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END THE  
EMBARGO

*MinRex*

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES  
REPÚBLICA DE CUBA

## **Cuba's Report**

*On Resolution 77/7 of the  
United Nations General Assembly  
entitled "Necessity of ending  
the economic, commercial and  
financial blockade imposed by  
the United States of America  
against Cuba"*



# 01 Introduction

The economic, commercial and financial blockade is the central element that has defined the policy of the United States towards Cuba for over 60 years. The effects of this undeclared war on the economy, society, daily life and dreams of progress of over 11 million Cubans have been without a single day's respite.

Over 80% of Cuba's current population has never experienced life in Cuba without the blockade.



**This report deals with the damage caused by the blockade in the period from 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023, reflecting: the constant, deliberate application of a policy of maximum pressure, stepped up during the Trump administration; the persistence of the laws that embody this system of unilateral coercive measures; and the complete inaction of the present Biden administration as regards making any real progress in U.S.-Cuba bilateral relations.**

The severest of the current measures under Washington's policy of aggression towards Cuba include: enabling action through the U.S. courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act; the inclusion of Cuba on the U.S. State Department's arbitrary list of state sponsors of terrorism; persecution of the country's financial and trading operations; the impossibility of processing non-immigrant visas in Havana; intimidation of companies that send us fuel supplies; attempts to undermine recovery of the tourism sector in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic; and a campaign aimed at discrediting Cuba's medical cooperation programs.

The U.S. government seized on the pandemic as an ally in subjecting Cuba to its policy of aggression. The vindictive intention of stepping up the blockade under these conditions exposes Washington's inhumanity and eagerness to exploit the recession caused by this worldwide pandemic, in order to undermine social stability and subjugate the Cuban people through hunger and desperation.

The impact of this policy in the present conditions is consequently that much more pernicious and damaging from the humanitarian point of view.

**The blockade directly causes extreme harm through the combined effects of its various measures,**

**pursuing its cruel, practical aim of depriving the country of the inflow of funds essential for the purchase of food, supplies, equipment, spare parts, technologies and software,**



marking the day-to-day life of the Cubans by shortages, empty shelves, long lines and anxiety. The harm is very real and is clearly reflected in the deterioration of the country's socioeconomic indicators.

Despite the priority accorded by the Cuban government to humanitarian concerns, the blockade has undoubtedly undermined the quality of life and of public services to a population which has never before experienced such levels of shortages of medicines, food and fuel as those of recent years. These are conditions that not only undermine people's standard of living but also detract from human dignity.

The rise in Cuban emigration is a direct effect of the intensification of the blockade. No one can deny that this policy has been the primary cause of the country's economic decline, resulting in a large number of Cubans seeking personal realization abroad.

**From March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023, the blockade caused losses estimated at**

**USD 4,867,000,000**

**or, on average, exceeding USD 405,000,000 per month, USD 13,000,000 per day and USD 555,000 for every hour of the blockade.**

It is estimated that, without the blockade, in 2022 Cuba's GDP would have grown by 9%.

**At current prices, the accumulated losses during the over 60 years of application of this policy amount to USD 159,084,300,000. Taking into account the behavior of the dollar in relation to gold in the international market, the quantifiable losses attributable to the blockade have reached USD 1,337,057,000,000; the reduction compared with the corresponding total cited in the preceding report (for the period up to February 2022) is due to the 4.2% decline in the gold price since then up to February 2023.**



# 02 The blockade violates the rights of the Cuban people



## Effects on the most vulnerable social sectors

The losses in the **public health sector** caused by the blockade in the period of this report totaled

**USD 239,803,690**

almost USD 80,000,000 more than in the corresponding period preceding the COVID-19 pandemic (April 2019 - March 2020). **During the over 60 years in which the blockade has been imposed, the accumulated losses thus incurred in the health sector have reached USD 3,625,840,594.**

While COVID-19 was killing millions around the world and aggravating conditions in the Cuban public health system, which is universal and free of charge, Washington did not ease a single element of the blockade. On the contrary, **this inhuman policy was ramped up, creating difficulties and delays in obtaining essential medical supplies and equipment, including those required for scaling up production of the Cuban vaccines.** It also even obstructed purchase of medicinal oxygen from third countries.

*Such severe limitations undermine the quality of public services, causing delays, waiting lists for specialist consultations, lengthening of hospitalizations and similar problems, with a direct impact on the national health indicators.*

To quote a single example, the infant mortality rate in 2022 was 7.5 per thousand live births, compared with the pre-2019 levels around or below 5.0. The intensifying financial restrictions, the impossibility of accessing essential supplies for the national mother-and-child care program and the persecution of Cuba's traditional partners in the supply of medicines, medical equipment and technologies, among other factors, directly undermined full realization of the right to health.

