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**Draft country programme document for the Dominican Republic
(2007-2011)***

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* The collection of data required to present the Executive Board with the most current information has delayed submission of the present document.



Introduction

1. This document takes into account the strategies and policies of the Government and the input from civil society. It is based on the common country assessment, 2005, and the 2006 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), both of which were prepared by agencies in the United Nations system with missions in the country, as well as the “2005 general outline for a development strategy”, prepared by the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, the report entitled “Ten years for action, needs and costs for achieving the 2005 Millennium Development Goals”, prepared by the Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES) and the agencies of the United Nations system represented in the country, the National Human Development Report, 2005 and the “Dominican Republic poverty reduction strategy”, prepared by the National Planning Office (ONAPLAN) in 2003.

2. In August 2004, a new Government took office, with a mandate to tackle the serious economic crisis and responsibility for redressing a large accumulated social debt. The President promised to pursue a development agenda in order to reduce the social deficit and bring the country into the knowledge-based community, reducing the digital divide. Taking this agenda into account, this programme attempts to tackle the principal problems afflicting Dominican society and efficiently organize cooperation with the Government, the United Nations system, civil society organizations and other strategic partners.

I. Situation analysis

3. During the 1990s, the Dominican Republic enjoyed sustained economic growth of 5.6 per cent as a result of the increase in tourism and the creation of free trade zones. Since 2000, various internal and external factors have created a need to rethink the Dominican economic model, from a structural as well as a cyclical viewpoint.

4. The existing model was unable to combine growth and equity and thus generated a sizeable social debt, compounded by the effects of the economic crisis of 2003-2004 resulting from the collapse of three of the financial system’s principal banks, which led to a decline of 20 per cent in GDP. In a controversial decision, the Government took over all liabilities, resulting in the creation of a quasi-fiscal debt that required the intervention of the International Monetary Fund and emergency lending by international agencies. This bank rescue operation substantially reduced investment in priority projects and is affecting all macroeconomic policy as regards investment in social spending.

5. The country has traditionally suffered from institutional weakness that facilitated and tolerated high levels of corruption and impunity and inefficient resource management, which all impedes the attainment of sustainable human development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

6. The country is preparing to introduce far-reaching reforms, including amendment of the Constitution of the Republic, adoption of legislation on the financing of political parties, municipal decentralization, and a set of laws required to meet the requirements of DR-CAFTA. All these reforms are designed to strengthen democracy and public civic activity. In addition to these strengthening

measures, the Government must be modernized so that these laws can be enforced and efficient accountability arrangements put in place.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

7. The activities of the UNDP Office for the 2002-2006 programme focused on four themes: (i) democratic governance; (ii) poverty reduction; (iii) energy and environment; and (iv) HIV/AIDS. The UNDP Office's support activity was crucial with regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Dominican Republic was the only middle-income country to be selected for the Millennium Project as a pilot country for a needs and cost assessment. The UNDP Office, together with the other agencies of the United Nations system represented in the country, supported the Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES) in the coordination of the preparatory process for the first needs assessment and cost analysis for attainment of the MDGs by 2015. Subsequently, in 2006, the UNDP Office spearheaded the application of the methodology for direct needs assessment and cost analysis for the MDGs in the province of El Seibo, selected as "Millennium Village". It should be noted that it was possible to create, apply and validate an assessment methodology of proven effectiveness at the provincial level.

8. The UNDP Office helped with national capacity-building for the formulation and pursuit of government policies geared to the achievement of the MDGs and nation-wide poverty analysis by the National Planning Office (ONAPLAN), and by supporting the design of a Standardized System of Beneficiaries (SIUBEN) to provide an individual focus and of ground-breaking programmes such as "Eating first" and "Incentives for school attendance". In addition, an "Atlas of Dominican poverty" was prepared in cooperation with the World Bank and ONAPLAN. Mention should be made of the creation in 2003 of the Human Development Office as a think tank to promote the concept of human development, and of the publication of the National Human Development Report, 2005.

9. The actions to enhance democratic governance gave priority to the modernization and reform of Government, by building national management capacities, with the goal of improving performance in the light of new national and international realities. In addition, support was given for the upgrading of government agencies to improve the processes of government modernization and democratization.

