

**JOINT SUBMISSION
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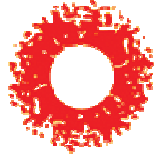
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1. Thanks to the socialist revolution, Cuba is an exemplary country for the whole world due to her egalitarian stance with respect to human rights such as the right to education, health and work.
2. All basic human rights and freedoms are recognized and guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba. Article 51 of the Constitution recognizes every citizen's right to education through free and widespread system of schools; Article 52 ensures that everyone has the right to physical education, sports and recreation.
3. In line with its Constitution, the Cuban state is an active party to many international treaties like UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education.
4. In 2011, Cuba submitted the Combined 14th to 18th Reports to the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination. She also submitted a 7th and 8th Combined Periodic Report relating to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2010), an Initial Report relating to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Participation of Children in Armed Conflict (2011) and an Initial Report relating to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2012).
5. Despite efforts by the Cuban government to guarantee education for everybody, the effects of the US blockade translate into daily shortages that affect the learning process, research and scientific work of students and teachers in general.
6. As evaluated with Resolution 65/6 "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" of the United Nations General Assembly, due to the blockade Cuba still has no access to the US market to buy school supplies and materials essential to repair and maintain school infrastructure. Therefore, it is forced to buy these products in far-off markets.
7. Special education is very important for the Cuban population. In 2008, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) approved the program "Expanding classroom inclusion in the Cuban school model in Santiago de Cuba" at a cost of 100,000 Euros. This program was specifically aimed at improving educational inclusion for primary and secondary school students with special needs (physical, visual, hearing and mental disabilities), directly benefiting 310 children and young people with disabilities.
8. However, the blockade has made it extremely difficult to acquire tactile screens, interactive whiteboards, intelligent keyboards, printers, typewriters and tape recorders, among other means indispensable to impart top quality and successful special education.
9. From April 2010 to March 2011, the Higher Education sector has suffered losses of 5,703,443 dollars, including adverse effects in production and services, lack of access to US technology, and higher import prices for market relocation.

10. In the University of Ciego de Avila, the work of bio-plant labs has been seriously affected due to the refusal of the LKB-Pharmacy or BioRad firm to provide maintenance to a protein purification chromatograph and a refrigerated centrifuge, among other pieces of equipment, resulting in damages of 94,716 dollars.