

**Declaration to the 41st session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6 – UPR outcomes on Dominican Republic
Geneva – 5th of July 2019**

Mr. President,

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

We are disappointed by the State's response to Chile's recommendation on the promotion of a national action plan on business and human rights.¹ The National Plan on Human Rights cannot replace the development of a policy strategy to protect people against human rights abuses by businesses. In the eastern region, we observe a clear climate of impunity around the violation of the rights to adequate housing, to food, to health and to a healthy environment committed by producers of crops, especially sugar cane, as well as by security forces. The country must take concrete action to combat impunity, including by ensuring that the victims have access to justice. The State should recognize the important role of civil society in monitoring the respect of human rights in this field and deepen its collaboration with it. The UPR is an opportune moment to remind the Government of the Treaty Bodies' recommendations already made in this regard in 2013 by the CERD² and in 2016 by the CESCR³.

We also regret that the recommendations on statelessness and the right to nationality of children and adolescents of Haitian descent continue to be merely 'noted' by the Government. Civil society is working daily with hundreds of children and youth who are denied citizenship, and consequently, deprived of access to basic services. It is vital that the State recognizes the existence of statelessness in the country and works more closely with civil society in this area.

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ N° 94.67: Promote a national action plan on business enterprises and human rights (Chile)

² CERD/C/DOM/CO/13-14 (§14)

³ E/C.12/DOM/CO/4 (§ 52)