

February 26, 2026

The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
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The Honourable Randeep Sarai, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State, International Development
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House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

RE: Request to meet in support of immediate humanitarian assistance to Cuba

Dear Honourable Minister Anand and Honourable Secretary Sarai,

Warm greetings on behalf of the **ACT Alliance Canada Forum** (“ACT Canada”).

[ACT Alliance](#) is a global faith-based coalition of more than 150 members working together in more than 120 countries on humanitarian aid, gender and climate justice, migration and displacement, and peace and security to support local communities. The ACT Canada Forum includes as members Presbyterian World Service & Development, Alongside Hope, World Association for Christian Communication, The United Church of Canada, and World Renew Canada. The Canadian Council of Churches and KAIROS-Canada are named as Permanent Guests to ACT Canada. Together, with Cuban partners, we have many decades of experience of working in Cuba, supporting agencies and an effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to those most in need. Considering this experience, we request an urgent meeting with you and / or your staff. We would also welcome the opportunity to appear in person before the Foreign Affairs Committee in its hearings on the same.

We also thank Canada for [its contribution](#) of \$8 million to be released immediately to scale up food and nutrition for vulnerable Cubans, in response to the increasingly alarming humanitarian situation in Cuba. We request that Canada continue to demonstrate leadership and sustain efforts to increase critically needed humanitarian assistance given the depth of the crisis now facing Cuba.

Canada’s solidarity is deeply appreciated in light of the fact that the [economic, trade, fuel and financial blockade imposed by the United States constitutes a violation of international law and of the human rights of the Cuban people and can be seen as an act of economic warfare](#). We urge Canada to defend the principles of international law and the UN Charter and publicly reject unlawful US coercive measures that withhold fuel, food, medicines and other necessities of life from Cuba. As Canadian civil society organizations

with members and supporters from across the country, we urgently ask our government to also consider the immediate delivery of fuel at such a difficult time for families and communities in Cuba.

The Executive Order issued by the President of the United States on January 29, 2026, enacts "a new tariff system that allows the United States to impose additional tariffs on imports from any country that directly or indirectly provides oil to Cuba." Cuba is highly dependent on imported fuel for all essential services. The consequences for its people of the US blockade on fuel supplies are therefore likely to be severe – from impacting electricity generation, hospitals and health services, water and sanitation systems, public transportation, to food production and distribution. [As ACT Alliance and the World Council of Churches have stated](#), “.. collective punishment of ... the entire Cuban people cannot be justified... Even before this latest imposition, Cuba had been experiencing a deepening socio-economic crisis due to a decades-long financial and trade embargo by the United States, as well as the impacts of increasingly extreme weather events. This new Executive Order deliberately and cruelly seeks to deepen the suffering of the Cuban people in a completely indiscriminate manner. ...it is fundamentally immoral.”

Recent reports estimate that Cuba’s oil reserves could be depleted by mid-March. Strengthened bilateral humanitarian cooperation with Cuba and with regional allies, at the UN and in other spaces, are critical now to ending the oil blockade and expanding access to humanitarian supplies. As one of only two countries in the Western hemisphere with uninterrupted diplomatic ties with Cuba, we are called to uphold the underlying principles of sovereignty and self-determination in the UN Charter at a time when they are under attack.

We look forward to your response and to meeting with you. We offer our prayers for grace and wisdom in the important leadership you provide.

Sincerely,



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C.c.:

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