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## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 133

### **Minister of Foreign Affairs highlights Dominican Republic's progress in disaster mitigation**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Miguel Vargas Maldonado, signed with the United States and 17 Caribbean nations a declaration of intention to strengthen the capacity to confront disasters in the region and, in particular, to improve the resilience of the civil aviation against these regrettable events.

The document establishes the designation of contact points that can participate in a team for planning, adaptation, and response to these disasters within each civil aviation authority and air navigation service providers.

Also, it calls for collaboration in the establishment of a mechanism to share information and lessons learned for the recovery, as well as to establish better associations and communication systems to mitigate the vulnerabilities.

The statement came from the "Ministerial Dialogue on Hurricane Preparedness and Disaster Resilience in the Caribbean", held at the headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida, where the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, John J. Sullivan, and Admiral Craig S. Faller, head of the Southern Command, hosted of the event.

Minister Vargas highlighted the country's progress in preventing and mitigating natural disasters, and supported regional collaboration in this area.

He added that, due to the vulnerability of the Caribbean region to natural disasters, the Dominican Government included that issue in the agenda that the country worked within the temporary presidency of the Security Council of the United Nations in January of this year, 2019, when it presented the problem as "one of the great enemies of development, peace, and security in our region".

In the framework of this meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs held a conversation with Admiral Faller and with the Major General of the US Army Ricky L. Waddell on topics of interest.

*Published on April 25, 2019, by the newspaper Proceso ([www.proceso.com.do](http://www.proceso.com.do))*



## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 134

### **Dominican Republic wants to move forward in science and technology cooperation with China**

The Dominican Republic wants to move forward in cooperation with China in terms of science, technology, and research, and to strengthen trade relations with that country, said the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Dominican Republic, Alejandrina Germán.

The Dominican Ministry and the Shandong Foreign Trade Vocational College signed, on March 31 in Beijing, a cooperation agreement to promote educational and trade exchange in various aspects.

According to Germán explained, it would consist on “helping to promote the mutual exchange of students, professors, and researchers; establish mechanisms for academic institutions to share educational resources and teaching methods; train the trade representatives of companies that have offices abroad, and jointly promote the establishment of investment and trade platforms to strengthen the economic growth of the province of Shandong, in eastern China, and the Dominican Republic”.

Germán stressed that it is “an exchange of researchers, professors, and students who can really fulfill their role within knowledge institutions and achieve results that support innovation and competitiveness in the Dominican Republic”.

“It is always important that researchers from different countries are able to share their experiences and present their results. Of course, because of these experiences from other countries, both would grow and could intensify their scientific work”, said the Minister.

Apart from this project, the Dominican Republic is already working together with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, as well as with other institutions of higher education to “develop and strengthen relations”, considering that these were established just recently.

*Published on April 25, 2019, by the newspaper Al Moment (www.almomento.net)*



## NEWS SHEET

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No. 135

## **More than 60 scientists debate in the Dominican Republic about arthropods and amber**

More than 60 scientists from different countries participate, from this Monday until April 13, at the International Conference on Fossil Insects, Arthropods and Amber, an event that takes place every three years and that will celebrate its eighth edition in the museum "Mundo de Ambar" in Santo Domingo.

The event brings together experts from museums and research organizations from France, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, Germany, Russia, Poland, Lebanon, Italy, and Spain, among others, who come to the event to share the results of their scientific work and exchange experiences.

The Dominican Minister of Energy and Mines, Antonio Isa Conde, highlighted during the opening ceremony the efforts made by various national public institutions in the promotion of amber, a gem "of great cultural, historical and material value", he said.

In his speech, the official considered that the unified approach of the Government should provide the necessary technology and ensure the environmental and safety parameters that make the extraction and processing of amber a sustainable activity.

Isa Conde affirmed that in the portfolio he manages, together with the Directorate General of Mining, PROMIPYME, "Fundación Reservas del País", INFOTEP, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MiPymes, and the Ministry of Tourism, efforts are made to provide better technical instruments to the miners and amber craftsmen.

