

## **Resolution on the situation in Cuba**

The Centrist Democrat International (CDI) condemns the worrying increase in repression by the Cuban government. In 2020, major Cuban and international organisations denounced the growing escalation of repression that has recently gone as far as the defamation of cultural activists and independent journalists. The Cuban Human Rights Observatory (Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos) denounced that last year, the Cuban government carried out 1798 arbitrary detentions and 1647 forced detentions in private homes of opponents and civil society activists. The same source reports that already in January 2021, at least 372 repressive actions occurred, of which 141 were arbitrary detentions, 120 detentions in the homes of activists and journalists, and the rest were threats, harassment, police summons, assaults and fines.

Similarly, the IDC-CDI denounces the growing impoverishment of the Cuban population, burdened by difficult access to medicines, food and other basic necessities. Beyond any circumstantial consideration, this deterioration is due to the permanence of an economic system that has the state at its centre, and the lack of respect for private property, free economic initiative and legal certainty. This lack of economic rights – aggravated by the drastic measures implemented by the government in recent months – is deepening social inequalities, with the elderly, women, the sick and other vulnerable sectors of the population being the most affected.

The IDC-CDI demands that President Miguel Díaz-Canel undertake the political, economic and social reforms that the country needs. We believe that Cuba must move towards a democracy with a social market economy that enables all Cubans to develop their life project in their country. We call for a process of change that is peaceful, working on one law at a time.

We call on the European Commission, especially the European External Action Service, to raise the bar on democratic change and human rights in its talks with the Cuban government. Likewise, we ask that any concession in the matter of cooperation, mainly financial, to the Cuban government, must be preceded by concrete and measurable progress in the aforementioned areas. That – and not complacency with the regime – is the only effective, constructive and honest way to help the Cuban people.