



***57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)  
4-15 March 2013***

***“Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against  
women and girls.  
Focus on: prevention of violence against women and girls”***

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***Statement by  
Mrs. Alejandrina Germán  
Minister of Women  
of the Dominican Republic***

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***5 March 2013***

Madam President,

The Dominican Republic welcomes the celebration of this meeting and is very pleased that the priority theme is the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. We appreciate the effort to turn this meeting into a space for evaluating actions, programs and government-led processes aimed at achieving a life free of violence against women and girls and their full inclusion in all areas and levels of society. The Dominican Republic associates itself with the statements made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States and Costa Rica on behalf of the Council of Ministers of Women of Central America and the Dominican Republic.

The Government of the Dominican Republic strengthens its efforts to combat violence against women and girls, which are derived from the commitments made by our Government to international conventions, conferences and resolutions on the rights of women and in combating violence.

The Dominican Republic has a legal framework that incorporates relevant advances in the fight against gender violence, such as our Constitution proclaimed in 2010, which enshrines the right to equality without any discrimination related to gender or other condition, the right to personal integrity, respect for the physical, mental, moral integrity and to a life without violence. It further condemns domestic and gender violence in any form.

Other significant legislative advances are: Law 24-97 on Violence Against Women and domestic violence, Decree 423-98 creating the National Commission on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence (CONAPLUVI), Decree 97-99 which creates the International Committee for the Protection of Migrant Women

(CIPROM,) Law 88-03 which institutes the shelters or refuges, and Law 1-12 establishing the National Development Strategy 2010-2030, which contains as one of its four strategic pillars, the equality of rights and opportunities.

Also, we must highlight the National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2007-2017 (PLANEG II), the Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Detection, Warning and Punishment of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence 2011-2016, the Deputy Attorney's Office for Women, 14 Attention units for Violence Against Women, 52 provincial and municipal offices of Women, the Program for Prevention of Violence Against Women for counseling, legal and psychological support to victims of violence and 39 Offices of Gender Equality and Development established in the State Institutions.

We can also emphasize the creation of the National Office for Assistance to Victims by the Attorney General's Office, the Attention Units for Gender, Sexual and Domestic Violence, in 14 provinces of our country, the Commission for Gender Equity Policies of the Judiciary, the National Standards for Comprehensive Health Care for Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence for healthcare providers. A 24 hours Emergency and Relief Hotline from the Ministry of Women and the hotline for the Care of people in violence situations, from the Public Ministry, the Specialized Office for the Care of Gender and Domestic Violence of the National Police, the Program Shelters or Refuges from the Ministry of Women, the Office of Legal Representation of Victims' Rights from the Attorney General's Office, as well as the Local Networks for Comprehensive Care of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, in order to promote coordination of actors and organizations providing services for the prevention, care and punishment of violence against women and domestic violence.

Madam President,

So far we have referred only to the progress made by our country. However, violence against women persists; there still remain significant challenges to end Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic, among them:

- The Dominican Penal Code has to be approved with the recommendations and observations that have resulted from the coordination between the Ministry of Women and Civil Society organizations for the rights of women.
- Strengthen the integration of national mechanisms and support networks to combat violence against women and achieve the approval and implementation of protected budgets to combat violence against women.
- Establish, through the Ministry of Labour, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including the care of the family.

However, the main challenge is to ensure that gender equality and equity and the prevention of violence are present in all the educational work of our country, in order to achieve the construction of a new system of values which ensures that women and men turn gender equality and equity into life practices.

Finally, we would like to share in this scenario that on October 2013, the Dominican Republic will host the Twelfth Regional Conference on Women of ECLAC, which will surely bring important agreements for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thank you very much, Madam President.