

## The Republic of Cuba

### Positions for the World Food Programme (WFP)

---

#### **I. Combating Global Malnourishment: An Assessment of World Efforts to Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**

The Republic of Cuba (Cuba) shares the concerns of fellow Member States about the increasing numbers of people suffering from malnourishment due to extreme poverty. Research has proven that there are approximately 13 million children under the age of 12 that suffer from a lack of food security. Cuba strongly believes that there must be an equitable solution to poverty and hunger that does not exploit the periphery states and citizens of the global economy. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), an increase of about 1.2 billion people will suffer from hunger by 2015 if food prices continue to rise. **Internationally**, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has developed a program called Progress for Children. The program keeps an active record of children's nutrition to prevent them from falling into malnourishment. Cuba recognizes Resolution A/C.3/61/L.27 which protects and promotes human rights. Cuba also recalls the significance of the policy issued September 2004 called the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, which seeks to reduce poverty by identifying sources of financing for development. Cuba affirms A/RES/55/2, the Millennium Declaration, and the follow up A/RES/60/1 which continues to call for support efforts by all Member States to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty through global cooperation. According to the 2010 Human Development Report by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), less than 5 percent of Cuba's population suffers from undernourishment and the citizens of Cuba have a life expectancy of 79 years. **Regionally**, Cuba is proud to admit that it is the only standing Latin American country that has excelled and come close to eliminating severe child malnutrition and hunger. In Cuba, many children and pregnant women have the unfortunate effect of developing anemia. Cuba has been working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to amalgamate support on those population groups that have not achieved their human potential due to poor diets or syndrome. **Nationally**, Cuba has also developed a National Plan of Action to control iron deficiency anemia. This plan covers iron supplementation, iron food fortification and corresponding public health strategies. In addition, Cuba has followed the National Food Security Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food. Cuba proposes the following plan of action entitled **S.E.C.U.R.E.: Support** the coordinated passage of legislation and policies that aims to reduce all barriers to the distribution and sale of commodities that are vital to the nutrition of children and pregnant women; **Ensure** that Economic Rights are upheld in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which states that all people are entitled to the fundamental right of adequate food; **Concentrate** on reducing the impact of malnourishment on economic and social development of all citizens, especially the vulnerable segments of the population such as children; **Utilize** and expand emergency food stockpiles under the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to meet emergencies; **Reinvigorate** communities through seminars that support and educate local policy makers about malnourishment. **Empower** doctors and scientists through the provision of resources for research on improving treatments for malnourishment and sustainable food production techniques.

#### **II. Examining the Impact of Natural Disasters on Food Distribution**

The Republic of Cuba (Cuba) recognizes that hurricanes and droughts make the path to national food security difficult. Therefore, every second is critical in the development of plans that can save those at risk, especially those that have minimal access to vital resources. **Internationally**, Cuba contributes to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Cuba is greatly concerned over the immediate response and early recovery after a catastrophe. Cuba emphasizes A/RES/63/214 which clearly calls upon Member States to improve their emergency response capabilities and to consider the growth of programs on a variety levels. This includes education aimed at research to enhance the food security of Caribbean countries due to their vulnerability to specific natural disasters. Cuba also supports A/RES/65/26, which expresses deep concerns about the UN and Member States humanitarian response capacity. Cuba supports and counts on the World Food Programme (WFP), especially after the 2005 Cuban drought, nearly 773,000 people in Cuba have received emergency food aid in their operation; aid was delivered first to children and the elderly. Cuba has associated itself with Oxfam International who partnered up with Cuba's Civil

Defense (CD) to help communities prepare for disasters. With the aid of Oxfam, Cuba can confidently say that measures have been taken to reduce vulnerabilities to hurricanes. **Regionally**, after the earthquake in Haiti, Cuba moved to assist its fellow Caribbean state and to provide emergency support to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Cuba sent over 150 professional doctors to help and also provided them with excess clothing, medicine, and food. In addition, Cuba is a standing member of the Association of Caribbean States for Regional Cooperation in the area of natural disasters. With the before mentioned association, Cuba encourages Article 8 of their Plan of Action that indicates total determination for seeking necessary implementation after a natural disaster. **Nationally**, Cuba has amalgamated with the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), which has brought approximately 4,200 cooperative with 330,000 members nationally together. ANAP has a partnership with Oxfam International and together it has been integral in helping improve food security through agriculture projects throughout the nations. Any local project done in Cuba we attempt to replicate on a national level. Cuba has developed a plan of action titled **R.E.L.I.E.V.E.:** **Remain** focused on improving the rapid emergency response time of member states while promoting interoperability among responders through training exercises; **Encourage** all member states to create more programs and to expand national food stockpiles; **Leave** stockpiles under tight security in order to reduce theft and black-market access; **Implement** long and short-term strategies that train national first responders to improve and stabilize situations before international aid arrives; **Enhance** food production by engineering hardier crops that can survive in adverse conditions; **Verify** a storm system's approach earlier in development by enhancing early warning systems; **Enhance** member state coordination through development of multiple designated aid and relief centers.

### III. Establishing Partnerships to Improve Economic Access and Resources for Developing States

The Republic of Cuba (Cuba) calls for the establishment of equitable global partnerships that protect the developing or periphery states of the global economy by improving access to critical resources that can alleviate poverty and extreme hunger. **Internationally**, Cuba holds the presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and agrees with NAM's sole purpose of establishing partnerships among developing countries to enhance development. Cuba recognizes resolution A/RES/65/436, which clearly invites Member States, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund where the Secretary General can mobilize international technical and financial assistance to developing states. This will ensure Member States globally that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources. Cuba also embraces A/65/L.48/Add.1, which along with other Member States, helps strengthen the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the UN focusing on special economic assistance. Cuba is actively engaged in the international health cooperation with approximately 70 countries and contributes to enhance South-South Cooperation because a healthier population is more economically productive. Cuba has sent doctors to about 70 different Member States and works on educating students from different nations on health recuperation, including nutrition. **Regionally**, Cuba has attended the CARIFORUM meeting where the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was signed promoting economic assistance between the Caribbean and the European Union (EU). The CARIFORUM EPA objective dictates reducing and eradicating poverty through trade partnership. EPA also focuses on regional integration, economic cooperation and good governance along with other goals. In addition Cuba is a proud member of the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM). In Participating in CARICOM we seek to improve regional economies and the standard of living for our populations. **Nationally**, Cuba has adapted to the Millennium Developing Goals (MDGs), and claims Goal 8: Global Partnerships, to be just as important as the others. Cuba contributes under the Cuban Health Research National Plan where it has achieved great advances in the field of Biotechnology. Cuba has also formed health partnerships with Jamaica and Haiti in an effort to boost public health. Cuba is dedicated and urges other Member States to follow the action plan called **C.O.N.E.C.T.:** **Collaborate** with member states to maintain the distribution of emergency food resources that are essential during a transnational threat such as a pandemic; **Organize** and develop institutional memory for emergency responses; **Normalize** efforts to review and understand the impact of barriers to the distribution of certain agricultural commodities among developing states; **Navigate** through trade policies, issues and program to strengthen CARIFORUM and promote further south south cooperation; **Establish** methods in which southern member states can construct stronger economic and agricultural relationships; **Continue** having the Millennium Development Goal as the primary benchmark for succeeding reduction or elimination to world hunger and global crisis; **Transform** development by achieving south south economic integration.