



**PUB 09**

## **Together for Justice: Our Collective Action for Cuba**

### **COVER NOTE**

This statement has been prepared by the ACT Cuba Forum in consultation with the ACT Canada and North American Regional Forums, as well as with FESUR, the South America Forum of ACT Alliance. The main theme addressed in this statement is a call for urgent action to support Cuba in overcoming the unprecedented challenges it currently faces.

### **TOPIC**

The ACT Cuba Forum , which includes the Cuban Council of Churches and the Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue-Cuba, calls on the ACT Alliance to intensify advocacy efforts and implement a robust humanitarian response for Cuba. The forum highlights the severe impact of the United States' policy towards Cuba, describing the blockade as a violation of human rights and an act of economic warfare that hinders Cuba's development and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### **STATEMENT**

## **Together for Justice: Our Collective Action for Cuba**

Today, millions of Cubans are suffering from unprecedented hardships due to economic sanctions and multiple global and national crises. This request for assistance at the ACT General Assembly 2024 is a vital effort by the ACT Cuba Forum to mobilise collective advocacy and resources to alleviate their suffering.

The theme of the ACT 2024 General Assembly, "Together for Justice," is a powerful call to transform our commitment to justice from words into concrete actions. The humanitarian crisis in Cuba, driven by the long-standing economic blockade imposed by the United States and exacerbated by recent global economic disruptions, failed public policies, and natural disasters intensified by climate change, is a clear example of injustice that urgently requires our collective response.

We believe that the economic, trade, and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba constitutes a violation of the human rights of the Cuban people. This blockade can be seen as an act of economic warfare, severely obstructing Cuba's development and hindering the country's ability to fully achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The inclusion of Cuba on the United States' list of State Sponsors of Terrorism further aggravates these challenges by isolating the nation both economically and diplomatically. This unjust designation restricts Cuba's access to international markets and financial resources, deepening the humanitarian crisis on the island.

The combined effects of failed U.S. policies, national policies, and other factors have created desperate humanitarian conditions on the island: significant shortages of food, medicine, and essential goods, alongside rampant inflation, have rendered basic needs unaffordable for most Cubans. Energy shortages have led to prolonged blackouts, severely disrupting daily life. The lack of access to vital food and medical supplies has endangered lives and contributed to a mass exodus of Cubans. Furthermore, the socioeconomic crisis has widened inequalities, increased poverty, and fuelled violence, particularly against women and marginalised groups.

Despite these challenges, the ACT Cuba Forum and its partners continue to work on gender justice, food security, environmental protection, livelihoods, health, and emergency response. However, the scale of the crisis far exceeds the available resources, necessitating urgent international solidarity and support to alleviate the suffering of the Cuban people.

In light of this, as members gathered at the ACT 2024 General Assembly, we express our full solidarity with the Cuban people, advocate for a fair U.S. foreign policy towards Cuba, and mobilise resources for humanitarian aid.

The challenges facing Cuba are immense, but through the collective efforts of ACT, we can help sustain vulnerable Cubans, restore hope, dignity, and the possibility of a better future for all. Now is the time to act.

### **Commitments & Recommendations**

For all these reasons, we, as ACT Alliance, commit to:

- **Use our influence with the U.S. government** to encourage the immediate lifting of the economic, trade, and financial blockade, as well as all other unilateral coercive measures imposed by the U.S., at least to the levels during the second Obama administration.
- **Urge the incoming U.S. administration to remove Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.**
- **Explore avenues to support sustainable development initiatives in Cuba**, such as promoting food security, strengthening health systems, and enhancing community resilience to climate-related disasters.
- **Provide financial support as members for a serious capacity-building advocacy process** for the Cuba Forum.

*A majority of the assembly has declared itself in agreement with the opinions expressed in this statement. While many ACT members agree with the public statement, there are members who have expressed differing perspectives on the content or tone. Their decision reflects the diverse viewpoints within our alliance, and we respect their choice to abstain or vote against. As always, we value the collective dialogue and encourage continued discussions on the matter at hand, recognizing the strength of our unity in diversity.*