68th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly

THIRD COMMITTEE

Item 28:
“Advancement of Women”

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Francisco Cortorreal
Ambassador, Alternate Permanent Representative

New York, October 11, 2013
(Check against delivery)
Mr. President:

The Dominican Republic associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Fiji, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Cuba, on behalf of CELAC.

Also, my country would like to thank the Secretary General for the preparation of the reports on the issue under consideration today.

Mr. President:

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

My country 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. It is not possible to achieve development and improve the welfare of a society, without ensuring that women improve their position in the indicators of health, education, social and political participation, economic development, employment and institutionalism, that is, if both men and women do not receive equal attention. The State plays a major role to create the necessary legal framework, through institutional reforms and public policies that protect and ensure the implementation of these policies.

Mr. President:

In relation to national plans and strategies aimed at strengthening gender equality and the elimination of violence against women, we can highlight the following:

The Law on Violence against Women and Domestic, decrees that created the National Commission on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence and the International Committee for the Protection of Migrant Women, respectively, as well as the creation of shelters or refuges.

Also, we must highlight the National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2007-2017, 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.
Other important programs implemented are: 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.

Mr. 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 strengthening 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.

- Establishing, through the Ministry of Labor, 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 creation of a new system of values which ensures that women and men turn gender equality and equity into life practices.

Mr. President:

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

My country would like to extend our congratulations to its new Executive Director, Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, we wish her the best of success as the head of this entity and we reiterate our full support. At the same time, we are pleased and commend the outstanding and transparent work played by the former Executive Director of this Entity and her team.

My Government is pleased to have committed to a multi-year pledge for a period of five years towards the entity’s core budget and has complied with its dues for this year. For the Dominican Republic it is a great honor to be the hostcountry for the Global Training Centre of UN-Women and of a national office, and we are confident that its work will bring remarkable results. This is a commitment that my country takes very seriously, and will provide the highest level of support and commitment to this project.
We believe it is extremely important that this entity be equipped with the necessary financial resources to continue developing the programs assigned by the Executive Board, in order to allow UN Women to become a true agent of change for all the women in the world, their rights, their advancement and their empowerment. It is up to us, the Member States, to mobilize the resources required and if possible, with multi-year pledges. In this regard, we call upon other states, that all together, within our possibilities, we continue to support UN Women.

Mr. President:

My delegation commends the work being carried out by Mrs. Nicole Ameline, as Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). My country, State party to the Convention, assigns primary importance to this Treaty and the work of the committee of experts as to ensure their strict compliance with its terms, by examining the reports submitted by States parties. We believe that this important work would benefit if the Committee returns to this United Nations Headquarters, as the limit of delegates working in Geneva, and the high costs for developing countries to travel to Geneva Headquarters to present their reports present serious difficulties. In this regard, the Dominican Republic would support a motion aimed in this direction.

Our Government continues to make every effort to ensure that the Dominican women occupy the place they deserve and that gender equality is a reality less distant in the world.

Finally, as many colleagues are aware, the Dominican Republic will be the host country from October 14 to 18, 2013, for The XII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The priority theme will be “Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).” We are sure that in this Conference, the delegations will arrive to important agreements for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.