



STATEMENT BY
GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT
&
FUNDACIÓN GLOBAL DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, AND
THE POTENTIAL OF CULTURE FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
ACIEVING THE MILENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**

GENEVA, JUNE 28, 2013

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE) are private, non-partisan, not-for-profit institutions, created by His Excellency Dr. Leonel Fernández, former President of the Dominican Republic. FUNGLODE and GFDD are dedicated to formulating innovative and strategic proposals on global issues of national interest with the purpose of contributing to the creation of effective public policies related to the governance and social and economic development of the Dominican Republic.

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and its sister organization **Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE)** are non-profit institutions working on the best policy options for the strengthening of democracy, respect of human rights, sustainable development, creativity and modernization in the Dominican Republic.

Our main goal is to foster access to knowledge so that the Dominican Republic can find solutions to its main issues within its own population.

When it comes to the **Millennium Development Goals**, we are strongly engaged in bringing together political, economical and civil society actors working in their promotion.

Since we want our projects to have a long-term impact, science, technology and innovation are our privileged tools; and because they are continuously evolving, we try to follow their pace by organizing recurring events that address the country's special needs.

The Dominican Republic: Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Potential of Culture to Promote Sustainable Development and to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The **Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD)** and its sister organization in the Dominican Republic (DR), **Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE)** are committed to supporting the achievement of the **UN Millennium Development Goals** through initiatives that link public and private sectors to civil society. Both Foundations assert that, binding different sectors that govern people's lives, will strengthen our actions and allow the expected results to be achieved in less time and with a greater success.

The Latin American Forum of New Technologies, **Virtual Educa Caribe**, aptly demonstrates the importance attached to projects aiming to integrate new technologies into educational and professional fields. The event brings together 2,400 educational experts, political leaders, private sector representatives and NGOs annually, who came to share their knowledge on programs that work to advance the level of expertise of the workforce.

Important progress has been made in the field of science, technology and innovation in Dominican Republic for the past 17 years. Here are some examples to illustrate it:

- The Country has created state educational institutions, that teach science, technology and innovation, such as **Technological Institute of the Americas, Technical Community College, Community Technology Centers**, among others;
- The DR has established a legal framework to allow the appropriate use of telecommunications through re-launching the **Dominican Telecommunications Institute** as a state institution, that supports the adoption of new technologies at the national level;

- It has spent over 60 million dollars over the past 8 years awarding scholarships to talented students to complete their graduate degrees in science and technology at the world's most prestigious schools, with a commitment to return and to spur new discoveries in the DR;
- in 2007, the DR launched the **National Systemic Competitiveness Plan** that seeks to facilitate sustainable economic development. The plan puts the scientific and technological development as one of the cornerstones of improving the country's competitiveness.

The effort made by the Dominican state has paid off.

It boasts 1.9 million phone landlines, 8.8 million active cell phones, 1.9 million Internet accounts, over 100 classrooms at primary public schools with computers and 300 computer labs at secondary schools, thus creating the fertile ground for more technological advancement and innovation.

Notwithstanding the DR's boost in science and technology, the only way to ensure that the transformation process impacts society as a whole is through **programs that bond public and private sectors with civil society**. These joint projects will continue to improve the national development index and the country's position in world's reports, like that in the Global Information Technology Report developed by the World Economic Forum.

Acknowledging the importance of public-private-non profit partnerships to achieve common goals, FUNGLODE and GFDD take a strong stance in promoting strategies and realizing projects that seek to expand cooperation between the three sectors. To illustrate, one of the projects that has been implemented successfully for more than ten years is the Partners in Learning Program initiated between the Ministry of Education, Microsoft Dominican and GFDD. The program has trained 30,000 teachers in the use of informational technologies at various levels of the educational process, both for public and private schools.

Thank you.