

**SUBMISSION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CUBA  
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**Federation of Consumer Associations (TÜDEF)**



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1. Today, millions of people in the world cannot satisfy their basic needs due to unemployment, low income levels, and high prices. As the states retreat from their roles as public service providers, even services such as education and health have been transformed into commodities that cannot be afforded by a majority of the world population.
2. Basic needs such as education and health should be free, consumption goods should be reasonably cheap, there should be no unemployment, and salaries should be high enough to ensure that all people can satisfy their needs. Market economies have not so far achieved to do that and, for the so-called “sake of the economy” they opted for putting the burden on the shoulders of vast yet poor masses.
3. Although Cuba was colonized and exploited for hundreds of years, although it suffered a huge economic breakdown after the fall of the Soviet Union, and although it is subject to the longest ever economic, commercial and financial blockage by the US, this small island still strives to provide basic services free of charge and ensures basic consumption standards through subsidies. Cuba proves that hard economic conditions do not necessarily require putting the burden on the shoulders of the poor majority; instead, with a more egalitarian perspective, their living conditions can be constantly and significantly improved.
4. As the Federation of Consumer Associations, we strongly believe that Cuba is an outstanding example in the way that keeps the society as a collective whole and does not sacrifice any section of the society for the “benefit of the economy”. This is, we believe, real respect for the human rights of all.