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**Draft country programme document for the Dominican
Republic (2012-2016)**

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I. Situation analysis

1. The high rate of economic growth enjoyed by the Dominican Republic over the past 50 years has not translated into lower levels of poverty and inequality in the country. According to data from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development, the overall poverty rate is 24.8 per cent; the human development index value is 0.663 and the Gini coefficient is 0.504, all of which could seriously compromise the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. In recent years, significant progress has been made in designing and implementing a social protection policy that includes the “Solidarity Programme”, a targeted programme of conditional and unconditional cash transfers. However, economic inclusion of the most vulnerable citizens remains an unresolved issue in the poverty reduction strategy.

3. The National Development Strategy 2030 recognizes the challenges confronting the tax administration, which limit the economy’s capacity to generate savings and investments and the Government’s capacity to tackle poverty and spur development. Public expenditures show an increase in public debt payments and low investment in infrastructure and social services, which have a negative impact on the provision of quality public services in the areas of education and health, and create discrepancies between supply and demand for those services.

4. The reform process to modernize State operations that was initiated during the past decade has helped to improve State management. Nonetheless, the Administrative Career and Public Service Act is enforced only partially in about 10 per cent of State institutions, making it difficult to develop capacities and hence undermining the efficiency and transparency of those institutions.

5. The Democratic Security Plan, which has a crime prevention component, has been partially implemented, but its coverage needs to be expanded, an issue that remains unresolved.

6. Although the participation of youth and women in political parties has improved over the past few decades, participation mechanisms, access to leadership positions and opportunities to participate in decision-making remain inadequate. The Constitution and the Free Access to Public Information Act establish that the right to information contributes to development and strengthens participatory democracy. However, the debate on proposed legislation and public policies still needs to be expanded.

7. The Dominican Republic is a centralized country. To guarantee territorial cohesion and promote orderly, inclusive and sustainable territorial development, the National Development Strategy establishes the need to spur local development by strengthening the administrative capacities of municipalities, citizen participation and inter-institutional coordination.

8. Major social, economic and environmental development problems are concentrated on the border with Haiti. The two countries have agreed to strengthen their relations through the Binational Joint Commission, which will enable them to conduct joint reviews of the principal issues affecting the island, thereby facilitating binational dialogue and the establishment of a common agenda.

9. The country has made considerable progress towards eliminating gender inequality, with women accounting for 62 per cent of university enrolments; however, there is still a 16.6 per cent wage gap between men and women of the same age and level of education. Despite legislation stipulating a 44 per cent quota, women's political participation still stands at 20.8 per cent among parliamentarians, 9.4 per cent among senators, and 7.7 per cent among mayors. The various forms of violence against women are on the rise, as attested by data from the Attorney-General's Office (*Procuraduría General*), which show that 210 women were murdered in 2010, compared with 199 in 2009.

10. The corresponding report for 2010 of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) notes that HIV prevalence is 1.1 per cent; it is estimated at 4.8 per cent among female sex workers, and 11 per cent among homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals. Access to treatment has improved thanks to international funding, but the allocation of resources in the State budget continues to be a challenge for this sector.

11. Although 24 per cent of the national territory is protected, 69.9 per cent of it is highly vulnerable to desertification and its biodiversity is severely threatened. The effects of climate change are affecting environmental sustainability. Urban growth and development of the tourism sector have made it imperative to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable-energy sources.

12. During the hurricane season, the island is highly vulnerable to floods, which primarily affect the poorest citizens. The earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 has deepened concerns about seismic risk.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

13. The country developed its National Development Strategy with input from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the form of analyses and recommendations on social policy. Technical assistance provided to the Congress resulted in the creation of the Standing Committee on Human Development and the incorporation of a human development perspective into public policy.

14. UNDP contributed to the development of the social protection network, which benefits 94 per cent of households living in extreme poverty and 79 per cent of households living in moderate poverty, by providing grants and cash transfers through the Social Grants Payment System. In 2008, during the food and fuel crisis, UNDP helped to develop proposals, including increasing transfers under the Solidarity Programme, adjusting the minimum wage, and converting the generalized grant for liquefied gas into a targeted grant, measures that were all implemented by the Government.

