

Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Sixteenth Session**

Review of Cuba

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**Statement by
Ambassador Wafaa Bassim
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
and other international organizations in Geneva**

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Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the delegation of Cuba and commend the elaborate presentation it made to the UPR Working Group today. We wish to thank the delegation for the comprehensive report that the delegation has presented, which demonstrates its desire to interact with the international human rights system. We have examined the report and the developments in Cuba since the 1st UPR cycle and we welcome the strengthening of the inter-institutional human rights system and the efforts to achieve a higher quality of access to justice.

We believe that Cuba has taken numerous measures and initiatives in the past few years, aiming at continued progress in its efforts to achieve the broadest possible enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all. In that vein, and in a positive spirit of cooperation and dialogue, Egypt would like to make the following recommendations, hoping that Cuba will consider adopting them:

- 1- To continue its efforts to defend, with its cultural policy, the identity, cultural heritage preservation, promotion of creativity, artistic and literary production and art appreciation ability.
- 2- To pursue all efforts to preserve the progresses achieved in a number of areas such as culture, education, health and the fight against social inequality
- 3- To keep strengthening educational and prevention work carried out by the state; so that illicit drugs consumption and trafficking remains a problem without a social impact in Cuba.

I thank you.