

UNID@S POR LA JUSTICIA GLOBAL



People's Assembly for Social Justice 2023

Civil Society Declaration on the SDG Midpoint

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the different structural inequalities that exist in the Dominican Republic, which has had an impact on the increase in poverty levels, deficiencies in access to public services (especially in the health, education, and social assistance sectors), the increase in the digital gender divide and the multiple manifestations of violence against women. People vulnerable as migrants, in conditions of disability, sexual diversity, women and girls, peasants and inhabitants in border areas, suffer more acutely the social and economic consequences of the above.

It is in this context that we are approaching the mid-term review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have experienced significant setbacks that hinder their achievement, locally and globally. After a process of dialogue and listening on the current state of the implementation of the SDGs in the country, carried out within the framework of the *Week for Global Action for the SDGs 2023*, from the Dominican civil society, formed in the *Popular Assembly for Social Justice*, we demand the national government, in the person of His Excellency Mr. President, **Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona**, the following:

SOCIAL PROTECTION

- **Accessibility:** Access for all people in Dominican territory to quality basic social services, especially those in the field of health and those that guarantee food security in rural communities.
- **Universal health coverage:** Provision of quality health services without discrimination of any kind and timely coverage of high-cost medicines. Likewise, the supply of equipment, personnel, supplies and medicines for the existing Primary Care Units (UNAP) since they intervene in the first line of response in the prevention of diseases and their treatment.
- **Universal vaccination:** Develop a national vaccination plan accessible to all people, starting from an approach of inclusiveness and prevention of diseases and epidemics, especially in the most remote communities, border towns and the most unprotected areas in the health system.

HUMAN RIGHTS

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- **Guarantee and promotion of fundamental rights:** Institutionality and public policies for the guarantee, promotion, and protection of the human rights of all persons, as established in the Dominican Constitution and in different international instruments ratified by the country. Consider above all the needs and deficiencies that afflict vulnerable populations.
- **Comprehensive sexuality education:** Design, planning, implementation, and monitoring of a national strategy for comprehensive sexuality education, as a state response to reduce the high rates of adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality, while being a measure to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and infections. Ensure the gender approach and inclusiveness as cross-cutting aspects.
- **Approval of the 3 Grounds:** Promote and legislatively approve the right of women to decide whether or not to continue with a pregnancy in three extreme situations: 1) When this is the result of rape or incest; 2) When it represents a threat to the life of the pregnant woman and; 3) When the product has no possibility of being viable due to malformations incompatible with its survival, such as the absence of vital organs, lack of brain, among others.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

- **Fiscal justice and public debt:** Implementation of a fair and equitable tax system, where those who earn pay more and have more, while ensuring that the budget is invested in policies that respond to the real needs of the population. Likewise, ensure transparency around decisions and data on public debt, in view of its impact on the national budget and the creation/increase of taxes, which increases the cost of living and is detrimental to access and quality of basic services for the population.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Climate** and environmental justice: We proclaim: a) The definition of a clear policy on solid waste management, as well as a firm response against the clearing of our forests, the destruction of mangroves and any exploitation of natural resources that harms environmental and social sustainability; (b) Reducing the use of chemicals such as pesticides in agriculture, as they poison our land and damage our health; c) Take into account the proposals made by civil society for the regulation of the extractive industry, with a view to avoiding pollution and favoring the eradication of any negative impact on our rivers, forests and communities; d) Strong State response to the illegal

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installation of energy production barges, which harm the marine ecosystem and threaten the environment. Special attention to what happened in the province of Azua, where a fuel spill recently occurred on the beach of Los Negros; (e) To promote, from the State, programs, and projects on training in solid waste management and on the formulation of effective and efficient public policies in the face of the illegal capture of protected bird species and visual and auditory pollution.

- **End of the use of fossil fuels:** a) Comprehensive revision of the hydrocarbons law No. 112-00, incorporating the necessary modifications for the use of sustainable alternatives that enable the elimination of fossil fuels and promote the use of other types of energy friendly to the environment; (b) Effectively and efficiently regulate the exploitation of hydrocarbons, in order to protect the environment and provide a legal framework that responds to the concerns of civil society, in harmony with international best practices contextualized locally; (c) Vigorously sanction, administratively and judicially, the illegal installation of energy production barges, whose fuel spills and waste production represent a serious danger to marine ecosystems.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

- **End of wars:** advocate, from the corresponding international spaces and instruments, for the cessation of the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
- **Migration policy:** Design and implementation of a clear migration policy with a human rights approach, which protects all migrants without discrimination, especially during repatriation processes and in their previous phase.

SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

- 1- National Confederation of Rural Women (CONAMUCA).
- 2- Research Center for Women's Action (CIPAF).
- 3- RDESDETODES.
- 4- Los Botao Neighborhood Council.
- 5- Juanito Peace Association.
- 6- Women's Association Province La Altagracia.
- 7- United Voices Youth Network.

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- 8- Asociación de Jóvenes Sembrando Futuro (ASOJESF).
- 9- Women's Association God Will Say.
- 10- Association of New Life Producers.
- 11- Puente Bolón Neighborhood Council.
- 12- Borinquen Women's Group.
- 13- Coordinator of Federations of Elías Piña.
- 14- Elías Piña Youth Network.
- 15- San Cristóbal Primary Care Unit.
- 16- La Milagrosa Neighborhood Council.
- 17- La Altagracia Association.
- 18- La Esperanza Association.
- 19- Federation of Rural Women (FEMUCASC).
- 20- Federation of Peasant Women of El Llano (FEMUCALLA).
- 21- Sororo Space Look at sky.
- 22- Mana Women's Association.
- 23- Association of Women of Hato Viejo.
- 24- Board of Neighbors of El Llano.
- 25- Saint Lucia Women's Association.
- 26- Fishermen's Cooperative (CONESPLAS).
- 27- Mamá Tingó Women's Board.
- 28- Foundation of Women Entrepreneurs of San Cristóbal.
- 29- Women's Federation of Nice.
- 30- Board of Neighbors of Los Yagrumos.

In the city of Santo Domingo, National District, capital of the Dominican Republic, on the first day (1st) of September of the year two thousand twenty-three (2023).