



**CONSENSO
CUBANO**

What is Consenso Cubano?

- It is an open and dynamic process initiated by a group of Cuban political, social, labor, cultural, intellectual, religious and human rights organizations, committed to reconciliation and to a non-violent transition in Cuba to a sovereign state under the rule of law. It is a plural gathering space for reflection, conciliation and concord among Cuban organizations.
- Participation in *Consenso Cubano* does not limit the independence of the participating organizations, and does not imply agreement on positions, which are not part of this process. *Consenso Cubano* is not a legal entity and is not meant to constitute an umbrella organization or political platform.
- The document “Pilares para un Consenso Cubano” constitutes the foundation and frame of reference of *Consenso Cubano*. This document represents the inventory of those ideas that we share and form the basis upon which we seek to expand the initial group of participating organizations.

What do we seek?

- To promote a process of collective reflection to expound deeper in the positions we share which are stated in the document “Pilares para un Consenso Cubano”, as well as to explore any future initiatives that may result from this process.
- Promote reconciliation and strategic unity (not ideological) among Cuban organizations, which pursue similar objectives.
- Facilitate agreement among diverse organizations around various initiatives that may be proposed by any one or more organizations, allow for their vetting, critical, but constructive analysis, and to be improved through this process to later be implemented by those organizations wishing to support them.
- To support Cuba’s internal opposition in all its manifestations, as well as all Cubans who aspire and seek non-violent change. To always promote collaboration, never to foster division. Within this context, we shall always firmly support the plurality of projects for change.

Consenso Cubano

Preamble

We are a group of Cuban political, social, labor, cultural, intellectual, religious and human rights organizations, committed to a process of reconciliation and to a non-violent transition in Cuba to a sovereign state under the rule of law.

We aspire to a future for Cuba full of hope and optimism. To achieve it, Cuba and all Cubans must change. We should not fear change. Change, as we propose it, is positive and necessary. We have faith in the Cuban people, those inside and outside the Island, and we trust that we will be capable of achieving all necessary changes through non-violent means.

We will endeavor to establish a new Cuba, better than the Cuba of today and better than yesterday's. We envision a democratic Cuba, where sovereignty rests with the people, endowed with a constitution that protects and promotes all human rights—political, civil, economic, religious, social and cultural—and that guarantees a secular state under the rule of law with proper separation of powers.

In the new Cuba we envision, all citizens will be equal before the law, within a framework of equal opportunities and social justice for all. Discrimination and intolerance due to race, gender, political ideas, creed, or nationality, will not be permitted, and we will all work emphatically to eradicate the cultural roots, which have allowed discrimination to occur, historically and at the present time.

We stand convinced that the new Cuba will have a productive and energized economy which will allow for sustainable development, and because of that, will be able to extend special consideration to society's most vulnerable sectors. The new economy shall be constructed on the intellectual capital of all the Cuban people—the product of their education and experience, acquired both in the Island and the Diaspora—and shall be based on the work of all Cubans, in full respect for the workers' dignity. We envision a free-market economy, yet paying special consideration to the fundamental principles of social justice, where all Cubans will find equality of opportunities to craft their own future, based on their toil, knowledge and effort.

Pillars of Consenso Cubano

The organizations which subscribe this document have reached consensus on the following points which we believe will constitute essential pillars to underlie the processes of change--political, economic, and social--that will be necessary for Cuba's future:

1. We believe in the integrity of the Cuban nation. Cuba's future must be inclusively crafted by all Cubans, wherever they may live, sharing the same rights commensurate with the responsibilities that they are willing to assume.
2. We uphold the right of all Cubans to determine our future in full independence and sovereignty, without imposition or intrusion by any other nation. Relations between nations must be based on mutual respect, dignity and sovereignty.
3. We demand the immediate elimination of the death penalty, the unconditional release of all political prisoners, and the full respect for the fundamental rights of all Cubans. We advocate the immediate adjustment of the penal, civil, and labor codes to those principles enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and by the International Labor Organization.
4. We favor all political and economic reforms which lead to new opportunities and freedoms for Cubans and which constitute steps towards the establishment of a sustainable development model, based on democracy, the rule of law, and a productive economy framed in social justice.

