

# *UN official says external obstacles prevent Cuba from developing*

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Havana, August 17 (RHC)-- The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Havana, Consuelo Vidal, said that external obstacles to Cuba impose limitations that prevent the Caribbean nation from realizing its full potential.

During an exclusive interview with the Cuban News Agency (ACN), the diplomat stressed that external restrictions have an impact on the Objectives of Sustainable Development (ODS) in different ways because these are a comprehensive view that has to do with social and economic issues and have a complex impact that limits the country's progress.

Last week, Cuba signed a new cooperation framework with the United Nations system until 2024, in which it endorsed that despite the economic limitations, the Cuban government ratifies its commitment to comply with these purposes.

In Vidal's opinion, the main value of the document is the integration between the ODS and the Cuban government's National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 through four priority areas: effective government, productive transformation, environmental sustainability and risk management and

human development with equity.

"We are going to accompany the process of territorial development, for example, by strengthening the national statistical system because it is needed for decision-making, support for productive chains in the strategic and food sovereignty sectors."

"To this end, we will take advantage of Cuba's human capital, financing for development through foreign direct investment and international trade, sustainable energy and productive transformation programmes, environmental sustainability and risk management by helping to incorporate environmental, climate and risk considerations into social economic activities."

"A particular Cuban element is the linkage of each of the cooperation projects with the science-technology-innovation axis; it is not uncommon to see the relationship of programs with academic research, which says a lot about the enormous potential in human resources of this country and the integral and sustainable approach it gives to these processes," Vidal added.

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