

## Cuba and Iran deepen economic relations



Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel during his visit to the Pasteur Institute in Teheran(Source: [DC/X](#))

Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel returned on Thursday from a trip to the Middle East, which took him to Iran, among other places. At a meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the two countries agreed to deepen their economic relations.

Cuba and Iran signed six new cooperation agreements in the fields of agriculture, livestock farming, fishery, mining, energy and biotechnology. As part of the biotech cooperation, an agreement on knowledge transfer for the development of new vaccines was signed between the Pasteur Institute in Tehran and the Cuban Finlay Institute. Díaz-Canel had paid a visit to the former as part of the visit. The agreement is intended to continue the pharmaceutical cooperation following the joint testing of the Cuban Covid-19 vaccine Soberana 02 in 2021.

As the newspaper *Granma* reports, the meeting with Raisi covered international politics as well as topics such as how to deal with US sanctions. With regard to Iran, Cuba is particularly interested in the question of how economic growth can be generated despite the sanctions.

As part of the working meeting, Díaz-Canel and members of his cabinet led a workshop attended by 200 Iranian entrepreneurs. Cuba's Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy and Agriculture Minister Ydael Pérez Brito presented new investment opportunities in their sectors. These included investments in various agricultural projects, oil, nickel, biotechnology, and renewable energies. Cuba's ambassador to Iran, Alberto González,

emphasized Iran's expertise in wholesale and retail trade. "We want Iran to become an important economic player in the Cuban development model," said Díaz-Canel. Cuba is "open to all proposals". Iranian President Raisi last visited Cuba in June, during which both sides reaffirmed the "excellent state" of bilateral relations.

The visit to Tehran took place after the meeting of the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai, which the Cuban delegation had previously attended. In his role as chairman of the G77+China group, Díaz-Canel called on the countries of the Global North to contribute more to tackling the costs of climate change. ([Cubaheute](#))