"But this is not enough, we have to do more, much more and do so in such a way that we must not only promote this important extractive and craft activity, but we must also do it by protecting our environment, that is, ensuring sustainability", he stated.

The museum "Mundo de Ámbar" coordinated the celebration of this activity in the country, which is sponsored by FUNDARTE and the International Society of Paleontology (IPS), being the first occasion in which it takes place in Latin America.

The representatives of the museum "Mundo de Ámbar" of the Dominican Republic managed to make the country the host of this scientific conclave during the celebration of the last edition of the conference, held in 2016 in Edinburgh, Scotland, achieving the unanimous vote of the 35 participating countries.

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## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 136

### **In UN, DR defends reproductive and sexual health rights, rejects sexual violence armed conflicts**

The Dominican Republic defended the right of women to Sexual and Reproductive Health services, and supported within the Security Council proposals for the protection of women victims of sexual violence in armed conflicts.

In a debate on the issue, the Dominican representative before the Security Council, Ambassador José Singer, said that “denying access to sexual and reproductive health of women and girls is exposing them to degrading, cruel and inhuman treatment, equivalent to more suffering of victims of sexual violence”.

Pass Blue, which is the UN's most important publication, highlighted a reference to the Dominican Republic saying: “It was the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti in the Caribbean and is Roman Catholic, that stood up the tallest for the right of women and girls to have access to sexual reproductive health services”.

José Singer Weisinger, the country's special envoy to the Council, said that such access was “non-negotiable” and that rejecting it is “equivalent to a degrading, cruel and inhuman treatment and greater suffering”.

*Published on April 24, 2019, by the digital newspaper Acento ([www.acento.com.do](http://www.acento.com.do))*



## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 137

### **Ministry of Industry, Commerce and SMEs and UN present progress made by program “Innovate”**

On the occasion of the celebration of the World Creativity and Innovation Day, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and SMEs (MICM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented the progress made by the program “Innovate”, which began in the middle of 2018.

The Minister, architect Nelson Toca Simó, offered the welcoming words and explained that the MICM executes the Program for the Strengthening of the Innovation Management Process in SMEs (Innovate) mainly within SMEs from the industries of cosmetics, agribusiness, and tourism, which are considered traditional but with high development potential.

He affirmed that “we are betting on the improvement in the degree of innovation of the productive sectors as a way to boost the productivity and the competitiveness of all the other sectors”, reads a statement of the Communication Office of the MICM.

The official listed a series of initiatives that complement existing ones, such as the creation of a National Fund for Business Innovation, which will finance the four natures of innovation: marketing, processes, product, and management.

It is also envisioned to start a product prototyping center in a joint effort with the Institute of Innovation in Biotechnology (IIBI); in addition, a technology transfer center to improve productive processes and open innovation, conjointly with the National Intellectual Property Office (ONAPI), and under the open innovation approach, to find solutions to value chain problems.

“With this renewed commitment to innovation, plus the support of the business sector, universities, and international cooperation agencies, we can generate a profound transformation of the Dominican productive system that will lay the foundations to build a more competitive Dominican Republic in international markets”, the Minister concluded.

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## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 138

### **Free Zones: in 2018, exports exceeded US \$6.2 billion and we have 171,900 jobs**

The National Council of Free Zones (CNZFE) presented this morning the 2018 edition of the Statistical Report of the Free Zones, which shows the behavior of the main statistical variables of the sector.

These variables correspond to the number of companies and parks in operation, jobs, salaries, accumulated investment, exports, local expenses, among other statistics.

According to the report, the value of exports from the Free Zones sector reached the sum of 6.23 billion dollars in 2018, showing a relative growth of 9.1% compared to the same period of the previous year.

These results highlight the preponderance that the Free Zones sector continues to have within the national export structure since it represents 57.1% of the total exports of the country.