***No country deserves to be subjected to such harassment and cruelty.***

During the period, MediCuba made 69 requests to U.S. companies for access to resources and supplies needed by the national health system, specifically for the Neurology & Neurosurgery Institute and the Oncology & Radiobiology Institute. Three replied in the negative (Thermo Fisher Scientific, New England Biolabs and Agilent Technologies); of the rest, 64 did not reply.





In Cuba, there are some 450 new-case diagnoses of child cancer annually.

**1** *One barely 6-year-old girl was operated to partially remove a Grade 4 intracranial tumor. While it was possible to provide her with the chemotherapy needed to combat the growth, she could not be given Lomustine, the drug of choice in the treatment of advanced tumors of this type that affect the central nervous system - and unobtainable due to the blockade. This patient is currently in relapse and is under a rescue regime.*

**For this little girl and other Cuban children, the blockade on their country is a matter of life and death.**

There are currently 20,000 Cuban families waiting for diagnoses of genetic diseases to whom it has not been possible to provide adequate care; the necessary technology uses over 10% U.S. components and is consequently inaccessible. To quote a single example, the U.S. company Chroma has denied our access to supplies for Cytovision systems installed in the national genetic medicine centers, which include immunofluorescent microscopes.

*In her first year, a now two-year-old Cuban girl was referred for genetic evaluation, her family having noted a marked deviation in her spine accompanied by convexity in the thoracic region and posterior column. The geneticists suspected Kozlowski syndrome, a severe bone disease (dysplasia) affecting the spine and the metaphysis of*

**2**



*the body's long bones. There are around 1,000 cases worldwide. The blockade has prevented diagnosis of this condition in the country, due to the absence of the relevant technology. It was necessary to fund the studies at an international laboratory, to confirm the diagnosis.*

**3**

*An 8-year-old boy, living in eastern Cuba, in 2018 at the age of three had received a clinical genetics consultation for generalized muscular weakness; congenital myopathy with unspecified cause was suspected. Non-availability of the laboratory technology needed meant that the diagnosis could not be finalized. It took three years, considerable efforts and expensive investigations abroad to arrive at a final diagnosis, which was confirmed in December 2021, when he was six. This was a case of Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease (PMD), a variant of leukodystrophy, which involves impairment of the white matter that surrounds nerve fibers. Worldwide, the incidence of this disease is no more than 1 in 400,000.*

Meantime, Washington has kept up its hate campaign aimed at discrediting and disrupting the international medical cooperation Cuba offers, spreading lies and discouraging third countries from seeking our services. This is part of an assault designed to deprive Cuba of the fair, honest and legitimate revenues generated by the efforts of thousands of professionals trained technically, humanistically and ethically in the country.

The international community has, on multiple occasions, acknowledged the professionalism and altruism of the over 605,000 Cuban medical collaborators who, during the last 60 years, have completed missions in 165 countries.

As of the end of April 2023, Cuban medical cooperation had provided care to over 2.198 billion patients in consultations around the world; over 10.035 million lives had been saved; over 5.112 million childbirths had been attended; and more than 16 million operations had been performed. 57 medical brigades comprising 22,632 coworkers offered their services in a spirit of solidarity in various parts of the world.

**2.198 BILLION PATIENTS IN CONSULTATIONS AROUND THE WORLD**



Washington's campaign of vilification would be immoral under any circumstances; in the context of recovery from a pandemic, it is despicable. Cuba supported the response to SARS-COV-2 in 42 countries and territories,

having dispatched 58 medical brigades adding to the over 27,000 healthcare professionals already at work in 59 countries. The brigades provided care to over 4 million patients and saved over 80,000 lives. This effort reflects the ethical and humanist principles that are the foundation of Cuban society.



**The food and agriculture sector is the base for achieving food safety and sovereignty - two goals among the Cuban government's priorities that are directly linked to the implementation of the national food sovereignty and nutritional education program (the "Plan SAN") and pursuit of the aims agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Despite the substantial resources and efforts focused by the Cuban state on developing the agricultural sector, it is by no means immune from the effects of the U.S. blockade. In the period of this report, the recorded damage amounted to

**USD 273,390,800**



The economic siege has meant curtailed access to supplies, raw materials, chemicals and technologies needed for this industry to a degree that has caused a sharp downturn in national production. To cite a single example: in the period under review, Bravo S.A., a Spanish-Cuban joint venture, could have obtained 384 tons more of raw material in the form of meat and produced an additional 626.2 tons of finished product had it been able to import the supplies directly from the U.S. market.

In the period under review, the Cuban company Alimport reported losses of USD 35,200,000 representing 90% of the total losses incurred by Grupo Empresarial del Comercio Exterior de Cuba (GECOMEX).

In this sector, the main impact on Cuban exports arises from Washington's restrictive measures on marketing Cuban tobacco in the U.S. The losses in this respect in the period of this report are estimated at USD 237,500,000.

