

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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UN Human Rights Council
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Item 6
**Consideration of UPR outcome reports
Dominican Republic**

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the Dominican Republic's commitment to promptly designate the person who will occupy the position of Ombudsman (Defensor del Pueblo).¹ This appointment, outstanding since 2001, should help improve the national system of protection and promotion of human rights.

We note the Dominican Republic's support of recommendations related to improving the legislative and policy framework for the protection of women and girls from violence, and we urge their early and full implementation.² Amnesty International also welcomes the government's commitment to adopt comprehensive strategies to combat racism, including specific measures on the status and protection of persons of Haitian origin, and further action to protect the rights of migrants.³ We believe that these commitments would be strengthened by the prompt ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention, as recommended by several states.⁴ We regret however, that the Dominican Republic did not support the recommendation to adopt measures to ensure that Dominicans of Haitian descent are not denied citizenship or access to civil and birth registration procedures and not arbitrarily subjected to retroactive cancellation of birth and identity documents.⁵ We urge the government to reconsider this important recommendation.

Mr. President,

Given the high number of allegations of human rights violations committed by members of the security forces, Amnesty International welcomes the Dominican Republic's support of a recommendation to invest in and upgrade human rights training of the police and staff of penal institutions.⁶ We urge its support of the following related recommendations, currently under consideration, to investigate all reports of human rights violations and to suspend persons

¹ A/HRC/13/3, paragraph 87, recommendation 2.

² Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

³ Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 9, 10 and 42.

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 88, recommendations 8, 9 and 10.

⁵ Ibid, paragraph 89, recommendation 4.

⁶ Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendation 27.

suspected of such violations from active duty; to establish an independent body to deal with complaints of abuse by police; and to ratify the Convention against Torture and the Convention on Enforced Disappearance.⁷

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁷ Ibid, paragraph 88, recommendations 1, 6, 17, 18 and 23.