**RESUME

RITA ROSA ALVAREZ**, graduated with a B.A. in Psychology, and has specialized in Marriage and Sex Therapy. She has devoted much of her professional life to working with women. In the early years she focused on the area of ​​health, in particular on sexuality, reproductive life and life as a couple. This allowed her to reach deep into the feelings of many women and thus gain a great knowledge of their intimate lives and the harsh realities they face and those they have to manage.

Her involvement in society reaches a new level in 1991 when she is chosen to lead the **Dominican Women in Development, Inc.** (**MUDE** for its acronym in Spanish), a leading non-governmental organization (NGO) working for the holistic development of low-income women. From that perspective she has imprinted a new mystique to the institution, while also integrating gender perspective into its programs and has led it to strengthen its leadership in the country.

She has been concerned with female poverty and migration and has noted that the decrease of both is achieved through a comprehensive approach that reinforces important programs such as: Credits for agriculture, livestock and microenterprise; Health and Nutrition; Construction of Water Piping; Health Solutions; Schools and Housing; Environmental Health; Organizational Strengthening; Ecology and Environment; and Training related to the programs mentioned above, as well as Training in Gender and Domestic Violence.

Under the direction of Lic. Alvarez, MOVE currently reaches directly over 20,000 women who are members of 315 associations distributed in 18 of the country’s provinces. This represents an impact on around 80,000 people within their communities.

Lic. Alvarez has contributed, through advocacy, to the positioning of women in our society.

As a member of the Honorary Committee of Women Advisers to the Senate and to the Chamber of Deputies, she has participated in the review and amendment of laws that benefit Dominican women, such as the laws controlling violence against women, the law regulating quotas for elected office, and the one granting women the right to become beneficiaries of the land reform. She continues to pursue amendments to the legal provisions that prevent gender equality.

She was also been part of the Council for Monitoring the Agreements reached at the Beijing Summit for Women and has been responsible for the coordination of activities explaining the progress made to international public figures. In this sense, her work before the Inter-American Development Bank, at the time when former President Patricio Aylwin was commissioned to make an assessment on the subject, deserves special recognition.

She has been part of the 2010-2020 International Commission for the Strategic Development of the Dominican Republic, which was created by the Executive Branch. The Commission made recommendations for the creation of the basis for the implementation of the National Development Strategy, which is to be implemented in the country during the period 2010 -2030. The Commission was led by renowned professional Jacques Attali.

She has participated in a diversity of research projects, and completed them, in particular, she has directed and monitored one that resulted in specific data on rural women, with the understanding that the data obtained depict their situation and convey their needs and are the basis that will guide the planning and the scheduling of programs that would contribute to the resolution of those needs.

Likewise, she has led a very active voluntary service life and has been a member of many institutions and committees, both at the national and international level, among which we can mention:

- Member of the Advisory Group on Civil Society (ConSOC) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), 2010.

- Member of the Board of the Social Grant Administration (ADDES). 2005. This institution was created by the Executive Branch.

- Chairperson of the NGO Alliance Consortium.

- Member of the National Council for Monitoring the Non-profit Associations (CONASAFIL).

- Member of the Advisory Council on Civil Society of the Social Cabinet.

- Member of the Executive Committee of the Program for the Promotion of Corporate Social Investment.

- Member of the Inter-institutional Network to Support the Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprises (REDIMYPE).

- Member of the Council of American Development Foundations, SOLIDARITY.

- Member of the National Health Institute (INSALUD).

- Member of the NGO AIDS Coalition.

- Member of the Redevelopment Consortium.

- Core Team Member of the Program for Strengthening Civil Society Organizations, FOSC.

- Member of the Advisory Council on the Program for Democratic Initiatives (PID).

- Member of the Advisory Council on Civil Society of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

- Member of the delegation attending the Dominican Week in the United States, 1995.

- Advisor to the Official Delegation to the World Conference on Women.

- Member of the Board of Advisors to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, for the creation of the policies to implement their Milk Bank Project.

- Member of the Advisory Committee on the Program of Support to the Private Sector (PASP). The objective of this program is to assist in the restructuring of the economy by lending support to small and medium-size enterprises.

- Member of the Commission Plan to Generate and Transfer Technology and Technical Assistance for Agricultural Competitiveness, which was appointed by resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture.

- Official Delegate of the Commission to the World Food Summit. Rome, Italy.

She has defended the importance of coordinated State-Civil Society work and has devoted long hours to the defense of this style of work and to the development of the most appropriate mechanisms to facilitate their interrelationship. Likewise, she has defended the partnerships between the private sector and the civil society, because she understands that their joint implementation of programs and projects boost the results in favor of the Dominican population.

She has worked hard on the draft law amending Law 520 which controls civil society organizations, and has carried out strong advocacy work in favor of its approval.

She is often consulted by international and national organizations and is sought by the media on issues pertaining to women, civil society and, especially, NGOs.

She has received awards by a myriad of agencies, in recognition of her work and contributions to the country, among which we can mention:

- Medal of Merit by the Executive Branch, March 2005.

- Medal of Merit Sister Leonor de Ovando, Union of American Women, 2003.

- Plaque, awarded by the National Association of Executive, Business and Professional Women, Inc., ANMEPRO, 1999.

- Outstanding Medal for Outstanding Work which authorizes her to become part of the Junior Chamber (JAYCEES) Supreme Silver Circle, 1996.

- Plaque, awarded by the Directorate General for the Advancement of Women (DGPM),1992.

- Recognition for the work carried out for the benefit of high school students in the country, by the Department of Counseling and Psychology of the Ministry of Education.

- Outstanding Youth "Supreme Silver" Award, 1985. Recognition by Jaycees ’72 Inc.

- Honorary Citizen of the City of Santa Cruz. Award granted by the Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz.

- She has also received several awards from community associations.

Her daily struggle for gender equity and gender equality and her hard work from the civil society have made her to be recognized as a person knowledgeable of the socio-economic and political situation of the Dominican women and as a promoter of their welfare.