15. UNDP contributed with the registration of more than 9,000 undocumented families, to enable them to obtain basic social services. It also supported the creation of the first inter-party committee to develop a common agenda for the country.

16. UNDP offered specialized technical assistance to make climate change a central theme of the national debate and to help eliminate ozone-depleting substances, resulting in the attainment of one of the MDGs five years ahead of schedule.

17. The UNDP contribution to risk management helped to reduce human, economic and environmental losses caused by natural disasters, especially in the north-eastern part of the country, where local institutions and communities have stronger recovery capacity, teams and plans. To reduce the risks caused by disaster, UNDP contributed to the execution of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Plan and capacity diagnosis and, at the request of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development, offered technical assistance for the preparation of the National Seismic Risk Reduction Plan.

18. The following lessons can be drawn from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) assessment: (a) the participation of local entities, civil society and the private sector needs to be expanded; (b) the sustainability of country-wide initiatives depends on the consultation, coordination and leadership capacity of entities operating in the country; (c) authorities at the central, municipal and local levels need to be sensitized to human rights, gender equity and the MDGs, in order to generate a higher level of commitment.

III. Proposed programme

19. The programme is intended to support the priorities set out in the National Development Strategy and UNDAF 2012-2016 to progress towards achieving the MDGs and establishing a social State governed by the rule of law, by promoting human development and supporting State institutions in order to strengthen their capacities and South-South cooperation initiatives. In coordination with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development, UNDP will carry out the following programme:

Democratic governance

20. Support development of the capacities of institutions and the principal oversight bodies (the *Cámara de Cuentas* (audit court) and the National Congress), in order to respond to growing demand within Dominican society for better social services and law enforcement, with a view to improving efficiency and transparency in public management.

21. Support implementation of the Democratic Security Plan in order to improve public safety by focusing on prevention and strengthen the response capacities of institutions, while safeguarding human rights.

22. Promote the establishment of mechanisms to integrate youth and women into political parties and decision-making bodies, by setting up think tanks and technical-support units.

23. Encourage the adoption of an integrated territorial development approach by establishing territorial networks and preparing models that promote local governance in a participatory, inclusive and equitable social and economic context, while paying special attention to development on the border with Haiti.

Social and economic inclusion

24. Support the Social Policy Coordination Office in consolidating the social protection system and improving its management and efficiency. UNDP will also support the sectoral coordination of the Office's entities and institutions, in order to

increase the effects of social programmes and pave the way for achievement of the MDGs.

25. Support the Government in implementing the new economic model used in the National Development Strategy, promoting equitable and inclusive public policies, and strengthening the redistributive functions of the State.

Empowerment and rights of women and vulnerable groups

26. Promote, in both the public and the private sectors, policies and practices that guarantee stronger economic empowerment of women and their participation in decision-making, as well as the prevention, response to and punishment of all forms of violence against women.

27. Help, together with various civil society entities, to improve the effectiveness of the HIV/AIDS response by establishing policies to protect persons living with HIV/AIDS and HIV-sensitive programmes that promote equal rights and opportunities for women, children and minority groups exposed to HIV.

Sustainable development and risk management

28. Collaborate with Government institutions and civil society entities in implementing participatory models of sustainable land-use management, paying special attention to water resources and the use of renewable-energy sources, including the binational Río Artibonito basin. The capacity to preserve biodiversity and restore degraded vulnerable ecosystems will be strengthened. UNDP will also provide advice on the development of policies, instruments and plans for sustainable environmental management, contribute to the development of capacities for adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change, and provide technical assistance for the development of policies and strategies to foster climate resilience, emissions reduction and access to carbon markets.

29. Continue to strengthen capacities for integrated risk management and to collaborate in the implementation of the National Risk Reduction Plan, paying special attention to the reduction of seismic risk and supporting the consolidation of local disaster response capacities.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

30. The programme will be executed using the national execution modality. Nonetheless, in agreement with the Government, it may also be executed directly by UNDP or non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

31. UNDP will support the implementation of joint programmes with other United Nations agencies and promote partnerships with bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation agencies, as well as decentralized cooperation with international financial institutions, NGOs and private sector entities.