Under permits with legal restrictions, Cuba can purchase certain agricultural products in the U.S. market, albeit subject to payment in advance and without access to credit finance. This is highly problematic since, at the same time, the country is being starved of revenues. In these conditions marked by harassment in the finance sector, gargantuan efforts are required of the Cuban government to supply the standard family food basket to the population.

This list comprises 24 heavily subsidized products distributed on a monthly basis to the entire population. Also subsidized are certain specific products supplied to 1,218,000 people, as are milk, baby foods and beef and chicken for children, mothers-to-be and AIDS patients.

**Huge efforts are expended in maintaining a system for feeding a segment of the population comprising 58,457 persons, including elderly, disabled and other vulnerable people, who lack adequate income, have no relatives able to help or are otherwise needy, while free school meals are provided to 124,664 pupils in 764 schools.**



The factors described above have contributed to the erratic performance of basic supplies and the disruption of deliveries to the population.

In 2023, the standard family food basket was planned at USD 1,648,000,000. Only with one third of the amount of the damages caused by the blockade between March 2022 and February 2023, all the expenses for this concept could be covered, for the benefit of our population.

Education, sport and culture are also priority sectors in Cuban government policy, as part of its humanist approach.

**The blockade has directly affected all three, reflecting the difficulties in access to financing coupled with the limitations caused by the fuel shortage, the high cost of purchasing and transporting the relevant supplies and the difficulty of collecting payments for professional services provided abroad due to the banking/financial restrictions.**

Between March 2022 and February 2023, losses in the education sector are estimated at:

**USD 75,551,799.**

The main impacts in this period were as follows:

**1** Difficulties in obtaining supplies needed for the production of books, leaflets and other printed teaching matter, which precluded production of the texts for the third rationalization of the national curriculum. Over 118,600 pupils, mainly at the pre-school and first-grade levels, lacked a complete set of exercise books

for the reading, writing and mathematics areas.

There were shortfalls of production at the Caribe newspapers and publishing firms, of 76.9 million notebooks, textbooks, exercise books and medical prescriptions and of 97.4 million newspapers. These effects were partly due to cancellation of a line of credit following the decision by a Canadian paper mill to bow to the blockade by ceasing to supply to Cuba.

**2** There are currently 1,315 establishments within the national education system in need of repair, estimated to cost a total of USD 6,500,000. 12 hours free of the blockade would release the sum required.

**3** Importing batteries for the hearing aids of pupils using these is problematic, since the vast majority are made in U.S. Of the 1,152 schoolchildren with hearing difficulties, 920 use such devices; and of those, 219 are affected by breakage of these.

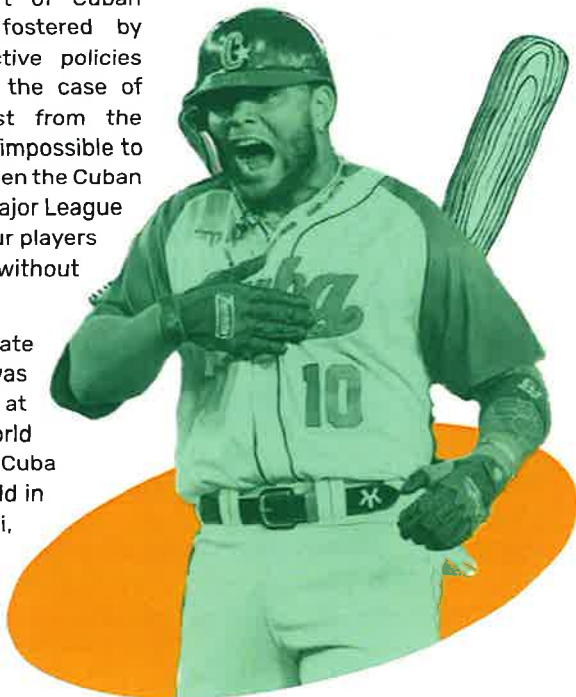
**4** The Cuban state makes considerable efforts in granting a 50% subsidy on school uniforms. However, the blockade is currently causing a shortage of raw materials for making these and for improving school furnishings. The need to purchase in distant markets increases the costs by a factor of four or five.



**5** During the period, funding for attendance by a Cuban computer sciences engineering student at the World Congress on Undergraduate Research (WorldCUR) was withdrawn. This scientific event was held on April 4-6 at Warwick University in the UK. The organizers informed the student that since Cuba was on a list of sanctioned countries, their insurance and financial compliance departments were unable to fund the trip.

**In the field of sports,** there were clear signs of the theft of Cuban talent, facilitated and fostered by discriminatory and selective policies of the United States. In the case of baseball, despite interest from the Cuban side, it has proved impossible to reach an agreement between the Cuban Baseball Federation and Major League Baseball (MLB) whereby our players could play in the league without having to leave Cuba.