10. With regard to the environment and disaster management, continuing support was provided for the programmes for modernization of the National System of Protected Areas, and for the decentralization of management of its components and linking of these processes in neighbouring communities. The action taken by UNDP in conjunction with civil society organizations allowed a rapid and targeted response to mitigate the damage caused by the successive natural disasters that occurred in the south (Jimaní, 2004) and north of the country (2005).

11. Support was provided to the Presidential AIDS Council (COPRESIDA) for the updating of the National Strategic Plan and national and local capacity-building for the implementation of programmes to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS.

12. It was considered important to identify the key players or entities prior to programme formulation, so as to maximize results and guarantee long-term impact by creating effective links between central and local government agencies, civil society organizations and grassroots organizations directly involved in the programmes. The empowerment of all the sectors concerned and their involvement in the projects and programmes were decisive in order to guarantee the best results.

13. It is clear that the turnover of the staff in public office complicates national capacity-building and jeopardizes the long-term effectiveness of programmes. The need for the UNDP Office to strengthen interagency coordination was also apparent. In this connection, the signature of the UNDAF is an important step forward.

III. Proposed programme

14. The common country assessment revealed several possibilities for cooperation, which were divided into four main priority areas for the period 2007-2011: (i) democratic governance; (ii) equitable growth and development; (iii) quality social services for all; and (iv) sustainable environmental management and risk management in emergency and disaster situations. The proposed programme reflects the UNDAF outcomes and supports the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the Government's poverty reduction policy.

15. *Democratic governance*: UNDP will collaborate in the reform of legal frameworks in order to achieve modernization of Government institutions. In addition, programmes will be devised to strengthen municipal and administrative decentralization and special support will be given to the programme to strengthen the system of political parties. Security will continue to be a focus, especially as regards the creation of new legal frameworks to protect security and the strengthening of the Ministry of the Interior and Police and of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

16. *Equitable growth and development*: UNDP will collaborate in the formulation of a Nation Project involving the political parties and the public, through collaborative processes. There will be opportunities for dialogue and debate so as to make the national agenda focus on problems of economic growth, competitiveness and job creation, considered from the viewpoint of human development. The Government will be helped to design a system for tax collection and efficient public spending. Observatories of fiscal and social policy will be created to provide ongoing monitoring of the principal economic variables and of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

17. *Quality social services for all*: Support will continue to be provided to strengthen the role of the Social Cabinet as coordinator of social policies, promoting public policies to benefit the poorest sectors. Strong support will be given to the National Statistical Office. UNDP will cooperate to improve the management of the education system and of the national health system, with particular focus on projects designed to promote efficiency at the managerial, operational and technical levels of the institutions involved.

18. *Sustainable environmental management and risk management*: Assistance will be given to national capacity-building to establish a national system of disaster prevention, planning and response. With regard to environmental issues, it is hoped

that projects can be executed that will encourage sustainable management practices for land in the two water basins, one of which (Artibonito) has a binational component. The management capacities of the National System of Protected Areas will be strengthened. Special attention will be given to the production of renewable energy and the execution of projects that help to preserve water resources and to guarantee the availability of drinking water, as well as its more equitable and balanced distribution.

19. The activities of the UNDP Office will be adjusted to the level of the relationship established with the Dominican Government. This relationship is based on mutual recognition of competences, weaknesses and strengths, within a framework of cooperation and transparency. The UNDP Office understands that its success or failure depends basically on the effective participation of civil society organizations in the formulation, design and application of strategies and programmes for national and local capacity-building. Interagency participation will be encouraged in order to minimize costs and avoid duplication of effort, and in order to share enriching experiences to promote the attainment of the goals set.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

20. For most of its cooperation activities in the Dominican Republic, the UNDP Office will adopt the modality of national execution. However, as regards disaster prevention and environmental management, at the request of the Dominican Government and because the country does not yet have the necessary arrangements in place, the UNDP Office will act as executing agency for some projects. Following the drafting of the country programme, the Office is preparing the action plan for the country programme, concluded with the Dominican Government, describing the arrangements for execution not only of the programme but also of its component projects.