2018 also ended with a total of 74 parks in operation, registering a relative growth of 4.2% compared to 2017, and 673 companies in operation, with an increase of 1.2% in relation to 2017.

49.3% of the companies are located in the Northern Region; 24.5% in the National District and the province of Santo Domingo; 13.2% in the Southern Region, and 12.9% in the Eastern Region.

During 2018, it continues to be one of the sectors that generates the most jobs.

The number of workers, technicians, and administrative personnel employed reached the figure of 171,726, which shows a growth of 3.6% with respect to the year 2017.

Within the free zones, the largest number of jobs continues to be generated by Textile Apparel, 41,370 (24.1%) jobs; Cigars and Derivatives with 29,831 (17.4%), and Services with 28,063 (16.3).

Next are the industries of Medical and Pharmaceutical Products with 23,698 (13.8%) and Footwear and its Components with 11,965 (7%). The rest of the jobs are generated by other activities.

The cumulative investment of free zone companies amounted to US \$4.998 billion, reaching a relative growth of 11.3% with respect to 2017.

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## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 139

### **Dominican Republic and Cuba sign agreement to boost relations**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Vargas, and the Ambassador of Cuba to the Dominican Republic, Milagros Carina Soto Agüero, signed a framework agreement on technical, scientific, educational, and cultural cooperation for the formulation and implementation of programs, projects, and actions in priority areas for both countries.

“This agreement will serve as a basis to develop complementary cooperation agreements in specific areas of common interest”, said the Dominican Minister of Foreign Affairs. The parties will collaborate on issues of health, education, agriculture, agro-industry, gender, environmental management, trade promotion, tourism, and sports.

The signing was made at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, prior to the start of the Meeting on Policy Consultation Mechanisms between both nations. “For the Dominican Republic it is a priority to work on strengthening bilateral relations with the Caribbean countries, and in a very particular way with Cuba, with which we share bonds that unite us through historical, cultural, and social ties”, said Vargas.

He stressed that these meetings are a very useful tool to determine the issues of common interest in which the parties wish to move forward and thus boost bilateral ties. Ambassador José Blanco, interim Head of the Bilateral Foreign Policy Division of the Ministry, led the Dominican side in the consultation meeting, and Ana Teresita González Fraga, Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy of Cuba, headed her country’s delegation. For her part, Soto Agüero thanked Vargas for the realization of the agreement and reaffirmed the friendship between her country and the Dominican Republic. “you can count on Cuba to continue expanding our relations”, the diplomat emphasized.

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## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 140

### **Minister of Foreign Affairs lays out the country's potential in renewable energy**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Vargas, explained the excellent conditions offered by the Dominican Republic for investment in renewable energy projects, and urged to take more advantage of the sun, the wind, and the sugarcane bagasse, by describing them as “inexhaustible generators of solar, wind, and biomass energy.”

The Minister spoke at the opening of the First Dominican-French Forum of Renewable Energies, which will be held at the Convention Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mirex) starting on Tuesday.

This event involves officials, businessmen, bankers, and experts from both countries, who will share ideas on the use of clean energy and hold special meetings to discuss business opportunities.

Vargas said that the country's geographical position and public policies on energy, “make investment attractive, providing incentives and assistance for companies with cutting-edge technology to establish their operations in the country and lower costs”.

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## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 141

### **Dominican Republic, guest country of the Madrid Book Fair**

About a hundred activities make up the cultural program that will feature the Dominican Republic as guest of honor of the 78th edition of the Madrid Book Fair, which will be held at the “Parque del Retiro” starting on May 31.

A program, organized by the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Spain, which will run until June 16 under the theme “Discover a country of culture!”

The Dominican Ambassador, Olivo A. Rodríguez Huertas, has indicated to EFE how this program will show the richness of the country’s literary tradition and will honor three star figures from the Dominican literature: the humanist Pedro Henríquez Ureña (1884-1946), the writer and former President Juan Bosch (1909-2001), and the novelist, storyteller, and anthropologist Marcio Veloz Maggiolo.

