

**CUBA'S CONTRIBUTION  
FOR THE GLOBAL REPORT ON THE  
PUBLIC SECTOR " INSTITUTIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS:  
A BALANCE SHEET FIVE YEARS LATER"**



**Comptroller General of the Republic of Cuba  
Background to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

August 2020

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000, Cuba endorsed the principles agreed upon in this document and committed to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their goals for the year 2015.

Cuba regularly evaluated and reported its progress towards the achievement of the MDGs with the presentation of national reports. In them, along with the 41 official indicators used by the country, an additional 76 were reported for the analysis of the goals, as well as 24 support, which contributed to the evaluation of the postulates of certain objectives. This work of grouping the targets and indicators of the MDGs constituted a reference for the future evaluations of the country.

Due to the social policy of the Cuban Revolution, by 2015 almost all of the Millennium Development Goals had been satisfactorily met, even before 2000. Examples of this are: MDG 2, which aimed to achieve primary education universal; MDG 3, which aimed to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women; MDG 4, referring to the reduction of infant mortality and MDG 7, aimed at guaranteeing environmental sustainability.

Only 3 of the 21 goals contained in the MDGs could not be met, although progress was made in meeting them; 5A aimed at reducing maternal mortality by three quarters, 7D aimed at improving the lives of slum dwellers and 8F referring to providing access to ICTs.

The permanence of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on our country and the scarce access to external sources of financing are the main factors that prevented the total fulfillment of the MDGs in Cuba.

Starting with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio + 20- in 2012, the member countries of the United Nations began the process of defining the development agenda that would guide the work of all the United Nations system from 2016 to 2030.

In September 2015, after 8 rounds of intergovernmental negotiations with the contribution of a wide variety of actors, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was born, approved in the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations during the Summit of the Heads of State and Government. This document included the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets, which had been previously agreed in 2014.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, which aims to strengthen universal peace and is implemented by all countries and stakeholders through a collaborative alliance. It officially entered into force at the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 related goals, are universal and affect the entire world, both developed and developing countries, are integrated and indivisible and combine the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental; In addition to these, there is also the institutional one, which advocates for strong institutions that can ensure the balance between the other three dimensions. It is based on five key themes: people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

## **Chapter 1. National institutional systems to implement the SDGs.**

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs emerge in an unstable global economic environment and on the threshold of an unprecedented environmental crisis whose adverse effects have already reached several countries.

To fulfill the Agenda, it is necessary the mobilization of resources and the participation of all levels of government, as well as the actors of society and international organizations as a whole.

In the framework of the preparation of governments for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and by virtue of the commitment made by the states parties, it is necessary to implement public policies to adapt the goals of the SDGs to the national context, where the National mechanisms are the central coordinating bodies for these policies and the need to mobilize the means for implementation.

Governments are also responsible at the national level for monitoring and reviewing the progress made in implementing the goals and objectives over the next fifteen years, as well as Supreme Audit Institutions, playing a role in monitoring and reviewing the Agenda.

Having strong, responsible and effective institutional systems is essential for the implementation of the SDGs at the national and territorial levels. Efforts in terms of institutional coherence, capacity development, integration of actors and multifactorial analysis, are essential requirements for the fulfillment of the objectives and goals of sustainable development.

Cuba endorsed, within the framework of the United Nations, its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its objectives, aimed at promoting human progress and harmony with nature, which is why the Group's formation was updated in 2017.

National for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (GN) in the country, under the direction of the Ministry of Economy and Planning, given its guiding role in leading the work to prepare the National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 and the articulation between the objectives and goals that are outlined in this with the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

The GN constitutes the national mechanism for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. It is made up of national organizations and entities that include a representation of all sectors of the economy, organizations, research centers, universities, and representatives of the territories and civil society.

Its main function is to lead and coordinate the actions for the implementation of the 2030 agenda in the country, as well as to articulate the Sustainable Development Goals and their goals with the Strategic Axes and Sectors of the National Economic and Social Development Plan until 2030 and to prepare national reports.

They are a substantive part of the GN, four pillar organizations, which assume specific governing tasks and functions and coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country:

- The Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP), which presides over the National Group, guarantees the incorporation of the objectives and goals of the 2030 Agenda in the development plans and strategies of the national economy. In addition, it ensures the adequate allocation of resources to fulfill this purpose and coordinates the actions and activities related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX) is in charge of the political pillar and supports the MEP in coordinating information in this area.
- The National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI), assumes the informational pillar and takes care of all the compilation of statistical information to evaluate compliance with the 2030 Agenda.
- The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment (MINCEX), deals with matters related to international cooperation and development and contributes its experience by having served as the focal point for the fulfillment of the MDGs by our country.

The rest of the members participate in all the meetings called by the GN and offer the necessary inputs for the fulfillment of the objectives, goals and indicators of the 2030 Agenda, considering the governing functions that each of them has assigned. At the same time, they participate in the preparation of reports, monitor and issue assessments on compliance, progress, actions, difficulties and setbacks throughout the process of implementing the Agenda.

The active representation of civil society in the GN is coordinated from the Follow-up Mechanism of Cuban Civil Society Organizations to monitor the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, coordinated by the Cuban Association of the United Nations (ACNU) and in which organizations and social actors participate voluntarily.

This mechanism has become a platform for action and agglutination of the Cuban associative environment since its establishment in 2016.

The United Nations System represented in Cuba through its Agencies, Funds and Programs, support and collaborate in strengthening the institutional, technical, analytical, statistical and management capacities of the country for the implementation of the SDGs and in the management of resources for its financing, in correspondence with the National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 and the articulation between national and territorial plans.