5. We pursue, promote and are fully committed to a non-violent, pacted transition towards democracy, which devolves sovereignty and rights to the Cuban people. We deem it imperative to seek the start of the transition as a condition precedent to its realization. In the absence of the political will to achieve such an objective, we support other non-violent actions to which the Cuban people might resort.
6. We seek a future based on reconciliation, peace, and harmony, and reject hatred and division. We shall promote reconciliation, fraternal love, dialogue and family reunification. The dialogue we propose shall be among those Cubans who are committed to achieve a non-violent transition towards a fully democratic state, replete with civil liberties under the rule of law. To achieve this end, dialogue must be respectful, honest, critical, substantive and plural.
7. We deem it necessary to seek the truth about history, in order to not repeat it. We propose a general amnesty for all political crimes within the boundaries established by international law, and based on the establishment of a process to document the truth and the preservation of historical memory.
8. We call on all Cubans to avoid bloodshed and acts of violence, especially those directed against innocent civilians.
9. We support the fundamental right of all Cubans to freely leave and re-enter Cuba without any restriction or impediment. We advocate the elimination of all existing restrictions, regardless of their origin, which restrict the full exercise of this right.
10. We recognize the professional and apolitical role of the armed forces as guarantors of Cuba's sovereignty and national security, subordinated to the will of the people expressed through democratically elected institutions.
11. We reject discrimination and intolerance by reason of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, ideas, disability, political ideals, or national origin. The dignity, equality of rights and opportunities, and the full participation in society of each and every Cuban shall be exalted, constitutionally protected, and institutionally promoted.
12. We recognize the fundamental right of a person to own property. We advocate for the right of all Cubans to self-employment and to form their own enterprises.
13. We recognize that all expropriated properties present a complex ethical and pragmatic dilemma of multiple rights and claims, which involve issues of equity and justice. Notwithstanding, the specific situation of residential property and small farms require special consideration. Accordingly, we advocate the recognition and granting of clear and unhindered title to those persons who currently occupy those properties. Thus, such families and persons shall finally enjoy full, unhindered possession of those properties as capital assets, without current restrictions and without fear of eviction, claims or levies by former owners. We also advocate for the right of the former owners or their descendants to claim compensation from the state.
14. We feel fully committed to uphold the principle of universal access to healthcare and education as national priorities, and to seek to improve the quality of such services.
15. We seek and ask for international solidarity with the Cuban people in their quest for their fundamental rights. We hold multilateralism as an effective tool to promote change in Cuba. We favor all efforts by the international community to support the Cuban people and to intermeditate in the search for non-violent solutions.
16. We support the right of all Cubans to have access to the information, contacts and resources that are necessary to construct an independent civil society and to enable the Cuban people to have the resources that are necessary to enjoy a full peaceful and plural participation in civil society and in national politics. Therefore, we agree with the words of Pope John Paul II, asking for the world to open up to Cuba and for Cuba to open up to the world, as the way to end the isolation of the Cuban people.
17. We support Cuba's internal opposition in all their manifestations, as well as all Cubans who seek and promote non-violent change. We shall always promote collaboration—never foster division. Within this context, we firmly support the plurality of projects for change.
18. We fully advocate for the free expression and debate of ideas. We energetically reject any form of intolerance, intimidation and exclusionary attitudes.

Signatories of the document “Pilares para un Consenso Cubano”.

Political parties

Coordinadora Social Demócrata
Partido Demócrata Cristiano de Cuba
Partido Social Demócrata Cubano
Unión Liberal Cubana

Byron Miguel
Marcelino Miyares Sotolongo
Antonio Santiago
Carlos Alberto Montaner

Academic and cultural institutions

Bibliotecas Independientes de Cuba
Instituto de Estudios Cubanos
Instituto Jacques Maritain

Ramón Colás
Enrique Patterson
José Ignacio Rasco

Other organizations

Acción Democrática Cubana
Agenda Cuba
Christian Commitment Foundation
Comité Cubano Pro Derechos Humanos
Confederación Campesina de Cuba
Cuba Study Group
Fundación Nacional Cubano Americana
Grupo por la Responsabilidad Social Corporativa en Cuba
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Organizations that have participated as observers

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Movimiento Cristiano de Liberación
Solidaridad de Trabajadores Cubanos
Todos Unidos

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