Historians, scholars, anthropologists, sociologists, archaeologists, jurists, journalists, musicologists, literary critics, actors, and artists of the Dominican Republic will participate in the activities that will be held at the “Parque del Retiro”, at the Cervantes Institute, at “Casa de América”, and “Casa de Vacas”.

Writers will come from the island to present new works in poetry and narrative along with other Dominican authors who reside in Spain and already work with Spanish publishers, indicated the Ambassador.

Some of these authors that will attend the fair, representative members of the Generation of the 60’s, the Generation of the 80’s, or the new Dominican literature, have been recognized with the National Literature Award of that country as well as other awards from Latin America and Spain.

The book fair will also serve to remember the historical relations between the Dominican Republic and Spain and the cultural contributions of the Spanish Republican exile to that country, explained the Ambassador.

The country will also have its own pavilion -with stage, library, and exhibition space-, which will be located in the center of the fair premises.

In this pavilion, as well as in other scenarios, there will be conferences, gatherings, book presentations, music—especially merengue music, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO—, and bachata.

In addition, there will be photography exhibitions, artistic performances, and a series of film screenings that will bear witness of the “strength” of the film industry in the Dominican Republic.

*Published on May 8, 2019, by the daily newspaper ABC (www.abc.es)*



## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 142

### **Dominican Republic and Cuba hold the 11th Round on Migration Affairs**

The Dominican Republic and Cuba held the 11th Round of Migration Discussions, with the purpose of strengthening bilateral cooperation on these matters.

This event was held within the framework of the memorandum of understanding on migration affairs signed between both countries on August 22, 2014, to ensure that migration is safe and under regulatory norms, preventing human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants.

Under the instructions of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Vargas, the Deputy Minister for Consular and Migration Affairs, Marjorie Espinosa, led the Dominican delegation, which also consisted of representatives of the General Directorate of Migration (DGM), the Attorney General's Office (PGR), and the National Police (PN).

While the Cuban counterpart was headed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy, Ana Teresita González Fraga. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Dominican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*Published on May 9, 2019, by the newspaper Listín Diario ([www.listindiario.com](http://www.listindiario.com))*



## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 143

### **Dominican economy grew 5.7% in January-March, according to the Central Bank**

SANTO DOMINGO.- The Governor of the Central Bank, Hector Valdez Albizu, announced today that the Dominican Republic registered a real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.7%, during the period January-March 2019, surpassing the figures available for Panama (3.7%), Honduras (2.8%), Guatemala (2.7%), Colombia (2.6%), El Salvador (2.4%), Costa Rica (2.2%) and the rest of the Latin American economies, which grew below 2.0 %.

Valdez Albizu highlighted that the industries with the highest growth for this period were: construction (12.5%), energy and water (11.7%), financial intermediation (9.5%), mining (6.3%), transportation, and warehousing (6.2%), public administration (5.7%), hotels, bars, and restaurants (5.0%), other service activities (5.2%), among others.

Speaking at the opening of the 4th Forum on Finance and Investment of the Caribbean, organized by Latin Finance, Valdez Albizu pointed out that, faced with an increasingly complex international environment, the Dominican Republic has managed to remain as leader of economic performance in Latin America, based on the strength of its macroeconomic foundations.

Regarding inflation, Valdez Albizu pointed out that it was 0.86% in the first quarter of 2019 and the year-on-year rate was 1.47%.

Likewise, investment grew more than 10% for six consecutive quarters.

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## NEWS SHEET

### EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 144

## **Miguel Vargas holds a business meeting with Canadian companies and the Ambassador of Canada**

SANTO DOMINGO. - The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Vargas, held a business meeting event with the Ambassador of Canada in the country, Shauna Hemingway, and with 17 executives from the same number of Canadian companies established in the Dominican Republic, with whom he talked about the good business climate and the great investment opportunities offered by the Dominican Republic.

