



Conselho Português para a Paz e Cooperação

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Contribution of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation to the Universal Periodic Review on Cuba April – May 2013.

The **Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC** – in the Portuguese acronym) is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO), established in 1976 in Portugal, that through mobilizing public opinion for the defense of Peace, pursues international security and cooperation, friendship and solidarity amongst peoples, in accordance to the spirit of the United Nations Charter, its goals and purposes.

Cuba

A Sovereign Country defender of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

- 1. International Cooperation for Health, Education and in facing Natural Disasters**
2. Cuba as promoted several programs and cooperation projects in the areas of health. There are 40 countries where the Integral Health Program is implemented. Also Operation “Milagre” (Miracle) restaures sight to thousand of people throughout the world. Since the launch of the Milagre program in July 2004, until January 2012, 2.261.987 eye surgeries were completed.
3. The number of Cuban specialized doctors on international missions, assisting in disaster and epidemic situations continue their brilliant work. We emphasize the work of Henry Reeve Emergency Response Medical Brigade, composed of 5.490 Cuban professionals, that have brought medical assistance to over 3 Million people. We also underline the cooperation in Haiti, where since 1998 nearly 4.000 Cuban workers have been providing medical care. In the Latin American School of Medicine from 2005 through 2011 9.960 Medical Doctors from 58 countries graduated, along with the training of health professionals in 11 countries.
4. In education Cuba has enlarged its cooperation in the programs for alphabetization and post-alphabetization, through the Cuban methods “Yo, si puedo” (Yes, I Can), that received the Rey Sejong UNESCO award, the “Ya puedo leer y escribir” (I am already able to read and writte), and the “Yo, si puedo seguir” (Yes, I can continue). By May 2012, the graduates

numbered as many as 6.775.332 for the “Yo, si puedo” method and 853.088 from “Yo, si puedo seguir” program.

5. Cuba also developed its international cooperation in the Disaster Risk Reduction in several Latin American and Caribbean countries, namely through the participation in projects and in bodies and organisms of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

6. Obstacles and Issues that Hamper Human Right Promotion and Protection in Cuba

7. Among the obstacles we emphasize the continuity of the hostility, blockade and aggression policy led by United States of America successive governments; the illegal occupation of Cuban territory in which exists a naval base used by United States as a torture center, and other international crimes against humanity; the Anti-Cuban policy through the recruitment, financing and use of mercenaries and terrorists, acting against the Cuban people; and finally the increase in United States government funds, and means to finance their action against Cuba, referred to as "human rights defenders", among others. In 2010 and 2011, \$ 40 million US Dollars, were allocated (\$ 20 million in each year) through USAID and the State Department to direct public operations to impose a regime change in Cuba. More money was funneled to intelligence services actions.
8. Cuba has been the victim of a ferocious campaign to discredit its policies for the defense and guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This campaign aims at promoting a generalized worldwide ignorance of the unequivocal respect of the Rule of Law in the country. The widespread of groundless accusations only aim at tarnishing the reality of Cuba promoting and defending all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and is part of a well organized political campaign bountifully funded by outside agents. A campaign not at all concerned with a truthful and legitimate defense of human rights and fundamental freedoms.