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**Cuban Workers Demand End to US Blockade**

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Cuban workers demanded an end to the blockade that the United States has imposed on their country for more than half a century, during the festivities on International Workers' Day on Sunday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the May Day parade at Havana's Jose Marti Revolution Square, the general secretary of the Cuban Workers' Confederation (CTC), Ulises Guilarte, reaffirmed that the lifting of the blockade is an indispensable condition for the normalization of relations with the United States. In order for our relations with the United States to normalize, the financial, economic and commercial blockade imposed on Cuba for more than half a century must be lifted, and the Guantanamo territory illegally occupied by that country in eastern Cuba must be returned, the CTC leader pointed out.

He underlined that Cuba will never waive its revolutionary and anti-imperialist ideals, its foreign policy committed to just causes, the defense of the countries' self-determination and its unconditional support for sister nations.

In that regard, Guilarte denounced the maneuvers aimed at weakening regional integration processes in Latin America and destroying the achievements made by social policies implemented by progressive governments such as those of Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

He noted that the mass mobilization of workers throughout Cuba constitutes an overwhelming demonstration of the people's support for the update of the Revolution's economic and social model, chosen freely as a sovereign, independent, socialist, democratic, prosperous and sustainable nation.

Guilarte pointed out that the agreements reached at the 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), held from April 16-19 in Havana, are supported by the workers and their trade unions, and their analysis at workplaces will contribute to improving Cuban socialism.

The union leader reaffirmed the workers' commitment to improving efficiency in the generation of wealth to meet

the needs of the people, increase revenues gradually, improve the quality of products and services and reduce imports.

He noted that there are major motivations this year to celebrate the Day of the World Proletariat, as there are national dates that ennoble the Cuban people's history and traditions of struggle.

Among them he mentioned the 55th anniversary of the Literacy Campaign and the declaration of Cuba as an illiteracy-free territory, the 60th anniversary of the landing of the Granma expedition and the 90th birthday of the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro.

Under the slogan "For Cuba: Unity and Commitment", the main event on International Workers' Day was held in Havana, before a mass parade of workers and their relatives in support of the Cuban Revolution.

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