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Sistema Económico
Latino-Americano e do Caribe
Système Economique
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen

Follow-up report on the application of the Helms Burton Law. 2009 - 2010

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F O R E W O R D

This report by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA summarizes the most important aspects concerning the enforcement of U.S. economic sanctions and the Helms-Burton Act against Cuba from mid-2009 through 2010.

As it is known, the Member States of SELA requested the Permanent Secretariat to submit to the Latin American Council an annual report on this issue, because U.S. sanctions not only have adverse implications for one Member State of the organization, but also, as widely recognized, impose certain standards and rules on the international community on how to conduct relations with Cuba.

This document is an update of the preceding report with the same title, which was submitted to the XXXV Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council (October 2009). After discussing the enforcement of the sanctions, the document makes a summary of the impact of the Helms-Burton Act and other economic sanctions on Cuba – in the opinion of Cuban authorities – from mid-2009 through 2010. Finally, the report presents some evidences of the extraterritorial implications of the U.S. legislation on Cuba; at the end, there are some arguments on the growing opposition to the U.S sanctions against Cuba at the international level.

I. BACKGROUND

The economic sanctions imposed by the government of the United States against Cuba for more than four decades now have been criticized by the international community, through practically unanimous resolutions of the UN General Assembly on 19 consecutive occasions. On 26 October 2010, the Member States of the United Nations will analyze again this matter within the framework of the sixty-fifth period of sessions of the General Assembly.

Among other limitations, as a result of the economic blockade, Cuba cannot export any goods to the U.S. or import any products from that country at all;¹ neither can it trade goods with U.S. companies' affiliates operating in third countries. It cannot receive American tourists or use U.S. dollars in its foreign transactions. It does not have access to credits from financial, multilateral, regional or U.S. institutions and is not allowed to operate with them. In addition, its ships and airplanes cannot enter U.S. territory.

Moreover, the U.S. government has increasingly applied legal provisions against Cuba that are considered to have an extraterritorial effect. They involve restrictions to international trade which have intensified in the last few years, affecting trade operations that otherwise could have been conducted with Cuba.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that the U.S. government maintains the suspension of the enforcement of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act – which has been widely criticized by many U.S. allies as it authorizes legal actions against those companies dealing with properties confiscated in Cuba. Former President William J. Clinton, who suspended enforcement throughout his second term, explained that his decision to continue the suspension was based on his conviction that “this action will enhance efforts by the United States to strengthen international cooperation aimed at promoting a peaceful democratic change in Cuba”.²

Title III was repeatedly suspended for six-month periods by President George W. Bush since he took office. In his declarations announcing his decision to continue with the suspension, the President acknowledged that real differences remain between the United States and our allies concerning the best methods for pursuing change in Cuba. However, he showed himself to be a decided defender of economic sanctions against the island. President Barack Obama, as expected, also suspended the entry into force of that title.

Regardless of these decisions about Title III, the remaining titles of the Act (I, II and IV) are in force, and several international firms and corporations claim to have been affected by the Act or to have been pressured by the U.S. authorities following the enactment of this legislation. Everything seems to indicate that, even though specific changes have been reported in its relations with Cuba in the first months of the current administration, the U.S. government continues applying these sanctions.

¹ Since late 2001, and under strict conditions, the U.S. government has allowed the sale of foodstuff to Cuba, as mentioned later in this report.

² See Public Diplomacy Query (PDQ), *Clinton extends suspension of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act*, 17 January 2001 (Electronic version: <http://usinfo.state.gov>).

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II. ENFORCEMENT OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA AND OF THE HELMS-BURTON ACT

The report submitted by the government of Cuba to the United Nations in September 2010 once again emphasizes that the economic blockade is fully in force, and that U.S. authorities have increased pressures on the financial system, as well as their follow-up of any economic or trade operation conducted by Cuban in various markets, affecting directly or indirectly the general performance of the Cuban economy.

According to the Cuban government, the U.S. economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba is illegal – as confirmed by 19 consecutive resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly which have recognized that such sanctions violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the principles of international law governing relations among sovereign States, and the principles of freedom of trade and international navigation, as established in various international instruments. The extraterritorial nature of these sanctions is also harmful to the sovereignty of third countries and the legitimate interests of organizations and people under their jurisdiction.