As part of the strategy and institutional structure designed for the governance of the 2030 Agenda, which includes government leadership, planning, coordination, management and with it the cross-cutting impact, a National Action Plan is established to promote short and medium term of the Agenda.

The National Group annually updates the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which includes the work and tasks to be carried out by the members of the GN and other actors in society, allowing a better organization and functioning of the existing national mechanism.

At the same time, different instruments have been developed and used that contribute to the monitoring, assurance and evaluation of the results, among them the Risk Matrix for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda stands out, which detects the risks by activities and the measures to be applied to counteract them; the RECI Matrix, which identifies the stakeholders involved in the preparation, as well as their roles and responsibilities, the relationship between them, overlap, fragmentation, duplication or gaps in roles and managers.

The National Development Plan, the plans of the economy at different levels and the Budget, through the contents, procedures and methodologies that support them, constitute the existing planning mechanisms for the integration of the goals of the SDGs into the national context, allowing to define resources and capacities necessary in the short, medium and long terms, and to create the evaluation and feedback processes for the monitoring of the objectives and goals.

In the process of updating the Economic and Social Development Model, the implementation in the country of public policies, programs and projects, which include, among other aspects, equality rights, non-discrimination, universal access to social services, main economic sectors and that favor the improvement of the living conditions of citizens and the environment, also contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country and its articulation with the SDG approach.

The institutional system that describes the operation of the country, as well as the GN, made up of a wide diversity of actors, promote greater interaction and transversality in the analyzes, leading to a comprehensive approach to the main problems, opportunities, potentialities and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs in the country.

The adoption in the institutional processes of the approach with an SDG prism is confirmed in the various meetings held by the GN, as well as the formation of

structures and technical groups in government institutions (at the national, provincial and municipal levels) for systematic attention progress in the implementation of the SDGs.

In auditing the public sector, the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic plays a fundamental role in promoting efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration, which contributes to the achievement of the objectives and national development priorities as well as internationally agreed development goals. In December 2016, the XXII Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), confirmed the importance of conducting audit and review work on the SDGs.

In this sense, several performance audits of the SDGs have been carried out in the country, obtaining very good results, which are verified in successive chapters of this report.

In Cuba, the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) is the national entity that directs the National Statistical System (SNE) and responds for the methodological direction of the Government Information System (SIGOB), which includes its organization, coordination, integration and control. The SNE is the set of general rules and procedures that, as a common methodological framework, coherently integrates the Government's statistical information, guaranteeing international comparability. It is made up of three subsystems: The National Statistical Information Subsystem, the Complementary Statistical Information Subsystem (SIEC) and the Territorial Statistical Information Subsystem (SIET), focused on capturing, processing and disseminating statistical information, articulating all stakeholders.

Related to monitoring and evaluation functions, the Government Information System Policy (SIGOB) was perfected, which envisions the creation of Institutional Information Systems, to which the responsibility of the organizations with the SDGs is incorporated.

The SIGOB constitutes a strength in the implementation of the SDGs, taking into account the existence of its Information Council, assisted by the Technical Committees, where information of national interest is analyzed and proposed, considering the SDG indicators.

Additionally, during 2020 the National Framework of SDG Indicators was approved by the country's top management, which will be provided immediately or in a three-year environment (2020-2023) from the improvement of the SIEN,

managed by the ONEI and the SIEC in charge of the organisms of the Central State Administration, national entities and superior organizations of business management which are responsible for the indicators, in correspondence with their state function.

In 2019, it was presented in the National Assembly of People's Power, the supreme body of the State power with constituent power, which represents the Legislative Power of the country; a summary of the first National Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The deputies in their different Commissions examined the information on the fulfillment of government programs to achieve the SDGs, offered by the organizations of different branches, reporting on the goals set and actions for its monitoring and evaluation.

One of the fundamental aspects of the 2030 Agenda is its appropriation process at the territorial level. Local governments are essential to promote inclusive sustainable development in their territories and, therefore, are key variables for the implementation of the objectives of the PNDES and the SDGs.

At the same time, they are the link between the Central Government and the communities, and play a fundamental role in the participation and integration of the various actors in society (Central State Administration bodies / superior business management organizations / organizations of the civil society, academia, private and cooperative sector, and other community-based organizations).

In Cuba's economic and social development, the municipality plays a determining role and this is reflected in the Constitution of the Republic, approved in the National Assembly of People's Power and ratified by the people in a constitutional referendum on February 24, 2019. constitutional reform municipalities acquire greater relevance from the recognition of their autonomy, which they exercise in correspondence with the interests of the Nation.

Local governments have the Provincial Development Strategies (EDP) and municipal (EDM) as instruments for the articulation between development planning, land use planning and the different levels of government.

The Strategies facilitate the organization of a management system that links national (PNDES and ODS), provincial and municipal interests, which takes advantage of endogenous and exogenous resources and inter-agency, inter-territorial and multilevel articulation.

The coordination mechanism that links the national level with the territorial level are the Provincial and Municipal Governments, which are supported by the Provincial and Municipal Economic Directorates.

This formal coordination instance contributes to the preparation, appropriation and commitment to implement the SDGs under the guidance and coordination of the different Groups, especially the Territorial Group, created to prepare the PNDES, as well as the National Group for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Local governments must prepare to implement the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the PNDES in their communities in different ways:

- Focus the objectives of the PNDES and the SDGs on the Provincial (EDP) and municipal (EDM) Development Strategies as an essential starting point to guarantee the territory's contribution to the country's development goals.
- Prepare the Municipal (EDM) and Provincial (EDP) Development Strategies, carrying out an evaluation of the problems, opportunities, strengths and needs to define priorities and locate the SDGs. The Municipal and Provincial Development Strategies defined will be an essential starting point for this purpose.
- Carry out awareness-raising and advocacy work on the importance of the objectives of the PNDES and the SDGs and their relevance to localities, as well as the role they play in achieving the objectives and the need for effective implementation.
- Achieve greater participation of all social actors, promoting cooperative governance to establish shared priorities and the development of effective leadership capacities.
- Align territorial plans and budgets with the objectives of the PNDES and the SDGs, as well as programs and projects derived from international cooperation.
- Mobilize and take advantage of the local resources necessary to comply with the objectives defined in the PNDES and the SDGs.
- Promote ownership and co-responsibility in the execution of strategic projects.

