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UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

**Written statement* submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation
(WIDF), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 May 2009]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Assessment on the results obtained by Cuba in the Universal Periodic Report.

The Women International Democratic Federation, organization created on December 1st, 1945, right after the end of World War II, brings together women's organizations from the most diverse sectors, religious beliefs and opinions, from countries with different social regimes. More than 209 organizations from over 130 countries are currently affiliated to WIDF, organization that has regional offices in all continents. It is an international non-governmental organization in Consultative Status with ECOSOC since 1972 and its presence and influence in the environment of the United Nations has grown and strengthened.

WIDF Regional Office for America and the Caribbean Region gathers 68 organizations from the area and it is immersed in the final preparation process to hold its 5th Regional Conference in Quito, Ecuador from May 29th -31st this year. We will know about the outcomes of this Conference before holding the 11th Session of the Human Rights Council.

WIDF REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION considers as very positives the results obtained by Cuba in the universal periodic report that took place in February this year 2009. WIDF regional office understands as fair and deserved the positives recommendations made to Cuba urging it to share with the world its highly recognized experiences regarding educational, social workers, health, cooperation and international solidarity programs. We consider that Cuba is a country that observes, respects and protects all human rights of its citizens, a nation that supports the right to self-determination and independence, that promotes initiatives in defense of the development of the countries, of equal dialogues and international solidarity, that cooperates with united nations mechanism so as to achieve a greater integration in order to reach a better world.

We also consider Cuba has reached important results in terms of gender equality and empowerment of women in all spheres of life. It has been recognized that Cuba has far exceeded Objective # 3 of the Millennium Development Goals in spite of the challenges that Cuban society as a whole and its women's organization, the Federation of Cuban Women (FCW), will keep on facing.

The Federation of Cuban Women (FCW), that is a member of global WIDF's Steering Committee, coordinates the Regional Office for America and the Caribbean Region. The FCW is an NGO in Consultative Status with ECOSOC since 1997 and gathers more than 4 million members organised in 77 106 grass-roots structures, spread all across the country, including its most remote rural areas.

The Federation of Cuban Women (FCW) has played an outstanding role on human rights of Cuban women during these 5 decades. The FCW constitutes the methodological referring on gender policies of its country. The FCW has played a broad and active work regarding massive programs on education and health, women's incorporation and promotion to employment, education of new values and new family relations and for the achievement of the full exercise of all women human rights. The FCW is the National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women, condition recognized in the National Plan of Action of the Republic of Cuba to follow-up the IV UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing.

WIDF Regional Office for America and the Caribbean Region recognizes the effectiveness of the politics, the measures as well as the actions set by the Cuban state which established the systemic coordinates for women's advancement in Cuba. It also recognizes that the vast majority of the Cuban women as members of the FCW and as part of the Cuban people, continue without truce the heroic resistance and the creative work to build the society and the country they will. Cuban women have faced with decision the permanent aggressive politics from US government that encourage terrorism against Cuba from its operating center based in Miami, and have caused 3 478 dead persons and more than 2 000 injured and psychological and material damages, intending, unsuccessfully, to crush the decision of that nation, of its men and women, of building its own social project.

WIDF considers also that, in spite of the obstacles and limitations, the Cuban people and its women, progress and represent an example of dignity, courage and strength for the rest of the world.

In our region, the **FCW** and its women actively participate in the Latin-American and Caribbean social movement, accompanying women's movements on their struggles and demands, in the enriching process of unit and integration from the diversity and the democracy that is carried out. Cuban women are part of the large numbers of Cuban collaborators who participate in missions that brings health, education, sport, culture and scientific-technical advancements to men and women of the world. Cuba, with these missions modestly contributes, through the solidarity and the collaboration, to other peoples work for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to a greater enjoyment of their human rights.

The WIDF Regional Office for America and the Caribbean Region recognizes and supports the pillars of work of the FCW that struggles to defend its revolution, for peace, sovereignty and self-determination of nations. to denounce and condemn permanently the US blockade, to achieve the return of the 5 Cuban Heroes, who are anti-imperialists and antiterrorist fighters; as well as for the full incorporation, participation and promotion of women in the cultural, social, political, and economic life of the country and the world, sharing the same conditions of equality and opportunities.

WIDF and its Regional Office for America and the Caribbean Region stands out and accompanies the **FCW** in its daily struggle for the advancement of Cuban women and highlight and greet the good practices on human rights proved by Cuba and its women's organization