21. In accordance with UNDP monitoring and evaluation strategy, using results-based management, a final evaluation will be made of the country programme. The evaluation structure and approach will reflect the overall UNDAF. Programme outputs will be analysed in the light of the targets set, using established indicators.

22. During the programme cycle, annual reports will be prepared on the strategic planning results. Outputs and activities will be monitored for each project by means of reports, follow-up meetings, on-site visits, analysis of administrative agreements and budget control.

23. For the period 2007-2011, it is planned to allocate \$1,750,000 from regular resources. In addition, the UNDP Office will work with the Government to create financing partnerships in order to mobilize additional resources.

Annex

Results and resources framework for the Dominican Republic (2007-2011)

Programme component	Programme outcomes	Programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Resources (thousands of dollars)
UNDAF outcome: By 2011, democratic governance is enhanced: reform and modernization of Government, decentralization and strengthening of public civic action, in order to achieve greater transparency, zero tolerance of corruption, respect for human rights, greater social involvement and gender equity.				
Democratic governance	1. Sustainable government policies and capacities to promote the rule of law in the context of human rights, gender equality and reduction of disparity, at the central and local level.	1.1 Improved access to justice. 1.2 National capacity-building to enhance public security.	1. Increase in the number of people at the lowest socio-economic level who have used the judicial system. 2. Creation of a legal framework for public security.	Other 300 000 Regular 100 000 Other 1 500 000
	2. Stronger civil society and political parties, so that the public is able to demand respect for human rights and to participate in social, political and economic management machinery.	2.1 Stronger system of political parties and civil society. 2.2 Stronger news media, which are more impartial and socially committed.	1. Several activities in support of the adoption of legislation on political parties. ... 2. News media receive and disseminate United Nations material and communications concerning human rights, gender and human development.	Other 600 000 Other 200 000
	3. Stronger Government, at the central and local levels, and greater management efficiency, equity and transparency for the attainment of the MDGs.	3.1 Government institutions at the central and local levels have more efficient and transparent structures and machinery. 3.2 A legal and regulatory framework for decentralization has been created and put into effect.	1. Budget execution follow-up and evaluation machinery has been designed and put into operation. 2. Local development agendas have been formulated and put into practice in strategic municipalities with public participation. 3. A legal framework has been created.	Regular 200 000 Other 200 000 Regular 50 000 Other 150 000

National priority or goal: Modernization of the economy/Correct international insertion. UNDAF outcome: By 2011, a new economic, social and institutional development model that is inclusive, sustainable and decentralized and provides for increased social investment and creation of suitable employment, as well as more efficient use of resources to attain the MDGs.				
Attaining the MDGs and reducing poverty	1. Development model suited to the new international issues in the context of human development.	1.1 Proposals for policies and activities designed to make public spending more efficient and taxation fairer. 1.2 Proposals to increase competitiveness. 1.3 A national employment policy has been developed and implemented, with evaluation and follow-up. 1.4 The Dominican private sector has been made aware of its social responsibility. 1.5 A human development model from a nation-wide perspective has been proposed.	1. Social spending monitoring report. 2. Several proposals generated. 1. Harmonized national competitiveness plan with the participation of all social sectors. 2. Definition and approval of national employment policies. 3. Progress report on the Global Compact. 4. Several human development projects designed and being executed.	Other 1 500 000 Regular 50 000 Other 250 000 Regular 50 000 Other 550 000 Other 1 000 000 Regular 250 000 Other 4 750 000