Encouragement of hate speech directed at Cuba was apparent on March 19 last, at the semifinal of the 5th World Baseball Classic between Cuba and the United States, held in the LoanDepot Park, Miami, Florida. There were cases of direct aggression against our players,



their accompanying delegation and the Cuban team's followers; incidents included the throwing of objects, use of offensive language, threats, placards with political slogans and attempts to subvert the team's morale.

Also, our athletes and referees have experienced the retention of thousands of dollars earned as prizes due to refusal by foreign banks to process payments to Cuban beneficiaries. Among those affected were Leila Consuelo Martínez Ortega and Lidianny Echevarría Benítez of the women's beach volley squad, who have been unable to collect the money due to them from their participation in the Beach Volleyball World Tour.

**In the cultural sphere, the blockade complicates the search for niche markets and business opportunities, hinders promotion, dissemination and marketing of our cultural talents; decimates selling prices and greatly restricts the enjoyment of our art by the mass populations of all the continents.**



**1**

In May 2023, the Cuban duo Buena Fe fell victim to this venomous campaign of defamation. During their concert at Madrid's Galileo Galilei, as part of a European tour, attempts were made to sabotage their performance by throwing objects and hurling insults. The harassment and pressure from the media on the promoters and owners of the concert halls led to the suspension of further planned performances in Salamanca and Zamora.

**2**

The Cuban intellectual and national literature prize winner, Nancy Morejón, was another victim of the cultural and media war on Cuba. At the end of May 2023, the organizers of the "Poetry Market", staged in Paris on June 7-12, withdrew her designation as honorary president of the event, bowing to pressure from the promoters of hate speech and persecution aimed at Cuban artists.



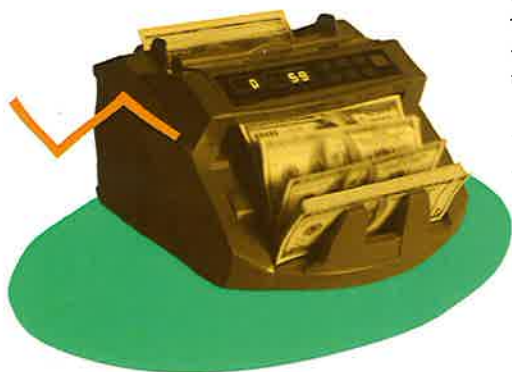


## Impacts on economic development

In 2022, the Cuban economy grew by a bare 2%, following the loss between January 2020 and September 2021 of 13% of GDP - the combined effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, a world economic crisis and unprecedented intensification of the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade.

In the first ten months of 2022 alone, inflation caused a rise of almost 29% in the average cost of basic goods and services. From October 2021 to October 2022, inflation increased by almost 40%. The key factors in this situation included not only imported inflation derived from rising prices in the world market, but also lack of access to hard currency, exacerbated by intensification of the blockade and Washington's relentless persecution of all the country's sources of revenues.

The main factor in the sluggish performance of the economy has been the revenues foregone through lost exports.



***In this respect alone, the detriment attributable to the blockade in the period covered by this report amounted to USD 1,808,000,000, representing 37% of the total losses caused by this policy during the period.***

In this context, one of the factors that has led to the scarcity of hard currency in the country has been the failure to reach the target of 2.5 million tourist visitors in 2022. In the period under review, the blockade's focus on impeding recovery by the tourism sector caused losses totaling USD 1,089,470,572.

International visitors numbered 1,614,087 in 2022 - 64.6% of the planned total and just 37.8% of the level in 2019.

**64.6%  
visitors**

The cumulative effect of the unilateral coercive measures imposed, the inclusion of Cuba on the list of state sponsors of terrorism and Washington's blacklist of firms which covers practically all the country's hotels, explain the downturn in the number of visitors to Cuba.

***Without the blockade and the ban on U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba for tourism, the annual total of U.S. visitors to our country would reach at least an estimated 1.2 million, making the United States the primary source market.***

Without the blockade and the ban on U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba for tourism, the annual total of U.S. visitors to our country would reach at least an estimated 1.2 million, making the United States the primary source market. Taking account of the 117,825 such visitors received in the period under review, the number who were dissuaded from traveling to Cuba by the ban can be estimated at 1,082,175. Had they done so, the Cuban tourist industry would have earned from the U.S. market some USD 1,001,011,875.

Another factor hindering development of the sector is the prohibiting of U.S. cruise lines to enter Cuban ports, involving fines and legal proceedings against those that have undertaken operations with Cuba.



Had Cuba been able to maintain the cruise tourism segment, the revenues that would have been earned in the period under review amount to some USD 56,000,000, which would have contributed to the government's efforts to revitalize the national economy and the country's main social sectors.

***As a result of the absurd, mendacious designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, Washington's requirement of an entry visa for everyone - including those authorized under the ESTA mechanism - who has visited or proposes to visit our country, has depressed the numbers of visits by Cubans resident abroad and of tourists from over 50 countries. It has also deterred U.S. visitors whose travel plans complied with the 12 categories permitted by their government.***

Another sector of the Cuban economy appreciably affected by the blockade has been the biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry. Every year, research, development and product manufacture and marketing are impacted, with significant financial losses.

