

Cooperation with Treaty Bodies and other Non Discriminatory United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms

Cuba maintains a high level of cooperation and interaction with United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non discriminatory nature and of universal application. It has always shown its unequivocal willingness to dialogue on all subjects and with all States, supported by reciprocal respect, sovereign equality and acknowledgement of every people having the right to choose their own political, economic and social system.

Cuba presented 3 reports to human rights treaty bodies, namely: the second periodic report to the committee on the Rights of the 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).

Cuba also sent another 3 reports for corresponding consideration, namely: the seventh and eighth combined periodic reports by virtue of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2010), the initial report by virtue of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the participation of children in armed conflict (2011) and the initial report by virtue of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2012)

Equality and non-discrimination

Cuba has promoted numerous measures and initiatives in the last four years with a view to continue moving forward in its effort to attain broader enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all on an equal basis and without discrimination for any reason whatsoever.

Those measures include boys and girls, youth, senior citizens, the disabled, prison inmates, etc. the Cuban government has also adopted measures to fight against forms of discrimination based on prejudices due to sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Right to Health, Education, Food and culture

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. In 2011, the maternal mortality rate was at 40.6 per 100, 000, a very low rate on the international scale.

The UNESCO report on LifeLong learning for all (2011) acknowledges Cuba to have high educational development and is placed at number 14 in the world in their Education for All Rating (IDE) notwithstanding the recognized achievements in this area, Cuba is working to attain greater quality at all levels of teaching.

For Cuba, having all people enjoying the right to food and food security constitutes a matter of national security. The government's political will has been steadfast in order to attain advances in the subject of

the right to food, in spite of the economic blockage against Cuba by the United States and its specific impact on availabilities of funding for the importing of foods and investment of capital and technology in that field. New measures have been promoted to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur after their visit in 2007.

Culture is being promoted in the country as a grass roots phenomenon, promoting equality, opportunities for the development of the potential of every citizen, with no distinctions.