



Contribution of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on the Combined seventh and eighth periodic report. (CEDAW/C/CUB/7-8.)

The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples is a social organization whose main objective is to achieve peace in the world, a necessary condition for the development of nations and of humanity, regardless of gender, race or creed. Among the rights that we defend are those concerning women, victims of multiple discrimination.

In particular Cuba has achieved notable successes in this regard, although there are still problems that necessarily must be eradicated, and issues that could be refurbished at a social level.

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1. It is unquestionable the fact that since the triumph of the Revolution, one of the cardinal objectives established by the revolutionary government, was the implementation of major transformations aimed at benefiting both Cuban citizenship at all levels: political, social, labor, educational and cultural.
2. To undertake such major changes, it would have been ideal to enjoy a peaceful environment that would develop without hindrance the new society that we set out to build, however, peace and Cuban sovereignty have been constantly threatened by the actions perpetrated by the U.S. aimed at reversing the process.
3. Despite passing through adverse situations of all kinds who break the necessary and desired peace, as the **U.S blockade** that the Cuban people have had to face for over half a century with a high cost, military aggressions and attacks on leaders, however, those great and innumerable indignities have prevented the achievement of the programs of the revolution exalted by the countless successes achieved in the field of science, education, culture and sports.
4. One of the most important aspects undertaken from 1959, was to dignify Cuban women within the socialist society, for which it was necessary to establish policies, laws and measures endorsed by a new Constitution aimed at eradicating the existing gender inequality in the pre-revolutionary

Cuba. In achieving the goals, the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), founded in 1960, an organization that has always had the full support of the revolutionary government played a main role.

5. The achievements of the Cuban women are contained in various documents and reports made by Cuba and specialized international bodies, endorsed by figures which are demonstrative of the progress and the important role played by women in economic, political and social development of the nation.
6. In a short period of time, thousands of Cuban women who came from a very low school level, and those born after 1959, have taken advantage of the possibilities offered by the Revolution in all spheres of knowledge, becoming many of them leaders, professionals, scientists, athletes and renowned artists, according to their capabilities. The level reached by the Cuban woman is above the average for the region, surpassing even developed countries.
7. The Cuban government has demonstrated political will to continue promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and extending the performance of Cuban women in all spheres of society, however, the brutal effects of the blockade
8. One of the greatest satisfactions of Cuban women, the result of the laws instituted in the Constitution that established gender equality, rights and obligations of citizens, is to receive equal pay as men in doing a job, which does not happen in many countries.
9. Another relevant example is given by the level of longevity achieved by Cuban women over 80, a figure comparable to the developed countries; result in our case of the development of public health and prevention plans against diseases such as cancer breast and cervical cancer. Despite the blockade and the economic difficulties we are facing, the prompt attention to health problems contrasts with the reality of many countries, including developed ones, in which women sometimes with conditions of this nature must wait months, even years, to be attended by social security solvency or they have to go to private hospitals.
10. Despite the effort to eliminate gender inequality, and progress made in this direction, there are still specific challenges that are needed to overcome. One is the gender and domestic violence, ancestral sequels and other forms of discrimination against women that still persists such as underrepresentation in certain leadership positions, although it has grown up the level of participation of women in high responsibilities in the country.

11. The Cuban government gave the opportunity to access free education and culture centers for all, including women, however, not all have taken full advantage of those privileges, a situation that requires a deepening full preparation and participation of women in all spheres of society.
12. Economic difficulties occurred in the 90's and the steps taken by U.S. to intensify the blockade have seriously affected all Cuban social sectors but mostly in women, which still bears the burden of family care. Despite this undeniable reality, the majority of Cuban women have remained steadfast in their jobs or centers of study.
13. Demonstration of this is that in the last election in 2013 Cuba achieved the highest record number of female Members of Parliament with 48.86%, which represents a 3.86% above the previous legislature. With the result achieved, the nation has overfulfilled the goals established by the Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995 at the Fourth UN World Conference on Women.
14. The Cuban women are present in all areas of biotechnology being one of the most outstanding in the field of science, where Cuba has managed to be at a very high level in the world, having their products in the markets in many
15. The Cuban Movement for Peace, considered extraordinary the results achieved by the Cuban Government all women despite the economic difficulties. We are sure that "tenacity, firmness, perseverance and effort" of the Revolution will ever prevail, as our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said to solve the problems of women in our society and in our country. As in all cases, the Revolution will know how to be successful in this great work.