68th Session of the General Assembly
of the United Nations

Third Committee

Declaration by
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Agenda Item 27:
Social Development

October 7, 2013
United Nations Headquarters
Mr. President,

On behalf of the Dominican Republic I would like to congratulate your appointment as Chairman of the Third Committee. We also congratulate the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for the excellent job, we are very confident that under your guidance, the results of this committee will be profitable and successful. The Dominican Republic joins the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; and by Cuba on behalf of the CELAC.

Mr. President,

The phenomena that the international community is currently experiencing oriented towards globalization and the development of peoples are the tangible proof that we live in a changing world. The constant changes that streamline all areas of human endeavor justify the fact that today more than ever the interdependence among peoples grow, necessitating the strengthening of relations among nations through international partnerships and technical assistance in the transcendental issues as youth, the elderly, people with disabilities and education.

In all aspects of social development our world grows, and thus increase our needs. Given the constant social phenomena a question emerges: What is the role to be played by youth in regards of these changes? And when I question myself about this, Mr. President, I have come to an inescapable truth ... Life expectancy from antiquity to the nineteenth century never exceeded 40 years old ... What does this mean? Minds that revolutionized the history were young, from the great philosophers of ancient Greece to thinkers like Duarte, Sanchez and Mella who once gave freedom to my country.

Mr. President,

Today I stop being me. I quit being a single individual, so I could proclaim the concerns, interests and needs of all young people in my country, Latin America and the world, becoming a voice of more than one billion young people out of those doors waiting for our decisions. In my capacity as Youth Delegate I had the opportunity to question youth from all regions of the Dominican Republic ... and it is a great pleasure for me to say to this great forum that all our young people want is TO BE HEARD and this is the best time to listen to us because in all aspects of Social Development, youth is a key element.

In this sense we are very grateful to the Secretary General of the United Nations for appointing the past February the first United Nations Special Envoy on Youth, who has been doing an excellent job and we hope soon that he could visit the Dominican Republic.

Mr. President,

If there’s a sector that is crucial to development, is education. Dominican young people are aware that education must be conceived as the best solution to all problems. Educating in
values is the only way we can change the social consciousness of our citizens, educating our children for a culture of peace, non-violence, tolerance, and respect for diversity. Education systems must be inclusive and base their pedagogical models in meaningful learning, ensuring that the teaching-learning process is conducted in a constructive way. We cannot educate teaching behavioral patterns and rigid thinking, but to teach to question human thought.

The Dominican delegation understands that aspects such as health, decent employment, recreation, combating juvenile delinquency and the scourge of drugs are transcendental to the growth of youth. In the same way it has entered an active part in the technological revolution by creating various programs to ensure access to ICT and training for software development through the Ministry of Higher Education.

We cannot speak of social development without referring to generational issues. We live in an aging society. Ensuring the welfare of today’s elderly, is also ensuring our future.

The Dominican Republic advocates inclusion, full inclusion. Our national development strategy with our Government Plan, promotes the fundamental rights of the elderly, strengthening our protection laws in order to achieve the goal of zero homeless elderly. Our country is committed to the ideal that there’s a legally binding instrument to standardize and protect the rights of the elderly. A convention that specifically regulates the respect of their political, social and economic and human rights.

Another challenge for Member States is the question of Disability, for this reason the Dominican Republic welcomes the outcome of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on a Disability Inclusive Development Agenda Towards 2015 and Beyond and we call on the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of appointing a special envoy for people with disabilities, to complement the efforts of the United Nations system.

The Dominican government intensifies its efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework in all aspects of disability, harmonizing national and international legislation, through inclusive and priority public policy in sectors such as health, sports, social security, labor inclusion and promotion of political and human rights, among others, directing great efforts towards creating Disability Law No. 5-13; but our commitment goes beyond legal terms, enshrining the values of equality and solidarity.

I'm young, and I have often felt that our voice is lost ... is lost in the clouds, overwhelmed by the problems and lack of opportunities, or lost in the desert after the explosion of the missiles and the cry of war.

Today the world set before us the biggest challenge: Grow to be global individuals. To achieve the optimal development of peoples is essential to strengthen the mechanisms for youth participation, change the perception that we are passive entities and become transformers of our environment, start a revolution in human thought and show the world the power of our determination.

Mr. Chairman,

I come from Caribbean lands and as good sailors I have learned the romance of the compass. In the sky major stars shine, that fill us with admiration, the sun, the moon, the planets;
but the compass has sworn allegiance to the Polar Star and between the fury of the storm always follows its north, in the same way, before the challenges of Social Development we must fix our north, in what way? That each State assume the ethical, legal and moral commitment that was agreed 68 years ago on the purposes and principles that gave birth to this organization.

Thank you very much.