“We believe that this meeting with you is an opportunity to listen to your concerns, recommendations, and to know about your expansion plans or new investments in our country”, said the Minister during the dialogue held at the Convention Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX).

The senior official was confident that soon a Joint Working Group for the Promotion of Trade and Bilateral Investment will be formed, taking on the responsibility of boosting bilateral relations, “in particular, achieving more Canadian investment that contributes to technology transfer and the creation of jobs, where also Canadian companies benefit from these operations”, he said.

To back his comments on the excellent business climate that the country offers, Miguel Vargas talked about several achievements in economic matters. He pointed out that in 2018 the Gross Domestic Product grew by 7% reaching the figure of 81.28 billion dollars, which positions the Dominican Republic as the sixth economy in Latin America, and the country with the highest economic growth in the region.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that, in its trade relationship with Canada, the Dominican Republic has a positive trade balance since in 2018 it exported more US \$637 million, mainly in gold, followed by pharmaceuticals, textiles, electrical conductors, and cigars, among other products. It also imported more than US \$200 million.

A great sign of confidence in the Dominican Republic, said Miguel Vargas, is that Canadian investments are present in the most important industries of the country, such as tourism, mining, energy, banking, and textiles.

### **Other participants**

Other participants attending the event were Hugo Rivera, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation; Pedro Vergés, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Canada; and Marius de León, Executive Director of the Center of Export and Investment of the Dominican Republic (CEI-RD).

*Published on May 14, 2019, by El Nuevo Diario (elnuevodiario.com.do)*



## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 145

### **In France, Dominicans seek to expand their film industry**

Cannes, France. - Dominican Republic arrives in Cannes after a 2018 loaded with awards and recognitions, led by Nelson Carlo de los Santos' film "Cocote" and José María Cabral with "El Proyeccionista" and "Carpinteros". In its 2019 edition, the Cannes Festival began yesterday and will run until Saturday, May 25.

The delegation will be coordinated once again by the Dominican Republic Film Commission (DGCINE), a division of the Ministry of Culture.

The country will have an important presence in the Marché du Film, in a strategic place for the industry, and in which more than a dozen companies will participate with about fifty fiction, documentary, and television projects.

The country will be present with a stand strategically located at the Palais des Festivals.

DGCINE will present its international cinema catalog, and the benefits of the Dominican Film Law.

This year, this Caribbean nation will participate with a solid delegation composed of artists from the Dominican film industry.

The delegation will be led by Yvette Marichal, General Director of DGCINE, and her team.

Also participating at the event is Omar de la Cruz, Director of the "Festival de Cine Global Dominicano", who for the first time brings to the festival, through his new initiative DR Global in Cannes, the special screening of the Dominican film "Colours", directed by Luis Cepeda.

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## NEWS SHEET

### EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 146

## **The country is in optimal conditions for investment**

Officials and businessmen highlighted yesterday the opportunities that the country offers for foreigners and locals to make investments in several of the sectors that boost the economy of the Dominican Republic.

Under the theme “Dominican Republic Growth, Sustainability”, the First ABC America Forum was held at the Convention Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the benefits that the country displays in terms of tourism, economic, social, and political stability were presented by representatives of the public and private sectors.

The President of the “Grupo de Comunicaciones Corripio”, José Luís Corripio Estrada (Pepín), said that the Dominican Republic is in optimal conditions to make investments.

“To wait further is to arrive late in the participation of economic success”, said Corripio during his speech to mark the closing of the forum. The businessman invited foreign investors, especially from Spain, to make their investments in the country now since “cruising speed” has not yet been reached.

“I invite you to seriously consider maintaining and continuing to increase your investments in the Dominican Republic, which is an investment paradise”, he stated.