In support of the strategic planning of the territories, the Municipal Development Initiatives and the Articulated Platform for Comprehensive Territorial Development (PADIT) have been promoted through the economy plan. This platform has become a very appropriate work space on the issues of territorial development, local economic development, decentralization, strengthening of local and territorial capacities for planning, development management and multi-level articulation.

The existing institutional mechanisms in the country, the national articulation of the Economic and Social Development Plan until 2030 around the SDGs, inter-

institutional coordination, the regulatory framework, the treatment of information, the active participation of the different actors of the Civil society, organisms, entities, state institutions and non-state sector, constitute strengths of the country to continue the satisfactory implementation of the 2030 Agenda, making the necessary adjustments and corrections that allow the continuous improvement of the results and the achievement of the objectives in the shorter period of time.

There are several challenges the country faces in the context of updating its economic and social model and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda:

- Strengthen the National Statistical System in the collection of data to evaluate the SDGs through the global indicators approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the regional indicators proposed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Create new instruments in order to collect the information required for the construction of own national indicators according to sector requirements and national goals and the construction of inclusive indicators and thus take advantage of new sources of information that complement traditional official statistics. Improve the collection, processing, disaggregation and analysis of quality data.
- Continue strengthening the inter-institutional and inter-sector coordination mechanisms, institutional and regulatory capacities in line with the recently approved new Constitution of the Republic, as well as the process of monitoring and evaluating compliance with the objectives, indicators and goals of the PNDES 2030 and the 2030 Agenda.
- Strengthening of technical capacities, methodologies and tools for monitoring the initiatives and indicators of the SDGs, as well as instruments for aligning international collaboration projects with the country's priorities for development. In this sense, the preparation of auditors in the execution of performance audits on the implementation of the SDGs is essential.
- Ensure that the management (administration, management, direction) of the various settlements where the population resides, contributes to their personal fulfillment without compromising the environment, under a situation of strong economic limitations.
- Articulate the ways of planning, managing and governing, based on participatory planning that allows creating an environment for identifying problems and seeking solutions at the local scale.
- Make sustainable use of the capacities and resources that human settlements have, evaluating the positive and negative impacts that can be produced on them and promoting the coordinated actions of all the actors that intervene and influence their development.
- Promote a more active appropriation and participation of the different actors in society, in the search for solutions for the construction of an agenda that is increasingly inclusive and committed to the population.

## **Chapter 2. Integration of the SDGs in national institutional frameworks: a balance five years later.**

The integrated governance approach implies coordinating policy formulation actions, where all stakeholders must share the same vision and strategic priorities, ensuring the active participation of stakeholders and the appropriate implementation strategy, with significant impacts on compliance with the objectives and goals.

Cuban society is in the process of updating its economic and social model of socialist development. In April 2016, the 7th. Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) analyzed and approved the Conceptualization of the Cuban Economic and Social Model of Socialist Development, the Bases of the National Plan of Economic and Social Development until 2030: Vision of the Nation, Strategic Axes and Sectors and the Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution for the period 2016-2021. These documents were subjected to a broad process of popular consultation and were subsequently approved by the National Assembly of People's Power on June 1, 2017.

The aforementioned documents are decisive for the sustainability and prosperity of the Cuban nation, education and formation of values, health, science, technology and innovation, culture, social communication, defense and national security, rational use and the protection of resources and the environment and sustainable and inclusive urban development, in broad coherence with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In Cuba, the elaboration of the "National Plan for Economic and Social Development until the year 2030" has gone through two stages. In the first, the fundamental conceptual elements that constitute the bases of the PNDES were established, among which stand out: the evaluation of the current situation and the qualitative diagnosis, the guiding principles for the elaboration of the development strategy, the Vision of the Nation, the strategic axes and their objectives and the strategic sectors for the productive transformation.

In the second stage, which is in the process of being concluded, the different programs and lines of action are validated and integrated, the indicators are established to evaluate the objectives, the goals to be achieved are set from a quantitative point of view, the demands are specified. budgetary and available sources of financing, as well as the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the fulfillment of the established objectives.

In the Bases of the PNDES until 2030, six strategic axes are established, designed under a systemic approach, which articulate the proposal for economic and social development until 2030 and contribute, from their area of influence, to the achievement of that long-term purpose. term.

The six Strategic Axes are:

Socialist, effective, efficient and social integration government; Productive transformation and international insertion; Infrastructure; Human potential, science, technology and innovation; Natural resources and environment and Human development, equity and social justice.

The Bases establish the Guiding Principles (24) and Thematic Axes (9) for the preparation of the PNDES 2030; the Vision of the Nation is defined; The Strategic Axes (6) are identified and the general (22) and specific (111) objectives are established around them.

The National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 constitutes a main tool to achieve the essential objectives and principles that are enunciated in the Conceptualization of the model, at the same time that it will define the main transformations by stages that will allow the qualitative leap to be made and promote a greater dynamics of development.

In this sense, the Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy express the most important directions and activities to be carried out in the five-year period to advance in the updating of the model. Hence the coherence and articulation established between the three programmatic documents that mark the course of the Cuban revolutionary process, the Party and society towards the future, in the construction of a prosperous and sustainable socialism.

