



## **DECLARATION OF THE CUBAN ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE WORLD HEALTH DAY**

This April 7, World Health Day, is celebrated in conditions that, perhaps, have not existed before.

We are facing a pandemic with devastating effects, with even more dire consequences for humble populations and persons in situation of vulnerability.

The number of countries affected by COVID-19 grows, and exponentially the number of people infected by the deadly virus. The number of deaths increases, particularly in vulnerable groups. Its effects are universally notable, but its consequences will be more severe for developing countries, many of which lack appropriate health systems. Existing economic inequalities are exacerbated by the pandemic.

It has been demonstrated that the fight against the pandemic and the real possibility of overcoming it can only be achieved with the joint work and efforts of all. The fight against COVID-19 is a collective responsibility and our actions will define us, both individually and collectively.

No country can combat this pandemic without international and regional cooperation. Solidarity has to overcome all barriers, be they geographical, economic, political or ideological in nature.

The international community urgently calls for the elimination of all unilateral coercive measures adopted against Cuba and other sovereign nations. These measures that impose huge economic constraints, limit trade, financial transactions, directly impact the health sector and undermine the capacity and efforts of affected countries to respond efficiently to the pandemic.

It is the moment of solidarity, not of exclusion.

Today we commend and deeply recognize the work of doctors, nurses, scientists and health workers in all latitudes, who little by little and with determination, are tearing pieces to death.

Among those brave people present in the universal geography are, on the front line, thousands of Cuban health workers, true heroes in white coats. Despite the anguishes, shortcomings and limitations imposed by a genocidal blockade that lasts for almost 60 years, they have been and always will be ready to fight for life in Cuba or wherever it is necessary, whatever the circumstances.

The Cuban Association of the United Nations salutes and congratulates those who, bravely and selflessly, fight for life, risking their own at every minute, making sense of the statement by Commander Ernesto "Che" Guevara that "It is worth more the life of a single human being, than all the properties of the richest man on earth.

Havana, April 7, 2020