Corripio considered that this is the time to invest, arguing that each year that passes by, the degree of investment suitability will diminish in terms of profitability.

He expressed that this country is still the best option, in proportion to its size, for any investor. He explained that it is not necessary for the Dominican Republic to reach a level of perfection to invest, pointing out that when that time arrives, many will already have taken the lead in this regard.

Likewise, the businessman Manuel Corripio, President of Editora Listín Diario, stressed the importance of making this forum, which in his opinion encourages foreign investments, especially those from Spain.

“These forums are very important for the country because they bring together several economies. But beyond the flow of capital, we also have the exchange of knowledge and this forum promotes that”, he said.

He pointed out that Spain is one of the main direct investors in the Dominican Republic and considered that this forum encourages these actions.

*Published on May 16, 2019, by the newspaper Listín Diario ([www.listindiario.com](http://www.listindiario.com))*



## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 147

### **The Ninth edition of the forum “PPP Americas” concluded yesterday**

Punta Cana. - The ninth edition of PPP Americas 2019, the most important discussion forum on public-private partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean, concluded successfully in Punta Cana.

The event was organized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and BID Invest. The activity seeks to promote a better collaboration and sustainability in infrastructure projects in the region. The meeting strengthened the dialogue between the public and private sectors in order to identify innovative solutions for the needs of a region that, within 10 years, will concentrate 90% of its population in urban areas and will need an adequate infrastructure to respond to that new circumstance.

With more than 400 attendees, the program of activities included 15 sessions with the most renowned professionals from the public and private sectors, international financial institutions and consulting firms specialized in the subject; bilateral business sessions and demonstrations of outstanding projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The IDB's mission is to improve lives. Founded in 1959, the IDB is one of the main sources of long-term financing for economic, social, and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB also conducts cutting-edge research projects and offers policy advice, technical assistance, and training to public and private clients throughout the region.

IDB Invest, a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Group, is a multilateral development bank that promotes the economic development of its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through the private sector. IDB Invest finances companies and sustainable projects to achieve financial results and maximize economic, social, and environmental development in the region. With a portfolio of US \$12.1 billion in assets under management and 329 clients in 21 countries, BID Invest provides innovative financial solutions and advisory services that respond to the needs of its clients in a variety of sectors.

In the Infrascope 2019 index prepared by The Economist Intelligence Unit, the Dominican Republic ranks 16th out of 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the capacity to carry out sustainable public-private partnerships (PPPs) is assessed. The details of the Infrascope were announced at the PPP Américas 2019 forum.

*Published on May 18, 2019, by the newspaper El Caribe ([www.elcaribe.com.do](http://www.elcaribe.com.do))*





## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 148

### **It will be discussed in Canada the relation between films and culture in the Dominican Republic**

Ottawa, Canada.-The role of films in the promotion of culture is the subject to be discussed in a discussion panel that will be held this Wednesday, May 28, at the Canada's campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM-Canada), with the interventions of seven panelists.

The discussion panel will start from 4:30 in the afternoon with interventions by Sylvie Jasen, professor at the University of Carleton, Leticia Tonos, Dominican film director, and Alicia Mayer González, Director of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Canada.

Also participating are Yvette Marichal, Director of DGCINE, Michael Dobbin, Canadian film producer, Peddy García, Audiovisuals at the Dominican Commission of Culture in New York, and José Rafael Sosa, Dominican films journalist.

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## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 149

### **Public-Private Partnerships Law will bring benefits to the Dominican Republic**

If the Public-Private Partnership project is signed into law, the Dominican Republic will obtain important benefits, said the Deputy Minister of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPyD), Inocencio García Javier.

The bill that is being evaluated by the National Congress will strengthen the country's institutional development, and it is also expected to increase investment, according to a press release.

García Javier affirmed that with the approval of the Alliances law, the Dominican Republic "will attract better foreign investments and facilitate the incorporation of development partners; that is, international cooperation for development projects".