With the elaboration of the PNDES 2030, a strength is marked from the close alignment and articulation at the national level that is obtained with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, prioritizing in both cases national and human development, as well as the balance and integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

In September 2017, Presidential Decree No. 19 was issued, which contains the structure that organizes the process of elaboration of the PNDES until 2030.

According to this document, the Government Commission in charge of the PNDES would be composed of the following: Group Direction, Coordinating Group and the 9 Work Groups formed from the Thematic Axes previously identified in the Bases of PNDES 2030 (Productive, technological and human

potential; External sector; Monetary, financial and fiscal; Infrastructure; Socio-cultural; Territorial; Demographic; Environment and natural resources and Government, defense and internal security). In turn, subgroups were formed to attend to specific issues. Subsequently, in November 2018, Presidential Decree No. 28 was issued, updating its composition.

Thus, as part of the development of the PNDES and its articulation with the 2030 Agenda, correlation matrices were drawn up between the general and specific objectives of the various development areas of the PNDES, the Guidelines and the related SDGs, as well as the indicators proposed in the 2030 Agenda, which constituted a basic input for the analyzes that were developed in the 9 Working Groups.

The 9 Thematic Axes for the elaboration of the PNDES already enunciated, express the main dimensions that make up the economic, political, social and environmental panorama of society.

Figure No. 1 shows how the Strategic Axes of the PNDES are expressed and interrelated with the SDGs. Figure No. 1. Strategic Axes-ODS relationship.

Ejes Estratégicos	Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible
Gobierno socialista, eficaz, eficiente y de integración social	5. Igualdad de género, 8. Crecimiento económico, 10. Reducción de las desigualdades, 11. Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles, 16. Paz, justicia y fortaleza de la ley, 17. Alianzas para el desarrollo
Transformación productiva e inserción internacional	2. Cero hambre, 8. Crecimiento económico, 9. Industrias, innovación e infraestructura, 10. Reducción de las desigualdades, 11. Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles, 12. Producción responsable, 14. Vida submarina, 17. Alianzas para el desarrollo
Infraestructura	6. Agua limpia y saneamiento, 7. Energía asequible y limpia, 9. Industrias, innovación e infraestructura, 11. Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles, 17. Alianzas para el desarrollo
Potencial humano, ciencia, tecnología e innovación	4. Educación de calidad, 7. Energía asequible y limpia, 9. Industrias, innovación e infraestructura, 12. Producción responsable, 14. Vida submarina, 17. Alianzas para el desarrollo
Recursos naturales y medio ambiente	2. Cero hambre, 6. Agua limpia y saneamiento, 7. Energía asequible y limpia, 8. Crecimiento económico, 11. Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles, 12. Producción responsable, 13. Acción por el clima, 14. Vida submarina, 15. Vida terrestre
Desarrollo humano, equidad y justicia social	1. Paz y justicia, 2. Cero hambre, 3. Salud y bienestar, 4. Educación de calidad, 5. Igualdad de género, 6. Agua limpia y saneamiento, 7. Energía asequible y limpia, 8. Crecimiento económico, 9. Industrias, innovación e infraestructura, 10. Reducción de las desigualdades, 11. Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles, 12. Producción responsable, 13. Acción por el clima, 14. Vida submarina, 15. Vida terrestre, 16. Paz, justicia y fortaleza de la ley, 17. Alianzas para el desarrollo

As a result of the work achieved, the PNDES until 2030 in its 6 Strategic Axes mainstreams the gender approach, the reduction of inequalities, economic growth, environmental sustainability, basically integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), with articulated policies in the various areas to advance comprehensively in the 3 pillars.

The Human Development, Equity and Social Justice Axis is the one that integrates the most SDGs within its specific objectives, which shows the multidimensional nature of our development model, its humanistic and

democratic essence, whose strategic purpose is the integral development of the human being - individually and collectively - with high values and ethical principles.

The articulation in the planning processes involves three dimensions:

- Multilevel, which articulates the objectives and interests of the national and local levels.
- Horizontal, which develops inter-territorial networks and links.
- Intersectorial, which interrelates between all territorial actors, particularly productive economic ones, both state-owned and non-state in the form of association.

The very constitution of the PNDES groups allows horizontal and vertical analysis for the integration and coordination of policies in the development strategy where the SDGs are integrated.

The organization of work by groups allows closing cycles of analysis as the tasks are fulfilled, which enables the integration of information and the preparation of reports, which include topics such as:

- Diagnosis of the current situation, determination of gaps, main problems, strengths and opportunities;
- Objectives, strategic lines of action, indicators and goals;
- Articulation of the Strategic Axes with the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and control of the fulfillment of the objectives and goals set.

The systematic and public mechanisms for monitoring, control, evaluation and accountability are reinforced at all levels, aimed at implementing results-oriented management models, an essential element for the feedback of the planning, decision-making and management processes. necessary corrections.

Since the approval of the PNDES Bases, intensive work has been done on the development of PNDES 2030 in its final stage, with partial presentations at the National Assembly of People's Power (ANPP) in December 2018 and March 2019. In July 2020, the PNDES was approved by the Council of Ministers until 2030.

It is currently going through the first stage of its implementation, in which the foundations are laid for future transformations of the country in the most diverse scenarios. In this sense, the Economic and Social Strategy was approved and

is being executed to boost the economy in the face of the complex scenario of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which will allow a comprehensive approach to the activities that impact the economy and social life of the country.

In Cuba, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda is a State commitment and a national priority that is specified in the inclusion and alignment of the 17 SDGs in the planning process, in full correspondence with the Strategic Axes, objectives, lines of action, goals and indicators of the PNDES 2030 and under the direction of the MEP, with the dual purpose of leading both the PNDES 2030, and the existing national mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: The National Group.

