

**Joint Declaration for a Strategic Alliance between
the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico**

WHEREAS: The Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, hereinafter the "Participants", have maintained a deep and wide-ranging historical relationship of friendship that has been beneficial to both Participants;

WHEREAS: The Strategic Alliance between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico has resulted in more than 31 cooperation and exchange arrangements signed between the two governments since 1985;

WHEREAS: The presence of the Trade Office of the Government of Puerto Rico in the Dominican Republic contributes towards maintaining a very close relationship between the two governments;

WHEREAS: The Dominican Republic maintains Strategic Alliances with the States of New York and Florida, communities where a large number of Dominican citizens and American citizens from Puerto Rico live;

WHEREAS: Puerto Rico is the Dominican Republic's first natural border with the United States of America;

WHEREAS: The United States-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) between the United States, Central American states, and the Dominican Republic, are important and beneficial, as they advance trade and investment relations;

WHEREAS: Culture plays a role of the utmost importance in development and education and is also an essential element that strengthens the existing fraternal ties that unite the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico;

WHEREAS: The potentials of renewable energies and diversification of energy generation, conservation of the environment, of the fight against the adversities of climate change and the devastating natural phenomena that have affected our island territories are premises on which we concur and we are committed to supporting, with the possible means, the preservation of natural resources, which is an economic factor essential to maintaining adequate economic growth and a lasting sustainable development; and

WHEREAS: Strengthening citizen security is a component of the utmost importance to preserve and protect prosperity, individual freedom and democratic values, whose economic and social stability is threatened by activities of drug trafficking, armed gangs, and illegal light-weapons and ammunition trade throughout the Caribbean, as well as the increasing presence of international criminal organizations in the subregion;

We, the President of the Dominican Republic, Luis R. Abinader, and the Governor of Puerto Rico, Honorable Pedro R. Pierluisi, at a meeting held in Santo Domingo, National District, Dominican Republic, on December 2, 2021, have decided to cooperate as follows:

1. Renew our commitments to promote prosperity and human values, guaranteeing the future of the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico through cooperation and exchange mechanisms, with the aim of developing trade, investment and tourism, among other priorities.

2. Continue to support and promote holding meetings between our public and private sectors as a valuable mechanism to increase economic, technical and scientific exchange, identifying joint investment opportunities by advancing the establishment of strategic business and commercial partnerships between both island economies through, among others, the promotion of business councils and commerce chambers.
3. Reaffirm the Dominican Republic-Puerto Rico Joint Commission, as a mechanism for dialogue, consultation and follow-up on the Agenda of the Strategic Alliance between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. The Joint Commission is expected to be chaired in their respective jurisdictions by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic and the Secretary of State of the Government of Puerto Rico. This Joint Commission is also expected to have working groups and desks in the different areas of their respective institutional and administrative activities to carry out this Alliance to advance the development of the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.
4. Stimulate the promotion of the service economy, manufacturing, semi-manufacturing, the professionalization of agriculture and agricultural extension services, job reintegration, as well as promote creative cultural activities in the tourism sector and the combined Puerto Rico-Dominican Republic production of cinematographic films—activities that are valuable sources of job creation—taking advantage of the geographical proximity and complementary characteristics of the two markets of this global industry.
5. Participate in, and promote biofuel production programs, as well as the production of biodiesel, synthesis gas, wind, solar and tidal energy, and the use of natural gas supply sources and other clean energy alternatives. Likewise, collaborate in promoting recycling projects and waste to energy (W2E) to improve the environment and public health.
6. Recognize the figure of Eugenio María de Hostos as a symbol of education and culture, seeking to promote the validity of his multiculturalist vision and the facilitating role that the Caribbean Region can play in strengthening the ties between the two hemispheres of the American continent. For this reason, the Participants commit, as an educational priority, to strengthen the technical-work training and Higher Education systems of both states.
7. Promote greater and close cooperation with security organizations and agencies to facilitate the exchange of information and intelligence in order to protect the institutions of both states from youth violence, kidnapping for hire, light-weapons transport, smuggling of merchandise, threats from criminal organizations, air and maritime drug trafficking, and other actions contrary to law and order.
8. Promote transparent joint policies to attract new and innovative forms of private investment to their respective territories, including Public-Private Partnerships or Associations, strategic supply chain discussions, and business models that could bring new innovation and management frameworks, as well as state-of-the-art technologies to our coasts and territories. The Participants intend to promote attracting public and private investment funds through multilateral institutions, such as the United States International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC)

