



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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MINISTERIO DE LA MUJER

¡Trabajando por la Igualdad y la Equidad!

***Statement by
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(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

We welcome this important meeting, and we celebrate that it is maintained as an area to assess the efforts of our countries and governments to achieve the goal of equality between women and men, and the elimination of discrimination against women.

The Government of the Dominican Republic continues to develop actions to achieve equality of opportunity for the Dominican men and women, leading to improved quality of life through women's access to goods and services and promoting inclusion and participation on the basis of equality in education, science and technology and access to the economy and labor.

These efforts are consistent with both the legal and legislative, which remain the gateway to the full exercise of rights, which show significant progress on the issues under discussion in this meeting, and expressed in specific public policies that have a significant impact on the lives of women.

In that sense it is important to note that in the Dominican Republic, education is a constitutional right, strengthened by the principle of equality between women and men expressed in our Constitution and defined in an educational law that incorporates gender equality as a fundamental condition to achieve development.

An important aspect to note is the reduction of illiteracy among both women and men. The illiteracy rate of the Dominican population 10 years and older is 9.7%, 9.9% in men and 9.5% in women.

While it is true that in the first levels of education the inequality gap slightly affects girls, and that for every 100 boys enrolled 96 girls are enrolled, at the end of the middle level female enrollment exceeds that of men, being that for every 100 men enrolled there is an enrollment of 123 women.

In the field of professional technical and vocational training, the data show a rate parity with very slight variations. Of every 100 men graduates of these programs, there are 95 women graduating.

In the area of education the most significant advances are recorded at the university level. For 2009 the data show that for every 100 men enrolled in upper level there is an enrollment of 140 women.

In relation to Information and Communication Technologies, there is evidence of increased access of women to the press, television reporters and radio reporters. There is no noticeable difference between men and women in access to computers or the Internet. However, as in other countries, we have a gender gap in technology use and participation in science and engineering. Which impacts negatively on access to quality employment and the wage gap widens.

For example, 64% of male heads of households use computers to the Internet and work, while only 48% of female heads of household using them for this purpose. This varies

when it comes to using computers for study. In the case of female headed households 51% use them to study and male-headed households the figure is only 43%.

Another example that poses a great challenge is that women continue to be formed in the trades and careers traditionally performed by women, such as Nursing, Education, Foreign Languages, etc., While the men enrolled in careers and jobs related to science and technology.

For these reasons it is important to continue promoting measures to create conditions for women to access more and better jobs. In this regard, the Dominican Government develops policy of equality in the workplace consistent with its role as intermediary and guarantor of rights, dissemination of labor rights campaigns, studies and promotion of legislation against sexual harassment of women prioritization training programs and vocational guidance which represent 58% of the beneficiaries of these programs and the implementation of projects in recognition of good practice in equity, among other initiatives.

For the country it is a major challenge to close the gap of inequality in employment. We currently have 23% unemployment in women and 10% in men. There is also a high representation of women in informal work which means an increase in wage inequality. Women receive 27% of income less than men for equal work. However, with the implementation of the Social Security Act from the year 2004, women have benefited more than men. In the National Health Service in the contributory and subsidized 57 percent of beneficiaries are women.

Linked to these efforts, I must mention one of the areas of concern in the Platform for Action: the need to strengthen mechanisms for the advancement of women. We consider it very important that this event will opt for governments to strengthen their commitment to legislative, political and budgetary mechanisms for women, given their importance in moving forward toward full equality between women and men.

In concluding, I congratulate and support on behalf of my government, the creation of the new gender entity of the Organization of the United Nations, UN Women, and the appointment of Dr. Michelle Bachelet to head it, we reaffirm that our Government will make every effort for its success. We also express our deep satisfaction with the choice of the Dominican Republic for a seat on the Executive Board of the organism.

Thank you very much.