- Major measures adopted by the U.S. Government as regards the blockade, according to the latest report submitted by Cuban authorities to the United Nations:

On 15 November 2009, the DPA news agency published an article stating that Mozilla Corporation, maker of the Firefox Internet browser, excluded Cuban users from a programming competition.

In December 2009, the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Arturo Valenzuela, sent a letter to Senator George LeMieux (R-FL), which underlines that the State Department continues to apply sanctions provided for in Title IV of the Helms-Burton Act.

On 21 January 2010, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Public Warning – as per instructions received on the 12 of the same month from the State Department – announcing that Cuba will remain on the FCC Exclusion List and that the entity will continue working closely with the State Department on the application of the communications policy towards Cuba. In spite of new procedures to apply for licenses with the aim of providing telecommunications services to Cuba, investments in the Cuban infrastructure associated to such services would not be permitted.

On 28 January 2010, the www.softlibre.barrapunto.com Web site informed that SourceForge, a central for the development of software that controls and manages various free software projects, blocked access to countries on which the United States applies unilateral economic sanctions, among them Cuba.

Reaffirming the continuity of the blockade, on 24 February of this year, President Obama renewed Presidential proclamation 6867, entitled “Continuation of the National Emergency regarding Cuba and the Emergency Authority on the Regulation for Anchoring and the Movement of Vessels”, adopted in 1996, as well as Proclamation 7757 of 2004, which extended the scope of the national emergency around Cuba in order to prevent entry of US recreational vessels in Cuban waters.

On 8 March 2010, the Treasury Department Office for Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced new regulations on internet services for Cuba. A legal framework is

established so that U.S. companies and their subsidiaries abroad may offer certain internet services to individuals in Cuba, something that was not expressly allowed. These services include instant messenger, chat, e-mail, social interaction networks, navigation, setting up blogs and the exchange of photos and videos. However, the OFAC document leaves it quite clear that it does not authorize:

- Direct or indirect export of Internet services for senior level officials of the government of Cuba or the Party.
- Direct or indirect export of Internet services or telecommunications transmission facilities (such as satellite connections or lines for that purpose).
- Direct or indirect export of server services that are not for supplying personal communications and services to register domains (for example, extensions: net, edu, gov, etc).
- The use of Internet services for business purposes.

More recently, on 11 September 2010, President Obama, citing the Trading with the Enemy Act 1917, notified the Secretaries of State and the Treasury that it was of "national interest" to maintain economic sanctions against Cuba.

Last year, the administration of President Obama had made some changes in its foreign policy, adopting certain actions that were changed the status quo of the relations with Cuba. Although in different specialized media and at the diplomatic level an important change could be perceived in the nature of the US-Cuba relations, and the blockade against Cuba has been eased, the authorities of the Cuban government – and large sectors of the international community – are now frustrated that those optimistic perceptions were not materialized.

¿Which measures did the White House adopt in 2009?

- Elimination of restrictions to family visits – to the limit of third degree of consanguinity – for Cuban residents in the United States.
- Elimination of restrictions on Cuban-Americans sending remittances to relatives in Cuba with the limit of up to the third degree of consanguinity and excluding members of the government of Cuba and members of the Communist Party of Cuba.
- Widening the range of articles that may be sent in packages as gifts.
- Granting licenses so that American companies can broaden certain telecommunications operations with Cuba.

III. IMPACTS OF THE HELMS-BURTON ACT AND THE U.S. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA

According to the latest report submitted by the Cuban authorities to the United Nations, the introduction of a new Democratic administration in the United States, encouraged by a philosophy of change, has not even meant a fundamental change in the policy of blockade.

Since the adoption of resolution 64/6 by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 October 2009 to date, the main actions related to the blockade against Cuba have

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been kept in place and reinforced. The direct economic damage caused by the U.S. economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba until December 2009 amounts to a figure in excess of US\$ 100.15 billion, if the estimates were calculated at the current price of the American dollar. According to Cuban government estimates, this amount would rise to US\$ 239.53 billion, if the calculations were based on the retail price inflation in the United States, using the price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The government of President Obama has also kept some measures in effect, such as the persecution of Cuban trade and financial operations abroad. The policy of sanctions against U.S. companies, their subsidiaries and companies in third countries has an immediate effect on cancellation of operations or disruption of trade relations of the companies fined. It also has a deterrent effect on other companies and individuals who might carry out trade and financial operations with Cuba.

