



Cuba's Universal Periodic Report (UPR) in the Second Cycle

The Cuban people has continued be denied their fundamental right to self-determination notwithstanding, maintaining the highest level of cooperation with the United Nation human rights procedures and mechanism for non discrimination nature and of universal application

Cuba has fulfilled all the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) from the first cycle of 2009 and continues to be willing to engage in genuine dialogue about human rights on the basis of respect for its full dignity and sovereignty.

The unwarranted and malevolent political media attacks against Cuba promoted by the United Sate of America (USA), unaware of Cuba's achievement on human rights continue unabated.

Cuba's achievements include:

1) The Legal and Institutional Framework for the promotion of Human rights

- The Constitution recognizes basic human rights and freedom
- The right to Natural Justice
- To comply with the verdicts/resolutions, control and preservation of the court and legalities of the Attorney General's Office
- Adoption of Economic and Social Policy Guidelines in 2011
- Ratification of International Conventions namely:
 - i. The Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (February 2nd, 2009);
 - ii. Recommendation 200 concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work (February13, 2009);
 - iii. The UN Convention against Corruption (July 28, 2008)
- New norms relating to the transfer of land to peasants and other citizens in addition to social security, employment, housing etc.
- Presently, working on amendments to incorporate the Criminal Code, the Family Code and the Labour Code.

2) Cooperation with Treaty bodies and other Non Discriminatory United Nation Human Rights Mechanisms

- Maintains a high level of cooperation and interface with the United Nation
- Presented three (3) reports to human rights treaty namely:
 - i. The second periodic report to the Committee on the "Rights of the Child" (2011);
 - ii. The combined reports of 14th and 18th to the Committee on the "Elimination of Racial Discrimination" (2011);
 - iii. The combined 2nd, 3rd, and 4th reports of to the "Committee against Torture" (2012).
- Additionally, three (3) reports for corresponding consideration on:
 - i. The 7th and 8th combine periodic reports by virtue of Convention on the Elimination of "All Forms of Discrimination Against Women" (2010);
 - ii. The first report by virtue of the Optional Protocol on the "Rights of the Child on the participation of children in armed conflict" (2011);



iii. The initial report on the virtue of the Convention of the “Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (2012).

3) Equality and Non-discrimination

- Promotion of many measures and programmes to continue moving forward to attain broader enjoyment of all human rights and freedom on and equal basis without any discrimination including boys and girls, youth, senior citizens, the disabled, prison inmates, etc.
- The Government has adopted measures to fight against forms of discrimination based on prejudices due to sexual orientation and gender identity.

4) The right to Life, Liberty and Personnel Security

- No death sentence has been passed since the last UPR;
- Commuted the death penalty has been replaced with a 30-year sentence or life imprisonment in April 2009;
- There is no longer any prisoner sentenced to the death penalty now in Cuba.

5) The Administration of Justice, including the Fight against impunity, and the Rule of Law

- Institutionalized a system of independent bodies headed by the Supreme Court;
- A judicial system based on the principle of absolute independence of judges;
- Observance of the popular nature of justice;
- The elective nature of judges;
- The equality of all persons before the law ;
- The presumption of innocence;
- All trials are public except in cases expected by law;
- The right to appeals all rulings;
- Accused parties have the right to legal defence.

6) The Freedom of Religion and Beliefs, of Expression. Of Association and Peaceful Assembly and the right to Participate in Public and Political Life

- Cuba continues to be the victim of a brutal campaign to discredit its human rights matters and ignorance of laws of the country;
- Cuba is the sufferer of a well financed operation by the ultra-rightwing organization in Miami, which is US government backed to discredit its establishment aimed at disrupting order, inciting violent behaviour and creation of an environment of unruliness designed at destruction of the established political and social system in the Peoples’ Republic of Cuba;
- Human rights defenders continue to be protected, nobody has been put on trial for peacefully exercising their rights, and ethics continue to be an important protective shield for the Cuban Revolution in the face of aggression by the US;
- Over 400 religions and religious institutions have their own churches and place of worship; carry out their activities without interference by the State.

7) The Right to Work and Fair Satisfactory Working Conditions and the Right to Social Security and an Adequate Standard of Living



- Cuba has ratified ILO Conventions;
- Workers' fundamental rights and their unions are in the Constitutions, in the Labour codes and complementary legislation

8) The Right to Health, Education, Food and Culture

- Universal access to free public health for all;
- Infant mortality of 4.9 in 2011 happens to be the lowest in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Maternal mortality rate was at 40.6 per 100,000;
- Rated 14 in the world in their All Education rating (IDE);
- Despite the economic blockade, the right to food and food security is a matter of national security;
- Promotion of grass root culture affording opportunities for the development of every citizen with no distinctions.

9) International Cooperation in Health, Education and Dealing with National Disasters

- Cooperation programs and projects in health matters exists in over forty (40) countries;
- Operation "Miracle" is aimed at returning sight to thousands of the world's citizen, since its inception on July 8, 2004 up until January 2012, 2,261,987 surgeries have already been performed;
- The Henry Reeve Brigade made up of 5490 Cuban collaborators provided medical assistance for over 3,000,000 victims of disasters;
- The Latin American school of Medicine (ELAM) has educated 9,960 medical doctors in 58 countries between 2005 and 2011 and other health professional in 11 countries;
- Cuba has cooperation in the process of literacy and post literacy campaigns "Yes, I Can" and "I can Read and Write now" and "Yes, I Can continue" collective benefitting over 7.5 million people;
- Cooperated with Latin American and Caribbean countries in the reduction of disaster risk;
- Also participates in the United Nation System on projects interested in reducing disasters.

10) Obstacles and Problems Preventing the Promotion of Human Rights in Cuba

- The continuation of the policy of hostility, blockade and aggressions by successive US administrations;
- The continued occupation on a portion of national territory as a US naval base;
- The continued interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.