

Communist Party postpones party congress indefinitely



The PCC party congress planned for April has been postponed (source: [PCC/Cubadebate](#))

The Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) has postponed its IX Party Congress, scheduled for April 2026, indefinitely. The decision was made on Saturday during the eleventh plenary session of the Central Committee, as [reported](#) by the party organ *Granma*.

The proposal came from Raúl Castro, who was Cuba's president until 2018 and continues to be referred to as the “leader of the Cuban Revolution.” His written recommendation was read out to the plenary session by President and Communist Party Secretary General Miguel Díaz-Canel after it had been discussed in the Politburo.

Castro: Focus all efforts on solving problems

In his letter, Castro first acknowledged Díaz-Canel's position that party congresses should not be postponed and must take place every five years as planned, except in exceptional circumstances.

Nevertheless, Castro continued, “based on the principle of doing what is most beneficial to the revolution at any given time, it seems advisable to postpone the ninth congress to a later date.” Instead, “from now on, all the country's resources and the efforts and energy of the party, government, and state cadres should be devoted to solving the current problems and dedicating the year 2026 as far as possible to recovery.”

Castro emphasized that this decision should “not be seen as a step backward.” Rather, it was “necessary and timely” and would make it possible to “pool resources, improve the nation's situation, and create conditions for a better and more fruitful congress.” As enshrined in the constitution, this congress should “consolidate the construction of socialism and progress toward a communist society.”

The members of the Central Committee unanimously approved the proposal. The last congress of the Cuban communists took place in [April 2021](#), exactly five years to the day after the seventh party congress in 2016.

Díaz-Canel calls for a different style of working

During the plenary session, President Díaz-Canel stated that the Communist Party must “demand a different way of functioning” in view of the “economic and media war” to which Cuba is exposed.

“Everything we have discussed here up to this point in the plenary session would be empty words if the party did not demand a different way of functioning in these times,” Díaz-Canel said, according to state television. The meeting took place behind closed doors without media coverage, with the economy as the main focus.

“Under the current conditions, we cannot allow—and I am speaking here of the party's attitude—bureaucracy, formalism, and inertia to continue to be obstacles,” the head of state added.

PCC Organizational Secretary Roberto Morales acknowledged that “although we are aware that the blockade is the main obstacle to development, we cannot ignore that there are problems that are the result of mistakes, deviations, and negative tendencies.” These problems would “jeopardize the goal of progress.” In the area of food supply, the country is “very far” from achieving goals such as increasing production.

Adjustments due to the crisis

The PCC had already reduced the duration of the plenary session to one day in advance due to the “complex situation” in the country and held part of it as a video conference. The parliament also shortened its sessions: The next session of the National Assembly on December 18 was limited to one day, and the meetings of the working committees, which usually took place three days before the plenary session, were canceled.

The CC plenary session also dealt with the “macroeconomic stabilization program” announced in 2023 and implemented since 2024. This includes, among other things, an increase in fuel prices of over 400 percent, cuts in public spending, and a partial dollarization of the economy.

According to *Cubadebate*, Prime Minister Manuel Marrero stated that the program, officially called the “[Government Program to Correct Distortions and Revive the Economy](#),” would be “implemented under restricted conditions.”

“It had to be implemented under limited conditions, with reduced availability of electricity, fuel, limited access to convertible currency, and inflationary pressure resulting from a combination of external and internal factors,” Marrero said.

The reforms are “aligned with strategic priorities, but their success depends on the ability to prioritize tasks, implement them with greater discipline, reduce fragmentation, integrate actors, and secure essential resources, particularly in terms of energy, foreign currency, and national production.”

Ongoing economic crisis and US threat

Cuba has been in a severe crisis for five years, with shortages of basic products, high inflation, partial dollarization of the economy, and long power outages.

The pandemic, the tightening of US sanctions, and failed economic and monetary policies have exacerbated the structural problems of the economy. According to data from the ONE statistics agency, the economy already shrank by 1.1 percent in 2024 and has recorded a cumulative decline of 11 percent over the last five years.

Looking ahead, there is also great uncertainty after [the US launched the largest maritime troop mobilization off the coast of Venezuela](#) since the Cuban Missile Crisis. Last week, US authorities began targeting oil tankers carrying cargo to Cuba. Venezuela is Cuba's most important energy supplier. With the US military actions, which have been criticized by several states and the UN as contrary to international law, the energy crisis in Cuba threatens to worsen even further. Officially, the US is concerned with combating drug smuggling. As the *New York Times* recently [reported](#), US Secretary of State Rubio is planning a regime change that could also include Cuba.

It was probably [against this backdrop](#) that the plenary session [decided to](#) admit General [Roberto Legrá Sotolongo](#) to the Politburo of the PCC. Legrá Sotolongo has served as first deputy minister and chief of staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) since 2021. The 71-year-old studied at the Soviet Frunze Military Academy in the 1980s and fought in [Angola](#). He later served as head of the Cuban Western Armed Forces and director of the Cuban Military Academy. He is considered an experienced military strategist with expertise in national defense. ([Cubaheute](#))