



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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THIRD COMMITTEE

**Item 28:**  
“Advancement of Women”

**Statement by**  
**H.E. Virgilio Alcántara**  
**Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

New York, October 11, 2011  
(Check against delivery)



Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation would like to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election and wish you success in accomplishing your duties. We are confident that with your experience and leadership we will successfully conclude our work.

At the same time we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General for the preparation of his reports on the topic we are discussing today.

Mr. Chairman,

In the Dominican Republic, the Advancement and Empowerment of Women are promoted by the Ministry of Women, which has made an extraordinary effort to impact all levels of the Government where the decisions are taken, by inserting a gender equality perspective in promoting the welfare of society.

We believe that you cannot achieve development and improve the welfare of a society, or achieve true democracy without first ensuring that women improve their position in indicators of health, education, social and political participation, economic development and employment, that is, not until men and women receive equal attention. In this regard, the State plays a fundamental role in creating the necessary legal framework, through institutional reforms and public policies that protect and ensure equal opportunities between genders.

Among macroeconomic policies and development strategies to overcome the poverty of women, we can mention the execution in three provinces of the "Banana Project", which strengthens the capacities and entrepreneurship of women in the production sector, and facilitates, with the support of international cooperation, access to agricultural credit and technology.

Mr. Chairman,

In terms of sexual and reproductive health, the Dominican Republic launched the NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN OF TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION, a major problem which keeps the young women from exiting the cycle of poverty, in addition to the important legislative developments where we have a legal framework on rights.

The Dominican Government continues to promote comprehensive measures to eliminate all forms and manifestations of violence against women, including domestic violence, abuse and sexual harassment, incest and sexual exploitation. An important example is the current national campaign against violence that is unfolding in the country that has attracted the support of broad sectors of society and state.

The Ministry of Women, as the responsible State institution in charge of public policies in favor of gender equality and equity, has undertaken a journey of social mobilization in favor of a life free of violence against women in the Dominican Republic.

The aim of this campaign is to progressively reduce violence against women and domestic violence, by putting in practice a strategy of prevention, detection and an integrated attention to violence, to allow its early detection, in order to avoid major risks and ensure that women survivors and their families break the cycle of violence and start a new life project.

In that context, large sectors have given their support to educational sessions, social mobilization and media coverage that make up the campaign “Unite to End Violence Against Women”.

To guarantee the proper performance of the comprehensive measures to eliminate all forms and manifestations of violence against women, we continue with the opening of new units of comprehensive care for victims nationwide. We also are strengthening the net of shelters or refuges, increasing professional staff and logistics in different areas.

On the other hand, it is important to note the extensive efforts that are being developed by the Ministry of Women in partnership with the Public Ministry and civil society, to impact positively in favor of the rights of women in the process of reforming both the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. That process currently being is performed, with the inclusion of legal concepts such as femicide, the battered woman syndrome and no reconciliation in cases of violence against women.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the efforts to combat trafficking, smuggling and irregular migration, we have the “Interagency Committee for the Protection of Migrant Women”, CIPROM, as a mechanism for the grouping of all related government agencies on the issue of trafficking and smuggling, and whose coordination is held by the Ministry of Women, by the National Commission against Human Trafficking, and by the Department of Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons.

The Government provides support and policy coordination to women in all provinces, through the Focal Points of Guidance on Human Trafficking and Migration, Prevention and Referral system.

It is also important to note that in the area of political participation and as a result of congressional and municipal elections, the country has the representation of 4 women senators (9%), 38 women deputies (20%), 8 women elected to the Central American Parliament (40%), 12 women mayors (7%) and 11 women municipal district directors (4%), 142 women deputy mayors (91%) and 382 (33%) council women.

Mr. Chairman,

The Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, UN-Women, has come to represent the fundamental and necessary tool to assist States and the United Nations system to fill the expectations of carrying out the goals of achieving gender equality and empowerment of women throughout the world.

My Country, a member of the Executive Board, is highly pleased and applauds the outstanding and transparent work that has been played by the Executive Director of the Entity, along with its new high-level team, and supported in all aspects the ambitious Strategic Plan 2011-2013 with projections through 2017, which was well received by all members.

The Dominican Republic welcomes the concerted partnerships and inclusive strategy in developing this plan, as well as the identification of six priority areas of focus, with relevant targets to monitor achievements.

Our Government concurs with the Director regarding the need for a focus on the entity's presence on the ground and thematic work areas, a multi-year predictable funding and resources, and a strategic presence on the country programs.

In particular, our country fully endorses the decision to support the need for a strategic presence in less developed countries, middle income countries and countries undergoing or emerging from conflict situations.

The Dominican Republic Government is eager to continue providing its full support, from its headquarters that held INSTRAW for many years, to assure that the operations are more efficient, having as a result, more training and research work of greater impact.

The Dominican Republic continues to make every effort to ensure that Dominican women can have the place they deserve and that gender equality becomes a reality less distant in the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

