

From the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Japan

Since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, women have played a central role in the development of our society

Tokyo, March 7, 2024

Gisela Garsia (Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba)

Dear colleagues:

On the occasion of International Women's Day, I would like to express our appreciation to women around the world for the outstanding role they play in the midst of adverse conditions and in a complex international context, aggravated by the impact of armed conflicts, the climate crisis, economic inequality and social discrimination.

The National Hero of Cuba, José Martí, wrote in the newspaper *Patria* in May 1892. "(...) the struggles of the people are only weak when the heart of the woman is not involved in them, but when the woman trembles and helps, when the woman () encourages and applauds, when the cultured and virtuous woman anoints the work with the honey of her affection - the work is invincible".

Since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, women have played a central role in the development of our society. In this endeavor, the work of institutions such as the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and the implementation of public policies in favor of the inclusion and deployment of women's potential in Cuba have been key.

In spite of the economic limitations and the human damage caused by the U.S. blockade to Cuba, and in particular to women, Cuban women have been able to overcome economic difficulties and prejudices rooted in our society.

Today, Cuban women stand out for their leadership in sectors such as education, health, commerce, agriculture and diplomacy. More than 60% of university graduates and approximately 53.40% of the members of the Cuban Parliament are women.

With the Cuban Constitution of 2019 and the Family Code of 2022, the legal framework and the rights of women and families in our country were strengthened. Despite these results, we are aware of the challenges that still exist.

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm, once again, Cuba's support for global efforts to end discrimination against women and to work for gender equality and peace.

Sincerely yours,

Gisela Garsia
Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Japan
(Headline by the editorial office)