

# *Cuba and Russia committed to broadening cooperation*

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By María Josefina Arce

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This was expressed by both Moscow and Havana during the visit to the Eurasian country of Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, who carried out an intense work agenda, including meetings with officials, parliamentarians and businessmen.

A great opportunity to continue advancing on the path of strengthening exchange ties was the participation in the twenty-fifth edition of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, a leading

global platform for communion among businessmen and the promotion of cooperation.

A new session of the Cuba-Russia Intergovernmental Commission also took place, reviewing major joint projects in key areas such as energy, transport, industry and agriculture.

Moscow and Havana are currently working on the remodeling of the Antillana de Acero "José Martí" steel company in the Cuban capital, which is to become a modern industrial complex.

The plan has also included the training of personnel. Dozens of workers from the plant have already traveled to Russia to be trained in a Russian factory with technology similar to that implemented in Cuba.

The first stage of the supply by the Russian side of trains and technological railway equipment to Cuba, of great importance for the reactivation of this means of transportation and freight transport, was also concluded.

This project foresees the design, repair and modernization of more than 1,000 kilometers of railway infrastructure and the training of Cuban personnel in Russia's main transportation education centers.

But both countries are exploring new areas such as health. The prospects are broad and include the joint development of vaccines, as well as training and oncology projects.

Important cooperation agreements have already been signed in this field, especially in biotechnology. Thus, BioCubafarma and the Russian D.I. Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology agreed to promote research projects for the generation of new products, pharmaceutical technologies, equipment and devices.

Russia has always expressed its willingness to participate effectively in the realization of the economic and social development plan that Cuba has designed until 2030.

In the second half of this year, a new meeting of the Cuba-Russia Intergovernmental Commission will take place in Moscow, another opportunity to materialize for mutual benefit more joint projects, backed by trust, friendship and fruitful bilateral cooperation.

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