At the subnational level, the provincial and municipal governments (15 provinces and 168 municipalities) are the coordination and implementation mechanisms at the territorial level of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 and the Objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Development. Sustainable, those that rely on the Provincial and Municipal Directorates of Economy and Planning, preparing for the implementation in their communities based on the Municipal and Provincial Development Strategies.

These strategies allow an evaluation of the problems, opportunities, strengths and needs at the local level, to define priorities and identify the actions, programs and projects that will make it possible to achieve the objectives and goals of the PNDES and the SDGs.

At the same time, they contribute to raising awareness and promoting the importance of the objectives of the Agenda and PNDES 2030 and their relevance for localities, as well as systematizing the path towards their effective implementation.

In addition, development strategies at this level achieve a greater participation of all social actors, promoting cooperative governance to establish shared priorities and the development of effective leadership capacities; align territorial plans and budgets with the PNDES 2030 objectives and the SDG.

They mobilize the necessary resources and capacities to fulfill these objectives and promote ownership and co-responsibility in the execution of strategic projects.

In accordance with the assigned mandate, the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic of Cuba included in the directives and control objectives for the year 2018, carry out performance audits of the SDGs and carry out a diagnosis and investigative study with the collaboration of the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the National Office of Statistics and Information and the participation

of the competent bodies and agencies, with the aim of verifying and demonstrating the assurance, progress and strengths of the country for the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda. Attached to this report are three maps showing the result achieved.

The diagnosis demonstrated the interrelation of the SDGs with the Conceptualization of the Cuban Economic and Social Model of Socialist Development, the Strategic Axes of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 and its general and specific objectives, the Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution updated in the 7th Congress of the PCC for the period 2016-2021 and with the Life Task: State Plan to confront climate change.

The results of the diagnosis have contributed to the preparation and strengthening of the performance audits carried out within the framework of the Program “Auditing the SDGs” of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and in coordination with the Latin American and Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS). In the years 2018-2020, coordinated performance audits were carried out: Preparation of the country for the implementation of the SDGs, with an emphasis on SDG 5; SDG 7 and SDG 11, 13, 14 and 15.

In the audit that evaluated the country's readiness for the implementation of the SDGs, no lagging groups were identified, taking into account that the scope of regulations, policies and programs encompasses all citizens without distinction and at all levels of government. At the same time, it was verified that the State Budget allocates resources to the programs through the annual Plan and Budget, guaranteeing their implementation.

The permanent commissions of the ANPP, the GN and its pillars, the inter-institutional technical groups, the mechanism that coordinates civil society, the local development groups constituted in the territories, the research teams in the universities, the Agencies of the System of Nations United, among other actors, created at different levels of government, carry out periodic analyzes of their implementation, which are part of the reports on compliance with the SDGs that the country prepares for monitoring, evaluation, feedback and improvement of the work carried out. performed.

The balance of the work carried out in the country in the last five years has been positive, although not without its challenges, obtaining significant progress in meeting the goals and objectives. Key premises of the results achieved have been the political will of the Government, its determination and its multi-level and multi-stakeholder action based on a comprehensive and participatory approach to society.

Along the way, work processes, institutional mechanisms, policy functions, methodologies, instruments and tools for technical training, training and awareness have been strengthened, perfected and incorporated, concentrating the efforts and limited resources available to the country towards those areas with the greatest economic and social impact and accelerating potential, in order to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the Agenda.

### **Chapter 3. SDG monitoring and evaluation systems.**

Governments are primarily responsible for carrying out, at the national, regional and global levels, the monitoring and review of the progress made in meeting the Goals and targets during these 15 years.

The country has several national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the SDGs, which complement and interconnect, in the search for greater effectiveness in meeting the objectives and goals. They stand out among them:

- Production and evaluation of indicators conducted by the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) and where a wide group of actors participate;
- Accountability from the preparation of national reports on the implementation of the Agenda and the implementation of activities, events, workshops and Congresses;
- Regular meetings of the National Group for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Performance audits carried out by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic to oversee the implementation of the SDGs;
- Design and beginning of the implementation of the ODS Laboratory, for the real-time monitoring of the initiatives that the country develops in pursuit of its fulfillment;
- Periodic checks that are carried out by the organisms of the Central State Administration and other actors on the progress, setbacks and challenges in the implementation;
- PNDES 2030 monitoring and evaluation system.

A substantive part of the complex monitoring and evaluation system is the one carried out by the ONEI with the indicators, in its role as the GN's informative pillar. As background, the monitoring and review of the objectives and targets is carried out using a set of 244 global indicators, approved on July 6, 2017 by the

United Nations General Assembly, which is complemented by regional and national indicators formulated by the Member States. World indicators are in a three-level classification system, considering their degree of methodological development and data availability.

The ONEI has been carrying out a set of actions aimed at monitoring the update of the global and regional framework of SDG indicators, their classification levels and development of methodologies, together with participation in the process of regional prioritization of these indicators, for the evaluation of the availability of the information in the country. Among these are mentioned:

- The creation of an internal working group to attend to the SDGs.
- Study of the proposed objectives, goals and indicators, including their methodological definitions, forms of calculation, sources of possible information, the so-called metadata, (methodology of how to construct and calculate the data).
- Request to the bodies in charge of taxing the information for its calculation, including the interrelationships for it when necessary.
- Participation in International Working Groups of the United Nations Statistical Commission of which the ONEI is a member and in the Commission itself where the relevance of each indicator, its methodologies and form of calculations, the way of paying them, the systems IT and other content, as well as in fourteen other international conferences, meetings or workshops where the subject of the SDGs and their measurement have been dealt with directly or indirectly. He has also participated in work meetings, mainly in the Latin American region.
- Participation in the preparation of the First Voluntary Report of Cuba on Compliance with the SDGs, which was placed on the ECLAC Website in April 2019, following the intervention of the Minister of External Commerce (MINCEX), in the Third Meeting of the Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development in Santiago de Chile.
- Holding of multilateral and bilateral meetings with organizations and governing bodies of ODS, a total of fifteen, where proposals for Global and Regional indicators to be paid were analyzed, both for National and Regional Reports, the metadata for their calculation and presentation, the analysis of the database of SDG indicators or substitutes (proxies) for Cuba.

