



SOUTH CENTRE

South Unity, South Progress.

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Excellency,

It is with deep sorrow that we have learned of the passing of your dear brother, the late President Fidel Castro, one of the most visionary leaders of our contemporary history, a great thinker and a tireless combatant against social injustice and for a fair and equitable world order.

President Fidel Castro left a comfortable life to join the struggle for a better world for the poor. When in power, he established innovative and beneficial policies in the social and economic spheres notably in health and education which have become a model for many countries. With President Fidel Castro's vision, Cuba has become one of the most valuable examples of the values of international solidarity as the country has proven through its many actions to be a faithful and leading actor for solidarity with people throughout the world and especially in developing countries.

President Fidel Castro was one of the closest friends of the South Centre. His contributions to our organization and our work goes back to the times of the South Commission presided by the late President Julius Nyerere with whom President Castro enjoyed a great friendship and many memorable times. Both have joined hands to speak and work against many injustices and inequities in the world. And they both fought for a more equal and just world for all.

We at the South Centre are indebted to President Fidel Castro for his support and friendship, and for the example he set in his work and his life.

On behalf of the Board of the South Centre and the staff of the Secretariat, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the government and the people of Cuba and we join you in mourning the loss of one of the greatest leaders of the South.

Please accept the condolences of the Chairman, the Board and the staff of the South Centre, of which Cuba is a leading member. Our thoughts are with his family and the Cuban people.

Benjamin William Mkapa
Chairman of the Board of the South Centre

His Excellency

Mr. Raúl Modesto Castro Ruz

President of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

Cc: H.E. Mr. Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

H.E. Ms. Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations