



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
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The Embassy of the Dominican Republic presents its compliments to the honorable members of the Congressional Black Caucus and has the honor to inform that representatives of the governments of the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic met on Monday February 3, 2014 in the border town of Jimaní, Dominican Republic. Representatives of the governments of the Dominican Republic and Haiti made important advances in the second meeting of the Dominican Republic-Haiti High Level Bilateral Commission, which began on January 7, 2014.

This second meeting consolidates the good momentum of the relations between the two countries and the willingness to deepen cooperation in priority areas of the bilateral agenda.

Representatives from *both delegations recognized and positively assessed the progress made and the willingness of the commissioners.*

The meeting was attended by international representatives, of the European Union (EU); the United Nations (UN); among others, who thanked both countries for supporting their work.

The discussed bilateral agenda focused on the measures agreed on customs, agriculture, security, migration and the environment. In this regard, the countries signed agreements between their institutions for customs, agriculture, migration, environment and fight against drug trafficking.

Also, both sides agreed to a Plan of Cooperation between police corps. The cooperation plan has six pillars, including: training, exchange of intelligence, criminal investigation, search and capture of fugitives and joint operations. Likewise, both countries proceeded to the signing of an interagency agreement between the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) and the Haitian National Police to counter drug trafficking.

In addressing the issue of immigration, the Dominican representatives announced three advances in this topic:

1. Details of the implementation of the "National Plan for regularization of foreigners";
2. Enactment of a new type of visa for workers; and
3. Results of the review of the rules and practice governing Haitian students, including free visa and freedom of entry and exit without any additional cost.

The Dominican Republic confirmed its intention of submitting to Congress as of February 27, 2014, at the beginning of the new term, a special law to address the situation of those born in the Dominican Republic who currently do not have any documentation.

Meanwhile, the Haitian government reaffirmed its commitment to expedite the issuance of passports and its national civil registration in both border posts and consulates in the Dominican Republic.

Both countries were particularly pleased to have for the first time reached an agreement to allow the coordination and exchange of information between the customs authorities and the interconnection of the SIGA-SYDONIA systems.

The last issue was related to environmental conversations. In this case a protocol of understanding was also signed to formally reiterate the commitment of the two countries to the protection of natural resources.

Moreover, the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic decided to foster communication through the establishment of a binational observatory that will be funded by the European Union. Integrated by universities and civil society organizations of both countries, it will function as an area of research, analysis and participation in the mechanisms of dialogue between the two nations, such as the Joint Bilateral Commission.

Regarding the Bilateral Joint Commission, both parties recognized the need to play a leading role in the implementation and monitoring of agreed issues, meet regularly and produce the necessary inputs for the subsequent high-level meetings.

The main novelty of the meeting was the incorporation of the private sector in both countries, which reached important agreements. Both countries held this participation as a sign of deepening the dialogue between different binational sectors.

Following the signing of the joint statement, both countries proceeded to the signing of separate agreements between the ministers of agriculture, environment, customs directors, heads of the police and drug forces and the private sector.

The next meeting of the High Level Dialogue will be held on March 12 in Haiti.

The Embassy of the Dominican Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the honorable members of the Congressional Black Caucus the assurances of its highest consideration.



Washington, DC
February 4, 2014