The Cuban government uses the data of the National Statistical System that the ONEI issues annually by resolution and is mandatory, where the Forms for Continuous Statistics and Surveys are established, which allow monitoring and review of the implementation of the Agenda, which it helps to maximize and monitor progress and improve accountability to citizens to ensure that no one is left behind.

The High-Level Political Forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, plays a central role in overseeing this

global monitoring and review process; preparing an annual report on the progress of the SDGs prepared by the Secretary General in cooperation with the United Nations System based on the global indicator framework agreed by the Statistical Commission.

Through Resolution No. 233 of 2018, updated with Resolution No. 111 of 2020 of the Ministry of Economy and Planning, it is established that those responsible for preparing and integrating the National Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to be presented at events and High-level international forums are the Ministry of Economy and Planning, which presides over the National Group, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Office of Statistics and Information and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, which assume the political pillar, informative and attention to international cooperation in this field, respectively.

According to its institutional mandate, each SDG is the direct responsibility of a body of the Central State Administration and / or an organization. The individual reports of each SDG, which summarize the main advances of the country and the current situation regarding the proposed goals, are prepared by the responsible body with the participation of a multidisciplinary work team, made up of other OACE, organizations, centers of research, universities and other actors linked to the SDG.

In 2019, Cuba presented the First National Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the III Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, in compliance with its international responsibilities and in keeping with the current process of updating the its economic and social model. This Report takes a tour of the background of the 2030 Agenda and its contextualization, taking into account the current scenario of the international system, the methodology used for its preparation, the institutional mechanisms in the country for the implementation of the Agenda, as well as the inclusion of the SDGs in the planning process, their alignment with the PNDES 2030 and their expression down to the territorial level, in addition to the national indicators used to monitor and measure the results.

Additionally, it evidenced the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in Cuba through the qualitative and quantitative information available, the public actions related to the fulfillment of these objectives and their goals and the challenges to be faced in the different areas where are concentrate efforts and resources for its acceleration.

The periodic meetings of the National Group constitute the space where the Action Plans that mark the way forward for the period of one year are approved by the GN for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In these meetings the

status of the planned actions is evaluated to be carried out and constitutes a space for dialogue and the establishment of alliances around the solution of certain problems.

One of the substantive functions of the GN is the evaluation of the progress made by the country in the implementation of the Agenda, based on the reports of its members and the behavior of the indicators and specific goals, as well as the actions, initiatives and projects. that contribute to the fulfillment of the SDGs, among others. It allows the socialization of the results contemplated in the country reports, where the members issue assessments and observations that contribute to the enrichment of the report and to contemplate the issues from different angles, for their subsequent presentation to the Government's management.

For their part, the performance audits carried out by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic allow the evaluation of the country's readiness for the implementation of the SDGs, regarding all the actors involved in their compliance. In them, progress has been confirmed in terms of institutions, regulations, policies, programs, projects, assurance and measurement.

Another tool for the articulation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs is the ODS Laboratory (ODS Lab), a tool to monitor what the country is executing for compliance with the SDGs, strengthening the formation of national capacities, availability of national and territorial information in real time and the collaboration and integration of the different actors of society.

The ODS Lab aligns national programs and initiatives with the SDGs and PNDES 2030 and facilitates intersectoral and participatory reflection, analysis and decision-making.

Through the platform, governments can observe progress in meeting the goals and indicators, which makes it possible to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the initiatives that are carried out and thus correct the courses of action. The initiatives demonstrate how each one of the actors, from their position, contributes to advancing in the achievement of sustainable development, maximizing the positive impact on people and the planet, within a framework of common action.

The platform allows decision-makers to have a multidimensional view of the actions that are being carried out in the country and to have the necessary information to redirect efforts towards those that generate the desired impacts. At the same time, it provides essential inputs to update and support the voluntary reports that the country presents in international forums.

For the monitoring and evaluation of PNDES 2030, a Monitoring and Evaluation System is implemented that allows reporting on the degree of progress in meeting the objectives and achieving the planned goals. This system is articulated and reinforced with other existing mechanisms such as: control of the Annual Plans of the economy and the State Budget, NG and national reports on the implementation and fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda, Performance Audits on SDGs carried out by the Comptroller's Office General of the Republic, program checks by the Government, etc.

Through annual planning, the lines of action, indicators and goals defined in the PNDES and the SDGs are specified and materialized, as it constitutes the most operational level and the main instrument for their execution. In this way, the alignment between the development strategy proposed in each of the Strategic Axes - at the national and territorial level - with the SDGs is guaranteed, as well as the alliances and real participation that must be specified among the various actors.

#### **Chapter 4. Capacity building in public administration for the implementation of the SDGs.**

The level of integration that can be achieved to address the 2030 Agenda, depends to a large extent on capacities, resources and institutional systems, which implies an approach that promotes the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. and that it also promotes intersectoral and actor collaboration.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the strengthening of the mechanisms and capacities of public institutions to ensure that they are solid and inclusive, as well as the definition of responsibilities according to the role played by each actor, in a way that allows adequate participation and accountability. accounts of progress, setbacks and challenges to face.

