



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA
IRELAND**

Dublin, 4 August, 2021.

To all participants in the donation campaign for Cuba.

Dear Friends,

Allow me please to call you like this, although I do not have the pleasure of meeting many of you personally, I believe that any person who shows sensitivity and solidarity towards other peoples deserves the title of friend.

When in the most compromising moments of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and early 2021, Cuba sent 53 medical brigades to 40 nations on all continents, we could not foresee that we would face a re-outbreak of the pandemic like the one we have been suffering in the recent weeks and that has cost us hundreds of lives. However, the motivation at the time was purely humanitarian, linked to a tradition that already treasures 60 years of medical cooperation with more than a hundred countries in exceptional situations. It is not also the first time that in exceptional circumstances, Cuba has received solidarity assistance from other nations.

Today you move us once again. It does not matter the magnitude of the aid, it does not matter how much material can be bought with the contribution of each person, above all the gesture of solidarity matters, it matters a lot to know that we are not alone.

However, I would like to let you know that most of the voluntary donations made from Ireland and that already total more than 60 thousand euros have been sent to the prestigious NGO MediCuba Europe, which has years of cooperation with Cuba in the field of health and whose assistance during the pandemic has been extraordinary. With MediCuba Europe's help and donations from people like you, lung ventilators, equipment and supplies for the production of our own vaccines, vaccination syringes, protective materials, and antibiotics have been sent to Cuba. Now they are preparing to acquire and send raw materials so that the Cuban pharmaceutical industry can resume its production affected by the blockade, the economic contraction and the rise in prices in the international market.

Even under the current circumstances, Cuba maintains one of the lowest rates of infections and deaths in all of Latin America, even compared to developed countries in Europe with a similar population, such as Belgium, the latter registering 2.6 times more people infected and 6.26 times more people died than those registered by Cuba, which maintains one of the lowest mortality rates equivalent to 0.73, while the global one is 2.16.

The Cuban Government and the health authorities will continue to be committed to protecting the health of our people and defeating the pandemic. Cuba aspires to conclude September with its entire adult population vaccinated.

Thank you very much for your contributions already made and for the new ones that you may wish to make soon.

Hugo Ramos Milanés
Ambassador