

Compendium Of Joint Recommendations

I. Academic, Scientific, and Cultural Engagement

In light of the positive contribution that academic, scientific and cultural exchanges have provided to the diminution of bilateral tensions and the benefits both countries have derived from them, even during the most tense and difficult times in relations between the two countries, we recommend that:

A. The governments of Cuba and the United States accelerate and improve the process of granting visas to academics, scientists, artists, and public intellectuals, respectively, from the United States and Cuba; and the United States accelerate and improve the process of granting licenses for Cuban travel to U.S. institutions and individuals. Although both countries have taken positive steps in this regard, there is still room for further progress.

B. Cuba and the United States adjust immigration policies so that they approve visas for scholars, scientists, and artists who have been invited to participate in a scholarly meeting, to lecture at an academic institution, or to do scholarly work at the invitation of an academic institution or research center. Visa denials undermine the advancement of knowledge and free inquiry, and are thus injurious to both Cuba and the United States.

C. Both countries promote meetings of Cuban and U.S. legislators and other political actors with academics,

scientists, artists, and public intellectuals from both countries, in order to make a contribution to the exchange of knowledge and to reduce tensions between the two countries.

D. The United States lift restrictions on the sale to Cuba of equipment and other materials that enable the development of research for civilian purposes, particularly in the fields of life sciences, bio-medicine, and environmental sciences.

II. Freedom to Travel

TACE supports the freedom of travel for both Cuban and U.S. citizens, and the reduction of travel barriers between the two countries. While both governments have made it possible for the number of inter-personal contacts between the countries to increase, these are still limited. In this light, TACE recommends that:

A. The United States and Cuba explore ways to reduce paper work necessary for travel, to avoid increases in the cost of passports, visas, and other travel documents, and to remove other obstacles that could delay or hinder the granting of licenses and visas³.

B. The United States look for a way to eliminate sanctions targeted at international banks and commercial entities which have the effect of hampering the freedom to travel. As a consequence, the government of Cuba should consider the reduction of costs associated with changing U.S.

dollars given the expected reduction of financial risks that would result from the measure taken by the government of the United States.

C. Medical insurance coverage and treatment for U.S. citizens in Cuba and Cuban citizens in the United States be readily available.

D. Cuba and the United States encourage best practices in the operation and development of travel, ensuring that operators apply no costs or discriminatory procedures on travel between Cuba and the United States.

E. The United States government eliminate daily expenditure cap for U.S. citizens in Cuba and remove the prohibition on the use of U.S. credit and bank cards in Cuba.

III. International Commerce and Development

TACE recognizes that several of the measures adopted by the government of Cuba to update the Cuban economic model open spaces for significant changes in the areas of trade and development⁴. The application of the *"Lineamientos de política económica y social"*—Guidelines for Economic and Social Policy— (Havana, 2011) could create conditions for the promotion of the non-state sector (which includes private businesses and workers' cooperatives), and for increased productivity and efficiency in the Cuban economy. Thus, TACE views the economic changes in Cuba as a basis for cooperation between the two countries. As a way to promote that cooperation, TACE recommends that:

A. The government of the United States should acknowledge that the changes under way in the restructu-

ring of the Cuban economy will improve conditions for its development.

B. The Cuban government continue strengthening its economic transformation process, as part of the implementation of measures to update its economic model. The U.S. government should examine ways to remove obstacles that hamper authorized trade and investment. For example, the Treasury Department could issue licenses to vessels seeking to enter U.S. ports prior to the end of the six-month waiting period required by the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act, for ships visiting Cuba. Similarly, it could change the regulation requiring that Cuban food and medicine purchases be made only with payments in advance of shipment instead of upon or after delivery as is common in international commerce.

C. Cuba engage in further exchanges with the international development community in ways suited to its needs, in order to take advantage of and contribute to accumulated experiences in international cooperation programs, and the United States support efforts by the international development community to engage with Cuba on the continued updating of Cuba's economic model.

D. Cuba begin to explore the relevance and pathways to its membership in International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). For Cuba, this could mean jointly seeking with the IFIs opportunities to engage in technical consultations and collaboration. Cuba's development experiences and successes could contribute to the storehouse of accumulated knowledge in the IFIs; and the IFIs' financial resources and best practices could be of great value to the process of updating Cuba's economic model. As is customary in global and regional

organizations, Cuba's membership in an IFI would not imply that it agrees with all the organization's policies. For the United States, this would mean making no effort to impede Cuba's re-engagement with the IFIs, which may require a minor modification to the 1996 Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act [Helms-Burton].

E. The United States government maintain a policy of not hindering family remittances between U.S. citizens or residents and Cuban citizens.

IV. Terrorism and Security Issues

Terrorism and other security concerns have maintained a prominent position on the Cuban-U.S. bilateral agenda. TACE finds that combating global transnational terrorism is one area where cooperation could be possible between the two governments. Neither government has any interest in seeing a proliferation of terrorist violence against its own citizens.⁵

Furthermore, both governments have a legitimate interest in protecting their citizens from the consequences of drug trafficking and illegal immigration, and the U.S. State Department has positively evaluated Cuba's cooperation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States.⁶

Despite these circumstances terrorism remains one of the most contentious and sensitive issues between the two governments. The U.S. Government maintains Cuba on its list of State Sponsors of Terrorism and Cuban officials continue to denounce the United States as a major source of state terrorism throughout the world.

In order to engender confidence, cooperation on matters of terrorism

and other security concerns must be a priority for both governments. In this regard, TACE recommends that:

A. The U.S. government remove Cuba from its list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, because Cuba's inclusion on the list is an obstacle to the two countries cooperating in the fight against terrorism.

B. Cuba and the United States undertake visits by former U.S. military officers, ambassadors, and other national security officials for the purpose of helping each government appreciate more accurately the perceptions and analytical frameworks of the other government.

C. Cuba and the United States acknowledge publicly any proposals submitted by either government aimed at improving security cooperation between the two countries or finding ways they could cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

D. The two governments begin discussions aimed at developing a joint agreement about terrorism.

E. Cuba and the United States build upon the experience of communication and cooperation in several successful cases related to drug trafficking in order to negotiate institutional agreements for cooperation on the problem⁷.

F. The Cuban and U.S. governments review the sentences of individuals currently serving prison terms for violating national laws as a consequence of acting on behalf of, respectively, the U.S. and Cuban governments.

V. Environment

The governments of Cuba and the United States both state that protecting the environment is important

and that international cooperation is a fundamental way to confront challenges and threats in this area. Both recognize that climate change is one of the most important environmental issues of current impact on the region they share, and are aware of the challenges this entails. The two governments are signatories to UN environmental conventions that provide a legal framework for bilateral agreements. Yet, both countries might suffer if they do not cooperate fully to warn and prepare their populations for natural and non-natural disasters. On this basis, TACE recommends that:

A. The Cuban and U.S. governments review and modify, if necessary, regulations that prevent the transfer of technology between the two countries related to environmental challenges and the mitigation of the effects of natural and manmade disasters.⁸

B. The U.S. and Cuban governments encourage collaboration between local governments and non-governmental organizations from both countries so that they can share experiences and draw knowledge from each other's record of work in the environmental field.

C. The Cuban and U.S. governments engage in bilateral discussions, as well in as multilateral fora, about contingency planning for the mitigation of disasters.

D. That Cuba and the United States establish a plan for the mitigation of disasters resulting from earthquakes, because the entire Caribbean is geologically active as a result of tectonic forces.

E. The Cuban and U.S. governments engage in discussion to develop new regimes for conserving fish stocks and coral reefs, because several fish species and many coral reefs in the Caribbean are in danger of extinction.