The fulfillment of the objectives and goals of the 2030 Agenda requires a deep and responsible preparation of all the participants in the process of its implementation. A basic objective for this is the organization of training activities and methodological, technical and statistical development in order to achieve superior capacities, strengthening institutional structures, cooperation between them and the various ways of participation of the actors.

Capacity development is also expressed through the efficient administration and management of financial and human resources.

Through the Economy Plan and the annual Budget, the resources and capacities necessary for the implementation of the SDGs in the country are identified and defined.

The political will of the State is materialized in the financing that is destined for the execution of policies, programs and projects, with positive results in their application.

With a coherent and coordinated approach, it also has other sources of financing, such as: international cooperation, local development projects, donations, among others, guaranteeing the participation of all the actors involved.

As part of the integration that has been strengthened between the different actors, the National Group for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has a series of instruments and tools to accompany the efforts to articulate and monitor the SDGs and contribute to the formation of capabilities.

Among them, the following stand out: workshops with international experts on multidimensional approaches to address the agenda and the Methodology of combos and accelerators, launch of the ODS Laboratory project with advice from UNDP and the holding of participatory workshops in the project frameworks, strengthening of technical capabilities for greater and better statistical production of the indicators, design and application for the calculation of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2020 University Congress, the Articulated Platform for Comprehensive Territorial Development (PADIT), the creation of groups for the local development and other collaborative projects with high impact on the fulfillment of the SDGs. Every year the Cuban Association of the United Nations develops the Forum of Civil Society Organizations on Sustainable Development, the highest expression of its commitment to comply with the 2030 Agenda. In this space, the results of the actions implemented are analyzed, evaluated and discussed. by the organizations involved. In this way, the Forum constitutes the voice of civil society and its main channel of communication between it and the government entities responsible for drawing up the implementation policies of the 2030 Agenda.

Among the most relevant actions undertaken in the period 2016 to 2020, the following stand out:

1. Development of communication tools on the SDGs. Namely, public good messages broadcast by National Television, related to the SDGs in a general way and to goal 8.7 of SDG 8, related to economic growth and inclusive work for all.

2. Holding workshops, forums, meetings, talks, expert panels, meetings, such as:

- Joint workshop of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and the Italian NGO CISP, in which representatives of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, members of the Delegation of the European Union in Havana, representatives of Research Centers and environmental authorities were present.
- II Forum of Cuban civil society "Thinking Americas". The thematic axes of the VIII Summit of the Americas were addressed: sustainable development, environment and corruption (March 2018).
- Panel "Implementing the 2030 Agenda; sustainable development with equality" in the framework of the Thirty-Seventh Period of Sessions of ECLAC, held in Havana, Cuba, in May 2018.
- Workshop "The 2030 Agenda and the elderly" aimed at the members of the Chair for the Elderly at the University of Havana.
- First International Workshop on Incidence of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (September 2018).
- Panel "The contribution of culture to the Sustainable Development Goals" (February, 2019).
- Third Forum of Cuban civil society organizations on sustainable development (March, 2020), whose central theme was "Cuban civil society organizations towards the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda within the framework of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

For a better and more effective localization of the SDGs, territorial action is promoted within the framework of the Agenda, establishing as a priority the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the municipalities through training and awareness, which includes decision-making bodies and legislative powers under the principle of greater autonomy for the territories, all of which will contribute to a municipal empowerment process that values its contribution to the Agenda. In this sense, transparency, citizen participation and solid institutions, principles of open government, constitute lines of action that materialize at the local level.

The Agenda invites all actors to work together to solve development problems, a commitment that extends to the whole of society and in it the University plays a fundamental role, being a key factor in promoting sustainable human development. Universities contribute to the preparation of committed professionals by putting their knowledge and wisdom at the service of the whole of society; the promotion of research, innovation and teaching to respond to the great challenges of the Agenda; the promotion and configuration of alliances and the creation of critical thinking that incorporates the principles and values of sustainable and inclusive development.

In the capacity development process, international cooperation constitutes an essential factor for the country, responding to the specific demands of improving technological innovations for the management of information on the progress of the SDGs at the national and local levels, capacity building statistics and human training and complementing the national material and financial resources required for this.

### **Capacity building in the Comptroller General Cuba`s Republic**

In June 2016, the first year of the 2030 Agenda, the Comptroller General of the Republic of Cuba held its Second International Workshop on Audit, Supervision and Control, with the participation of 200 delegates from 10 countries, in which the Minister of Economy and Planning of Cuba gave a Conference on the “National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda”.

Two years later, in June 2018, the Third International Audit, Supervision and Control Workshop called “Contributions of best practices to the fulfillment of the SDGs” is held. 250 delegates and guests from 11 countries participated in the event, and keynote conferences and special interventions by representatives of international organizations were presented, including: International Cooperation and ODS, by Consuelo Vidal Bruce, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System at the Republic of Cuba; Ethics and Prevention in Public Administration by Carlos Alberto Libanio Christo –Frei Betto from Brazil; Application of the Big Data program in China, by representatives of its National Audit Office.

In the event, 39 papers were presented and debated, with outstanding topics such as: Cuban experience in the performance audit of the preparation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on goal No. 5 Gender Equality; Importance of citizen participation in the control of public management; Climate Change Audit Guide; Guide for Gender Audit; ODS Audit Guide, among others. Of the 39 papers presented, 20 were immediately applicable and 23 were published in the Cuban Journal Audit and Control, in its digital and printed formats.

With the objective of developing capacities for the control of the implementation of the SDGs in the country; Since 2015, the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic of Cuba has developed courses for auditors in its three training centers, mainly aimed at their preparation on the Audit of the SDGs in general, as well as on Environmental and Gender audits. In addition, it has guaranteed the participation in virtual courses and face-to-face meetings of the auditors who have carried out the coordinated audits carried out within the framework of OLACEFS. The total number of auditors who have been trained in the aforementioned courses rises to 506.