and other local, regional and extra-regional development finance agencies. Likewise, during the term of this Strategic Alliance, and for the purpose of maintaining equitable treatment in matters of commercial relations between the businesspeople of the Dominican Republic in Puerto Rico and the businesspeople of Puerto Rico in the Dominican Republic, subject to the existing agreements and arrangements between the United States of America and the Dominican Republic, the Participants affirm that the provisions of this Joint Declaration are and are intended to continue to be the most favorable for both Participants. The Participants strive to maintain their unique and favorable relationship that is reflective of the strong bonds among their people, and are expected to maintain dialogue regarding efforts taken pursuant to this Strategic Alliance. The Participants intend to reach mutual understanding regarding any more favorable terms or modifications to this Declaration.

9. Subject to its international legal obligations, the Dominican Republic endeavors to prioritize and expedite processing tax or fiscal incentive matters for Puerto Rican capital entities, when they seek to get established and invest in the Dominican Republic, as well as applications for incentive programs that promote the economic and social wellbeing of the Dominican Republic, where the petitioner is a Puerto Rico Resident or a Puerto Rican Entity. For the purpose of this Strategic Alliance, a Puerto Rico Resident is understood to be: (i) a natural person born in Puerto Rico or (ii) if not born in Puerto Rico, a person who has been a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico for fifteen (15) consecutive years or more, prior to the date of submission of the incentive application. Likewise, an entity whose shareholders or majority members are Puerto Rico Residents is understood to be a Puerto Rican Entity. Similarly, subject to international legal obligations of the United States, Puerto Rico endeavors to prioritize and expedite processing tax or fiscal incentive matters to Dominican capital entities, when they seek to get established and invest in Puerto Rico, as well as applications for incentive programs that promote the economic and social wellbeing of Puerto Rico, where the petitioner is a Dominican Citizen or a Dominican Entity. For the purpose of this Strategic Alliance, a Dominican Citizen is understood to be: (i) a natural person born in the Dominican Republic or (ii) if not born in the Dominican Republic, a person who has been a bona fide resident of the Dominican Republic for fifteen (15) consecutive years or more, prior to the date of submission of the incentive application. Likewise, an entity whose shareholders or majority members are Dominican Citizens is understood to be a Dominican Entity.
10. The Participants endeavor through this Strategic Alliance to strengthen preventive health systems against any type of epidemic and infectious diseases in light of the global events that have affected almost all the countries of the world through the Sars-2-Covid-19 virus and that have caused millions of losses of human lives and large and incalculable losses to the global economy. For these purposes, the Participants may develop joint public health mechanisms and support each other's aid programs aimed at fighting the spread of this type of lethal disease in the population, such as, the recent Covid-19 pandemic and its infectious effects and possible new variants.

11. Promote the execution of cooperation and mutual aid arrangements between the institutions of both governments to achieve the purposes and objectives established in this 2021 Joint Declaration.

Signed in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, this 2nd day of the month of December, 2021, in Spanish and English versions.



Luis Abinader
President of the Dominican Republic



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Governor of Puerto Rico

In the presence of the undersigned.



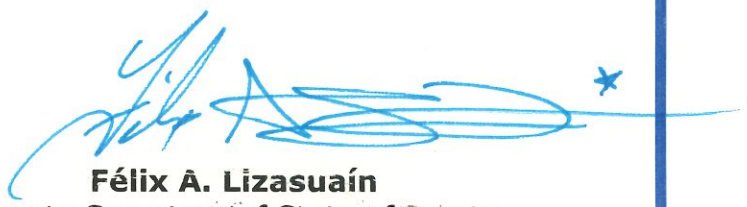
Roberto Álvarez
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