32. The programme will be monitored and evaluated in accordance with the UNDP results-based management policy. Annual reviews will be conducted through UNDAF, in conjunction with other agencies of the United Nations system, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development and other partners, in order to implement the programme. The Strategic Evaluation Plan, comprising

evaluations of outcomes, projects and thematic areas, will be implemented. Funding and implementation procedures for projects executed by the Government or NGOs will be subject to an annual independent audit and compliance with the auditors' recommendations will be monitored.

33. The plan is to allocate \$61,325,000 to the programme, of which \$1,750,000 would be from regular UNDP resources and \$59,575,000 from other resources. In addition, mechanisms for South-South cooperation between countries of the region that facilitate access to high-quality technical resources and sharing of knowledge and experiences will be promoted.

Annex

Results and resources framework for the Dominican Republic (2012-2016)

<i>Contributions from governmental partner</i>	<i>Contributions from other partners</i>	<i>Contributions from UNDP</i>	<i>Indicators, baselines and targets</i>	<i>Programme outputs</i>	<i>Resources needed (United States dollars) (indicative figures)</i>
National development priority or goal: To establish an efficient, ethical, transparent and results-oriented public administration to serve the citizens and development.					
UNDAF outcomes: 1.5: By 2016, Dominicans have more efficient and effective institutions at the central and local levels and transparent accountability mechanisms. Indicator: institutional strengthening index. Baseline: 3.1. Target: 3.7. Indicator: Corruption Perception Index. Baseline: 3. Target: 4.1. 1.6: By 2016, the Dominican Republic has a justice and security system that guarantees respect of rights and law enforcement. Indicator: Effectiveness of criminal charges brought by the Public Prosecution Service. Baseline: 74 per cent. Target: 82.77 per cent. Indicator: Proportion of cases that go to trial. Baseline: 83 per cent. Target: 87 per cent. 3.5: By 2016, mechanisms are available for the social, political and institutional participation of children, adolescents and youth, in order to establish a progressive citizenry and create new leadership. Indicator: Number of public development policies that include programmes in favour of children, adolescents and youth. Baseline: 3.					
Related area of the Strategic Plan: <i>Democratic governance.</i>					
The Government will strive to enhance administrative career prospects in keeping with the principles of transparency, equality and competition. It will also make a commitment to respect the institutionality of the State and take into account territorial (provincial and municipal) concerns in applying public policies at the local level.	The European Union will support the enhancement of administrative career prospects by providing budgetary support, and civil society entities will ensure social oversight. Political parties will collaborate and demonstrate the will to change. The Territorial Planning Directorate will promote the formulation of territorial policies and law enforcement at the local level.	UNDP will assist the State in strengthening its technical capacity, introducing the Administrative Career and Public Service Act and building its capacity to institute real democracy with a focus on human development, providing specialized technical assistance. UNDP will support the implementation of a territorial legal framework, providing specialized technical assistance.	Indicator 1: Percentage of public servants who have embarked on an administrative career. Baseline: 30 per cent. Target: 70 per cent. Indicator 2: Percentage of youth between 18 and 25 years of age in leadership positions in political parties, with gender equity. Baseline: To be determined. Target: To be determined. Indicator 3: Citizens Security Observatory created and in operation. Baseline: None. Target: Established and in operation. Indicator 4: Number of public policies focusing on gender equity and human development evaluated and approved by the Congress. Baseline: 1. Target: 5.	1. The technical and management capacities of State institutions have improved with the enforcement of the Administrative Career and Public Service Act; 2. The integration of youth into leadership and decision-making positions in the political parties is improving; 3. Implementation of the Democratic Security Plan is supported; 4. The capacity of the Congress and the audit court to effectively monitor the execution of the national budget is improving; 5. The national capacity to adopt public policies focusing on gender equity and human development is increasing;	Regular resources: 650 000 (TRAC ¹ 1, 2, 3) Other resources: 16 100 000

¹ TRAC= target for resources assignment from the core.

