Position Paper — Republic of Cuba

Committee: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

Agenda: Combating Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Equal Economic Participation for Women

Background of the Agenda

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains one of the most widespread human rights violations worldwide, cutting across cultures, regions, and socio-economic divides. But alas , women still face barriers to equal economic participation due to wage gaps, informal labour, and limited access to leadership roles. Despite decades of international commitments, millions of women continue to endure discrimination and violence, especially in developing nations. In COVID-19 pandemic it is reported that in this phase there is a lot of domestic violence happening. The UNCSW’s mission to advance gender equality is crucial to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls.

Cuba’s Stand

The Republic of Cuba believes that true gender equality is a fundamental pillar of a just and inclusive society. Cuba stands committed to the full realization of women’s rights, firmly believing that social equity, economic opportunities, and freedom from violence must be guaranteed to all women, regardless of status or background. Cuba defends a people-centred, state-supported model that protects women through accessible healthcare, free education, and social safety nets. At the same time, Cuba rejects any form of external pressure or unilateral measures that disturb national progress and impact women and families.

National Steps, Policies and Treaties

Since the Victory of the Cuban Revolution, women’s rights have been at the first focus of national policy. The Constitution of the Republic of Cuba guarantees equality between women and men. The National Programme for the Advancement of Women (PAM) sets concrete actions to combat gender-based violence and expand women’s leadership in all spheres. The National Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), with over four million members, remains one of the world’s strongest grassroots women’s organizations, coordinating community awareness and victim support services.

Internationally, Cuba is party to key treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Cuba actively participates in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Despite external economic barriers that strain resources, Cuba has prioritized universal free education, healthcare, maternity leave, and equal pay for equal work — ensuring the proper conditions for women to thrive.

UN Action on the Issue

The United Nations has continuously worked to eliminate violence against women and promote their economic empowerment through resolutions, conventions, and annual CSW sessions. The UN’s call for stronger legal frameworks, better data collection, and international cooperation remains central to achieving real progress. Cuba has consistently supported these efforts, contributing to global dialogues while highlighting that sustainable development and gender equality are linked and must be protected from external economic aggression.

Cuba’s Solutions

1. The Republic of Cuba believes that practical solutions require commitment and unity . Cuba proposes the following actions:
2. Strengthening community-based prevention campaigns to change male dominated society and empower women at the grassroots level.
3. Investing in education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship programmes to promote women’s full economic participation, especially for rural and marginalized groups.
4. Enhancing legal frameworks and support services for survivors of gender-based violence, ensuring they have safe access to justice and recovery.
5. Promoting South cooperation to share good practices among developing nations and build capacity where needed.
6. Urging the international community to lift unilateral coercive measures that weaken economies and unfairly affect women and families, particularly in developing countries.
7. Calling for increased funding from international donors to help states strengthen national action plans and crisis response mechanisms, especially in post-pandemic recovery.
8. Cuba stands ready to engage constructively , share its own successful experiences, and work alongside all member states to secure a future where every woman lives free from violence and has equal opportunity to participate fully in the economic and social life of her nation.

The Republic of Cuba remains determined that the struggle for gender equality must be collective, rooted in unity , and protected from any obstacle that seeks to hold women back.