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**Agenda Item 27 (a):**  
“Advancement of women”

**Statement by**  
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**Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

New York, October 12, 2010  
(Check against delivery)



Mr. Chairman,

The Dominican Republic joins the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of Chile on behalf of the Rio Group.

Our country is proud of the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet, a brilliant woman from our region, as the first Under Secretary General for UN-Women, and we are convinced that under her leadership the new entity will strengthen the United Nations capacity to support the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women in the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The Dominican Republic is proud of having a large tradition of struggle for gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women, that is why it undertook as a high honor the responsibility of serving as Headquarters of an Institution such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), to which it has provided unlimited support since 1983 until its recent dissolution, to merge into the new United Nations entity for the advancement of Women –UN-Women.

Since its creation, INSTRAW – now part of UN-Women- has been the fundamental tool in global research and training in gender issues, as a response to the needs of women to support them in their advancement, development and empowerment worldwide.

It is and will always be relevant to continue to conduct research and training globally, as mandated by INSTRAW, from a developing country like mine, which also serves as a natural ground for research on gender issues, adding to this its convenient geographical location and the reduced costs of operation that it offers.

Because we, the developing countries are the ones to confront major challenges in the advancement of women in our societies. And because that was the spirit of the General Assembly resolution when it selected INSTRAW's headquarters, to operate from a developing country, to serve the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The Dominican Republic is confident that the integration of the mandate of INSTRAW -now part of UN-Women- to the functions of the new composite entity will be effective, resulting in training and research work of greater impact, supported by an availability of predictable and generous resources and managed by an efficient and able staff.

In that spirit, the Dominican Republic trusts that these training and research functions will continue to be carried out globally from the physical installations located at the fifth centennial city of Santo Domingo, thus preserving the geographical balance promoted by the members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 during the gender reform process of System Wide Coherence.

My country is confident that the experience and knowledge accumulated by the staff of INSTRAW- now part of UN-Women- will be recognized, deserving the same category as the

rest of the UN personnel working in other agencies, considering that it has been working for many years on the basis of temporary contracts due to the lack of predictable resources.

The Dominican Republic is confident that UN-Women will raise the importance of gender issues to the same level as other priority issues for the UN system, such as development, peace, human rights and security. Towards this goal, the Dominican Republic aims to serve as a member of the Executive Board of UN Women, to fully comply with the ambitious mandate given by the General Assembly to this new body that soon will be fully operational.

Mr. Chairman,

In the Dominican Republic, the Advancement and Empowerment of Women are promoted by the Ministry of Women, by integrating a gender perspective in the promotion of equitable welfare.

Because it is not possible to attain development and improve the welfare of a society without first assuring that women improve their position in the indicators of health, education, social and political participation, economic development and employment; that is, until both men and women receive equal attention. The Government plays a key role in creating the necessary legal framework, through institutional reforms and public policies that protects and ensure equal opportunities between men and women.

Among the macroeconomic policies and development strategies to overcome the poverty of women, we can mention those applied by the National Council for Promotion and Support of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (PROMYPIME) to finance the men's and women entrepreneurship through lending and providing technical management assessment.

Also in our country we have schools and centers for vocational technical training, which are handled by various public entities where men and women are trained in various traditional and nontraditional areas. Among these, we can highlight the National Institute of Technical and Vocational Training (INFOTEP), where about 15 thousand women have been trained in nontraditional areas; the centers for comprehensive technical training of the Ministry of Women, that operates all across the country and in coordination with INFOTEP, and the vocational schools of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Chairman,

In the area of sexual and reproductive health, we would like to highlight the progress in policies applied to prevent teenage pregnancy, a major problem which prevents young women from leaving the circle of poverty, in addition to the significant advances in the legislative system, where we have a favorable framework in terms of rights.

We have also improved the access to contraceptives, and in regards to education for prevention, there has been an increase in the levels of information provided to the adolescents about their health. We should also highlight the implementation of Law 136-03, referring to the non-discharge of pregnant women from the education system.

We would like to highlight that the country has legal, regulatory and policy frameworks which

support the provision of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of women, which is gradually strengthening.

We emphasize other important developments such as the inclusion in the 2006-2015 Ten-Year Plan of the Ministry of Health as a sixth priority, the mainstreaming of gender equality throughout the National Health System, in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the recommendations of the Beijing Conference.

The Dominican Republic also promotes comprehensive measures to eliminate all forms and manifestations of violence against women, including domestic violence, abuse and sexual harassment, incest and sexual exploitation.

In order to ensure the proper operation of these mechanisms, we have developed the Norms for the Care of Victims of Violence against Women, directed towards the Units of Comprehensive Care to the victims. Also, for service providers in the area of health, we created the National Norms for the Care of cases of violence, reaching various health care facilities. In addition, the Government has local networks for the attention of Violence Against Women, with the aim of promoting coordination of actors and organizations providing services.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the efforts to combat women trafficking, smuggling of persons and irregular migration, we have the "Inter-agency Committee for the Protection of Migrant Women" (CIPROM), as a mechanism to coordinate all related government agencies on the issue of trafficking and smuggling and whose coordination is held by the Ministry of Women, as well as the National Commission against Human Trafficking, the Department of Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons.

We have jointly implemented a policy of trade and integration into international forums and organizations to Combat Trafficking in Persons, as a way to keep updated in the debate on crime, experience sharing and coordination; and the country offers support to trafficked women, treated and returned in the Integral Counseling Center (COIN), as well as legal and psychological assistance, as an inter-agency coordination policy.

The new constitution of the Dominican Republic, enacted last January 26, 2010, from its preamble to its general provisions, expressed forcefully an inclusive vision, a recognition of rights and a promise of true equality between women and men. It covers various aspects of life, such as: the principle of equality, the right of women to a life free of violence, the recognition of the productive value of domestic work and the recognition of the union, equal pay for equal labor, the popular legislative initiative, and the gender equal language in all the constitutional text.

The Dominican Republic thus hopes that gender equality becomes a reality less distant in the world. With these modest contributions, for which universalization we struggle every day in all areas of the Dominican society, we hope to get to see the day when the Dominican women occupy the place it deserves.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.