

УСТАНОВА АДУКАЦЫІ
ФЕДЭРАЦЫІ ПРАФСАЮЗАЎ БЕЛАРУСІ



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УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
ФЕДЕРАЦИИ ПРОФСОЮЗОВ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Individual Universal Periodic Review Submission

Cuba

International University “MITSO”

Webpage: www.mitso.by

Logo:



Brief description:

International University “MITSO” is a modern and dynamically developing institution of higher education which offers a high-quality education in the spheres of management, economics and law. It was founded in 1929 by the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, the biggest and most authoritative public association in Belarus. On September 1, 2010 the University was granted an international certificate of conformity to the international quality management standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001: 2008 with the accreditation of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service. In January 2012, the university successfully went through the state accreditation procedure and confirmed its status of a higher educational establishment as a field-oriented university. International University “MITSO” has 2 regional branches in Gomel and Vitebsk (besides headquarters in Minsk). Its academic structure includes 4 faculties, 2 research institutes and 16 academic departments. It has 9,500 students and 350 academic staff. International University “MITSO” constantly expands its network of international contacts with foreign universities, international organizations and diplomatic missions. It has signed cooperation agreements with 35 foreign partner universities; it is a member of International Association of Universities, United Nations Global Initiative “Academic Impact”, and Baltic University Programme. The research activity of the university’s academic staff and students is focused on such research areas as international law, jurisprudence, international economic relations, labor and social relations, labor law, etc.

According to the Resolutions 16/21 and 5/1 of the Human Rights Council, with the aim to participate as a stakeholder (**academic institution**), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,

International University “MITSO” presents its written submission for the UPR in the second cycle matters, considering **Cuba**’s progress.

1. Description of the methodology.

1.1. International University “MITSO” has established cooperative links with Cuban academic institutions. This cooperation has resulted in regular information exchange between professors and students, as well as in student exchanges. Relevant divisions of International University “MITSO”, such as Center for International Humanitarian Law Studies, have gathered substantial amount of information on Human Rights issues for a long period of time.

2. Normative and institutional framework

- 2.1. The Cuban Constitution recognizes basic human rights and freedoms.
- 2.2. The analysis confirms that *de jure* all the Cuban legislation is in conformity with the obligation of the state under the ICCPR¹ and the ICESCR².
- 2.3. Cuba participates in many international law instruments, including those, reflecting basic HR obligations, as well as fighting new challenges, i.e.: the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the UN Convention against Corruption (July 28, 2008), some others.
- 2.4. Cuba supports the work of international HR instruments by submitting the reports, i.e.: Cuba presented 3 reports to human rights treaty bodies, namely: the second periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the

¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

² International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966

Child (2011), the combined reports of the 14th to 18th to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2011) and the combined second, third and fourth reports to the Committee Against Torture (2012).

3. Progress in promotion and protection of human rights.

- 3.1. In Cuba no death sentence has been passed by the courts since the last UPR report. In addition to the moratorium, the legislation was adopted commuting the death penalty and replacing it with a 30-year sentence or life imprisonment for any inmates having received the death sentence.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. We confirm the UNESCO findings reflected in its Report on Lifelong Learning for All (2011) acknowledged Cuba to have high educational development.
- 3.4. Cuba has institutionalized a system of independent courts, headed by the Supreme Court.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

- 4.1. Cuba is in a full *de jure* conformity with its obligations under the international law.
- 4.2. The level of *de facto* implementation of the obligations under the international law is high. Any deviations could be effectively corrected by the independent court system.