This industry proved to be an essential pillar of national sovereignty during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Development of the sector enabled five Cuban vaccine candidates to be produced, including three that stemmed propagation of this disease and saved thousands of lives. However, the response could have been much earlier and more expeditious had not the blockade obstructed the process of research, development, production and industrial scaling up of these drugs.

In the period considered, the losses suffered in this sector totaled:

**USD 142,896,200**

mostly in the form of export revenues foregone, the cost of geographic relocations of business and monetary impacts.

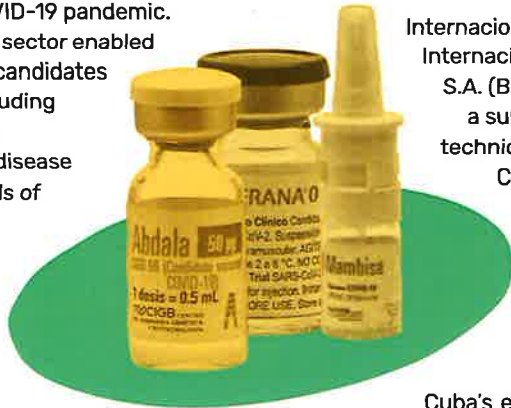
The Finlay Vaccines Institute ("IFV"), manufacturer of the Soberana 02 and Soberana Plus Cuban anti-COVID-19 vaccines, experienced difficulties created by the blockade in a total of 14 operations,

7 relating to reagents and raw materials, 4 to supplies of consumables and 3 to equipment of U.S. origin. In most cases, the materials involved had to be obtained via third parties, at significantly inflated unit prices and higher freight costs.

Since 2021, three European banks have been refusing to effect transactions with Banco Financiero Internacional (BFI) or Banco Internacional de Comercio S.A. (BICSA), resulting in a supplier suspending technical services to the CIGB's Mariel plant, which produces the Abdala anti-COVID-19 vaccine on an industrial scale.

The damage to Cuba's economy from the blockade in the communications and information technology sector, including telecommunications, in the period from March 2022 to February 2023 is quantified at an estimated USD 41,270,050. As in the previous stages, ETECSA bore the brunt of the losses, reporting these at USD 40,901,400 (around 99.1% of the sector total).

Various international providers of repair services for the installed technology have decided to withdraw their services, leaving over half of the current equipment without such coverage.



An agreement between ETECSA and Columbus Network Ltd. (CNL), a subsidiary of Liberty Latin America, for connection of the first ARCOS-1 undersea cable that would link up the United States with Cuba has been awaiting finalization for over four years, pending review of the relevant license application by CNL to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

On November 30, 2022, the Justice Department published a recommendation by the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector to the FCC that the license be denied, on grounds including that Cuba represented a counterintelligence threat to the United States, coupled with the country's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

On December 13 of that year, Florida senator Marco Rubio wrote to the chairman of the FCC demanding the immediate denial of the license. These events put pressure on the U.S. company, which withdrew its application.

Restrictions on broadband access to the internet remain in place, affecting the speed of downloads of software, music and radio and TV programs transmitted in real time; access to certain sites that provide (often free) updating to programs that have millions of users worldwide is also affected.

To quote a single example, Adobe's website blocks Cuba, making it impossible to access the help associated with certain applications which is available only in that firm's proprietary format, as is the case

of the latest versions of the professional audio workstation Audition CS6.



In the period considered, the losses caused by the blockade to Cuban industry and the business system combined are estimated at USD 467,750,990. They relate mainly to revenues foregone on exports of goods and services, geographical relocation of trade, fluctuations in exchange rates, the impact of technological blocking and a fuel shortage that has impacted the industrial and business system across the board.



Some of the severest repercussions in this sector were:

- Late deliveries to the Suchel Camacho S.A. joint venture company, causing setbacks to the firm's production schedules. Effects included delayed delivery of soap to the retail outlets due to shortage of raw materials caused by the impossibility for vessels to touch port in Cuba without incurring sanctions, and reductions on the part of the major shipping companies, namely: Hamburg Süd, MSC, Maersk, COSCO, CMA CGM, Hapag Lloyd, NIRINT and Melfi Marine.
- A reduction to 68 from a total supplier base of 573 in the number of firms from which the COPEXTEL S.A. telecommunications company was able to import, creating substantial operating problems.
- Excess costs reported at USD 101,921,200 by CIMEX, which imports, exports and markets goods and services. Had it been able to source the relevant products directly from the U.S. market, it would have saved 20% of the costs incurred.
- The implications of a situation whereby the Caribe chain of retail stores could have sourced in the U.S. market 502 (40%) of the 1,256 containers of food products it received. Similar considerations apply to its imports of perfumery and hygiene products, of which 656 (57%) of the 1,151 containers could otherwise have been from the U.S.; the resulting cost penalty is estimated at USD 3,680,900. Shipping delays resulted in failure to adhere to the delivery schedules agreed with the

retail outlets, leading to shortages in the home market.

