



AUSTRALIA-CUBA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CONSULTATION MELBOURNE 2023

RESOLUTIONS (carried unanimously)

1. The United States unilateral coercive measures (blockade) of Cuba is an inhumane and criminal attack on the sovereignty and self-determination of the Cuban people. All branches of the Australia Cuba Friendship Society resolve to actively campaign to end this 61 year long blockade of Cuba through whatever means possible.

This National Consultation of the Australia Cuba Friendship Society held in Melbourne on 29-30 July 2023, calls on the Australian Government to:

- maintain its vote in the United Nations in support of the necessity of ending the United States blockade on Cuba.
 - advocate in international forums and diplomatic channels for the end of the blockade.
 - facilitate exchange between Cuba and Australia in trade, cultural and sporting fields, such measures to be promoted through the opening of an Australian embassy in Cuba.
2. This consultation believes that Australia's sovereignty is damaged by the fact that Australian businesses and individual residents are blocked from any financial transactions with Cuba. We call on the Federal Treasurer to engage with banks and "The Australian Banking Association" to resist the extra-territorial impact of the US blockade on Cuba and facilitate financial transactions between Australia and Cuba.
 3. The National Consultation endorse the campaign 'Australia to Cuba with Love' and support its extension to a national campaign, with a focus on health and education and drawing attention to the impact of the US blockade on Cuba. We endorse the continuation of the campaign, as well as the Southern Cross Brigade, and call on politicians/government to eliminate obstacles to trade with Cuba.
 4. The Australia-Cuba Friendship Society National Consultation held in Melbourne, Victoria on 28-29 July 2023 condemns in the strongest possible terms the inclusion of Cuba by the US administration in the US List of State Sponsors of Terrorism. It is the view of this consultation that the inclusion of Cuba on the US list infringes on the basic human rights of the Cuban people. This consultation calls on the Australian government to make the strongest representation to the US administration to remove Cuba from this list. Furthermore, this consultation directly calls on the Biden administration to remove Cuba from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism.