









Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are convinced that education is one of the best ways to raise people's self-esteem and self-realisation, particularly young people.

Recently, the Dominican Republic signed a National Pact for High-Quality Education, which is also a pact for young people and their development, in accordance with the objectives of the Cairo Action Plan.

Our objective is that all Dominican children have a guaranteed right to high-quality education, through the implementation of inclusive public policies, such as extending the school day and making school meals universal.

In addition, the Government has launched the Quisqueya Empieza Contigo initiative (the nation begins with you), which will give an unprecedented boost to early years education and support for our children. Our goal is that thousands of children can break the cycle of poverty which condemns them from their early years to undernourishment and all manner of deprivation.

We have already launched a broad plan to construct children's and community centres in order to ensure that there is support and care for our little ones from the outset, as well as support for families in their childrearing needs.

Friends,

From Cairo to now, our country has also made progress in terms of living standards, the recognition of rights and respect for women. We have made rapid progress in improving the recognition of rights and respect for women, which have resulted in achievements in gender equality, in access to education at all levels, and significant improvements in equal employment opportunities for women.

However, we still have many areas to address in the work we are doing, including the eradication of gender-based violence, which continues to be a shameful blemish to which there can only be one response: zero tolerance.