The impacts of the blockade on the construction sector included the persistence of serious difficulties in accessing more efficient, lighter construction technologies with reduced consumption of basic materials and energy components. Between March 2022 and February 2023, the damage arising in the sector is quantified at:

**USD 89,134,500.**

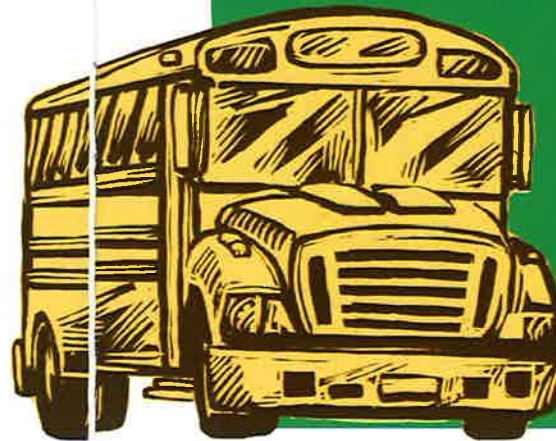
93.6% of the losses reported, USD 83,425,400, were incurred by the national housing authority.

The main impacts arose from limited access to basic materials-industry goods and technologies, including cement, dry goods, blocks, fiber cement tiles, asphalt membranes and woodwork. The situation was compounded by loss of contracts with foreign suppliers and transport problems due to the scarcity of fuel.

**To cite a single example, in early 2022 a Central American supplier with whom we had a USD 3,000,000 contract for the supply of PVC sanitary and water-supply tubing, notified its decision to cease operations with Cuba; there were 26 orders pending at this point. Making alternative contractual arrangements with other suppliers resulted in a substantial increase in costs.**

In the case of **the transport sector**, during the period considered, the blockade was responsible for economic damage to the tune of USD 202,420,140.

***The last three years have seen a steady decline in all the means of passenger transport and the associated infrastructures, as vehicle condition has deteriorated, replacement parts have become scarce (through lack of funds as well as supplier refusals) and Washington has persisted with the policies it introduced in 2019 designed to starve Cuba of fuel, which has had a devastating effect on this sector. The impact is felt in lower levels of service, seriously affecting the public at large.***



Public transportation alone requires maintenance expenditure totaling USD 40,000,000 a year, plus investment in the sector. The banning of cruise ships from entering Cuban ports has cut off one of the main sources of revenue for funding the transport infrastructure.

The purchase price of a bus of the type seen in the streets of Havana is USD 200,000; a locomotive costs around USD 2,000,000; a small airplane over USD 30,000,000; a ferry over USD 10,000,000. One blockade-free week would pay for 206 buses, 6 trains, a plane and a ferry.

In normal times, public transportation in Havana consumes over 80,000 liters of diesel per day. It is currently not possible to meet that level of supply. Importantly, in the period under review, marine freight costs trebled due to the rise in fuel prices, making these operations even more costly.

In the case of air transportation, the U.S. revoked airplane leasing licenses, thereby preventing Cubana de Aviación from quoting for international flights. Based on a total of 7,854 lost operations with medium-sized aircraft used by the airlines that operate in Cuba and average fuel consumption by such planes of 3.13 tons (4,000 liters) on the busiest route (to Miami), the losses during the period considered are estimated at USD 37,572,455.96.

The impact on **the energy and mining sector** in the period considered has been put at:

**USD 491,156,960**

The heaviest losses, **USD 239,276,300**, were incurred by the National Electrical Union.



Excess expenditure in this respect on freight and insurance alone amounted to USD 92,784,868.

Brüel & Kjær Vibro GmbH, a German company that provides the technology for the systems for vibration monitoring of the thermal turbines used by the National Electrical Union ("UNE") has continued to accept its bank's recommendation not to operate with Cuba due to the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.

ABB Turbocharging spin-off ACCELLERON, source of the technology employed by UNE's turbochargers, has decided to cease direct operations with Cuba, on the grounds of the ban on

countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism. The effect on costs in the period covered by this report was an increase of 30% above the normal level when dealing with the firm mentioned.

The economic constraints have caused serious problems also in **the private sector**. The blockade has severely limited the operations of numerous private-sector entrepreneurs, owners of companies and Cuban cooperatives. The restrictions on travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens have continued to depress tourist numbers, with a significant reduction in demand for goods and services in the private sector over recent years.

Cuban businessmen have also seen closure of their U.S. bank accounts, making their financial transactions more difficult and expensive. The coercive measures aimed at financial institutions in recent years have resulted in refusal of service to Cuban customers by PayPal, Airbnb and several other payment platforms.



