



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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FIFTH SESSION  
Of The Open-Ended Working Group  
On Ageing

**Statement by:**  
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**For the Elderly Persons**  
**CONAPE**

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**United Nations,**  
**New York**

Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic congratulates you for the excellent work performed as President and in organizing this 5th Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing, as well as the other members of the Bureau. We are confident that, under your guidance, the results of this working group will be profitable and successful.

Mr. President,

We welcome the appointment of Mrs. Rosita Kornfelda as an independent expert for the enjoyment of all rights for older people, and understand that it is the right time for her to promote the topic of older adults within the next Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Taking as reference the existing mandates, the Madrid International Plan of Action and follow-up meetings that have been taking place, we see how, despite having a well-developed and consensus instrument, the governments of the States Parties have not taken the necessary measures to allocate resources and develop public policies that guarantee the rights of the elderly.

Mr. President,

It is no secret that the world is in a phase of active and progressive aging, in some countries faster than others, but our population ages. If we do not prepare our habitat, we will not be able to assume our role against the increase in this population, further comprising, as a special feature, their vulnerability.

Having a comprehensive policy framework to serve as a basis for us to take the necessary steps and implement public policies that allows the elderly to have full enjoyment of their inalienable rights as human beings and also within the framework of their vulnerability they should have guaranteed certain concessions that allow them to enjoy the rest of their life. This, Mr. President, would be, to give people that have helped create the world we live in, a better country, a better world in which to live.

Mr. President,

Denying seniors rights such as access to credit, to health, to make decisions, to be employed, to remain an active, productive and participatory body, but also to be protected by the states, is something that we must strive to change. It was them, who were, in their productive stage, the inventors, the scientists, the expert economists, the politicians, who made today's world, the same world that is setting them aside and refuses to integrate them.

In formulating policies for development in the Dominican Republic, we give special importance to deepen the economic impact of the Older Adult Population. The economy, with the participation of this age sector, through statistical data, is more dynamic, since the dependence rate of the Elderly will decrease affecting positively the increased Gross National Product (GNP).

According to the Central Bank, by April 2014 only 10.7% of the population aged 60 or more is economically active. This reflects that the elderly participation is not being taken into account and the unemployment rate is growing ever greater.

The Elderly have the right to equality, we cannot guarantee their rights in a comprehensive manner, including them in agendas as part of a whole, we need to ensure the identification of that group, put it on the agenda of all organizations, because they are a growing population and their participation is essential for global development.

Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic maintains its original position on the inclusion, this represents a challenge for our country, and in its 2012-2016 Government plan includes the issue of a productive, participatory, active and protected Elderly Person, and this requires a change in our actions, encourage State actions seeking to create the necessary conditions for this population that seeks services and attention to a society that was not ready to assume them.

We are on the way to create a new model of care for the elderly, we have started as with any good construction, creating a solid base to add a platform of services and opportunities that will be aimed at making the older person in the Dominican Republic to actively participate in society, for us to provide opportunities to which they previously did not have the access so that they become citizens in the exercise of their rights and duties.

For this we need to be united as a whole, to be able to ensure the full compliance with the rights of the elderly, and the only way to have this is to have a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention that will allow the promotion and protection of these rights.

A specific convention would safeguard the inclusiveness of political, social and economic rights. Also, it would urge and promote to Members States public policies, framed in the paradigm of human rights.

Given this, we consider urgent the need for a legally binding international instrument to standardize the rights of older persons and to establish the mechanisms and the body to make them enforceable. Our country is committed to achieving this goal.

Mr. President,

Although the Dominican economy exhibits strengths in facing internal and external financial difficulties, social indicators show that there is prevailing hardships and gaps in the access to social services that limit opportunities to have an adequate level of human welfare and development of the elderly in our country.

Therefore, we emphasize the importance of promoting the inclusion of the issue of the elderly specifically on the Post 2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations, and therefore guarantee its inclusion in the agenda of the countries.

Thank you very much Mr. President.