



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**14th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14)
Statement by the Representative of the Dominican Republic**

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

Date: 11 May 2006

Session: Making a Difference: Ministerial Dialogue with Major Groups

Delivered by: John R. Gagain Jr., Executive Director, Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES)

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(Translated from Spanish to English)

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I am going to be speaking in English if that is OK.

Mr. Chairman, let me first start by saying that the Dominican Republic believes that this session is quite important. We believe that once we begin to engage with Major Groups, we begin to highlight concrete measures and actions and challenges that are really needed to overcome and ensure a positive solution to the energy crisis that exists in most countries.

Mr. Chairman, I think that the interventions, the presentations of the Major Groups are important in the sense of really supporting what many governments have stated here when they talk about their interest in moving forward with concrete actions here at the CSD-14 and on into CSD-15.

I would like to say that if we are really going to move forward we need focus more on the document and take for example these great eight action points of the Women's Major Group and make an effort to integrate them into the Chairman's Summary.

I think the CSD is not a "talk-shop" and we are not here "filibustering". The fact that we are talking signifies the need to move more towards the document to ensure concrete commitment. Mr. Chairman, last night reading the second draft of the Chairman's Summary, I fell asleep. And when asleep, I had a nightmare; a nightmare that "reliance on fossil fuels" would continue. But now we are back here in reality. We are all awake and we know that the consensus is not that.

As we heard today in the *straight talk* forum of the ministers, specifically from Denmark, from South Africa, from Bahamas and from other ministers that spoke this morning, I think the key is to really remember, financially, what the World Bank said yesterday if we are to achieve the MDGs. Five hundred million people, including women and children, will need access to modern energy services, and 200 billion dollars will be needed in order to address the energy crisis and achieve the MDGs.



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So, the supposed consensus is not a consensus Mr. Chairman, it is a reality. But it's a "sad reality", because countries like the Dominican Republic have their hands tied, we rely on imported fossil fuel, 100% of the fossil fuels in the Dominican Republic are imported, but the frank reality is that if we continue to rely on fossil fuels in the Dominican Republic we will not achieve the MDGs. We will not achieve MDG 7, we will not achieve the infant mortality MDG, we will definitely not achieve the targets to reduce hunger and extreme poverty by 50%, and we will have trouble even achieving MDG 2 because, schools will continue to have power outages, blackouts.

Mr. Chairman, I think that these points of the Major Groups is an opportunity to focus more on the *constraints* and *means of implementation* portions of the Chairman's Summary.

One thing I would like to highlight before we move on is what was said this morning by Denmark and that fact that there is no single body within the U.N. System that deals with the sustainable energy, "its task has no home".

Additionally, we heard the Bahamas yesterday mentioning that energy needs, what happened to HIV-AIDS, "a champion". For example, more antiretroviral medicine reaches more poor and is more affordable, especially for those who are poor and suffer from the disease. In a private conversation I had yesterday with someone from the UNDP, they stated "energy needs a Jeffrey Sachs, someone that will be "the champion" for energy.

Finally, because this issue is so important on the international agenda, we would like to once again reiterate our President's call for a Summit of Leaders. President Leonel Fernandez hopes that leaders from all over the world will come together and address the energy crisis, in the context of the increasing price of petroleum.



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Finally, perhaps, putting all this together we can propose something like a U.N. High Commissioner for Energy or Sustainable Energy, but we would need to discuss this in context of U.N. reform because I think before we add more bureaucracy, or more positions or more departments; we need to discuss the efficiency of this institution that we love and we are all part of.

And finally Mr. Chairman I just wanted to ask, if possible, if the Women Major Group could clarify here the last sentence, which says “we call for this to be reflected” in the Chair’s Summary and “the same consideration to be given to fossil fuels”. If they could just clarify, the part, which says “the same consideration to be given to fossil fuels”, the Dominican Republic would appreciate it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

(Texto Original)

Gracias Señor Presidente, hablaré en Inglés si esta bien.

Sr. Presidente, permítame primero comenzar diciendo que la República Dominicana entiende que esta sesión con los Grupos Principales es muy importante. Creemos que una vez que comencemos a comprometernos con Grupos Principales, comenzamos a subrayar medidas concretas y acciones y retos que son realmente necesarios para superar y asegurar una solución positiva a la crisis de energía que existe en la mayoría de los países.

