



**Federação Democrática Internacional de Mulheres  
Women International Democratic Federation  
Federation Democratique Internationale des Femmes  
Federacion Democratica Internacional de Mujeres**

Sao Paulo, August 27th 2008.

**To the High Commissioner for the Human Rights  
Women International Democratic Federation  
Country referred: Cuba  
Examination Periodic Universal Session (EPU) in which the country will be  
considered: February 2009.**

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA.**

I write to you as President of the Women Democratic International Federation (WIDF), and on behalf of 209 National Organizations Member and 609 National Organizations Associated to the WIDF in 130 countries of the Americas, Arab Countries, Europe, Asia and Africa, to manifest to the UN High Commissioner of the Human Rights about the situation of the human rights in Cuba and in particular on the situation of the democracy and life of the Cuban women.

The WIDF is an NGO with Advisory Status in the ECOSOC and with a significant trajectory of struggle for the democracy and for the justice, in defense of the freedom and of the equality, it is an instrument of our tireless determination in overcoming all injustice against the women and for the defense of the human rights, of the peace and of the cooperation between people and nations.

In accordance with the role that the Cuban women play in the history of the WIDF, we have been following for some time now the situation of the presence of the Cuban woman in its country.

In spite of the blockade that Cuba has been suffering for more than four decades, nevertheless, it does not constitute an obstacle so that Cuba keeps on advancing with the extraordinary effort of its people and its government who have been demonstrating to the world, with their will and the democratic vocation, that is possible to build the society which is the aspiration of all human beings: with justice, that guarantees the citizenship to live with safety and dignity.

The political system of Cuba, which was chosen by the people in accordance with their historical tradition of struggle for the equality in rights between men and women, in accordance with the Convention for the Elimination of all kinds of Discrimination



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adopted by the United Nations and to the 7th article of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights. The governmental Institutions are sustained by the power that is constituted by the masses of working people, intellectuals and professionals, who are working at a conjunction of extraordinary efforts inside the civil society as establishes and guarantees the 23rd article of the Universal Declaration.

As far as the respect and guarantees exercised by the authorities in Cuba, they give legitimacy to everything established at the National Constitution and the International Agreements, with the Convention of Vienna and the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights.

**PROTECTION TO THE PEOPLE IN THE WORK:** The institutions created by laws that are adjusted to the human rights guarantee to the whole citizenship the control of all the physical possibilities for the exercise in the labor field, with equality of opportunities, in the remuneration for the work, in accordance with the point 3 of the article 23 of the Universal Declaration.

**IN THE EDUCATION:** Cuba can shout to the world with satisfaction that although permanently attacked by the United States of North America, nevertheless, in the field of the education, is one of the only countries without illiterate people, especially in Latin America, leading in the area, that with the program "I yes can", it extends teachers of literacy programs in that Region.

**IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD:** Cuba, for the effort of its government, is constituted in the propeller in the Medicine field, with a system of professional organization at the service and control of the health of the population, despite the economic tightness provoked by the blockade, and with united spirit they send Missions of health, such as the Mission Miracles (Ophthalmology) for almost the whole Latin America, Africa and Asia, giving example of altruism, nobility and solidarity. In some areas like the Social and Humanistic Sciences, the Medical Sciences and the Pedagogic Sciences the presence of the woman overcomes 70 per cent.

The Health and the Education constitute the main target for the development, as the WHO and the UNESCO establishes and it is in these fields in which it has permanent application the articles 26th and 30th of the Universal Declaration.

The biggest quantity of workers at the National System of Health are women (72.9 %) and the majority of the ward personnel (90.4 %) and the average technicians (81% of 36.733 specializing doctors, 19.098 are women – 51.9 %).

Equally in the legal field, all the inhabitants, women and men, enjoy of total guarantee in the exercise and the right to the claims of accessible free justice for all (10th art. Universal Declaration).



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**RIGHT TO WORK:** Cuba stands out among all the countries of the world for exhibiting the lowest rate of unemployment: 1.3%. An enviable and worthy example factor at the whole Latin America.

It is just to emphasize that the Penitentiary Institutions are real centers of moral recovery, wherefrom they go out, human beings completely inserted in the society, many of them learning professions that will allow them to live worthy. The penitentiary institutions grant a respectful treatment to the prisoners. Fitting to the 5th art. of the Universal Declaration.

Cuba has a society completely organized which stands out for its largeness in the improvement of the historical discrimination of the woman: the FEDERATION OF CUBAN WOMEN, founded after the victory of the Revolution, on August 23<sup>rd</sup> of 1960 for a group of women under the guidance of the brave Cuban Vilma Espín Guillois and others not less meritorious than have impelled to overcome the odious inequality, going forward to the "Convention for the Elimination of all Kinds of Discrimination Against Woman", of the United Nations.

The woman in Cuba acts in different fields with total equity and recognition, in accordance to the established at the text of the Universal Declaration (art. 23). 49.9% of the Cuban population is constituted of women, contributing with a labor force of 46%, with one positive contribution for the development, with special protection of the laws, which fit fully to everything stipulated in art. 25 of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, supported in the right to health, education of the family, housing, social services, insurance of unemployment, which ensure them a life without scares.

The woman in Cuba, for the protection of its advanced legislation, also stands out at present in the field of the professionalism and technology coming to 65.2% in the specific field. Also she is distinguished with special suitability in the elective charges, being 43%, occupying parliamentary positions in the National Assembly of the Power Popular (House of Representatives) that constitutes the second place in the world as far the presence of the woman. The Executive power has six women Ministers in the Government and 46 women Vice-ministers, where they exercise their charges with responsibility and suitability.

The Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) is the greatest encourager of protecting and dedicating the right, unit and development of the family, as established in the 5<sup>o</sup> article of the Universal Declaration and of the Family Code, model of advance in the right and familiar protection.

It is important to highlight that Cuba was the first country signing and the second one ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all Kinds of Discrimination of the woman.

The Women International Democratic Federation (WIDF) as a Non Governmental Organization, was founded in Paris, December 1, 1945, and is affiliated to the United



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Nations with Advisory Status in the Economic and Social Advice in the mentioned World Organization, is honored in applying to the UN High Commissioner of the Human Rights and exhibit the reasons that impel to judge, that, Cuba, obey the law and carries out it fully dedicating and respecting the Human Rights in all its forms, and it is confirmed that this constitutes to call Cuba with determination, the country of the Dignity, of the Respect and the Well-being of its People.

*Marcia de Campos Lencina*

**Marcia Campos - President**

**WOMEN INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION**