



NAMIBIA- CUBA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

NCFA

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**Universal Periodic Review
Republic of Cuba**

**Job title: Third Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
Country under review: the Republic of Cuba**

**Submission of the Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association
Submitted to the U.N. Higher Commissioner for Human Rights**

September 28th, 2017.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association is a non-profit and non-governmental organization registered under section 21 of the company law in the republic of Namibia.
2. The Association is formed by former Namibian students to Cuba and has a broader membership base across the country.
3. Among others, its objectives are to promote and protect the relationship between the people of Cuba and Namibia.
4. Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association stands in defence of the basic human rights as enshrined in the Namibian constitution.

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

5. Since the triumph of the Revolution, Cuba's democratic system is based on the principle of "government of the people, by the people and for the people," which is expressed in the maxim that the Revolution "is of the humble, by the humble and for the humble".

6. This principle is materialized through the direct participation of the people in the exercise and active control of the organs of power, even through their political and civil institutions, and within the framework of the existing legal provisions.

7. The Constitution of the Republic of Cuba establishes the fundamental rights, duties and guarantees of citizens, as well as the basis for their respect, realization and protection. This Constitution was approved in 1976 in a popular referendum with the favorable vote of more than the 97% of the total number of voters.

8. Apart of that popular referendum, Cuba has a large list of examples of popular participation in the most important decision of the country, it is worth noting: the participation of nearly 9 million people in more than 163,000 meetings held to discuss the Draft Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy; and the discussion of the preliminary draft Labor Code with the participation of over 2,800,000 workers, in some 69,000 trade union assemblies.

9. Recently, the proposals of the Conceptualization of the Cuban economic and social model and the Bases of the National Development Plan until 2030 were discussed by 1.6 million Cubans (over 47,000 meetings), from which over 200,000 proposals emerged, aimed at ensuring a more just, free, independent, equitable, democratic, collaborative and participatory society.

10. Ones of the most important achievements of the Cuban Revolution is that all Cubans, without discrimination, have access to the provision of basic quality services such as education, health care, social security and welfare.

11. Cuba not only protects the rights of its own people, but also provides cooperation to other peoples in many sectors, especially in the field of health and education. Namibia is one of the countries that has received more help form Cuba, even before our independence.

12. Cuba has always maintained a high level of cooperation with human rights mechanisms, applied on a universal and non-discriminatory basis. The country has ratified 44 international human rights instruments out of the 61 internationally-recognized instruments.

13. Cuba has worked hardly in the implementation of the recommendation accepted during its Second Universal Periodic Review.

13. Contrary to what many disinformation media try people to believe, Cuba has a great prestige among the members of the international community regarding to the respect, promotion and protection of the human rights.

14. Example of this is the reelection of Cuba in 2016 to be member of the United Nations Human Rights Council with 160 votes, the highest quantity received by a Latin American country in that election.

15. Cuba has played a great role in the negotiation between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army, process which culminated with the singe of a peace agreement between the two parties.

16. However, the main obstacle for the development of Cuba and for the enjoyment of the human rights by the Cuban citizens has been the policy of hostility, blockade and aggressions by successive United States administrations against Cuba. The United States of America violated systematically the Cubans rights to life, peace, freedom, self-determination and development.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

17. The United States of America must put an unconditional end to the unjust and criminal economic, commercial and financial Blockade against Cuba as the main ballast for its development and for enjoyment of the human rights in the Caribbean country. The new US Administration should listen the voice of the international community which voted against the Blockade almost unanimously in 2016.

19. The Republic of Cuba should continue with the permanent and profound process of transformations toward improvement of the socialist system that is endorsed and built by its people with aim to advance toward a society that is fairer. The success of this process will have positive repercussions in the improvement of the human rights in the country.

20. Cuba should consider ratify the others 17 international human rights instruments, as long as these are not lascivious to the national sovereignty and self-determination.

21. The crucial role played by Cuba in the peace process in Colombia and its traditional solidarity with the third world countries must be recognized by the Human Rights Council as a great contribution to the human rights in the world.