



# THE INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

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9 October 2012

Messrs: OHCHR Secretariat

Kindly receive our Institute for Peace and Conflict Management, IPCM,

UPR submission for Cuba April – May 2013. Kindly acknowledge receipt of the same

Thank you

G. Chiroodza  
for IPCM

Enc: Cuba Assessment written submission

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**\*The Institute for Peace and Conflict Management is a regional body created to promote peace, security and work towards the peaceful resolution of conflicts in SADC in particular and Africa in general**

## **INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (IPCM)**

International Assessment Stakeholders' written submission for Cuba  
April – May 2013.

Name of Organisation: The Institute for Peace and Conflict Management

Chairman: Professor Chakanyuka G. Karase  
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Affiliation: SADC and AU. Not yet formally affiliated to ECOSOC

The Institute was formally registered under a Notarial Deed of Trust Protocol Number 527407 of 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008.

### OBJECTIVES

Taking note of regional and international developments following the end of the Cold War in the Peace and Security Environment, and the desire to promote through Peace and Conflict Management particularly in the Southern Africa regional security complex, in Africa and in the World at large the Institute for Peace and Conflict Management Trust was constituted with the following Objectives.

- i) To carry out research and educational work for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe, Southern Africa, Africa as a whole and for the global community at large and
- ii) Initiate peace and conflict strategies in collaboration with local, regional and international bodies or organizations.

Since the overthrow of the United States backed regime of Fulgencio Batista, real changes were brought to life by a new dispensation and Constitution which recognized human rights and freedoms unknown hitherto.

Today the Institute for Peace and Conflict Management IPCM, sees Cuba as a beacon of light and hope, not only for Cuba itself but in Southern Africa ravaged by the effects of apartheid and neo colonialism. The Cuba of today has enshrined fundamental rights to life, education and health that are an envy not only in the countries of the South in the Non- Aligned Movement but in the industrialized countries as well.

Cuba in our view represents the best in the socio-political, legal, constitutional and institutional framework for the promotion of human political and economic rights inspite of the consistent demonisation by negative forces of regime change, slavery and colonialism and neo colonialism. Its human rights model for the empowerment of the majority has been copied not only in the Latin American countries like Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela but has been effected in Zimbabwe under the successful Land Reform Programme.

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The Institute for Peace and Conflict Management in its review notes with satisfaction that Cuba has maintained the rule of law on its territory and has sought to co-operate with other like minded states, international organizations and OHCHR in respect to Human Rights.

We note with concern, however that Cuban soil has been used at Guantanamo for some of the most flagrant abuses of human rights by the United States regime which is contemptuous of the rule of law through arbitrary arrests, torture and denial of trial through fair judicial systems and processes.

We know that Cuba does not have a policy of deploying state sanctioned drones to kill thousands of people in Cuba or abroad in targeted murders and assassinations. Cuba does not have a policy of the use of hired murderers or assassins or mercenaries in pursuance of domestic or foreign objectives. Nor does Cuba have extrajudicial executions, renditions or methods of torture exhibited by the United States and NATO in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in fragrant disregard of the sanctity of human life or human rights. It should be pointed out that Cuba has not executed any persons on death row in the period under review or for that matter in the past decade or so. Even from those sponsored terrorists and murderers from the country calling itself the cradle of democracy and human rights, the United States.

Although there has been this moratorium , Cuba has not abolished capital punishment.

The Institute for Peace and Conflict Management in line with the preamble of the United Nations Charter believes that present and future generations should be protected from the scourge of war and constant threat of the unleashing of weapons of mass destruction capable of destroying our Earth several times over. The only country in the world to unleash these weapons is the United States of America, and this same country continues in alliance with NATO, to develop even more sophisticated weaponry to annihilate human existence, In the period under review Cuba has not sought to manufacture these weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons.

Linked to the UN Charter again is the central tenet of the resolution of conflicts at local or international level through peaceful means. Today we daily witness the arrogance of countries that seek to foment conflicts to serve their foreign interests and promote the barbaric principle of “might is right”. We are pleased to note that Cuba is not associated with these rogue states and enemies of international peace and security.

Education is a fundamental human right to increase the general level knowledge and culture of every citizen and Cuba has exceptionally excelled in this connection. Illiteracy has been eliminated and all children go to school irrespective of race, class or financial resources of the parents. This is with respect to all levels of education: primary, secondary and university. The educational statistics in Cuba are legendary in all fields of human endeavor but more particularly the spheres of medical sciences. No wonder why the United Nations World Health Organisation (UNWHO) and United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) rank Cuba highly.

In the period under review, Cuba continues to improve on the welfare and well being of its citizenry. Begging and unemployment have been eradicated. Destructive vices like drug consumption and gambling, common in pre Revolution Cuba, are no longer the norm in Cuba. In Cuba today you don't find 'street kids' who live and sleep on the streets, are under nourished and yearn for the basic rights to a decent life.

The Institute for Peace and Conflict Management ICPM, highlights one of the most vicious attacks on the promotion of human rights in Cuba in this period under review. This is the economic blockade and illegal sanctions against Cuba over the past fifty two years by the United States successive regimes. A blockade put simply is a declaration of war by in this case a country that believes in the lack of respect for all norms of civilized behaviour and contempt for member states of the United Nations system. What is worth to note is that this country, the United States, always condemns Cuba for 'human rights' violation while 95% of the decent world condemn the United States for its total disregard for world opinion. Unfortunately the theatre of war is the Commission on Human Rights OHCHR, Geneva. 95% of humanity condemn the United States. The exception are four countries which are not surprisingly Israel and client of states of the United States regime.

The Institute for Peace and Conflict Management would like to point out that in this period under review it is the United States that the world knows for violation of human rights at Guantanamo, Iraq and Afghanistan and within its own territory.