



## Lao Women's Union

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No...../LWU

**To:** The Human Rights Council Secretariat

**From:** Mrs. Bundith PRATHOUMVANH  
Member of National Assembly  
Vice - president of Lao Women's Union

**Re:** The Countries Review, Cuba's Universal Periodical Review, in the Second Cycle  
April/May, 2013.

*Vientiane, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012*

The Lao Women's Union (LWU) is an organization. Its status is equivalent to the ministry and has an organization network from the central to ground root levels to promote advancement of women and gender equality in family and society.

The Lao Women's Union has long traditional relationship with the Cuban Women Union Organization and therefore has profound understanding of the Cuban government and women.

The Cuban people are provided good health care. Life expectancy is about 78 years, women 80 years, men 76 years. 99,1% of population access to free health care; 99,9% of pregnancy births are taking place in medical institutions; and 99,9% of children are vaccinated against 13 diseases. Cuban women are in the labor force 46%, 65,2% is the professional and technicians of the country, 72% is the labor force in education sector, 70% is the labor force in the health sector, 63,8% is the total of general doctors, 51,6% is the total of researchers and 74,4% social workers. Cuban women access to high education with 62% student at university level, 63,3% of all graduated from university and 53,5% of personnel working in higher education. Therefore, Cuban women are in parliament 43,32%, 5 women are minister, and 45 women are vice ministers. Cuba is the first country to sign the convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Women Discrimination (CEDAW).

The Lao Women's Union as well as its people always support and strongly believe that the just struggle of the Cuban people will eventually and up with victory.

The Triumph of the Revolution permitted the Cuban people to attain their true independence and the full, universal enjoyment of all human rights for all.

The Cuban people have continued vindising and defending the Revolution that made possible the enjoyment of civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights of everyone in the country. All Cuban continues to ensure their rights of free self-determination, development peace and a fair, democratic and equitable international order.



From 2009-2012, Cuba has continued to move through a proposes of permanent and profound transformation to improve the socialist system, endorsed and built by its people with the aim more independent, acting in solidarity, equitable and productive.

The policy of hostility, blockade and aggression by successive United States administrations against Cuba has been a serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights and the basic freedoms of all Cuban including their rights to life, peace, free self-determination and development. The most serious aspect of that policy is that it violates the most elementary rights of the Cuban people.

Cuba has always maintained a high level of cooperation with the United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non-discriminatory nature and of universal application.

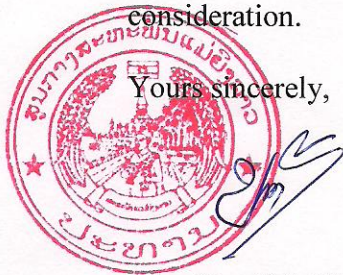
Cuba has fulfilled the recommendations arising from the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2009. Cuba has always been ready to participate in frank and genuine dialogue about human rights on a basis of respect for its full dignity and sovereignty. Cuba accepted a high number of recommendations in the first UPR cycle.

The unfair and malicious political-media campaigns against Cuba promoted by the United States are ignorant about the achievements of the country in human rights and have a negative impact on the UN human rights instruments. The US government funds and guides individuals to commit illegal acts in Cuba and, for this purpose, it urges them to abuse official UN human rights mechanism, and procedures.

The Lao Women's Union, hereby submits its complementary document to the Human Rights Council for consideration of Cuba's UPR.

The Lao Women's Union avails itself of this opportunity, the assurance of its highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs. Bundith PRATHOUMVANH**  
**Member of National Assembly**  
**Vice - president of Lao Women's Union**