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Declaration by
H.E. Frank Cortorreal
Ambassador, Alternate Permanent Representative

Item 65:
Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child

October 18, 2013

United Nations Headquarters
New York
Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Secretary General, the Special Representative, the Special Rapporteur, the Executive Director of UNICEF and the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, for presenting not only concise and important data but recommendations against the challenges that still exist over the achievements in the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

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

The Dominican Republic ratified in 1991 the Convention on the Rights of the Child and since then has been further committed to respect it and fulfill it in all its parts and articles. Having ratified the Convention represented a very important step that changed the perception and outline towards the Dominican children. We signed with UNICEF a Collaboration Agreement for the Joint Working Plan until 2013, supporting our country Plan 2012 to 2016 that our country has been developed to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs with an equity approach, focusing on children and adolescents of the poorest and most excluded communities, through the improvement of investments, the reductions on national gaps and the elimination of the practices that aims to a differentiated treatment.

Mr. President,

In terms of fighting poverty, we have a strategy that has impacted vulnerable children: the Solidarity Program, through which is provided support to the improvement of income
and human capital investment of families in extreme and moderate poverty throughout the national territory and it was created the "Quisqueya without Misery" , promoting the development of skills and opportunities, in vulnerable families and communities , for the comprehensive development of early childhood , from gestation until 5 years old, among other goals.

As a component of the social inclusion strategy we launched the National Literacy Plan "Quisqueya Learns with You" in order to improve elementary, middle and high school education and increase school enrollment rates. These initiatives are a powerful tool to fight our greatest enemies: poverty and social inequality.

Likewise, the Office of the First Lady along with the National Disability Council is building the Center for Disability Care (CAID) , an initiative that aims to provide a space for comprehensive care, education and rehabilitation for children 0-10 years old with Down Syndrome, Autism, Psychomotor Impairment, Cerebral Palsy, among others disabilities, accompanying them in the process of growth and treatment in a cognitive, physical and emotional space, with a view to finish the construction of four centers in the next three years, this will help to identify and provide with civil records children with disabilities.

Mr. President,

Violence against children and adolescents has been a subject that has been having the attention of the Dominican Society. The abuse of children and adolescents is one of the worst violations of their fundamental rights. Our country has made progress regarding having the Code for the Protection of the Fundamental Rights of Children and Adolescents, Law 136-03, being a national law guaranteeing the rights of children in accordance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, reflecting the commitment of the Dominican Government to ensure the protection of fundamental rights of survival, development, participation and special protection through the establishment of a National Protection System .
Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic supports the great work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, Mrs. Marta Santos Pais and the work done by her office, and supports the need to allocate the necessary resources to develop their activities.

The Dominican Republic served as a venue for holding the Central America Meeting on the follow up to the Study of the United Nations on Violence against Children and Adolescents in December 2011 in collaboration with the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children.

We are extremely pleased that yesterday at the Round Table with Regional Organizations it was presented the so much expected friendly Roadmap to protect children from violence in Central America. A dominican young lady, representing the region, presented this Roadmap and the work and achievement that has been developed under the basis of the Santo Domingo Declaration. She is an excellent example that clearly illustrate this process.

It is of great importance the strategic collaboration with regional organizations including the support to the participation of children and adolescences as a critical dimension of colaboration with the regional organizations.

Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic faces several challenges in providing care and protection of children's rights, especially with regard to the necessary financial resources to continue developing and expanding the service under the criteria reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, our country reaffirms its firm commitment to continue
working in this direction, in favor of the vulnerable population that requires our utmost attention, protection and support.

Thank you very much.