

## Declaration to the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

### Item 6 – UPR outcomes on Dominican Republic

Geneva – 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2019

Mr. President,

We appreciate Dominican Republic's participation in the UPR and acknowledge the Government's efforts to respect its international human rights obligations. However, we are deeply concerned at the very high number of recommendations only noted by the State.

We are disappointed by the State's response to the recommendation by Chile on the promotion of a national action plan on businesses and human rights.<sup>[1]</sup> We believe that the National Plan on Human Rights, although an important tool for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, cannot replace the development of a policy strategy to protect against adverse human rights impacts by businesses. We unfortunately observe a clear climate of impunity around human rights violations committed by producers of crops, especially sugar cane, as well as by security forces. In the eastern region of the country, crop production has serious negative impacts on access to land and the enjoyment of human rights by peasants and local populations, in particular the right to adequate housing, to food, to health and to a healthy environment. More than 70% of the land in this region is centered on monoculture, which further impoverishes the local population. The country must take concrete action to combat impunity, including by ensuring that the victims have access to justice. It is of utmost importance that the State recognizes the important role of civil society in monitoring the respect of human rights in this field and deepens its collaboration with it. The review of the UPR should be an opportune moment for the Government to take steps to improve the human rights record in this area of crop production and thereby reinforce the implementation of the recommendations already made in this regard by the Treaty Bodies in 2013 by the CERD<sup>[2]</sup> and in 2016 by the CESCR<sup>[3]</sup>.

We also regret that the several recommendations on the reduction of statelessness and on the right to nationality of children and adolescents of Haitian descent continue to be merely 'noted' by the Government from one cycle to the other. Civil society is working daily with hundreds of children and adolescents who are denied citizenship, and as a consequence, deprived of access to basic services, such as health care and education. It is of utmost importance that the State recognizes the existence of statelessness in the country and must work more closely with civil society in this area.

Thank you Mr. President.

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<sup>[1]</sup> n°94.67: Promote a national action plan on business enterprises and human rights (Chile)

<sup>[2]</sup> CERD/C/DOM/CO/13-14 (§14)

[\[3\]](#) E/C.12/DOM/CO/4 (§ 52, 53)