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**DATE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2012**

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON CUBA, MAY 2013.**

**Sub: Unconditional and unlimited support to the workers and people of Cuba from the Seychelles Federation of Workers Union**

The Triumph of the Revolution has 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 vindicating and defending the Revolution that made possible the enjoyment of civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights of everyone in the country. All Cubans continue to ensure their rights free self-determination, development, peace and a fair, democratic and equitable international order.

From 2009 until 2012, Cuba has continued to move through a process of permanent and profound transformations to improve the socialist system, endorsed and built by its people with the aim of advancing towards a society that is fairer day by day, freer and more independent, acting in solidarity, equitable and productive.

The policy of hostility, blockade and aggressions 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 Cubans, 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 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 mechanisms and procedures. For the



*Championing the rights and responsibilities of workers.*



2010 and 2011 fiscal years, the administration of President Obama earmarked 40 million dollars (20 million per fiscal year) through USAID and the State Department, for public operations directed to impose a “change of regime” in Cuba. Much more money has been channeled for its intelligence service undercover actions.

May we conclude by reminding the world that Cuba has ratified 88 ILO conventions much more than bigger democracies of the world. Workers’ fundamental rights and those of the unions in Cuba are not only included in the Constitution but in the Labor Code in force and complementary legislation ensures full exercise of those rights

From a trade union perspective, we therefore urge all countries in spite of frailties and dependence on US democracy, in the spirit of truth to the UN human rights instruments we have all ratified, and the winds of change and hope blowing from the east to the west and all over, to raise a voice and vote of support to the aspirations of the Cuban people at the UN this year.

With Kind regards

Antoine Robinson

**GENERAL SECRETARY  
SEYCHELLES FEDERATION OF WORKERS UNION**