In the new Cuban Auditing Standards, concluded this year 2020 for its entry into force on January 1, 2021, in the Audit Planning phase, the "General aspects for the preparation of the audit program for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals-ODS".

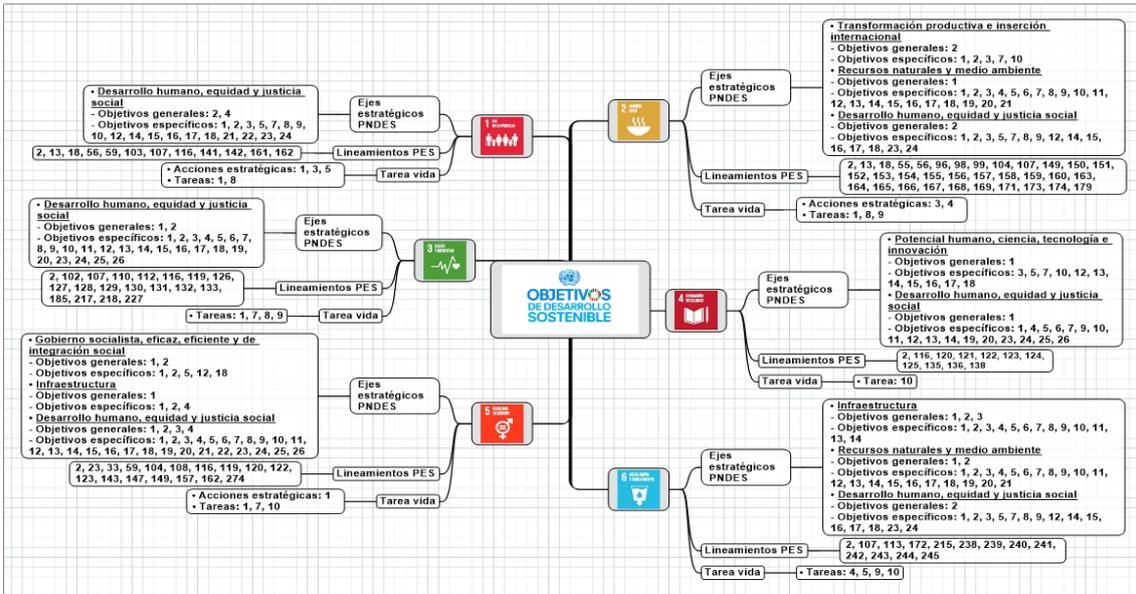
The training process for all auditors in the country has been developed since April 2020, its first stage began with the Individual Study, the second stage corresponds to the Exchange and self-assessment of knowledge and concludes with the Verification of Knowledge in the months of October and November, with the aim of confirming the knowledge and skills acquired for the application of the aforementioned standards and their procedures manual.

With the elements addressed, the year 2020 culminates with all the auditors in the country prepared and with the materials and tools available, for the control of the implementation of the SDGs in the audits that are carried out.

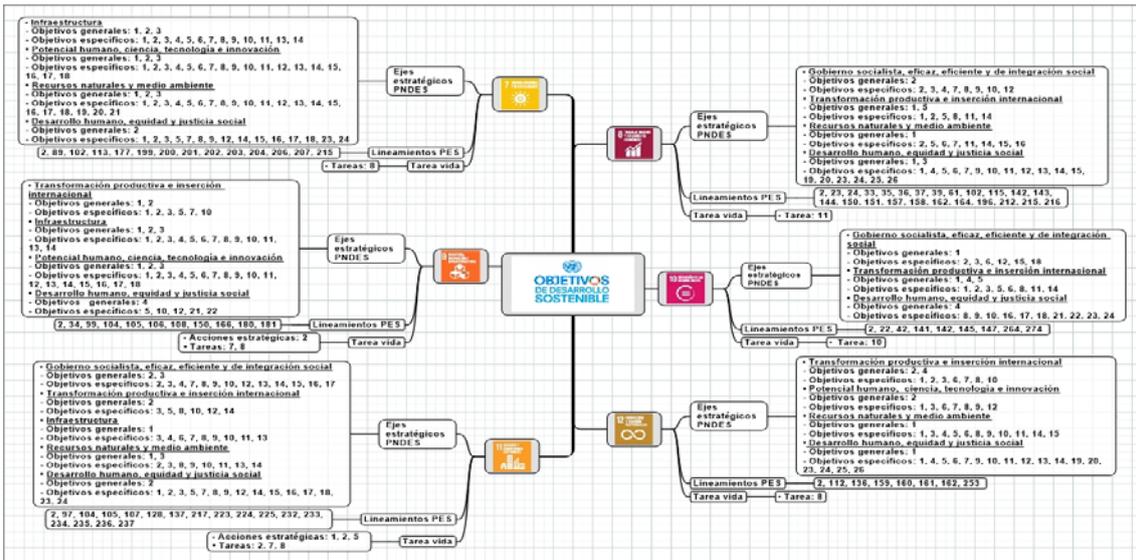
The balance of the work carried out in the country in the last five years has been positive. Cuba is making progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, despite the intensification of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States, which also limits access to sources of external financing and international cooperation.

***The political will of the Cuban Government to promote internationally agreed development objectives; the close alignment and articulation of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 with the Sustainable Development Goals; the role of the Comptroller General of the Republic in providing external supervision over the implementation and achievement of the agreed objectives; as well as the national mechanisms created for the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs; constitute key premises that allow the continuous improvement of results and the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.***

Annex No 1



Annex No. 2



Annex No. 3:

