

Country-Specific Questions: Cuba, Back into the Fold

QUESTION

Is it time for Cuba to become a full partner in the hemisphere once again?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada supports greater Cuban involvement in hemispheric affairs. We are concerned that Cuba may not be sufficiently engaged with others in the region. On March 6th, in a speech at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the OAS in Washington, Minister Axworthy called upon member states to consider when Cuba could again be seated at the table.
- However, Cuba's taking up its full membership in the OAS must be seen as a longer-term goal. There is a continued lack of a consensus on this issue in the region; and, a number of steps would need to be taken before this could be possible, including further democratic reform in Cuba.