

Geneva, November 07, 2014

Excelentísimo Sr. Danilo Medina
President of the Dominican Republic

Your Excellency, President Danilo Medina,

I feel very honoured to write to you, and to send you sincere greetings from the ACT Alliance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for receiving me as ACT Alliance General Secretary on the 14 October 2014 in your office, and for the fruitful sharing and deliberations I had with you. I was most impressed with your openness and commitment, and that of your government in ensuring improved conditions of life for your citizens.

As ACT Alliance we would like to express our sincere appreciation of the overwhelming support we received from your office and the government in facilitating the entry of ACT Alliance participants into your country for purposes of the ACT assembly, which was recently held in Punta Cana from 20 - 24 October 2014. We also thank you for sending Mr. Elvis Medina to represent you in the opening session of our assembly. Thank you for the warmth and hospitality we received from the people of the Dominican Republic which made our stay in the Dominican Republic very comfortable and memorable.

During our discussions in your office, one of the issues we talked about was that of the Dominican citizens of Haitian descent who have been under threat of being stateless due to the law promulgated in September 2013. ACT Alliance, as a global alliance that works for human dignity through a human rights approach, felt compelled to support you in the efforts you are taking in finding solutions for the people affected. We were, therefore, encouraged to hear the steps that are being taken by your government to address the issue. It is our hope that you will address those hurdles that potentially slow down the mechanism for documenting the affected people.

During our assembly we had the opportunity to listen, visit and speak with people directly affected by the new law including hearing testimonies on their legal status. It was in this regard that our assembly mandated me to appreciate your efforts in addressing this situation, especially the implementation of the repealed law; and to speed up the process of validations to enable people to have the necessary documents without further hurdles and delays. The hope expressed by the ACT assembly was that all people including those classified as being in category B, who now thanks to your mediation, have an extension of 90 days, would be registered. We trust that your good office could give instructions to the relevant authorities to sufficiently address timely and properly all cases submitted in this process for review. This will enable **full life and dignity for all**.

As ACT Alliance, we remain committed to contributing towards finding a sustainable solution to this situation with the participation of our member churches and related organisations in the Dominican Republic, and finding ways to support you and the affected people to avoid statelessness.

We would like to thank you in advance for accepting our appreciation and for your consideration of the issues raised herein.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. John Nduna', with a long horizontal line underneath.

Dr. John Nduna, General Secretary
Secretary General
ACT Alliance