

# **JOINT STATEMENT BY PROGRESSIVE FORCES CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE LIFTING OF THE UNITED STATES BLOCKADE AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

**DATE: 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026**

We, the undersigned organisations and movements committed to social justice, sovereignty, anti-colonial struggle, and international law, unite in unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing economic blockade imposed by the United States against the Republic of Cuba.

For more than six decades, this unilateral, intimidating policy has sought to subjugate a sovereign nation for choosing an independent political and economic path. It represents a sustained act of economic aggression aimed at generating hardship, destabilisation, and political submission. Such measures constitute collective punishment and directly contradict the principles of the United Nations Charter and the norms governing relations among sovereign states.

The blockade, first imposed in 1960 and later entrenched through legislation including the Helms-Burton Act, extends beyond bilateral hostility. Its extraterritorial provisions penalise third countries, financial institutions, shipping companies, and corporations that engage in lawful trade with Cuba. In doing so, it weaponises the global financial system as an instrument of imperial coercion.

The designation of Cuba as a “State Sponsor of Terrorism” has further intensified this siege. This label isolates the country from international banking systems, deters investment, blocks routine financial transactions, and obstructs humanitarian trade. Its reputational and compliance consequences exceed its legal framework, compounding the economic suffocation of the Cuban people.

This policy persists despite overwhelming and consistent opposition within the United Nations General Assembly, where the international community has repeatedly called for its termination. The continued enforcement of the blockade demonstrates a refusal to respect multilateral consensus and international law.

The consequences of this economic warfare constrain access to food imports, medical supplies, industrial equipment and energy inputs. Financial institutions, fearing secondary sanctions, decline legitimate transactions. Shipping firms avoid Cuban ports. These cumulative pressures hinder economic planning, strain public services, and impede national development.

Yet Cuba’s international record stands in sharp contrast to the treatment it receives.

During Africa’s liberation struggles, Cuba provided decisive military and technical assistance. Between 1975 and 1991, approximately 300,000 Cuban troops served in Angola in defense of the MPLA government against apartheid South Africa and external intervention. The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale marked a turning point that contributed to the independence of Namibia and the dismantling of apartheid. Leaders, including Nelson Mandela publicly acknowledged Cuba’s contribution to African freedom.

Cuban solidarity extended to Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and other liberation movements across the continent. Military advisers, educators, and medical professionals served abroad under difficult conditions in support of Africa’s anti-colonial struggle.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba dispatched medical brigades to dozens of countries across Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the Caribbean. Cuban scientists developed domestic vaccines despite restricted access to global supply chains. Even under blockade, Cuba contributed to international public health cooperation.

The persistence of the blockade cannot be detached from geopolitical calculation and domestic political incentives within the United States. Cuba occupies a unique place in US strategic imperial thinking. Before 1959, significant portions of Cuban land, utilities, and tourism infrastructure were owned or controlled by US interests.

The island functioned as a leisure extension of the mainland, centred on resort development, casino operations, and foreign corporate dominance. That historical memory remains embedded in segments of political and business discourse that view Cuba less as a sovereign nation and more as a future investment opportunity should the blockade cause political change.

Guided by anti-imperialist principle and international solidarity, we call upon the conscience of the global community to:

1. Publicly denounce the United States blockade as an illegal unilateral coercive measure and a violation of Cuba's sovereignty.
2. Demand the immediate removal of Cuba from the "State Sponsor of Terrorism" list.
3. Call for the complete and unconditional lifting of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade.
4. Reject the use of sanctions, financial exclusion, and economic siege as instruments of regime change.
5. Uphold Cuba's inalienable right to political independence, self-governance, and territorial integrity.
6. Insist that international disputes be addressed through diplomacy, dialogue, and multilateral mechanisms rather than gunboat diplomacy.
7. Encourage governments and parliaments to oppose extraterritorial sanctions and protect lawful trade relations.
8. Organize public education campaigns, forums, and assemblies to expose the human cost of unilateral economic warfare.
9. Stand in active solidarity with the Cuban people and with all nations resisting imperial domination.

We affirm that sovereignty is not conditional on compliance with great power interests. If economic siege becomes normalised as a tool of political engineering, then the independence of all nations becomes precarious.

Grounded in Pan-Africanism, anti-colonial history, and South-South solidarity, we reject economic strangulation as a method of international governance. We recommit ourselves to a world order rooted in equality among states, respect for sovereignty, and genuine multilateralism.

Hands Off Cuba.

End the Blockade Now.

## SIGNATORIES

Action for the Development of Angolan Youth and Foreigners in Angola (ADJAE), Angola  
All-African People's Revolutionary Party (A-APRP), Ghana  
Alliance for the Homeland and Pan-Africanism (APP), Benin  
ANJUD Association, Niger  
APP/Burkindi, Burkina Faso  
ASMEN, France  
BISO PEOPLE, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Black Empowerment Ghana, Ghana  
Coalition of the Togolese Diaspora for Change and Democracy (CODITOGO), Togo  
Collectif Afrique, France  
Confederation of Pan-Africanist Associations and Movements of West Africa (CAMPAO),  
Burkina Faso  
Cultural Committee for Democracy in Benin (CCDB), Benin  
Debout Citoyen, Niger  
Federation of Trade Unions of Workers in Free Zone Enterprises and Industry, Madagascar  
Friends of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Front for a Popular and Pan-African Anti-Imperialist Revolution (FRAPP), Senegal  
Harbist Movement, Djibouti  
Headquarters of the Revolution, Mali  
Jeunesse-Handicap, Mali  
Kisumu Peace and Justice, Kenya  
Labour Movement, Zambia  
Mabedja Pan-Africanists, Comoros  
Movement for African Emancipation (MAE), Nigeria  
National Coordination of Citizen Monitoring Associations, Burkina Faso  
National Council for the Defense of Democracy–Forces for the Defense of Democracy  
(CNDD–FDD), Burundi  
National Federation of Education (FNE), Morocco  
National Youth Council of Namibia, Namibia  
New Power Europe, Gabon  
Pan African Federalist Movement (PAFM), Togo  
Pan-African League – Umoja, France

Pan-African Movement for a Free Africa, Central African Republic  
Pan-African Progressive Front, Ghana  
Pan-African Unitary Dynamic, France  
Pan-Africanism Today, South Africa  
Party of Progress and Socialism, Morocco  
Planet of Pan-Africanist Youth of Burkina Faso (PJP-BF), Burkina Faso  
Progressive Movement for African Peoples (MPA), Guinea-Conakry  
Socialist Movement of Ghana, Ghana  
Socialist Party – Zambia, Zambia  
State55 Afrika, Cameroon  
Suluhu, Comoros  
SYRES–Côte d’Ivoire (Union for the Revaluation of Secondary School Staff in Côte d’Ivoire), Côte d’Ivoire  
The Communist Party of Benin, Benin  
The Liberian People’s Party (LPP), Liberia  
The Pan-African Convergence, Cameroon  
The Pan-African Movement, Chad  
The Pan-African Movement for a Free Africa, Central African Republic  
The Pan-Africans, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
The Sudanese Communist Party, Sudan  
Trades Union Congress (TUC) of Ghana, Ghana  
Tunisia Forward Movement, Tunisia  
Union of the Populations of Cameroon – National Manifesto for the Establishment of Democracy (UPC-MANIDEM), Cameroon  
We Can Movement, Mauritania  
Women Concerns Center, Kenya