**60 years too long – End the US blockade of Cuba**

This branch notes that 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of the US blockade of Cuba which is still in place despite 29 United Nations General Assembly votes calling for it to end. It is the longest economic blockade in history, has cost the economy more than 1,300 billion dollars, and causes shortages across all sectors of society in Cuba.

We recognise the increased hardships that Cubans face following the intensification of the blockade by President Trump who introduced a further 243 extra sanctions and measures, all of which remain in place under Joe Biden.

We note the COVID-19 pandemic the US blockade added to the suffering and loss of life on the island by preventing purchase and delivery of vital PPE equipment and medicines to treat patients. It also delayed the roll out Cuba’s vaccination programme. In 2021, international development agency Oxfam released a report calling for an end to the blockade and stated that “seeking to provoke hunger, especially during a global pandemic is unjust and immoral.”

We congratulate Cuba on its development of two vaccines and the full vaccination of 90 per cent of its population in spite of the severe shortages caused by the blockade. We applaud Cuba’s efforts to ensure vaccine equity with its offer to make Cuban vaccines available at solidarity prices to low income countries, and we praise the heroic contribution of the 4,700 members of Cuban medical brigades who volunteered in 45 countries to help treat COVID-19 patients during the pandemic.

This branch believes that the US blockade is detrimental to the lives of all Cubans and especially the most vulnerable in society and support efforts to campaign for it to end. We note that the CWU nationally is affiliated to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign and that General Secretary Dave Ward recently said “It’s time for this cruel policy which hurts the most vulnerable in Cuban society to end. The CWU stands in solidarity with the Cuban people against the US blockade and in their fight to build a better society with health, education and social justice at the forefront. I hope CWU branches and region will affiliate to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign and help end the US blockade once and for all.”

We therefore resolve to:

• Affiliate to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign
• Support the Cuba Solidarity Campaign’s 60 Years Too Long campaign calling for an end the US blockade in this 60th year
• Donate to the Viva La Educación appeal to send educational equipment to Cuban schools this year