



# All-China Federation of Trade Unions

All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU)

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The All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) was founded on May 1, 1925. It is a mass organization formed by the Chinese working class on a voluntary basis. The head office of the ACFTU is in Beijing, China. There are 31 provincial trade union federations, 10 national industrial unions and 5.3 million grassroots trade union organizations affiliated to the ACFTU. The membership of the ACFTU totals 257 million, with a union density of 78.5%. It has made continuous efforts in organizing workers, carrying out collective wage negotiation, participating legislation and social dialogue, promoting employment, and building harmonious labor relations in China.

## **Protection of Workers' Fundamental Rights**

1. Cuba has ratified 88 ILO Conventions. Workers' fundamental rights and those of the unions in Cuba are not only included in the Constitution but in the Labor Code in force and complementary legislation ensures full exercise of those rights.

## **The Right to Health, Education, Food and Culture**

2. Cuba continues to ensure universal access, free of charge, to public health. In 2011 the infant mortality rate reached 4.9, the lowest rate in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2011, the maternal mortality rate was at 40.6 per 100,000, a very low rate on an international scale.
3. The UNESCO Report on Lifelong Learning for All (2011) acknowledges Cuba to have high educational development and is placed at number 14 in the world in their Education for All Rating (IDE). Notwithstanding the recognized achievements in this area, Cuba is working to attain greater quality at all levels of teaching.
4. For Cuba, having all people enjoying the right to food and food security constitutes a matter of national security. The government's political will has been steadfast in order to attain advances in the subject of the right to food, in spite of the economic blockade against Cuba by the United States and its specific impact on availabilities of funding for the importing of foods and investment of capital and technology in that field. New measures have been promoted to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur after their visit in 2007.
5. Culture is being promoted in the country as a grass roots phenomenon, promoting equality, opportunities for the development of the potential of every citizen, with no distinctions.

## **International Cooperation in Health, Education and Dealing with Natural Disasters**

6. Cuba has promoted various cooperation programs and projects in health matters. The Comprehensive Health Program is being developed in 40 countries. Furthermore, Operation "Miracle" is being promoted to return sight to thousands of citizens in the world. From its inception on July 8, 2004 until January of 2012, 2,261,987 surgeries have been performed.
7. On the other hand, the international contingent of doctors specialized in disaster situations and serious epidemics, continues with its work (the Henry Reeve Brigade made up of 5,490 Cuban collaborators who have provided

medical assistance to more than 3 million victims). It is highlighted the cooperation in Haiti. Since 1998, 3,774 Cuban collaborators have been at work in Haiti. The Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM in its Spanish acronym) has graduated 9,960 medical doctors from 58 countries between 2005 and 2011. Also, health professionals in 11 countries are being trained.

8. Cuba broadened its cooperation in the processes of literacy and post-literacy campaigns using the Cuban methods called “Yes, I can” (Yo, sí puedo, in Spanish) (UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize), “I Can Read and Write Now” (Ya puedo leer y escribir, in Spanish) and “Yes, I Can Continue” (Yo, sí puedo seguir, in Spanish). At the end of May 2012, the number of graduates of the Yo, sí puedo program totals 6,775,332 and of the Yo, sí puedo seguir program, the total number is 853,088.
9. Cuba has provided its international cooperation to various Latin American and Caribbean countries in the reduction of disaster risks. It also participates with agencies and bodies in the United Nations System on projects interested in reducing disaster risks.