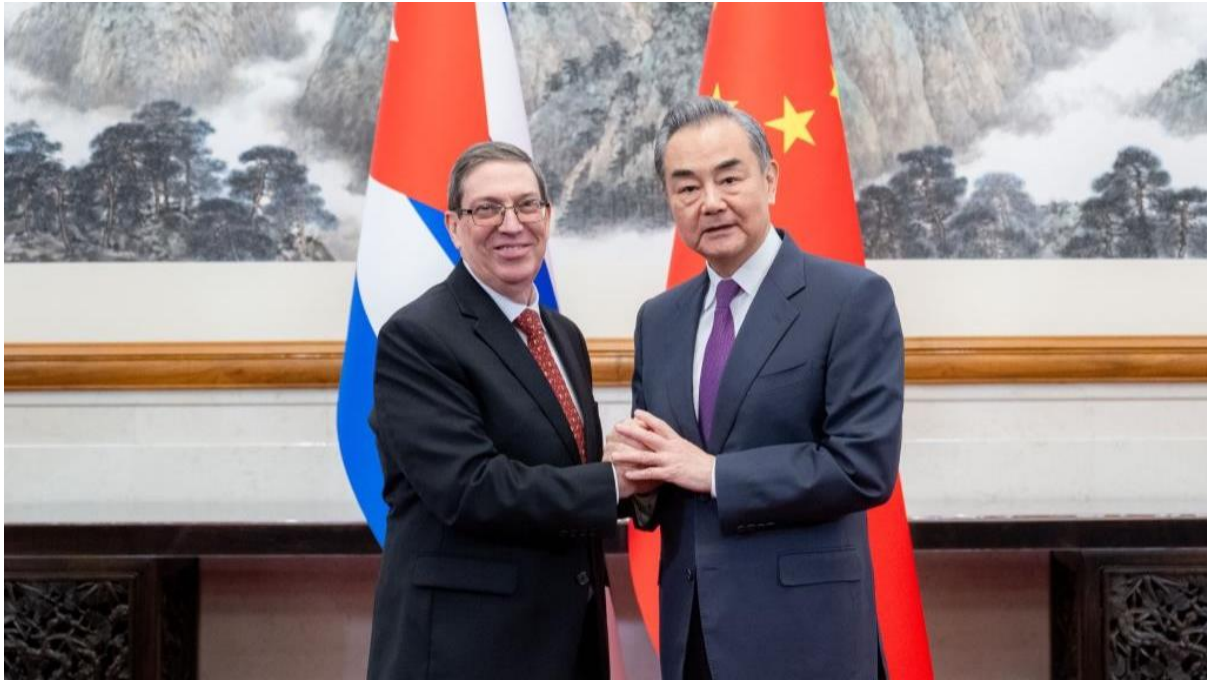


Cuba expands cooperation with China and Russia



Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez (left) with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi (Source: [CGTN](#))

Cuba has signed new agreements with Russia and China. These relate to the areas of biotechnology and renewable energies, among others. Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez and Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas traveled to Beijing and Moscow last week for talks.

Cabrisas' trade delegation was a guest at the International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg. The expansion of renewable energies was also agreed with Russia on the fringes of the meeting. Russian Deputy Energy Minister Evgueni Grabchak emphasized his country's willingness to intensify cooperation with Cuba in the energy sector. In addition to the expansion of renewable energies, Grabchak emphasized that other energy issues would also be promoted with Cuba.

In addition, several agreements were reached between the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and the Cuban pharmaceutical company BioCubaFarma for the development of new cancer drugs and drugs against age-related diseases. RDIF director Kiril Dmitriev announced that the investment volume will amount to 11.3 million US dollars in the initial phase, with the possibility of further increases up to 113 million.

"BioCubaFarma has become the first RDIF partner in Cuba. The pooling of efforts and expertise will allow us to develop and bring to market innovative medicines against the most complex types of diseases," said Dmitriev. He emphasized BioCubaFarma's capabilities in the production of monoclonal antibodies and therapeutic drugs against cancer as well as recombinant proteins, which are already being used under several international contracts.

According to official Russian data, bilateral trade with Cuba increased ninefold last year compared to 2022, when the exchange amounted to 450 million dollars.

At the same time as Cabrisas' visit to Russia, Foreign Minister Rodríguez paid a visit to the People's Republic of China. As the special envoy of President Miguel Díaz-Canel, he met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi last Friday. Wang reaffirmed the "special friendly relations" between the two Communist parties and countries and their willingness to "contribute to the promotion of socialism in the world and the maintenance of world peace". Rodríguez expressed his gratitude for "China's support in the face of the extreme tightening of the blockade" and also emphasized the positive development of bilateral relations.

During the visit, which lasted several days, Rodríguez met with representatives of the Chinese International Development Cooperation Agency and the Chairman of the National Reform Commission, He Lifeng, among others. In particular, they discussed the implementation of joint resolutions in the areas of trade, investment, and tourism. They also discussed cooperation on topics such as the expansion of renewable energies, food production, and pharmaceuticals. "With regard to the opportunities that the Cuban economy offers for Chinese investment, I am certain that we will find areas to further develop our already excellent relations in a dynamic and accelerated manner," said Rodríguez.

Before returning to Cuba, Rodríguez visited the BRICS-Plus Ministerial Meeting in Moscow on Monday at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. In addition to representatives of BRICS members Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, and Iran, diplomats from 20 other countries were also present. ([Cubaheute](#))