

**SUBMISSION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CUBA
44TH SESSION**

by

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1. This submission aims to reflect our institutional opinion on the position of Cuba with respect to human rights before Cuba's Universal Periodic Review on 44th Session.
2. Cuba is a socialist state governed by the rule of law. There is no impunity, nor provisions of any kind to protect it.
3. The implementation of more than six decades of the US economic, commercial and financial blockade constitutes a serious and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people.
4. US blockade violates International Law, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the rules of free trade.
5. The blockade violates also the sovereign right of all countries in the world to relate to Cuba without fear of being punished.
6. The blockade also affects significant international collaboration possibility in terms of health negatively. Considering development in Cuba's health system, the embargo has a negative impact for the whole world and humanity.
7. Economic siege against Cuba affects many American citizens and business sectors, which are limited from developing a respectful and convenient relationship with the Cuban authorities and society.
8. The tightening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America on Cuba hinders the extensive efforts made by the country to protect and guarantee the rights of children and adolescents in Cuba.
 - In spite of all the negative impacts of the blockade by US, Cuba advances in its efforts to achieve the fullest enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all its citizens.
9. Cuba has maintained extensive cooperation with the human rights mechanisms that are applied on universal and non-discriminatory bases. It has ratified 44 international instruments on human rights out of the 61 that are internationally recognized.
10. The new Magna Carta significantly expands the catalog of rights and reaffirms the universal, indivisible and interdependent nature of all human rights. Article 48 states that all persons have the right to respect for their personal and family privacy, their own image and voice, their honor and personal identity.
11. Among the aspects that reinforce the protection and promotion of human rights is the reconfiguration of the equality clause and the principle of non-discrimination by incorporating new figures or categories that are vulnerable or susceptible to discrimination such as age, disability, orientation sexual, gender, gender identity, ethnic origin, territorial origin.
12. The protection of women is reinforced, equal rights in all areas in relation to men, ensures the exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights and protects them from gender violence in any of its manifestations and spaces.
13. Constitutional rank is conferred on the prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, and forced disappearance of persons.



14. New rights are introduced, such as: the right to access public information and to receive truthful, objective and timely information, the right to water, healthy and adequate food, adequate housing and a safe and healthy habitat, the right to a healthy and balanced environment.
15. Since 2019, with the approval of the new Constitution of the Republic, a broad legislative update has taken place in the country, which has reinforced the treatment and protection of human rights.
16. New rights are introduced such as: the right to access to public information and to receive truthful, objective and timely information, the right to water, to healthy and adequate food, to adequate housing and to a safe and healthy habitat, the right to a healthy and balanced environment
17. The freedoms of expression, opinion and press are fully recognized and protected by the Constitution and the laws. No one is repressed for exercising these rights. The freedoms of opinion and expression are recognized for all citizens, without discrimination.
18. Article 56 of the Constitution of the Republic expressly recognizes the rights of assembly, demonstration and association, for which the State provides and guarantees the necessary means for such purposes.
19. Cuba promotes religious freedom. Conduct related to any type of discrimination based on religious beliefs is prohibited.
20. In Cuba the death penalty has never been applied to women and has not been applied since 2003. The law prohibits its application to minors under 25 years of age and to women. The new Penal Code approved, the death penalty has been eliminated for four crimes and it is only applied in extremely serious crimes such as terrorism, international drug trafficking.
21. In Cuba, all representative organs of state power are elective and renewable. Elected organs have the duty to render an account of their performance periodically and may be revoked from office at any time.
22. The Cuban State recognizes and encourages mass and social organizations that bring together different sectors of the population, represent their specific interests and incorporate them into the construction, consolidation and defence of society.
23. In Cuba periodic elections are held in which the people have a high level of participation. Voting is voluntary, free, equal, direct and secret.
24. Unlike other countries, The Communist Party of Cuba is not an electoral party. It does not campaign, nor does it present candidacies, nor does it participate in any way in the electoral process. The existence of a single party in the Cuban system is the result of historical and contemporary factors.
25. In Cuba, all citizens have equal access to the highest public offices. This does not depend on their economic or financial capacity, nor on the support of large corporations or the direction of media campaigns between parties.
26. In Cuba, the administration of justice is a public service, in which the court system is strengthened and the mechanisms and ways in the hands of citizens to learn about judicial processes in the country are improved.
27. No person may be charged or convicted except by a court having jurisdiction under laws that predate the offense charged.



28. Every accused person has the right to defence and legal representation by a public defender or a lawyer of his or her choice.
29. As a guarantee of their autonomy and independence, Cuban judges are elected by the Assemblies of People's Power.
30. There is a broad legal and regulatory framework for the promotion, protection and exercise of workers' rights, including trade union freedoms. They have many more rights and powers than in other countries; they defend and represent the interests and rights of workers.
31. Health system is one of the most powerful side of the Cuba. Cuba conceives public health as a fundamental human right and a responsibility of the State.
32. Cuba is recognized for the high quality of its public health system, with universal coverage and free care.
33. Cuba has practiced its international solidarity in the field of medical collaboration for more than 59 years, during which it has worked in 165 countries with more than 605,000 collaborators. This has benefited more than 2,000 million people in the world.
34. Health system has riveted its strength in COVID-19 case. Cuba developed three vaccines and two vaccine candidates of its own to immunize its population, which have shown high efficacy.
35. Cuban doctors also showed great solidarity in the Kahramanmaraş earthquake that took place on February 6th.
36. In Cuba, education is a right of all people, and constitutes a responsibility of the State. The Cuban government guarantees free, affordable and quality education services for comprehensive training, from early childhood to postgraduate university education.
37. Cultural rights receive broad protection in Cuba. Art and culture are encouraged and promoted for all people, without discrimination.
38. Cuba is a uni-ethnic, inclusive and mestizo nation. There are not, nor have there ever been, legally, politically or socially recognized national majorities, ethnic groups or national minorities.
39. Cuba has a system of institutions, public policies, legal norms, economic resources and qualified personnel to protect the human rights and meet the needs of persons with disabilities. People with disabilities have access to quality, effective and affordable medicines.
40. Cuba provides special protection to the elderly through norms, procedures and mechanisms for social security, employment, pensions, health care, social work, educational improvement and protection against the risk of natural disasters, among others.
41. With the approval of the new Family Code, the rights and guarantees of older persons in the country are strengthened.
42. The new Constitution specifically enshrines the equal rights and responsibilities of women and men in all areas of society. Women's rights to health, including sexual and reproductive health and family planning, are recognized, protected and guaranteed. Women's rights to education, art and culture are recognized, as well as to dignified employment and equal pay for equal work.



43. Women's participation in decision-making is growing. They represent 51.5% in State and Government positions at the end of the first quarter of 2021. Women represent 52.3% of the members of the Council of State.
44. Cuba shows relevant achievements in the protection and promotion of the rights of children and adolescents as a result of the permanent will of the Cuban government.
45. The Family Code, approved in September 2022, in a popular referendum, recognizes, strengthens and guarantees rights relevant to children and adolescents within the family environment, while regulating a broad catalog of rights, exclusive to children and adolescents, consistent with the postulates of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
46. Violence against children and adolescents is recognized as family violence and its requirement of urgent judicial protection, with imprescriptible action, and with the possibility of demanding compensation for damages.