## 03 Repercussions on the foreign sector of the Cuban economy





## Impacts on foreign trade

The losses in foreign trade caused by the blockade in the period from March 2022 to February 2023 totaled

**USD 3,081,300,000**

The period saw an appreciable decline in our foreign trade, notably in the case of import volumes. Rising costs on purchases of goods also resulted in a reduction in real funding in support of the national economic plans.

As in previous years, the severest impacts were in the form of revenues foregone on exports of goods and services, amounting to USD 1,808,000,000. Tourism was again the sector hardest hit, accounting for 58.5% of the total mentioned.

Reflecting the ban under the blockade on exports to the U.S., the impact in the agricultural segment totaled USD 248,900,000 up 8% on the preceding period. The revenues foregone comprising this amount relate to potential exports of tobacco, charcoal, premium quality fruit, honey, chili peppers and other produce.

In the case of sugar, the value of potential exports to the U.S. in the period is estimated at USD 20,820,600, taking account of the 60,000 tons Cuba placed in the world market.

As regards other exportable products such as rum and charcoal, the ban on exports to the United States obliges the Cuban producers to seek customers in more distant markets, including Europe, which considerably raises the cost of marketing.

## The restrictions on imports of agricultural products from the U.S. are also still in place.

Cuba's ALIMPORT incurs additional costs in order to participate in this erratic trade which operates on one level only: Cuba has no access to U.S. bank financing or, given the country risk factor, to the international credit system for operations of this type.

On this basis, the Cuban firm has to seek funding elsewhere, from sources that apply financing charges around 5 percentage points above the normal rates.

The impacts in terms of freight, insurance and the cost of brokerage, with the resulting increase in the cost of the goods, was extra expense amounting to USD 490,900,000 having increased by 31% compared with the corresponding total in the preceding report.

The following table summarizes the impact of the blockade on Cuba's foreign trade sector between March 2022 and February 2023:

Impacts resulting from	USD (million)
Ban on access to the U.S. market	488.8
Excess costs on freight, insurance & brokerage	490.9
Export revenues foregone	1808.0
Country risk/excess financing costs	13.4
Ban on use of U.S. dollar	280.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,081.3</b>

## Impacts in the banking and finance sector

Between March 2022 and February 2023, Cuba's banking and financial system continued to be a primary target of Washington's aggressive measures designed to consolidate the economic, commercial and financial blockade. The resulting monetary/financial losses incurred by the Cuban economy exceeded USD 280,200,000.

In the period considered, the number of foreign banks that for various reasons refused to honor transactions with Cuban banks rose to 130 (75 in Europe, 21 in the Americas and 34 in the rest of the world). The transactions affected numbered 267.

The following are a few examples of extraterritorial application of the blockade in the banking/finance sector during the period under review:



## Refusal to provide banking services

- 1 Refusal to open or closure of accounts: 6 foreign banks, all Europe-based.
- 2 Refusal to transfer funds to or receive funds from Cuba or provide other banking services: 35 banks - 21 European, 9 in the Americas, 5 in the rest of the world.  
  - The results included cancellation of Cuba's membership of the Latin American Monetary Studies Center ("CEMLA"), for underpayment of the subscription for 2022 and non-payment for 2023.
  - Currently, over 50 Cuban diplomatic missions abroad have been excluded by the banks that traditionally served them. It has consequently been impossible to conduct the banking/financial operations required to keep them running normally.
- 3 SWIFT messaging RMA code numbers were canceled or denied by 28 foreign banks - 17 European, 2 in the Americas and 9 in the rest of the world. The results included difficulties and delays in the processing of banking transactions.
- 4 Reversal of banking transactions: 59 banks - 29 European, 10 Latin American and 20 in the rest of the world. Most of the disruptions to transactions - both credit transfers and documentary credits - related to funds returned

under alleged internal policies of the beneficiaries' banks or the correspondent banks, preventing the funds from reaching their destination. Most instances arose with European, Latin American and Asian banks, citing as grounds the U.S. sanctions against Cuba.

- 5 Cancellation of transactions and of correspondence arrangements: 2 European banks.

