

Economy first: Central Committee plenum postpones party conference



The VII Plenum of the PCC Central Committee set the course for new economic reforms at the weekend (Source: [Granma](#))

The VII Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (PCC) [met](#) in Cuba on the weekend. The main topics on this time's agenda were economic issues. Numerous reform projects were given the green light, setting the course for the announced "profound transformations" of the Cuban economy in the coming year. "The aim is to ensure that everything that is planned really contributes to Cuba's economic development," explained Politburo member and Prime Minister Manuel Marrero.

There is a "high level of dissatisfaction" at all levels of government about the "insufficient progress" in implementing measures to combat the current crisis, Marrero admitted. "We are working in a war economy scenario. With consensual decisions, collective work, passion and energy, we are all called upon to reverse the current situation," said Marrero.

At the two-day meeting, 36 reform guidelines were modified for the period up to the next party congress in 2026, 15 new ones were added and three were deleted. Among other things, the originally mentioned "further support for monetary reform" was removed and a macroeconomic stabilization programme was included in the reform roadmap instead. In other areas, the way has been cleared for the forthcoming reform of the state-owned enterprise system.

The private sector laws will also receive a major update, with the aim of creating incentives for the "effective integration of non-state forms of administration into the national economy and their connection with state-owned enterprises". "We must not forget that the party congress took place in April [2021] and the policy for the new actors was published in

September, so an update on this issue is necessary", explained Economy Minister Alejandro Gil.

Other agreed on points are "to advance in the effective process of de-dollarization of the economy, the development of a foreign exchange market with an economically based and stable exchange rate, the reduction of money issuance associated with fiscal and quasi-fiscal measures as a fundamental means of reducing inflationary pressures, and halting the loss of purchasing power in wages and pensions".

In addition, the PCC's highest governing body wants to work towards "strengthening monetary-mercantile relations" so that the "main variable prices are not set administratively and reflect the conditions of the economy".

The party conference originally scheduled for the first trimester of 2024, at which Cuba's only legal party wanted to address its internal structure and working methods, has been postponed "to take into account the country's economic situation". Several CC members agreed that it was better to "focus on action now and give full attention to the economic and ideological front." ([Cubaheute](#))