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**To the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner For  
Human Rights On the Republic of Cuba**

**Session of the regular examination of the state of democracy in  
Cuba, February 2009**

The genuinely democratic political system of Cuba, which boasts broad popular participation, is based on human dignity, on equality and on the real and effective enjoyment of human rights.

Despite the continuous and systematic attacks by the imperialists, the Republic of Cuba has created and keeps creating new forms of democratic participation, which are being constantly improved and renewed.

The election of the representatives of constituencies forms the basis of the Cuban political system. Voting is free, secret and direct. Votes are counted in public. Elected representatives give regular accounts to their voters and are subject to revocation.

The essence of the Cuban political system places an emphasis on the genuine integration of society as a whole into the decision-making procedure. Solutions are sought for at a collective level, responsibilities are distributed and popular control is being actively promoted. Cuban workers participate directly and effectively in all the matters that concern not only their jobs, but also the quality of their life through the massive organisations and specifically through the trade unions.

"Fundamental Rights, Obligations and Guarantees" of the current Constitution of the Republic of Cuba shield and protect the fundamental rights of freedom of speech and press, the freedom of gathering, the freedom of demonstration, the freedom of association, religious freedom, the inviolability of the freedom of Cuban citizens and of foreigners residing in Cuba territory, the inviolability of the corporal integrity of

detainees and prisoners, the natural judge principle, the principle of application of ex post facto criminal laws, the citizen's right to petition.

Furthermore, basic constitutional arrangements shield and protect the fundamental rights to work, the right to free social insurance, the right of hygiene and safety at work, the right to free medical and hospital care, the right to free education and housing.

That is how Cuba has managed to withstand all those years despite the war threats, the various sabotages and the economical embargo imposed by the USA.

Cuba has managed to withstand through very difficult conditions and is building socialism. Cuba's policies on social development, on health, social care, education, culture and athletics, for the abolition of the illiteracy, have been internationally acclaimed for their success by international organisations.

Today tens of thousands volunteer Cuban citizens; doctors, nurses, engineers, technicians and academics offering their services free of charge in about 100 world countries. Cuban universities currently provide free education to over than 30 thousand young people from 118 countries.

During last year, the Republic of Cuba worked in a constructive manner and in a spirit of cooperation.

With honour

The Executive Secretariat

