



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY H. E. DANILO MEDINA SÁNCHEZ
PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

New York, September 26, 2015

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Statement by H. E. Danilo Medina Sánchez
President of the Dominican Republic
at the High-Level plenary meeting of the General Assembly

His Excellency
Yoweri Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda

His Excellency
Lars Løkke Rasmussen
Prime Minister of Denmark

His Excellency
Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the UN

Heads of State and Government

Ministers and other Heads of Delegations;

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor to be here representing the people and government of the Dominican Republic in an event that, for our country, is of utmost importance.

The 2030 development agenda, with its adoption of Sustainable Development Goals, is both an inspiring document and a detailed roadmap for the solution of the most important challenges nowadays facing humanity.

The fight against poverty, against inequality, and against the climate change, are all interrelated singularities affecting the lives of billions of men and women.

These problems are already part of our agenda and for that reason, we embrace enthusiastically its adoption worldwide.

We welcome this commitment that we share, of enforcing sustainable development and having a long-term vision. The same vision sometimes threatened by opportunism and haste imposed by an increasingly connected society.

In fact, the MDGs were a source of inspiration that helped us formulate our own National Development Strategy 2030.

That led us to focus efforts, to consolidate the practice of accountability, to face challenges and weaknesses, but, above all, taught us the power of the union of purpose, will and actions.

And that also guided us in the strategy that is the roadmap to convert the Dominican Republic into an economic, social and environmentally sustainable society with a social, democratic and based on the rule of law country.

In the present administration, we began a campaign to improve opportunities and capabilities of the population as well as their living conditions.

We have done this by protecting early childhood, from 0-5 years with advances in education, as the implementation of the school extended batch, the unprecedented expansion of school infrastructure and improving the quality of education.

But we also are doing it by reducing inequalities in our production, supporting agricultural producers and SMEs, improving financial inclusion, training and access to technologies.

We have achieved emblematic objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, including reducing by more than half the extreme poverty, which dropped from 16.6% to 5.8%.

We also comfortably reached the goal of malnutrition, which dropped from 34.4% to 12% and the established goal of gender parity in each of the levels of education.

However, we are aware that we must continue to work on goals that we still have to keep improving and that, certainly, are already part of our highest priority.

We are delighted, moreover, by the parallels between our National Development Strategy and these renewed Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

It will be very positive, further, that the adoption of these objectives will provide us with a standardized assessment system with which to compare experiences with each other. From now on, we'll orient every effort to make a reality the new vision embodied in the 17 goals.

And we declare the commitment to adapt and assimilate them into the National Strategy itself and the instruments of public administrative system.

We are pleased, too, to see how his holiness Pope Francisco has become one of the leading spokesmen for the cause of sustainable development; which is the cause of the poor and the cause of future generations.

His Encyclical *Praised be you*, has come just at the right time. Not only by taking up the scientific arguments of the climate debate, but going beyond, and recovering the full moral dimension of sustainable development.

To us, Dominicans who live on a small island with many people still suffering poverty and particularly vulnerable to climate change, this dimension appears as an everyday reality.

But precisely for that reason, in the Dominican Republic we are aware that poverty and inequality are not inevitable fatalities of fate, but challenges for which we can and must prepare and with which we must deal with accountability and efficiency.

We are therefore fully committed to the goals of sustainable development. And we hope to find together the will, as requested by Pope Francisco:

To escape the sin of indifference, to love the common good, to promote the weak, and to care for the world we live in.

Thank you