In 2009, OFAC gave 7 companies a US\$ 315,500.00 fine for violating the blockade against Cuba. The total amount of fines imposed on individuals and companies was US\$ 340,678.00. In the first half of 2010, fines on companies totalled US\$ 2,221,671.00. OFAC gave other million-dollar fines not only for trade with Cuba, but also with other countries following unilateral coercive measures.

Following are some examples of sanctions imposed against companies in the United States and third countries:

- Sanctions on third-country companies:

- On 24 August 2009, OFAC imposed a US\$ 5.75 million fine on the banking group Australia and New Zealand Bank Group, Ltd., based in Australia, for engaging in financial transactions related to Cuba and Sudan.
- On 16 December 2009, OFAC fined the Credit Suisse Bank US\$ 536 million for violating provisions of the blockade and carrying out financial transactions with several countries sanctioned by the United States, including Cuba.
- On 19 March 2010, the same Office imposed a criminal fine on the Swedish subsidiary of the chemical company Innospec Inc., based in Delaware, of \$US 2 million for selling a gasoline additive to Cuba.

- Sanctions on US individuals and companies:

- On 12 May 2009, the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) sent a letter to INTEL requesting information about their business with countries subject to unilateral sanctions, including Cuba. The origin of this request was an article published by the AP news agency on 2 May stating that computers in Cuba were using Celeron processors, manufactured by this company.
- On 29 May 2009, OFAC informed that Liberty International Holdings Inc. was fined US\$ 35,211 for participating as insurer of a business linked to the Cuban government. An individual was also fined US\$ 1,175 for buying Cuban cigars on Internet.

- On 1 July 2009, Philips Electronics of North America Corporation, based in New York, was fined US\$ 128,750, because an employee travelled to Cuba without a permit for the sale of some medical equipment by a foreign subsidiary.
- On 31 July 2009, an individual was fined US\$ 15,000 for getting involved in financial transactions with Cuba. In addition, MGE UPS Systems Inc., known as American Power Conversion Corporation, was fined US\$ 10,341 for having sold electrical regulators whose final destination was Cuba and First Incentive Travel, Inc. was fined US\$ 8,250 for providing travel services to U.S. citizens.
- On 1 April 2010, OFAC was reported to refuse a license to the Yacht Club of Sarasota, Florida, to participate in the Sarasota-Havana Race.
- On 23 April 2010, OFAC published that LD Telecommunications Inc., based in Florida, was fined US\$ 21,671 for transferring funds related to telecommunications services to Cuba.

Following is a summary of some of the worst effects of U.S. sanctions on various economic and social sectors in Cuba from mid-2009 to the first half of this year.

According to Cuban government, the sectors of public health and nutrition have been the hardest hit by the U.S. economic blockade.

- PUBLIC HEALTH

From May 2009 to April 2010, repercussions on the public health sector totalled US\$ 15.2 million. The economic impact is basically due to the need of acquiring drugs, reagents, spare parts for medical equipment, instruments and other supplies in distant markets and, in many cases, through intermediaries, which leads to higher prices.

Among the many examples describing the damage caused in the area of health during that period are the following:

- The Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology cannot use Radioactive Iodine therapy plates for treating children and adults with retinoblastoma tumors (congenital tumors growing on the retina), because these plates are only sold in the United States.
- This institute receives approximately 1,600 patients per year who are affected by the impossibility of acquiring the spare parts for Philips Tomography. Of these patients, 250 face serious difficulties with planning their radiotherapies. The lack of this technology makes the inaccuracy rate of treatment to increase from 3 to 5% and the radiotherapy services are affected.
- Cuba has no access to Temozolamide (Temodar), a specific cytostatic drug for use in central nervous system tumors (gliomas and astrocytomas). This disease affects approximately 250 patients every year, around 30 of whom are children.
- Cuba is denied the right to acquire non-ionic iodinated contrast, a product that affects the quality of imaging studies of patients with tumors.
- Cuban hospitals are unable to acquire the reagent SILANE, sold by Sigma and aimed at adhering histological sections to slides for special techniques in

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immunohistochemistry and hybridization. Without this reagent, it is impossible to treat malignant tumors and other infectious diseases, preventing the implementation of modern techniques that are necessary for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of these diseases.

