

# Report by the CPAFFC on Cuba's Fourth Cycle of Universal Periodic Review at the UNHRC

*Introduction: **The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries(CPAFFC)** is a national people's organization engaged in people-to-people diplomacy in the People's Republic of China, with the purpose of promoting people's friendship, enhancing international cooperation, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development.*

1.The CPAFFC pays high attention to Cuba's fourth cycle of Universal Periodic Review(UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council(UNHRC) in April 2023. We believe that, as a founding member of the UNHRC, Cuba has done a lot of work in respecting and protecting human rights over the years, has made continuous efforts to promote openness and inclusiveness, fairness and justice in Cuban society, and has achieved positive results. Cuba was re-elected as a member of the UNHRC in 2020.The

CPAFFC has been engaged in people-to-people exchanges with Cuba for a long time. Hereby, we would like to briefly introduce what we know about the various rights enjoyed by the Cuban people.

2.Improving the rule of law and ensuring the equality of human rights. In 2019, a referendum was held in Cuba concerning the new Constitution.The new Constitution provides that, in accordance with the principles of progress, equality and non-discrimination, the Cuban government recognizes and guarantees the enjoyment and exercise of inalienable, inviolable, indivisible, universal and interdependent human rights by Cubans. The new Constitution stresses that all persons are equal before the law, that they are equally protected and treated by the authorities, that they enjoy the same rights, freedom and opportunities, and that they are not discriminated against on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ethnicity, colour, religious belief, disability,

national origin, or any personal situation involving human dignity. The principle of equality is reflected not only in the Cuban Constitution and laws, but also in the policies pursued by the Cuban government in accordance with this basic principle. Equal preferential treatment is given to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including children, women, the elderly, the rural population, young people and persons with disabilities, as well as low-income groups.

3. Paying attention to the lives and health of the people and safeguarding the most basic human rights. After the revolution in 1959, the Cuban government announced free medical care for all. The Cuban medical system takes "health care is the most basic and primary human right" as its core concept, with the important goal of providing universal health care, improving health indicators and improving the national health level. It emphasizes the fairness and accessibility of health services

that can be extended to the most remote areas and the most difficult groups. The national infant mortality rate in Cuba fell to 4/1000, the lowest in Latin America and the Caribbean; life expectancy rose from 57.6 years in 1950 to 79 years in 2021, comparable to that of developed countries. Cuba is also the first Latin American country to develop COVID-19 vaccine, and it also has the highest vaccination rate in Latin America. In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced in 2015 that Cuba had become a country in history to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

4. Care for special groups and protect their rights and interests. In 2022, the new Cuban Family Code guarantees that children will grow up in a violence-free environment, free from all kinds of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Ministry of Justice has also established the Ombudsman's Office, which acts as the representative of children, adolescents, vulnerable groups and victims of

violence, to promote the work of relevant judicial authorities and to ensure that these groups are effectively protected until family conflicts are resolved in an optimal manner. The Cuban Government was active in providing health services for the elderly, expanding nursing homes, adding specialist geriatrics wards and updating the national strategy on Alzheimer's disease. In addition, Cuba pays great attention to the disabled population and has set up 355 special schools to effectively ensure their integration into society after receiving education.

5. In recent years, Cuba has made many commendable achievements in its economic and social development. However, due to well-known reasons, the foreign trade embargo, financial and economic blockade have brought huge economic losses and humanitarian disasters to Cuba. The Cuban people are faced with a shortage of living materials, water and electricity, which affects their sense of fulfillment and happiness in life. In

spite of the above difficulties, the Cuban Government has led its people in self-reliance and hard work to ensure and improve their livelihood.

6. The CPAFFC pays close attention to and supports the Cuban people in safeguarding their rights to subsistence and development, and supports Cuba in its just struggle to safeguard sovereignty and oppose the blockade. China will actively support the continued efforts of the Cuban government and people to further improve the legal framework of human rights protection that suits Cuba's national conditions, take more effective measures to boost the economy, improve people's livelihood and promote the comprehensive and sustainable development of human rights.