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**REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

**Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva and International Organizations in Switzerland**

**Note No. 133/2020**

1. **On practices related to the right to development and financing for development at the international level:**

The current international economic order is an illustration of the serious obstacles that still persist and oppose the full realization of the human being and peoples. This shows that international financial resources to contribute to the right to development do exist but are directed to the expansionist priorities of hegemonic powers. In short, the persistent inequality within and between countries, the failure to meet the commitments made in the Official Development Assistance, the obstacle to access to sources of financing, among others, violate the right to development of individuals, communities and countries. In the case of Cuba, in addition to the limitations typical of developing countries, the main obstacle to the full realization of this right is the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States government for almost 60 years.

1. **On practices at the national level related to the right to development and financing for development**

**Regarding participation and access to information:**

The Constitution establishes, as the maximum guarantee for the full participation of citizens and territories in the achievement of the right to development, that the State directs, regulates and controls economic activity by reconciling national, territorial, collective and individual interests for the benefit of society. It also establishes as rights the participation of citizens in the shaping, exercise and control of State power, as well as being informed of the management of bodies and authorities.

The State assumes the constitutional responsibility of providing truthful, objective and timely information, as well as ensuring access to the information generated by State bodies. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and as part of the legislative process to complement the constitutional will, the National Assembly of People's Power adopted the Law on the Organization and Functioning of Municipal Assemblies and People's Councils, which reinforces the autonomy of municipalities and the capacity of individuals and communities to participate in local development. In general, Cuba is strengthening the capacity of national actors, municipalities and local communities to manage and promote local development from an integral, equitable and sustainable perspective, with the people at the center of decision-making.

**As for Resource Mobilization and Budget:**

Instruments such as, the “Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution”, Conceptualization of the Cuban Economic and Social Model of Socialist Development" and the "Bases of the Economic and Social Development Plan until 2030: Proposed Vision of the Nation, Axes and Strategic Sectors; guide the country's development strategy and ratify that the economic system in Cuba will continue to be based on the socialist ownership of all the people over the fundamental means of production, where the principle of socialist distribution rules "from each one according to his capacity to each one according to his work".

The Cuban State encourages the use of all available sources of funding for territorial development, including the State budget, foreign investment, donations and collaborative projects, territorial contributions for local development, and funds associated with national programmes, among others. Among the priorities are the increase and diversification of exports, efficiency in the investment process, increasing the participation of national industry, strengthening local development projects, promoting links between all economic actors: state sector, non-state sector and foreign investment, among others. Likewise, increase the collection of income in order to comply with the expenses planned for the period. Above all, taking into account that the main source of resources of the State Budget is found in the income derived from the collection of taxes. However, it is necessary to continue advancing in the comprehensive development strategy in each territory. To achieve this, the country has set out to achieve an appropriate and coherent combination between national development programmes and local development projects.

**On the macroeconomic fiscal policy:**

The result of the implementation of the Economy Plan, the projection for next year, as well as the challenges in the development of the country, are analyzed in the main spaces of popular discussion, where the National Assembly of People's Power, the labor centers and the communities are included.

**On the distribution of benefits and social protection:**

Cuba is not committed to the implementation of the so-called "austerity programmes" to reduce public spending. It is not a question of guaranteeing minimum social protection, even in times of crisis; but rather of maintaining, in all circumstances, however complex, all social protection and all rights. In addition, the State has set out to increase and diversify the supply of credit to the population as far as the country's conditions allow, as well as the supply of banking products to the population to stimulate savings and access to financial services.

In conclusion, Cuba, a developing country that has been under blockade for almost 60 years by the United States government, fully guarantees the right to development, as well as popular participation in all financing measures. Cuba promotes policies that take into account territorial particularities and needs, as well as raise social standards, comparable to those of developed countries.