

African countries and Cuba expand cooperation



The Cuban delegation (left) visiting Nigeria (Source: [Bruno Rodríguez/X](#))

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla has embarked on a multi-day trip to Africa to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation with African countries. His first stop was South Africa, where he met with Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor in Pretoria on March 10. Rodríguez emphasized the high value that Cuba places on relations with South Africa and reaffirmed the interest in deepening cooperation in the areas of economy, trade and cooperation.

Pandor said they had agreed to establish mechanisms for exchange in agriculture, biotechnology, defense, education, health, infrastructure development and engineering. South Africa and Cuba are united by cultural and historical ties, shared struggles, international solidarity, and a shared commitment to advancing the development agenda of the Global South, according to a statement from the ministry. In addition, the admission of Cuba as a partner country of the BRICS+ in January 2025 is seen as a significant step forward.

In the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, the seat of the African Union (AU), Rodríguez met with Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Djibouti's foreign minister and current chair of the AU Commission. According to Souef Mohamed El Amine, chief of staff of the AU Commission, both sides emphasized "the importance of strengthening cooperation between the AU and Cuba". The African Union reiterated its support for Cuba in its fight against the US economic blockade. Cooperation is to be intensified in the areas of health, education, and capacity building in particular. Youssouf thanked Cuba for its continued commitment.

In Burkina Faso, Cuba's top diplomat held talks with President Ibrahim Traoré, Prime Minister Rimalba Jean-Emmanuel Ouédraogo, and Foreign Minister Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré. During the meeting, President Traoré recalled the historic encounters between

[Thomas Sankara](#) and the Castro brothers. At the end of his visit, Rodríguez met with the Cuban medical team stationed in Burkina Faso and embassy staff in Ouagadougou.

According to the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Rodríguez will visit other African countries in the coming days, including Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal.

In parallel to this trip, Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero made an official visit to Congo. During a meeting with President Denis Sassou Nguesso, it was agreed to intensify cooperation in the areas of health, technology, science, education, tourism, culture, and energy. Cuba and Congo have maintained diplomatic relations since 1964. Marrero will then make official visits to Namibia and Equatorial Guinea. ([Cubaheute](#))