



ZIMBABWE CUBA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (ZICUFA)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW STAKEHOLDERS' WRITTEN SUBMISSION:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: ZIMBABWE-CUBA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (ZICUFA)

CHAIRMAN: MR. F.B. PESANAYI

VICE CHAIRMAN: DR. W. CHINGOMBE

ADDRESS: BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
P. BAG 1020, BINDURA, ZIMBABWE

CONTACT TELEPHONE: +263 772 816 592

CONTACT EMAIL: wchingombe@gmail.com

MEMBER OF ECOSOF: NON MEMBER

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ZICUFA: 10 May 2003

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF ZICUFA: ZICUFA as a non-profit voluntary organization shall aim to:-

- (a) Promote international solidarity through dialogue, exchange and action between Zimbabwe and Cuba, and,
 - (b) Organize activities to deepen the level of friendship and understanding between the peoples' of Zimbabwe and Cuba.
- 1) ZICUFA shall have the following objectives:
- 1.1 To oppose the illegal and immoral blockade of Cuba by the United States of America. And to support the struggle of the Cuban-Zimbabwean people to maintain their independence and right to self-determination;
 - 1.2 To provide essential information on relevant issues relating to the Zimbabwean Government and the Cuban Government and the peoples of the two countries, their socio-economic situation, their struggles and their aspirations.
 - 1.3 To strengthen our global struggle for democracy, justice, equality, development and peace, through the development of Zimbabwe-Cuba solidarity relations.
 - 1.4 To facilitate and promote networking with international friendship and solidarity associations and Zimbabwe-Cuba organization so as to respond effectively to crises that the Cuban-Zimbabwean people may find themselves in from time to time;

Contribution of ZICUFA for UPR of CUBA, April – May 2013

The Zimbabwe –Cuba Friendship Association is a legally constituted association of persons living in Zimbabwe, who by virtue of their professional training and family ties have had the opportunity of living, and associating with Cuban culture with some even getting married in Cuba or Zimbabwe. There is a strong bond of friendship both from a political and cultural perspective and the association continues to grow by day. The association is a non political and upholds the spirit of promoting good relations and friendship amongst the peoples of Cuba and Zimbabwe.

As an Association with full legal status in Zimbabwe and working with the people of Cuba and Zimbabwe, the Association hereby makes its written contributions to the OHCHR secretariat as an Association contributing for the country of CUBA for the period April to May 2013.

The contributions of ZICUFA are”

- 1. ZICUFA recognizes the legal and institutional framework for the promotion of Human Rights and these are enshrined in the Cuban Constitution which recognises basic human rights and freedoms.**

The constitution further recognizes the right to life, liberty and inviolability of persons and their personal integrity along with the right to work, time off and social security, the inviolability of the home and correspondence, the right to not be prosecuted and convicted without having access to a competent court by virtue of laws prior to the crime and with the formalities and guarantees established therein, the right to legal defense, the right of persons not to be forced to testify by the use of violence or coercion of any kind, the application of retroactivity of criminal law when favourable to the prosecuted, the obligation to observe legalities, the obligation to comply with verdicts and other final court resolutions and control and preservation of legalities by the Attorney General’s Office.

Cuba is a State party to numerous international instruments dealing with the matter. In February of 2009, it ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. More recently it has adhered to: the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance (February 2, 2009); ILO Recommendation 2000 concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work (February 13, 2012); the UN Convention against Corruption (July 28, 2008).

New norms regarding the transfer of land to peasants and other citizens have been adopted, as well as those referring to social security, employment, housing etc. At the same time, Cuba is working on amendments that will be incorporated into the Criminal Code, the Family Code and the Labour Code.

- 2. Secondly, Cuba maintains a high level of cooperation and interaction with United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non-discriminatory nature and 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.**
- 3. Cuba has cooperation with treaty bodies and other non- discriminatory United Nations Human Rights mechanisms and maintains a high level of cooperation and interaction with United Nations on the subject.**
- 4. 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.

5. In Cuba no death sentence has been passed by the courts since the last UPR report.
6. The administration of justice, including the fight against impunity and the rule of law has been upheld. Cuba has institutionalised a system of independent bodies, headed by the Supreme Court, acting collegially, composed according to their competency and with popular participation in the dealing of justice.
7. Cuba has been a victim of a ferocious campaign to discredit its performance in human rights matters and ignorance of the existence of the rule of law in the country. The freedom of religion and beliefs, of expression, of association and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public political life.
8. Cuba has ratified 88 ILO Conventions. The right to work and fair satisfactory working conditions and the right to social security and an adequate standard of living. Workers' fundamental rights and those of the unions in Cuba are not only included in the Constitution but in the Labour Code in force and complementary legislation ensures full exercise of those rights.
9. Cuba continues to ensure universal access, free of charge, to public health. In 2011 the infant mortality rate reached 4.9, the 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 an 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. There is guarantee of the right to health, education, food and culture.
10. Cuba has promoted various cooperation programmes and projects in health matters. The Comprehensive Health Programme is being developed in 40 countries. Furthermore, Operation "Miracle" is being promoted to return sight to thousands of citizens in the world. From its inception on July 8, 2004 until January of 2012, 2,261,987 surgeries have been performed.
11. Finally, there are obstacles and problems preventing the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Cuba. Among those obstacles are: The ongoing policy of hostility, blockade and aggression by successive US administrations, the illegal occupation of a portion of national territory on which, at an US naval base, an international centre for torture and other lese-humanite crimes is in operation: recruitment, financing and use of mercenaries and terrorists at the service of the

anti-Cuban US policy which acts against the Cuban people, and the increase of US government funds and means destined to finance the so called 'human rights defenders' in Cuba, among others. For the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years, the administration of President Obama earmarked 40 million dollars through USAID and the State Department, for public operations directed to impose a 'change of regime' in Cuba. Much more money has been channelled for this.