National priority or goal: Social and territorial cohesion. UNDAF outcome: By 2011, better quality and management of social services and increased access to and use of them, encouraging their sustainability, as well as protection and promotion of human rights.				
Provision of social services and protection of human rights	1. Strengthened capacity, at local and central levels, for the increase and sustainability of social investment and efficient budget allocation and utilization for the attainment of the MDGs.	1.1 Leading institutions have a national system of data on public spending and social policies and services. 1.2 The role of the Social Cabinet as coordinator of social policy has been strengthened.	1. National accounts by sector that include thematic areas geared to the attainment of the MDGs. 2. The SUIBEN is universally used to target spending. 3. A system of physical financial tracking is used. 4. National instruments are systematically used to target social spending.	Other 400 000 Regular 150 000 Other 1 850 000
	2. Enhanced capacity, at central and local levels, to guarantee quality, accessibility and management of social services.	2.1 Central and local levels have statistical systems and disaggregated data on the MDGs. 2.2 A population policy has been formulated, based on enhancement of the civil registry and of vital statistics. 2.3 Strengthened coordination of the national health system. 2.4 Strengthened early childhood education and basic education services. 2.5 Enhanced accessibility, quality and management of social welfare services.	1. Reports have been produced on MDG financing and monitoring. 2. The national statistical system has been established. 3. The population policy has been formulated. 4. Allocations for health care and provincial hospitals have increased. 5. Budget execution has been enhanced. 6. The Social Welfare Network has been coordinated.	Regular 50 000 Other 350 000 Regular 35 000 Other 165 000 Regular 200 000 Other 8 300 000 Regular 100 000 Other 1 900 000 Regular 50 000 Other 950 000

	3. Enhanced political commitment and national capacity to guarantee the right of all to HIV/AIDS prevention services and to care for infected or affected persons.	<p>1.1 Enhanced national capacity for the formulation and effective application of government policies and regulations focusing on human rights.</p> <p>1.2 Civil society and vulnerable groups have capacity to participate actively in implementation of the National Strategic Plan.</p> <p>1.3 Enhanced monitoring and evaluation machinery for compliance with regulations on HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>1. Several civil society organizations currently involved in the National Strategic Plan.</p> <p>2. COPRESIDA has a capacity-building plan for implementation of the National Strategic Plan.</p> <p>3. Several organizations have received HIV/AIDS training and training in the planning, design and management of related projects.</p> <p>4. Several civil society organizations trained in mobilization and proper management of financial resources, including monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>5. Several municipalities have participatory municipal councils responsible for social oversight.</p>	<p>Regular 150 000</p> <p>Other 9 850 000</p> <p>Other 500 000</p> <p>Regular 50 000</p> <p>Other 450 000</p>
<p>National priority or goal: Social and territorial cohesion.</p> <p>UNDAF outcome: By 2011, national and local policies and capacities for environmental protection and sustainable environmental management, including risk management and emergency and disaster response.</p>				
Crisis prevention and recovery	1. Strengthened national risk management system, including a prevention and preparedness strategy and a national response plan for emergency and disaster situations.	<p>1.1 Data systems exist on natural disaster risks.</p> <p>1.2 The country has an efficient, appropriate and decentralized response to natural disasters.</p> <p>1.3 Preventive measures are in place to reduce the country's vulnerability to natural disasters.</p>	<p>1. Mapping of risks and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>2. Early warning bulletins provided to Area Committees.</p> <p>3. Communities at risk have contingency and emergency plans.</p> <p>4. Strengthened refugee facilities in the north-east.</p> <p>5. Emergency radio network.</p> <p>6. Fewer forest fires.</p>	<p>Regular 100,000</p> <p>Other 1 500 000</p> <p>Regular 70,000</p> <p>Other 2 200 000</p> <p>Regular 55 000</p> <p>Other 3 000 000</p>

Energy and environmental management for sustainable development	2. Enhanced national capacity for environmental management.	2.1 Sustainable management practices for land in two water basins.	1. Several models of sustainable land management (environmental, social and financial) have been created and can be replicated.	Regular 40 000
		2.2 There is a plan to sensitize and train the public.	2. Increased number of projects with NGOs and grassroots organizations complying with the environmental guidelines of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).	Other 10 160 000
		2.3 There is a National System of Protected Areas, which is an integral part of local and national development.	3. At least 23.8% of land surface and 11% of sea surface are maintained as part of the National System of Protected Areas.	Other 4 300 000
		2.4 Enhanced national capacity for the implementation of international treaties.	4. At least 25% of the protected areas have management plans.	Regular 100 000
		2.5 Enhanced national capacity for the sustainable use of renewable sources of energy.	5. Reports have been submitted on compliance with existing treaties and accountability.	Other 4 900 000
			6. Several units for the monitoring and coordination of multilateral environmental treaties have been established and strengthened and are operational.	Other 2 300 000
			7. Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) indicators.	Other 1 000 000