- The Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, in Havana, is unable to carry out tomographic studies (particularly the Angio-TAC) of more than 5,000 patients, which is vital for studying cerebrovascular diseases, since Phillips has failed to supply the spare parts for two tomographs.
- Cuba is also unable to acquire supplies and drugs related to organ and tissue transplants. Drugs such as cyclosporine and tacrolimus, which prevent rejection by the transplanted organ or tissue, cannot be bought by our country.
- The U.S. Treasury Department included the "William Soler" Pediatric Cardiac Centre into the category of "Rejected Hospital" in the year 2007, imposing conditions for the sale of products and denying their acquisition unless the institution complies with demands. This situation has resulted in a number of effects on different surgical techniques due to the impossibility to buy in the American market certain materials suitable for children, such as better quality urinary and tracheal probes, catheters and stents, etc.
- Cuban children are denied the use of the Amplatzer device, made in the U.S. from special materials to avoid organic rejection. This device is used for the percutaneous closure of inter-auricular communications (closure of the defective opening between the aorta and pulmonary arteries, a procedure known as interventionist catheterism) avoiding open heart surgery, which is risky and requires intensive care and a three-week recovery.
- The American company ABBOT is forbidden to sell Cuba the drug called Sevofluorane, an inhaled general anaesthetic agent for rapid induction, making it ideal and the best product for anaesthesia induction in children. It is also an excellent myocardial protective agent for episodes of ischemia in patients who have been anaesthetized for revascularization. Other generic drugs, which are lower-quality and have adverse effects on the patient, such as Levosimendan, are also manufactured by the same company and thus cannot be purchased by Cuba.

- NUTRITION

During the period under analysis, conditions under which Cuba had to purchase food from American companies remained onerous and difficult.

In June 2009, the U.S. International Trade Commission published a report on the agricultural sales to Cuba, recognizing that among the factors limiting commerce between the two countries were: the difficult payment conditions for Cuban importers; additional storing or demurrage costs affecting Alimport due to bureaucratic obstacles; the complicated and slow process of obtaining licenses for exporters who need to travel to Cuba; travel restrictions on Cuban negotiators; penalty by the U.S. law on foreign vessels docking at Cuban ports; and purchases made by the Cuban government from certain countries for geopolitical reasons. The Commission considers that a potential lifting of financial restrictions and bans on travel by Americans would increase U.S. agricultural

sales to Cuba, expected to range from US\$ 924 million and US\$ 1.2 billion, which would represent between 49% and 64% of Cuban agricultural purchases.

The following examples illustrate the situation:

- Effects on the food import company ALIMPORT are estimated at US\$ 102.9 billion on "Risk Country", banking and financial costs, and costs dealing with payment instruments.
- According to information from the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2009 this country imported more than 3.82 million TM of raw sugar, of which 1.37 million TM was under quota. Since Cuba has no access to New York preference and futures market, during the period under review the impact on this country totalled US\$ 49 million, considering the current volumes of production and exports of Cuba.
- Without access to the U.S. market, The Union of Beverages and Soft Drinks is forced to import the aging barrels for rum from European markets and spend an additional amount of US\$ 284,700 for that purpose.
- The impossibility for Cuban rum to access the U.S. market, especially the leading brand Havana Club, means that at least US\$ 2.2 million crates of rum have not been sold. This amount, calculated at the average invoiced price for Havana Club International in 2009, represents an economic impact of US\$ 87.3 million.
- The blockade adversely affected rice production, delaying reception of fertilizers and pesticides in time for the planting of this cereal. This meant that 6,000 hectares were not sown in the cold season 2009-2010 with an impact on 24,700 tons of wet rice, representing 12,400 tons less for consumption. Importing that same amount meant that Cuba had to spend US\$ 7.5 million.
- Impacts on pork production has amounted to approximately US\$ 23.4 million due to geographic relocation of its trade, transportation, lack of external funding, and the usual increase in insurance given the risks involved in doing business with Cuba.
- In addition to the damages caused to the various activities in the agricultural sector due to restrictions on access to the U.S. as the target market for its exports as well as supplier and the need to turn their attention to other distant and less competitive markets, the impossibility to access cutting-edge technologies for this sector has had unfavourable effects on yield and general efficiency.

Education, culture and sport have also been heavily impacted by the U.S. blockade, according to the Cuban government.

