



Resolution on the socio-economic situation in Cuba

The Centrist Democrat International hereby expresses its concern about the deterioration of the socio-economic situation of the Cuban people.

The low income of the majority, the significant devaluation of the Cuban peso, the national currency in which salaried workers and pensioners are paid, and the lack of supplies in state establishments for the sale of basic products, overwhelm millions of Cubans in their daily lives.

In this context, eating or obtaining certain medicines is a challenge for most Cubans, and this especially impacts chronically ill and elderly people.

Therefore, the IDC-CDI applauds the vital work carried out by Cuban civil society groups to help the Cuban people. We should note the initiative *Solidaridad Entre Hermanos* (Solidarity Among Brothers), which has allowed the collection of donations in the form of food and hygiene products from the Cuban community in exile, and which unfortunately has now been arbitrarily blocked for weeks in the Port of Mariel.

The IDC-CDI vehemently condemns the deliberate actions of the Castro regime that seek to prevent access to humanitarian aid for the Cuban population and reiterates that the current Cuban crisis, although it has been aggravated by COVID-19 and has affected most of the nations in the region, has more to do with an inefficient Cuban economic and social development model that generates social injustices, especially for those who have less.

The IDC-CDI also condemns the intensification of repression by the Cuban government against civil society and peaceful opposition activists, who are arbitrarily arrested on the streets or detained in their homes to prevent the exercise of their rights, some of which are contained in the new Cuban Constitution. Today, too, there are more than 120 political prisoners in Cuban jails whose release has been requested by major international organisations.

Therefore, and taking into account the long history of repression of the Cuban Government, its lack of commitment to the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (signed in 2008), as well as its lack of interest in a democratic solution to the Venezuelan problem, we call upon the states not to support its intention to secure a seat once again on the United Nations Human Rights Council. Supporting the Cuban Government's ambition would weaken the image and mission of the body.

We urge the Cuban Government to begin without delay a process of political, economic and social reform, so that Cuba can be integrated with all its potential into the group of democratic nations.

Executive Committee Meeting videoconference 01/10/2020