Contributions from governmental partner	Contributions from other partners	Contributions from UNDP	Indicators, baselines and targets	Programme outputs	Resources needed (United States dollars) (indicative figures)
			<p>Indicator 5: Number of territorial development councils created. Baseline: 0. Target: 30.</p> <p>Indicator 6: Number of project proposals developed. Baseline: 0. Target: 20.</p>	<p>6. Implementation of the territorial legal framework for the creation of provincial development councils is supported;</p> <p>7. The management capacity of the Binational Joint Commission is improving.</p>	
<p>National development priority or objective: To protect vulnerable groups and encourage their social inclusion; reduce and mitigate poverty through an efficient and effective social protection system; guarantee, by consolidating the National Health System, access to comprehensive, friendly and quality health-care services focusing on health promotion and disease prevention.</p> <p>UNDAF outcomes: 1.2: By 2016, the poor have equal opportunities thanks to sustainable economic growth. Indicator: Percentage of indigent population. Baseline: 10.1 per cent. Target: 7.6 per cent. Indicator: Number of regions where more than 5 per cent of the population lives below the national extreme poverty line. Baseline: 10. Target: 8. 1.4: By 2016, Dominicans, especially vulnerable groups, have better access to comprehensive, quality health services, within a framework of inclusive policies focusing on human rights. Indicator: Percentage of beneficiaries who are satisfied with the quality of care received. Baseline: No data available. Related area of the Strategic Plan: <i>Social and economic inclusion.</i></p>					
The Government will implement the policies and plans established in the National Development Strategy, to increase the participation of all public entities connected with social and economic policies.	International financial institutions will support the Government and UNDP to increase the effects of social policies.	UNDP will contribute to national capacity-building in order to enhance the impact of social and public policies designed to make public spending more efficient and taxation more equitable.	<p>Indicator 1: Number of grant programmes incorporated into the Social Grants Payment System between 2012 and 2016. Baseline: 9. Target: 10.</p> <p>Indicator 2: Number of primary health-care centres renovated and in operation. Baseline: 0. Target: 126.</p> <p>Indicator 3: Tax revenue monitoring system. Baseline: 5: None. Target 5: The system has been established and is in operation.</p>	<p>1. The scope, efficiency, transparency and effectiveness of the social protection system and access by the population to quality health services have improved;</p> <p>2. The tax revenue monitoring system is being established.</p>	<p>Regular resources: 650 000 (TRAC 1, 2, 3)</p> <p>Other resources: 15 250 000</p>

Contributions from governmental partner	Contributions from other partners	Contributions from UNDP	Indicators, baselines and targets	Programme outputs	Resources needed (United States dollars) (indicative figures)
National development priority or objective: To create a culture of gender equality and equity.					
UNDAF outcomes: 2.1: By 2016, women have equal opportunities to access the labour market, and progress is being made to guarantee the rights of female workers in the informal sector of the economy. Indicator: Discrepancy in the employment rates between men and women. Baseline: 0.54 per cent. Target: 0.65 per cent. 2.3: By 2016, the State and society have made progress towards raising public awareness and establishing effective instruments to prevent and combat violence against women. Indicator: Number of cases of gender-based violence recorded. Baseline: 75,000. Target: To be determined. 1.1: By 2016, vulnerable groups of the Dominican population are closer to being able to exercise their rights without discrimination. Indicator: Number of policies and laws focusing on the rights of vulnerable groups that are being implemented. Baseline: No data available. Target: To be determined. Indicator 4: By 2016, improved access by Dominicans, especially vulnerable groups, to comprehensive, quality health services, within the framework of inclusive public policies focusing on human rights. Indicator: Proportion of persons living with HIV and receiving antiretroviral drug therapy. Baseline: 76 per cent. Target: 90.5 per cent. Related area of the Strategic Plan: <i>Empowerment and rights of women and vulnerable groups.</i>					
The State will review the Penal Code and Act No. 24-97, promote and support practices that guarantee gender equity in public institutions and private sector entities, and make progress in protecting the most vulnerable groups.	Civil society organizations, women's groups, trans groups, UN-Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNAIDS, the European Union and the Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID) will support concrete actions, initiatives for vulnerable groups and measures for preventing, responding to and punishing violence against women. NGOs, private enterprises and the European Union will support training and will provide resources.	Policies and practices that guarantee stronger empowerment of women and prevention, response to and punishment of violence and discrimination against women will be promoted. Contributions will be made to enhance the effectiveness of the national HIV/AIDS response, in particular, through better social protection and fuller realization of the human rights of the most vulnerable groups.	Indicator 1: Increase in the number of enterprises participating in the Equity Seal initiative. Baseline 1: 9. Target 1: 20. Indicator 2: National plan for preventing, responding to and punishing gender-based violence. Baseline 2: Not applicable; Target 2: The Plan is being implemented. Indicator 3: Social security regulation that provides for the inclusion of antiretroviral therapy and testing for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Baseline: None. Target: A social security regulation is in effect. Indicator 4: System for monitoring and evaluating the country's coordination mechanism. Baseline: None. Target: A monitoring and evaluation system has been established.	1. Instruments for the certification of gender equality are being applied in the public and private sectors; 2. Technical assistance is being provided for the development of national capacity to monitor gender-based violence. 3. The capacity to provide quality health services is being improved, with priority given to groups most exposed to HIV/AIDS and their human rights.	Regular resources: 125 000 (TRAC 1, 2, 3) Other resources: 1 325 000