**The persistence of sanctions on the Cuban FINCIMEX non-banking financial organization continues to affect the volumes of remittances to the population from the U.S. via Western Union, the latter having closed all its branches in Cuba in November 2020.**



**In the period under review, remittances foregone for this reason totaled an estimated USD 651,329,080, directly affecting the Cuban families concerned.**

**The U.S. money transfer agencies VA CUBA and CUBAMAX have been obliged to operate below capacity. In the case of the latter, it has had to resort to triangulated credit transfers involving other trading partners.**

**In the case of VA CUBA, deprivation of Cuban families in the period is estimated at USD 21,981,060, while the corresponding total for CUBAMAX was USD 8,961,090.**



# Opposition by the international community

# + 400

pronouncements against Helms-Burton Title III and the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba on the unilateral list of state sponsors of terrorism

Statements by important personalities

# +

# 1,649

friendship associations active in 150 nations

Caravans against the blockade in numerous countries

Sending of open letters

In person and digital actions

Of particular note were the events platform

- "Puentes de Amor"
- The Latin American and Caribbean Continental Network of Solidarity with Cuba
- Unblock Cuba,
- "From Australia to Cuba with love" campaign
- "Europe for Cuba" media marathon against the blockade

Passing of resolutions

Speeches at international events

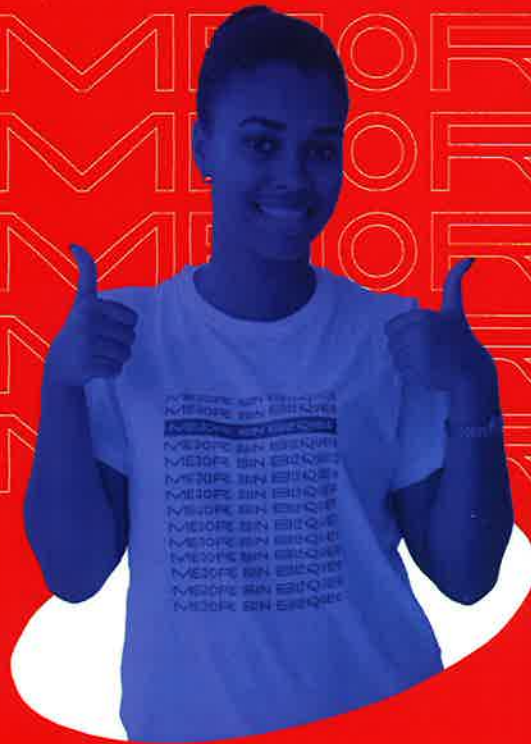
Cuban residents abroad

# 7,237

## INITIATIVES IN SOLIDARITY AND AGAINST THE BLOCKADE



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# 05 Conclusions

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**No Cuban family escapes the effects of the U.S. blockade - the most prolonged, cruel and all-pervading system of unilateral coercive measures ever imposed on any nation.**



Between March 2022 and February 2023, Washington maintained its tactics aimed at obstructing the supply of fuel to Cuba, kept up its campaign designed to discredit our medical cooperation programs in numerous parts of the world and did its best in every possible way to impede recovery of our tourism sector, severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures are designed to deal a mortal blow to Cuba's primary sources of revenue.

Moreover, Washington has determinedly set about intimidating investors and foreign commercial organizations by the application of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. It has also compromised our country's private sector and has disrupted the links with Cubans resident in the United States. While it has taken some very modest steps to ease the restrictions on visas, regular migration, flights to Cuba and remittances, the blockade's most draconian features are still in full force together with the measures of maximum pressure imposed since 2017.



The financial persecution has been stepped up even further with the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba on the State Department's unilateral list of states alleged to be sponsors of terrorism. This was a measure imposed by the Republican administration of Donald Trump, just nine days before he left the White House. His successor could have reversed this act with a single signature. But the political will to undo one of the most damaging measures, that impinges on every sector of the national economy, has been lacking, despite the knowledge that the reasons propounded for its existence are bogus and dishonest.

Between March 1, 2022 and February 28, 2023 the blockade was responsible for economic damage conservatively estimated at USD 4,867,000,000.

This equates to losses of over USD 405,000,000 per month, over USD 13,000,000 per day and over USD 555,000 for every hour of the blockade. It is estimated that without the blockade, Cuba's GDP would have grown in 2022 by 9%.

At current prices, the cumulative damage during over 60 years' application of this policy amounts to USD 159,084,300,000. Taking account of the behavior of the dollar in relation to gold in the international market, the quantifiable losses attributable to the blockade have reached USD 1,337,057,000,000; the reduction compared with the corresponding total cited in the preceding report for the period up to February 2022 is due to the 4.2% decline in the gold price since then up to February 2023.

**For 30 years, Washington has ignored successive resolutions by the UN General Assembly, voices from within U.S. society and within its own state apparatus, all calling for an end to the blockade. It is an anachronistic policy that, ultimately, has served to discredit and isolate the United States.**



**Table summarizing the losses quantified by sector, for the period March 2022 to February 2023**

Sector	Losses reported (in U.S. dollars)
Public health	239,803,690
Education	75,551,799
Sport	850,400.87
Culture	83,446,000
Biotechnological & pharmaceutical industry	142,896,200
Tourism	1,089,470,572
Agriculture	273,390,800
Communications & IT including telecommunications	41,270,050
Industry	23,098,100
Construction	89,134,500
Transport	202,420,140
Energy & mines	491,156,960
Foreign trade	3,081,300,000
Banking/finance	280,200,000