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## **Abrasco Solidarity Statement in Response to the Health and Social Crisis in Cuba**

*The health of millions of people is threatened by an unjust and criminal blockade*

The oil blockade against Cuba, resulting from a decision by U.S. President Donald Trump, has exacerbated the difficulties faced for over 60 years by the Cuban people due to a set of U.S. sanctions that broadly restrict trade, tourism, and financial transactions, with extraterritorial effects. Oil remains the country's primary energy source and an essential resource for sustaining key sectors on the island, which are vital for ensuring basic living conditions for the Cuban population, including public health and sanitation services. This situation has led to a severe health and social crisis.

In response, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a release on February 13, 2026, titled "*Concerns over Cuba's deepening economic crisis.*" The document clearly states that "*political objectives cannot justify actions that, in themselves, violate human rights.*" It also highlights that several services have been severely affected by prolonged power outages, including intensive care units, emergency departments, and urgent care services (cardiology, orthopedics, etc.), as well as the production, distribution, and storage of vaccines, blood products, and other temperature-sensitive medical supplies.

The monitoring and care of patients with chronic diseases in Cuba - internationally recognized for its public, universal, and free health system - are also facing shortages of medications, including oncological drugs, limited access to imaging exams, hemodialysis services, and delays in continuous treatments, thereby compromising patient survival. According to Cuba's Minister of Public Health, José Ángel Portal Miranda, approximately five million cubans receiving care through these programs are being affected. Among the most impacted are 16,000 cancer patients who depend on radiotherapy and another 12,400 who require chemotherapy. The surgical waiting list in Cuba includes more than 96,000 patients, over 11,000 of



whom are children. Other affected services include the timely administration of vaccines - requiring refrigerated transport for more than 30,000 children - and diagnostic ultrasounds for 32,000 pregnant women.

The shortage of electricity also compromises the production, preparation, and storage of food, as well as access to safe drinking water, creating additional risks for the emergence or worsening of diseases.

### **Solidarity with Brazil**

Cuba's history is guided by the principle of solidarity among peoples, supported by a strong policy of international cooperation, including the Medical Cooperation Program, a key structural initiative in the field of public health with broad international recognition. As part of this program, Cuban health professionals - primarily physicians - have worked in countries with gaps in healthcare coverage, especially in areas where local professionals do not operate due to distance, access difficulties, or lack of interest.

Between 2011 and 2016, 140,758 Cuban health professionals provided services in 67 countries. In Brazil, 14,000 Cuban physicians worked within the Mais Médicos Program in the most remote and underserved areas of the Unified Health System (SUS) between 2013 and 2018. In 2018, after the federal government terminated the Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with Cuba, more than 8,000 Cuban doctors left the country, resulting in many territories being left without medical assistance. In the same year, Abrasco [published an official statement](#) on the departure of these professionals, highlighting evidence of their contribution to health care for the Brazilian population.

### **The Necessary Brazilian Solidarity**

At this historical moment for the Cuban people, and considering the responsibility to confront violations of human rights, it is essential to reciprocate the solidarity actions that Cuba has developed across Latin America and Africa in recent decades. Given the severity of the socio-health crisis in Cuba, Abrasco denounces before international organizations this violation of the Cuban population's right to health by



the government of President Donald Trump and calls upon the Brazilian government and society to take immediate actions in support of the Cuban people.

**In this context, Abrasco proposes that the Brazilian government and the Ministry of Health adopt measures to prevent further deterioration in healthcare services in Cuba, as well as in sanitation systems. This includes actions such as the immediate provision of essential medical supplies and equipment to optimize energy use, including batteries, portable generators, and solar panels. Furthermore, we suggest establishing cooperation between Brazil's Unified Health System and the Cuban health system, with the aim of developing solidarity-based initiatives between the two countries.**

Rio de Janeiro, March 25, 2026

**Brazilian Association of Collective Health – Abrasco**

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