The law will make land development more balanced, because the country will adopt an economic, budgetary, and planning culture for development, said the Deputy Minister.

The environment is an area that will benefit from the alliance investments, mainly the conservation and the expansion of the forest landmark and the marine ecosystem, explained García Javier.

In addition, the Deputy Minister said that in order for development to take place, all the sectors involved have to participate and that the applications (APPs) have the challenge of creating a professional-technical training system that enables all members of our society to obtain training for their work field.

*Published on May 27, 2019, by the magazine Forbes Mexico ([www.forbes.com.mx](http://www.forbes.com.mx))*



## NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

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No. 150

### **Barrick Gold will invest £789.4 million in the expansion of the Pueblo Viejo gold mine**

The Pueblo Viejo gold mine, located almost 100 km northwest of the capital of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, is jointly owned by Barrick Gold (60%) and Newmont Goldcorp (40%).

The mining giant revealed that the investment will be used to expand the existing processing plant and the tailings capacity of the gold mine. The expansion project at the Pueblo Viejo gold mine will potentially extend the life of the mine until the 2030s.

Barrick Gold is trying to complete a feasibility study for the expansion project next year.

Barrick Gold President and CEO Mark Bristow said at a local press conference that the investment for the expansion project is further evidence of the long-term commitment of the joint venture's partners to social and economic development of the Dominican Republic.

Bristow said: "We look forward to continuing to make a significant and growing contribution to our communities and other stakeholders and unlock the enormous value of their mineral potential while addressing the historical environmental problems caused by previous parties".

#### Contribution of the Pueblo Viejo gold mine to the Dominican Republic

The joint venture partners of the Pueblo Viejo gold mine have already injected \$5,200 million (£4,100 million) into the project, which is said to represent almost 20% of the total direct foreign investment made in the Dominican Republic during the last 10 years.

#### Details of the production of the Pueblo Viejo gold mine

The development of the Pueblo Viejo gold mine began in 2009 and the first mineral was produced as of 2012. Barrick Gold's stake in the gold mine's production in 2019 is estimated at 550,000-600,000.

Earlier this year, Barrick Gold closed its \$18.3 billion (£14.45 billion) merger with Randgold Resources, creating a combined company that now owns five of the world's top ten Tier One gold assets by total cost in cash. Included in these are Pueblo Viejo, Cortez, Goldstrike, Kibali and Loulo-Goukoto.

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### **Government organizations present plan to fulfill commitments of the Paris Agreement**

SANTO DOMINGO.- The National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (CNCCMDL) of the Dominican Republic and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD) presented today the Action Plan of the Dominican Republic for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) before the international platform NDC Partnership.

Their strategy, guided by both institutions, will help coordinate and strengthen national efforts to achieve the commitments under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Action Plan of the Dominican Republic identifies the priorities for the period 2019 - 2021 in terms of legislation, financing and budget, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development to promote the fight against climate change. It was developed during 2018 through a series of consultations and collaborative work between different sectors and development agencies, within the framework of the NDC Partnership.

The Vice-President of the CNCCMDL, Ernesto Reyna Alcántara, while referring to the plan, indicated that the main actions for its implementation are the integrated management of watersheds through local systems of sustainable production; the initiatives to reduce the climate vulnerability in agricultural, tourism, and marine-coastal zones; incentives to increase energy efficiency and the participation of non-conventional renewable energies, and the deployment of cleaner transport alternatives.

“We are trying to make this Action Plan a crucial tool in national climate planning, which contributes to sustainable development efforts in a comprehensive manner,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Minister of MEPyD, Isidoro Santana, indicated that the presented action plan constitutes a valuable opportunity to group and focus in a common direction all actions that are taken to face climate change.

To achieve, on the one hand, the 25% reduction of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030, a goal that is included in the National Development Strategy and the NDC, and, on the other hand, to develop resilience in sensitive sectors such as human settlements, water resources, tourism, and agriculture”.

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