IV. THE EXTRA-TERRITORIAL DIMENSION OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA

During the last year, the government of the United States has maintained its regulations, directly affecting citizens, institutions and companies of third countries that establish or expect to establish economic, trade, financial and scientific-technical relations with Cuba.

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The extra-territorial regulations of the U.S. sanctions include the following:

- Subsidiaries of American companies based in third countries are forbidden from carrying out any kind of transaction with Cuban companies.
- Companies from third countries are forbidden from exporting any product to the United States if it contains Cuban raw material.
- Companies from third countries are forbidden from selling goods or services to Cuba, whose technology contains more than 10% of U.S. components, even though the owners of these products are from third countries.
- Ships transporting products from or to Cuba, regardless of the registration country, are forbidden to enter U.S. ports.
- Banks in third countries are forbidden from opening accounts in U.S. dollars to Cuban juridical or natural persons or to anyone who carry out any financial transaction in this currency with Cuban entities or individuals.
- Businessmen from third countries are prohibited from making investments or business in Cuba, under penalty of being refused a visa to enter the United States (extensible to their families). They also could face legal sanctions imposed by American courts, if the operations with Cuba are related to properties subject to retrieval by American citizens or Cubans that became naturalized Americans.

Following are some examples of the extra-territorial nature of the U.S. sanctions against Cuba, according to an official report made by authorities of this country, during the last period:

- On 15 May 2009, OFAC refused the application presented by the Banco Popular Español on 16 March 2009 to free funds blocked for a transfer from Madrid to Moscow by Cubana de Aviación in December 2008, amounting to 107,770.95 Euros.
- On 25 September 2009, the branch of the Spanish-owned Banco Mexicano BANCOMER informed Taino Tours, a Mexican enterprise with Cuban capital, that OFAC had confiscated a transfer of US\$ 25,000 to the DAMOJH S.A de C.V. airline for payment of a charter flight. According to the blockade regulations, the Treasury Department is authorized to inspect dollar transactions taking place in Mexican banks.
- The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication SCRL (SWIFT) informed the Central Bank of Cuba (BCC) that the new version of the SWIFT Alliance Access (SAA), Release 7.0, which must be used to access the network from 31 March 2012, will not be available to Cuba because it contains U.S. technologies and components subject to the restrictions of the economic blockade.
- After the company Lemery of Mexico was purchased by the Israeli transnational TEVA, with U.S. capital, Cuba could no longer buy the cytostatic Dactinomycin, a drug that is very useful for the treatment of sarcomas (malignant neoplasm in conjunctive tissues, such as bones, cartilage or blood vessels).

- In November 2009, Cuba had a contract for delivery of a rotary machine for bottling alcoholic beverages by the Brazilian company HUHTAMAKI, which has had longstanding contact with Cuba. The value of the equipment was US\$ 82,970.3. On the agreed delivery date, a communication was received informing that HUHTAMAKI had been bought by the American DIXIE TOGA S.A., a subsidiary of the Bemis Company Inc. group, and so the contract was void due to the blockade policy against Cuba. The impact of this contract amounted to US\$ 480,000.
- The English company AMETEK cancelled the purchase order by Procurement Customer Services of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to sell Cuba a Digital Signals Processor (DSP), in the context of the biomonitoring ARCAL RLA2013 project, destined for the Centre for Technological Applications and Nuclear Development (CEADEN) of the Nuclear Agency of Cuba. AMETEK argued that it could not send this equipment to Cuba because it was subject to the blockade policy. This equipment was aimed at implementing the X-Ray Fluorescence (FRX) technique with a view to replacing the Canberra multi-channel analyzer (Series 30) acquired at the IAEA in 1983.
- On 8 December 2009, the Cuban company Construimport applied to import 15 excavator mats, 20 backhoe loaders and 4 motor graders for an estimated value of US\$ 5.5 million from the Japanese firm "Komatsu Brasil Int" through the Brazilian company SURIMPEX. Komatsu Ltd., which for many years led the Cuban market in construction equipment, answered that the company is a subsidiary of Komatsu Latin America established under U.S. rules and therefore could not sale equipment to Cuba.
- SIEMENS of Mexico declined to participate in the offer of spare parts for the electric arc furnace of the Cuban company Antillana de Acero which once were supplied by the Mexican company Fuch, acquired by Siemens. Due to the blockade regulations, the company refused to comply with its obligations with Cuba and the required parts had to be acquired in a European country at a higher price and a longer delivery.
- During 2009, Cuba was looking for an offer of technological equipment for a 3-line continuous casting machine for the steel company ACINOX in the province of Las Tunas to increase production levels from 250,000 tons of steel a year to 300,000 tons. After contacting the manufacturer SVAI, in Linz, Austria, one of the leading companies in this field in the world, the company answered that, since Siemens AG trades on the New York Stock Exchange, they are forced to comply with the blockade against Cuba.
- The supply of spare parts for civilian aircraft Bandeirante EMB-110, operated by the Cuban airline Aerocaribbean, S.A. and manufactured by the Brazilian aircraft consortium EMBRAER, was denied. As a result of the blockade, its possible acquisition was processed by intermediaries with a subsequent increase in financial costs of 20% to 40% of its sale price.
- The U.S. State Department denied the export license to the British company Pascall Electronics Limited, subcontracted by the Canadian Intelcan Technosystems Inc. to supply equipment required for the shift (Dopplerization) of the MRL-5 Meteorological Radar in Camagüey. Pascall Electronics Limited was acquired in 2005 by the American consortium EMRISE Co.