Contributions from governmental partner	Contributions from other partners	Contributions from UNDP	Indicators, baselines and targets	Programme outputs	Resources needed (United States dollars) (indicative figures)
National development priority or objective: Sustainable environmental management, efficient and integrated risk management and appropriate adaptation to climate change.					
UNDAF outcomes: 4.1: By 2016, the State and civil society participate in and benefit from sustainable environmental management. Indicator: Percentage of vegetation cover. Baseline: 28.4 per cent. Target: 35 per cent. Indicator: Percentage of protected areas, with efficient management. Baseline: 10.6 per cent. Target: 100 per cent. 4.2: By 2016, the Dominican Republic has strengthened its climate change mitigation and adaptation capacity. Indicator: CO ₂ emissions in metric tons per capita. Baseline: 2.0 metric tons per capita. Target: Should not exceed 3.2 metric tons per capita. 4.3: By 2016, the Dominican Republic has reduced the effects of disasters on the population and strengthened its capacity to manage risks in a coordinated and integrated manner. Indicator: Existence of national, institutional and legal policies and frameworks for integrated risk management. Baseline: 3. Related areas of the Strategic Plan: <i>Sustainable development and risk management.</i>					
The State will effectively implement sustainable environmental management, risk prevention and emergency response policies.	Civil society entities will be responsible for monitoring and providing technical cooperation and operational support for the effective implementation of policies, plans and projects. Agencies of the United Nations system will collaborate in risk management, providing technical assistance, and support for monitoring, evaluation and mobilization of resources.	UNDP will assist in strengthening the capacity of the Dominican Republic as an island State, in the formulation of policies, instruments and actions for progressing towards sustainable development, reducing vulnerability to disaster, and mitigating the effects of climate change, under equitable conditions.	<p>Indicator 1: Sustainable land-use management plans are formulated and executed at the municipal level. Baseline 1: 1. Target 1: 5.</p> <p>Indicator 2: Number of environmental compensation and financing mechanisms established. Baseline 2: 2. Target 3: 5.</p> <p>Indicator 3: The national climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy is formulated and approved by the Presidential Council on Climate Change. Baseline 4: 0. Target 4: 1.</p> <p>Indicator 5: Number of community micro-hydroelectric stations installed and operational. Baseline 5: 6. Target 5: 30.</p> <p>Indicator 6: Number of local disaster prevention, mitigation and response committees established and in operation. Baseline 6: 25. Target 6: 34.</p> <p>Indicator 7: A national seismic risk reduction plan is formulated. Baseline: 0. Target: 1.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Binational models for sustainable land management that is respectful of the ecosystem are implemented; 2. Plans of action and strategies for achieving the goals set out in multilateral agreements on sustainable development are established; 3. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are implemented; 4. Support for the implementation of the National Risk Reduction Plan, with special attention to seismic risk reduction; 5. Instruments are established to strengthen the disaster response capacity. 	<p>Regular resources: 325 000 (TRAC 1, 2, 3)</p> <p>Other resources: 26 900 000</p>