

**SUBMISSION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CUBA  
44<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**by**

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1. This submission aims to reflect our institutional opinion on the position of Cuba with respect to human rights before Cuba's Universal Periodic Review on 44<sup>th</sup> Session.
2. The application for more than six decades of the US economic, commercial and financial blockade constitutes a serious and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people. This genocidal policy has been significantly intensified in the last five years, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Constitutional rank is conferred on the prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, and forced disappearance of persons.
4. New rights are introduced, such as: the right to access public information and to receive truthful, objective and timely information, the right to water, healthy and adequate food, adequate housing and a safe and healthy habitat, the right to a healthy and balanced environment.
5. The blockade against Cuba implies a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people.
6. Violates International Law, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the rules of free trade.
7. The damage, deficiencies and suffering that the blockade policy has caused the Cuban people, a situation accentuated in times of COVID-19, have not prevented equal opportunities, the redistribution of wealth, or social justice.
8. Cuba was the only country that the USA government did not exempt from unilateral sanctions in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, for humanitarian reasons. On the contrary, the US government opportunistically intensified this aggressive policy against the country.
9. Cuba conceives public health as a fundamental human right and a responsibility of the State.
10. The Cuban National Health System provides care without discrimination of any kind, based on Primary Health Care and with community and intersectoral participation.
11. Cuba is recognized for the high quality of its public health system, with universal coverage and free assistance. There are 486,900 workers in the national health system, of which 101,876 are doctors, and there are 9.2 doctors for every 100 inhabitants, the most favorable indicator of its kind at the international level.
12. The Cuban immunization scheme protects children against 13 diseases through the application of 11 vaccines, 8 of them nationally produced, which has a profound impact on the quality of life of children. 14



- communicable diseases have been eliminated and another 9 do not constitute health problems.
13. In Cuba there are 450 polyclinics, 1,229 dental services, 11,263 doctor's offices, 150 hospitals, 152 maternity homes, 300 grandparents' houses, 30 psycho-pedagogical centers, 158 nursing homes, 12 research institutes and 44 sciences, technology and innovation centers. This demonstrates the wide coverage of our National Health System.
  14. Cuba has practiced its international solidarity in terms of medical collaboration for more than 59 years, in which it has worked in 165 countries with more than 605,000 collaborators. In this way, more than 2000 million people in the world have benefited.
  15. Currently, Cuban doctors offer their collaboration in 56 nations with more than 23 thousand collaborators.
  16. Cuba has a rate of recovered patients from Covid-19 of 99.2% of diagnosed cases, which is an expression of the efficacy of the approved clinical protocol and the preparation of health professionals.
  17. Cuba developed three vaccines and two of its own vaccine candidates to immunize its population, which have proven to be highly effective.
  18. Until January 2023, more than 42 million doses administered with the national Soberana 02, Soberana Plus and Abdala vaccines were accumulated in Cuba.
  19. Until that date, 10,004,753 Cubans had a complete vaccination scheme, which represents approximately 90.3% of the population.
  20. Cuba was the first country in the world to vaccinate children under two years of age.
  21. In the midst of the complex international situation due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Cuba sent 4,700 specialists to 42 countries to support the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic.