

FRIENDS OF CUBA SOCIETY

Input to the Conference of the Left

Clever Banganayi — Deputy General Secretary
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**Comrade Chairperson, Leadership of the South African Communist Party,
and Fellow Delegates,**

Revolutionary greetings from the Friends of Cuba Society (FOCUS) in South Africa!

We stand before you today at this historic **Conference of the Left**, inspired by the theme: *“Building a Left Movement for Working-Class and Popular Power.”* We commend the SACP and the steering committee for creating this urgent, overdue platform. As we gather here at a time of capitalist crisis, it is clear that working-class unity is not just a choice—it is our only path to genuine liberation and socialist transformation.

But comrades, as we discuss rebuilding popular power here at home, our internationalist duty calls us to look across the ocean. True leftist solidarity knows no borders.

Cuba: A Beacon Under Siege

For over six decades, the heroic people of Cuba have stood as a shining beacon of what is possible when the working class takes control of its own destiny. Despite being a small island nation, Cuba has sent doctors, teachers, and revolutionaries to every corner of the world—including our own soil during the dark days of Apartheid.

Yet today, Cuba faces its most brutal challenge. The criminal, unilateral economic blockade imposed by United States imperialism is not just a trade restriction; it is a deliberate, suffocating act of economic warfare designed to starve a sovereign people into submission. To make matters worse, the US continues its cynical, baseless inclusion of Cuba on its “State Sponsors of Terrorism” list—a designation that severely cuts off Cuba’s access to global finance, food, and vital medicines.

Our Pledge to this Conference

The Friends of Cuba Society formally pledges to work alongside the newly established *Council of the Left* and every formation in this room to intensify the campaign against the US blockade. International solidarity cannot just be a slogan we shout; it must be a core pillar of our common Programme of Action.

We call on this Conference of the Left to explicitly resolve to:

- 1. Demand** the immediate and unconditional removal of Cuba from the US “State Sponsors of Terrorism” list.
- 2. Mobilize** our unions, youth formations, and community structures to educate our people on the impact of the blockade.
- 3. Strengthen** material and political solidarity with the Cuban Revolution as a fundamental part of our anti-imperialist struggle.
- 4. Request The South African Government** to enact a Cuba Solidarity Bill – to allow the South African government and any organization to pledge material and monetary solidarity to Cuba, making it easy to do so lawfully.

Comrades, the belly of the imperialist beast wants to crush Cuba because Cuba proves that a better, socialist world is possible. By defending Cuba, we are defending the very future we are trying to build here in South Africa.

**Down with the criminal US Blockade, down!
Unconditional solidarity with the people of Cuba!
Long live the SACP and the Conference of the Left, long live!**