



中华全国妇女联合会
All-China Women's Federation (ACWF)

The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) was founded on April 3, 1949. It is a mass organization uniting Chinese women of all ethnic groups in all walks of life, and striving for their advancement. The mission of ACWF is to represent and safeguard women's rights and interests, and to promote equality between women and men. It launched some major activities such as "Action for Women's Employment and Entrepreneurship", "Action for Women and Children's Rights", "Subsidized Micro Credit Scheme for Women", "Free Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Screening for Rural Women", and "Increasing Women's Participation in Grass-Roots Self-Governance".

ACWF enjoys consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Through bilateral and multi-lateral exchanges, and international cooperative projects, it has established friendly ties and cooperation with about 700 organizations and institutions for women and children in 170 countries and regions across the world and with relevant UN entities.



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Consideration of Report Submitted by ACWF to OHCHR on the Human Rights

Cuba

1. The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) is the largest women's NGO in China committed to improving women's status and promoting gender equality. In the past decades, ACWF has carried out a number of exchanges with the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) on issues such as gender equality and women's rights. We follow closely the review on Cuba's human rights by the UN Human Rights Council in April-May, 2013.

2. Cuba maintains a high level of cooperation and interaction with the UN human rights procedures and mechanism of non-discriminatory nature and of universal application. In the past four years, Cuba has submitted several reports to the UN human rights bodies, including *the second periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011)*, *the combined reports of the 14th to 18th to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2011)*, *the combined second, third and fourth reports to the Committee Against Torture (2012)*, *the seventh and eighth combined periodic reports by virtue of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women(2010)*, *the initial report by virtue of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the participation of children in armed conflict (2011)*, and *the initial*



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report by virtue of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities(2012).

3. Cuban government has always attached great importance to women's development and actively promoted the elimination of gender-based discrimination. In recent years, Cuba has taken numerous measures and initiatives with a view to continue moving forward in its efforts to attain broader enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all on an equal basis and without discrimination for any reason whatsoever. Cuba has made a National Framework to facilitate women's development and issued a series of laws and regulations to protect the rights and interests of women. These measures cover both men and women, boys and girls, young and old.

4. In political sphere, there are 265 female deputies to the legislature of the National Assembly, representing 45.2% of the total and ranking third in the world. In 2011, the number of newly elected female deputies of the Cuban Communist Party account for more than 40% of the total, a leapfrog increase than 13.1% of last time. 39% managerial positions of all levels are held by women. 72.6% of the judges are women while the number of female judges in the Supreme Court and provincial courts reach 47% and 71.4% respectively. Great achievements have been made in women's participation of political affairs, which helps to safeguard and represent women's rights and interests and enable women to better exercise



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their rights of participation and decision-making.

5. In the field of employment, the employment rate of women in Cuba increased significantly. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Employment Guidance Committee and FMC cooperated and launched a plan to tap the potential and improve the vocational skills of women, especially the young women. The Women's Employment Committees of all levels are also set up to promote women's employment, receive and handle the complaints on gender discrimination cases. Women account for 46.7% of the working population in Cuba and the female unemployment rate is only 2.0%. 39.2% of managerial positions in state-owned enterprises are held by women. Women total 65.7% of professionals and technicians and represent more than 70% of the workforce in the education and health section. The full employment of women enable them to earn enough, improve their families' living standards and guarantee their rights of survival, development and economic benefits.

6. In the field of education, free education covers throughout the educational process and women, urban or rural areas alike, enjoy equal access to formal or informal education by using schools, media or Internet. Female students reach 63.3% of the total graduates. 49% of students in natural sciences and mathematics are women. Women hold 60.7% of senior positions in all the structures of the Ministry of Education and 61% of faculty in higher education institutions. With



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the coordination of NGOs such as FMC, the Ministry of Education has incorporated gender equality in textbooks. By educating and training teachers and students, stereotypes and gender discrimination is eliminated in the field of education.

7. In the field of health, the Cuban government has established a free medical network and the coverage of family doctors and nurses is up to 99.1%. The life expectancy of women has reached 80.02 years. The women hospitalized delivery rate is 99.9% and the free vaccination programmes of 13 diseases concerning children is 99.5%. The neonatal mortality rate of 2008 remained below 3.5 per 1,000, ranking the first in Latin America and on a par with the indicator of developed countries, which meets the MDGs. The maternal mortality rate are among the lowest in Latin America and the quality of life of women and children is improved.

8. Cuba has made plenty of efforts and achievements in the promotion of gender equality, but challenges still exist. Due to the long-term economic sanctions, Cuba's economy is in the plight and faced with shortage of daily necessities and medicines. These constrain the improvement of people's livelihood. We hope this review can help Cuba make great progress in protecting women's rights.