Sr. Presidente, pienso que las intervenciones o las presentaciones de los Grupos Principales son importantes en el sentido de apoyar verdaderamente lo que muchos gobiernos han declarado aquí cuando han hablado sobre su interés en avanzar hacia adelante con acciones concretas aquí en la CDS-14 y hacia CDS-15.

Me gustaría decir que si realmente vamos a avanzar hacia adelante, necesitamos enfocarnos más en el documento y tomar por ejemplo, los grandiosos 8 puntos de acciones del Grupo Principal de Mujeres y hacer un esfuerzo para integrarlas dentro del resumen del Presidente.



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Pienso que CDS no es un lugar para pláticas de negocios. Y no estamos aquí para filibustear. Sr. Presidente, anoche mientras leía el segundo borrador del Resumen del Presidente, me quedé dormido. Y cuando desperté, había tenido una pesadilla; una pesadilla sobre que la dependencia en los combustibles fósiles iba a continuar. Pero ahora estamos aquí de regreso en la realidad. Estamos todos despiertos. Sabemos que eso no es un consenso.

Como escuchamos hoy en el foro directo con los ministros, especialmente aquellos de Dinamarca, Sur África, de las Bahamas y otros ministros que hablaron esta mañana, yo pienso que la clave es recordar realmente, que financieramente, lo que el Banco Mundial dijo ayer, es si vamos a cumplir con los ODM, 500 millones de personas incluyendo mujeres y niños, necesitarán acceso a servicios modernos de energía, y 200 billones de dólares serían necesarios para direccionar esta crisis de energía de modo que se alcancen los ODMs.

Entonces, Sr. Presidente, el consenso no es un consenso, es una realidad. Pero es una “triste realidad”, porque países como la República Dominicana tienen las manos atadas, nosotros dependemos de la importación de combustibles fósiles, 100% del combustible fósil es importado en la República Dominicana, pero la franca realidad es que si continuamos dependiendo en los combustibles fósiles, en la República Dominicana no vamos a alcanzar los ODM. No alcanzaremos a cumplir ODM 7, no alcanzaremos a reducir la mortalidad infantil, definitivamente no cumpliremos con las metas de reducir la pobreza y el hambre en un 50%, así como, vamos a tener problemas incluso para alcanzar ODM 2. Las escuelas continuarán teniendo apagones y sufrirán.

Sr. Presidente, pienso que estos puntos de los Grupos Principales son una oportunidad para concentrarnos más en los impedimentos y medios de la implementación del documento.

Una cosa que me gustaría señalar antes de que continuemos, es que lo que dijo esta mañana Dinamarca, no hay un sólo órgano dentro del Sistema de la ONU que trate el tema de energía sostenible, esta tema “no tiene casa”.



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Ayer escuchamos a las Bahamas mencionar sobre las necesidades de energía y lo que pasa con el VIH-SIDA, un campeón, más medicinas y más barato se desarrollan para los más pobres y los individuos que sufren esta enfermedad. En una conversación privada que sostuve ayer con alguien de PNUD, “el tema de energía necesita un Jeffrey Sachs”, dijo. Alguien que será un campeón para la energía.

Y por último, porque este punto es tan importante para la agenda internacional, solamente me gustaría reiterar otra vez el llamado de nuestro Presidente, él espera que los líderes de todo el mundo se unifiquen y direccionen la crisis de energía en la creciente crisis del petróleo.

Finalmente, quizás, para resumir todo, podríamos proponer algo como una Alta Comisión sobre Energía o Energía Sostenible, pero necesitaríamos discutir esto en el contexto de la ONU, porque pienso que antes teníamos más burocracia, o más posiciones y más departamento. Necesitamos discutir la eficiencia de esta institución que amamos y de la que todos formamos parte.

Y finalmente, Sr. Presidente, quisiera preguntar a las mujeres, si es posible que en su declaración, en la segunda acción, hagan una aclaración en la última oración donde dice “llamamos a que esto sea reflexionado”, en el resumen del Presidente, si la misma consideración puede darse al tema de los combustibles fósiles, la República Dominicana lo apreciará.

Gracias Sr. Presidente.