

**SUBMISSION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CUBA
MAY 2013**

by

Ankara Chamber of Medicine (ATO)



**Address:
Mithatpaşa Cad. No: 62/18 Kızılay
Ankara TURKEY**

**Tel: +90 312 4188700
Email: ato@ato.org.tr
Website: www.ato.org.tr**

1. This letter aims to submit our contribution for the Universal Periodic Review of Cuba in May 2013.
2. Cuba's tremendous effort to satisfy basic human needs and improve health status of the Cuban population is appreciated not only by individual health professionals but also by relevant international organizations, the World Health Organization being on the first place.
3. Cuba is subject to the world's most comprehensive and longest economic, commercial and financial blockage of the United States, which is condemned every year by the overwhelming majority of the UN General Assembly for it is considered as an act of genocide by virtue of the Geneva Convention of 1948 on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and an act of economic warfare as established by the Declaration on the Law of Naval Warfare adopted by the London Naval Conference of 1909.
4. Any human rights review of Cuba should not close the eyes to the severe effects of the US blockage, which caused Cuban people to suffer an economic loss of 1 trillion 174 billion until 2011 according to the Cuba's 2012 Report on Resolution 66/6 of The United Nations General Assembly. Such a huge economic loss means limited access to food and other basic consumption goods, limited access to hygiene materials, limited access to medicine, limited access to technology, and most of the elements that is necessary to improve basic human rights.
5. Despite this fact, Cuba's health indicators are simply outstanding not only for the countries from the same income level but also for the high-income nations. Cuba has the highest health professionals/population rate and implements the world's most extensive immunization program to protect the most fundamental human right; the right to live. In Cuba, life expectancy is among the highest, infant mortality rate is among the lowest in the world.
6. Cuba is at the same time among the most active partners in the international programs of the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization. She extends her immunization programs to many Latin and African countries, produces medicine for the specific health problems of these poor countries, which are ignored by big international pharmaceutical corporations, and sends thousands of health professionals to help these countries practically on the field.
7. Cuba is also extremely active in adopting international conventions and recommendations on health, and thus human rights. As a recent example, it was among the nations that adopted the ILO Recommendation on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work in 2010.