



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

General Debate of the First Committee  
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Republic to the UN

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STATEMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
FIRST COMMISSION- 64th General Assembly, October 7, 2009

Mr. President:

On behalf of my delegation I congratulate you, Ambassador Jose Luis Cancela, of the sister Republic of Uruguay, on your election to preside over the work of the First Committee and take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Ambassador Marco Antonio Suazo, of the also sister Republic of Honduras, for their efforts and leadership. We would also thank the Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his intervention.

The Dominican Republic fully endorses the speech pronounced by Egypt, on behalf of Countries Non-Aligned Movement. We will simply specify certain punctualizations that are of particular interest for our country.

Mr. President:

The Dominican Republic has been consistent in its view that disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation should always be an area of priority concern to the United Nations. In that sense, it is necessary, taking responsibility for ensuring international peace and security that we act, considering that the general interests are above individuals.

The Dominican Republic considers evident the links between the disarmament and development. Once established this premise, there is a need to make efforts to allocate more resources to development and less on arms.

The Dominican Republic reaffirms its support for the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its universality and stresses that all articles of this important treaty must be fully implemented. As ratify the Fifteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, we recognize the inalienable right of all States to develop and use nuclear energy for strictly peaceful purposes, through strict enforcement of safeguards which Compliance is responsible for the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), the only body with statutory regulations and recognized competence in this area. Any other use or threat thereof, including the lack of authority granted by the international community to the IAEA, should be firmly rejected.

Mr. President:

The Dominican Republic assigns utmost importance to tackling the issue of illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, due to the pernicious effects it has and can have on the safety and social stability of our nations. This constant requires stronger action to confront this scourge, which has strong links with other illegal activities such as organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, phenomena that constitute threats against life and human dignity. Aware of such ties and determined to alleviate the effects of the illicit traffic of arms, the Dominican Republic initiated and maintains the program "Safe Neighborhood," aimed at stopping crime in neighborhoods by adapting the work of the National Police to the demands of citizens, which thus promotes the integration of citizenship ballast to combat crime.

The program is being implemented in areas of the country with high crime rates and its application is the combined result of work of various government institutions specializing in youth work, offering alternatives in sports, culture, recreation, primary health care and food to areas marked by poverty. These initiatives permit to counter the activities of criminal gangs seeking to undermine the peace of the inhabitants. A tangible result is that the program has reduced the homicide rate, from 26 per 100 thousand inhabitants, 22 for the same number of people.

No less important, The Dominican Republic, with a Body Border Security Specialist (CESFRONT), has put its efforts, like Haiti, with the support of MINUSTAH, in combating the flow of illicit small arms by our common border. Despite these advances, we think it needs international action to confront the danger of illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, among which, the conclusion of legally binding instruments on illicit brokering and marking and tracing, in addition to the consideration of issue of ammunition, which is intrinsically linked to the issue of illicit arms trafficking.

Mr. President:

A subject of great importance to my country is the protection of the Caribbean Sea. We are an island surrounded by the Caribbean Sea, and that is an integral part of our wealth. Because of the importance and dependence of many of our countries in the Caribbean Sea, this does not just have a general assessment of environmental conservation and ecosystem, but also is part of an entire economic security strategy of our governments.

My country benefits greatly from tourism and therefore, the preservation of the

Caribbean is vital to us and our neighbors. Because tourism is an important part of our economy, we consider the protection of the Caribbean Sea a matter of national security. In this regard we attach great importance to the adoption by the General Assembly, the draft resolution entitled "Towards Sustainable Development in the Caribbean Sea for Present and Future Generations" and invite all Member States to continue supporting this initiative in the framework of the Second Committee.

As part of this concern, we reiterate once again our concern about the dangers of transporting radioactive materials. We put our trust in the international community to exercise due vigilance to ensure safety measures on the transport of radioactive material and hazardous waste established by the IAEA and the International Maritime Organization and the adoption of standards that complement those measures.

For the Dominican Republic it is of particular interest the exchange of selected routes, communication of contingency plans in case of disaster, the commitment to recover materials in cases of dumping, the decontamination of affected areas and the establishment of effective mechanisms and rules of liability in cases of damage.

Mr. President:

Taking advantage of the important initiative launched by the Secretary General to convene the high-level meeting on climate change, we associate ourselves with the voices who understand that this is an issue of security, socio-economic impacts and negative effects against the quality of life, damage to the environment and the difficulties in preserving our wildlife, which are one of our national treasures.

As is known, the deterioration of the environment also contributes to the proliferation of natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods and their catastrophic effects. The negative consequences are immediate and in our case are felt in the weakening of the tourism sector, one of the foundations of our economy.

The aid to developing countries to counter the negative effects of climate passes through an open attitude of the developed countries, large producers of carbon dioxide, showing a real political will to achieve the desired global regulatory framework of Copenhagen 2009 on environment.

Mr. President:

The Dominican Republic has a high appreciation of multilateralism, particularly in the area of disarmament, also believes that dialogue is an essential tool, regardless of differences that may exist between one country and another. These variables are those that give the dimensions of the importance of the United Nations. Mr. President, with traditional spirit of collaboration, we want to conclude by expressing the willingness of the Dominican Delegation to make its contribution to the best result of our work.

Thank you.

