

Conference Action Plan

The International US-Cuba Normalization Conference has brought together over 700 people online and in-person this weekend of March 11-12, 2023 – from the US, Canada, and internationally under the banner of the following demands:

- Take Cuba off Washington's List of State-Sponsors of Terrorism!
- End the US Blockade of Cuba!
- End All US Anti-Cuba Economic and Travel Sanctions!

Many organizations have been represented - among them those that are specifically focused on solidarity work with Cuba, and others that include it as part of broader purposes. We present this Conference Action Plan not as a statement of every activity that is being undertaken in opposition to some aspect of the blockade, but rather as a summation of the presentations that have been made and the discussions undertaken at this International Conference and in the spirit of moving forward in unity of direction and action.

This Conference endorses:

1. The importance of traveling to Cuba, a world-renowned destination, to see it with one's own eyes, despite the limitations that the US government seeks to impose on such travel. We support all options, including tourism, for travel to Cuba but we particularly endorse travel with brigades and delegations that go under the banner of people-to-people solidarity with Cuba. We will continue to work towards ending all travel restrictions against Cuba by the US government.
2. Public protest actions against any and every part of the blockade, whether they are car caravans, pickets, rallies, marches, stand-outs, or banner-drops. We particularly support the regular last-weekend-of-the-month protests that have taken their inspiration from the Cuban American-led Puentes de Amor/Bridges of Love movement. We condemn the recent right-wing attacks on the Miami Caravan, and we will defend the rights of groups to freely express opposition to the blockade of Cuba.
3. We also condemn the FBI harassment of Cuba solidarity activists, especially the ongoing attacks on the Puerto Rico's Juan Ríos Rivera Brigade to Cuba. We are committed to working together to defend our democratic rights to assembly, free speech, and to organize from any government or right-wing interference and intimidation. We recognize the importance of working collectively to ensure the safety and security of activists and organizers. We will work to build a stronger and more united campaign against the criminal blockade on Cuba and the rights to travel to Cuba.
4. The passing of Resolutions by local Councils, State Legislatures, labor unions, and other bodies and institutions - whether they be in full opposition to the blockade or challenging parts of it - such as Cuba's inclusion on the US State Department's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism or calling for medical collaboration between the US and Cuba.
5. Advocacy work in both US Houses of Congress in support of protest letters to the Biden Administration regarding Cuba policy, as well as bills to unilaterally end the blockade, or bills that might take lesser but actual, concrete steps in that direction such as to remove all travel restrictions or to promote with equality two-way agricultural trade between the US and Cuba. Outside the US, we endorse increasing pressure on the Biden Administration through direct international campaigns aimed at the White House and through putting pressure on governments and institutions internationally to take a stand against the cruel US blockade on Cuba.

6. Efforts to raise funds for and take humanitarian material aid to Cuba, whether it be via organized campaigns or by the actions of thousands of individual travelers. The underlying principle of such aid should always be that no attempt is made to interfere with Cuban sovereignty by dictating who receives the aid.

7. All public meetings, conferences, and publication of materials in the media and on social media that both seek to educate every kind of audience about Cuba's reality and to build support for any of the other actions listed here. We particularly emphasize such work in the sectors and struggles that were discussed during the Conference: the African diaspora; the Labor movement; 2SLGBTQI+ organizations, the Women's rights movements; and outreach to Youth with our solidarity message. We will work to include Cuban voices – including scholars, artists, and other personalities - in this work whether online or in person.

8. The ongoing campaign for the United States to return all occupied Guantanamo territory to Cuba. February 23, 2023 marked 120 years since the imposition of the illegal US military base. We join with the world to demand an end to this injustice.

In addition, this Conference calls for the broadest possible unity of action in support of the following:

1. The multi-faceted campaign to remove Cuba from the US State Department's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) that is being developed by the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) and its member organizations including IFCO/Pastors for Peace, CODEPINK, NY-NJ Cuba Si, and Massachusetts Peace Action, together with ACERE and Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade – Vancouver and many others that have this a priority. This diverse campaign will include many forms of action, including street actions, social media, letter writing, petitions, and a specialized postcard campaign and materials like zines; educating about the Blockade and the international SSOT campaign.

This includes support for:

a) March 15 & 16, 2023 – National White House Call-In Day for President Biden to Remove Cuba from the US State Department's SSOT

b) June 25, 2023 – Action to take the fight to get Cuba off the SSOT list to White House, coordinated nationally, to demand Biden take Cuba #OffTheList and end US economic terror against Cuba. Leading up to the national protest will be days of action, art-building, lobbying, and public education

2. The European #UnblockCuba campaign which will be launched on March 28, 2023 and support the actions leading up to and after a proposed Brussels tribunal on the effects of the blockade on the Cuban people. (Be sure to use the hashtag #UnblockCuba when ICAP President Fernando Gonzalez Llort unveils the campaign.) Through this campaign we will expand our international efforts to lift the economic and travel sanctions against Cuba.

3. Organize the broadest possible actions on or around October 6, 2023, building on the CARICOM-Cuba Day Against Terrorism, which marks one of the most heinous acts of terrorism committed against Cuba, namely the explosion of two bombs on the Cubana airline flight 455 killing all 73 passengers and crew. and for which there has been no accountability.

4. Protests at the United Nations headquarters in New York City and elsewhere in October/November 2023 in support of Cuba's annual motion to the UN General Assembly to condemn the blockade.

5. Participation and support for the fall National Network on Cuba national meeting to take place in Boston October-November 2023.

This Conference commits to coming together for future united international events and actions to push towards the full normalization of US-Cuba relations. Future actions, campaigns and the next International US-Cuba Normalization Conference will be organized out of broad discussions in our united, growing anti-blockade movement and based on concrete opportunities in the on-going worldwide struggle against the unjust US blockade on Cuba.