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- A bank in an Asian country announced that it would withdraw credit cards from officials of the Cuban embassy in that country in compliance with the blockade. It was reported that no bank in the country was willing to transfer payments to Cuba, which was usual so far.
- A European bank that was acting as Euro correspondent of another Asian bank did not accept payment instructions made by a Cuban bank, and informed that it would not work with Cuba because it was included on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism, which is drawn up by the U.S. State Department.

Finally, it should also be noted that, according to Cuban authorities, the blockade affects Cuba's participation in events, institutions and international organizations, as well as the normal operation of these organizations in their work with Cuba.

V. OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Since the second half of 2009 and so far in 2010, opposition to U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba has increased at the international level:

- From 11 to 16 July 2009, on the occasion of the XV Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the Heads of State or Government approved a Special Declaration on the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba and, among other matters, "express their concern over the continuation of that long standing unilateral policy with extra-territorial effects, even after being systematically rejected by the majority of States". They urge to end the blockade immediately.
- From 22 to 27 September 2009, on the occasion of the II Africa-South America Summit (ASA), the Heads of State and Government of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR and the African Union), meeting in Margarita Island, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, issued a communiqué of solidarity with Cuba against the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States of America, including the Helms-Burton Act. In the statement, they reiterated "the most energetic rejection..., of the blockade..., as well as of the application of laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act". They urged the government of the United States to put an end to its application.
- On 16 and 17 October 2009, at the VII Summit of the countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of the Americas (ALBA), held in Cochabamba, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the blockade imposed by the U.S. against Cuba was categorically rejected. The Heads of State or Government of ALBA member countries reiterated that "the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade against the Republic of Cuba should end unconditionally, unilaterally and immediately."
- On October 28, 2009, for the eighteenth consecutive time since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by 187 votes the resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" (64/6), the highest vote ever reached by this resolution in the United Nations body.

- On 13 and 14 December 2009, in the Final Declaration of their VIII Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of the Americas–People’s Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), meeting in Havana, Cuba, “reiterated once again their total rejection of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed five decades ago by the government of the United States of America against Cuba, demanded its immediate cessation and reaffirmed their full solidarity with the Cuban people and government.”
- On 22 and 23 February 2010, on the occasion of the Unity Summit, constituted by the XXI Rio Group Summit and the II Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC), the Heads of State or Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting on the Riviera Maya (Mexico), adopted a Declaration about the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba, reiterating “the most energetic rejection of the application of laws and measures contrary to the international law such, as the Helms-Burton Act.” They urged the government of the United States to end the blockade...”
- On 18 May 2010, the VI Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean-European Union, held in Madrid, Spain, approved a Final Declaration where the Heads of State and Government of both regions agreed to the following: “(...) We firmly reject all coercive measures of unilateral nature with extra-territorial effect that are contrary to the international law and the generally accepted rules of free trade. We coincide that this type of practice represents a serious threat for multilateralism. In this context, and in reference to Resolution A/RES/64/6 of the General Assembly, we reaffirm our well-known positions on the application of the extra-territorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act.”