the parliamentary debate, Members of Parliament emphasized the historical and enduring friendship between the people of Namibia and the people of Cuba. They recalled Cuba's support for Namibia during its struggle for independence and highlighted the ongoing cooperation between the two nations in various fields, including healthcare and education. This historical context adds weight to Namibia's call for justice and fairness in international relations.

#### **Conclusion:**

The National Assembly's resolution and this subsequent statement serve as a powerful testament to Namibia's dedication to international justice, solidarity, and the rule of law. By calling for the removal of Cuba from the US list of state sponsoring terrorism, Namibia is advocating for a more just and equitable international order, where the sovereignty and dignity of all nations are respected.

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