

Country: Dominican Republic

Committee: ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council)

Agenda Item: Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women in Developing Economies



The Dominican Republic is a Caribbean nation that shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. It's also close to Puerto Rico on the east. We're the Antilles' second largest nation in terms of area and population, with about 11.5 million citizens in 2025. Our economy is actually the largest in the Caribbean and seventh largest in Latin America. Over the past two decades or so, our economy has grown quite significantly—mainly because of tourism, mining, construction, and factories. We even have one of the world's biggest gold mines. And on top of that, we're the most visited place in the Caribbean. Our capital city, Santo Domingo, is also full of history, such as the first cathedral and palace ever built in the Americas. Now, while our country has been doing well in many ways, we still recall what it's like to cope with adversity—especially when it comes to making sure everyone benefits from progress.

Of the biggest issues that still exist, not just for us but for the majority of developing countries, is gender inequality. If women are not afforded equal opportunities as men, then everything gets delayed. It's not just not fair—it's a real issue for economic development, human rights, and just straight-up fairness in society. Problems like restricted access to education, reduced employment opportunities, and gender-based violence against women still impede women, especially in regions where development is taking place. The Dominican Republic believes that this is a serious issue that needs real action. Our government has already started addressing it through initiatives like the Ministry of Women, which has implemented national plans like PLANEG II to ensure equality. These plans focus on giving women better access to education, leadership roles, and fair job opportunities. We've also helped women start small businesses by giving out microloans with programs like Banca Solidaria. On top of that, we've passed stronger laws to protect women from violence and made support systems to help victims. We're not perfect, but we're absolutely doing everything in our

power to make sure women are heard, seen, and included in the future of our country. Solution-wise, we think it's going to take more than one thing. For one, women need money support—not aid, but real opportunities to earn, lead, and grow. Programs like Banca Solidaria have enabled women in our country to become businesswomen and sustain their families.

Other countries may also benefit from something similar. ECOSOC could help such microfinance projects to give women in developing economies the tools they require to succeed. Education is not unimportant either. We should focus on helping women and girls gain skills, especially in areas like technology, leadership, and entrepreneurship. These are not "nice to haves" but essentials for today's world. At the same time, we cannot ignore the issue of security either. Violence against women keeps too many women from being all they can be, and that must end. Laws have to be made stronger, and countries must make provision for such support mechanisms like we have created here with separate units for the victims. Last of all, we think collaboration is the solution. ECOSOC could help in setting up platforms where countries share concepts that were successful, and even co-coordinate on gender-specific projects. And in any case, facts speak louder than words. A lot of countries aren't even sure how bad the gaps are, so we need better statistics in order to spot areas of greatest need and remedy them. In conclusion, the Dominican Republic realizes how important it is to engage women in all phases of development. We're dedicated to continuing the work—and we hope other countries will join us in calling for real change.