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UN hails Cuba-US relations, Island's role in key issues

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Cuban President Raúl Castro and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon met on the sidelines of the Summit on Sustainable Development.

At the meeting, the Head of the UN highlighted the process of normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States.

On Saturday, the Cuban President extolled before the General Assembly the recent reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the US and the opening of both their embassies.

He also referred to the changes that President Barack Obama has declared in policy regarding the Largest of the Antilles, as an important step forward toward normalization.

However, he insisted that persists the economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba for over half a century, siege that causes damages and deprivations to the Cuban people.

Also, he ratified the blockade is the main obstacle to Cuba's economic development and affects other nations as well due to its extraterritorial effect, harming the interests of citizens and US companies.

During the meeting, the head of the UN praised the important role played by Cuba as host and facilitator of negotiations for peace in Colombia.

He also greeted the leadership shown by the government of the largest of the Antilles in the fight against the epidemic of Ebola in Western Africa and its support to the health systems of the affected countries.

The Cuban president and the secretary general of the UN also discussed other issues of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, informed an official note of the United Nations.

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