

Cuba plans May Day rally in slimmed-down form



Press conference by Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento. The first of May takes place this year in Cuba in a truncated form (Source: [YouTube](#))

In light of the current energy crisis, Cuba's government plans to hold the world's largest May Day demonstration in a scaled-down form this year. "The difficult economic situation, especially fuel supply constraints, have led us to change the original plan for the International Workers' Day celebrations," Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento, secretary general of the Confederation of Trade Unions (CTC), [said](#) at a press conference Tuesday.

Instead of the traditional mass rally in Revolution Square with up to 900,000 participants from all parts of Havana, there will be several small events in neighborhoods, workplaces and educational institutions during this week. International brigades will also participate. On May Day itself, there will be a smaller demonstration along the Malecón waterfront, mobilizing residents of the neighboring communities of Habana Vieja, Centro, Playa, Plaza and Cerro. At the same time, local May Day rallies will be held in the rest of the capital's municipalities, the CTC secretary general said.

Cuba's government announced Tuesday the rationing of fuel. Sales at gas stations were limited and public transportation was massively cut back. Several universities have suspended face-to-face classes until next week. Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy announced that the situation is expected to continue through May. The last time Cuba held a large May Day demonstration was last year, after the state-organized rallies in 2020 and 2021 were replaced by a virtual program due to the corona pandemic. ([Cubaheute](#))