

# **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**



**DIRECCION DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR**  
SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DE INDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO

## **TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING NATIONAL ACTION PLAN: ADDRESSING GLOBALIZATION CHALLENGES**

**June, 2007**

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## ACRONYMS

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ADOZONA	Asociación Dominicana de Zonas Francas (DR Free Trade Zones Association)
DR-CAFTA	US, Central America and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement
CEI-RD	Centro de Exportación e Inversión de la República Dominicana (DR Export and Investment Center)
CNZFE	Consejo Nacional de Zonas Francas de Exportación (Free Export Zones National Council)
DICOEX	Dirección de Comercio Exterior y Administración de Tratados Comerciales Internacionales (Foreign Trade Office and International Trade Agreement Administration)
DGA	Dirección General de Aduanas (Customs General Administration)
US	United States
INDOTEL	Instituto Dominicano de Telecomunicaciones (DR Telecommunications Institute)
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures
WTO	World Trade Organization
ONAPI	Oficina Nacional de Propiedad Industrial (National Industrial Property Office)
OTCA	Oficina de Tratados Comerciales Agrícolas (Agriculture Commercial Agreements Office)
NAP	National Action Plan
SMEs	Small and Medium-Size Enterprises
DR	Dominican Republic
SEA	Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura (Agriculture State Ministry)
SEF	Secretaría de Estado de Finanzas (Finance State Ministry)
SEIC	Secretaría de Estado de Industria y Comercio (Industry and Trade State Ministry)
SEMREM	Secretaría de Estado de Medioambiente y Recursos Naturales (Environment and Natural Resources State Ministry)
SEESCYT	Secretaría de Estado de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología (Higher Education, Science and Technology State Ministry)
SEREX	Secretaría de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores (Foreign Relations State Ministry)

## **I. Introduction**

Last March 1st, 2007, the Dominican Republic formally joined the DR-CAFTA, thus becoming part of one of the major trade blocks in the American Continent. The Agreement, now in its second year of implementation, substantially modifies trade relations among member countries.

The Dominican Republic Government gives high priority to the agenda for adequate implementation, and to build on provisions and commitments assumed in the DR-CAFTA; therefore, the Dominican Republic has developed this National Action Plan (NAP), to Strengthen Trade Capacities and identified needs regarding trade matters in the country.

This National Action Plan identifies and prioritizes requirements regarding trade and aims at the strengthening of trade capacities of official institutions linked to the implementation and the better use of DR-CAFTA; the plan is also a tool to mobilize and manage international technical cooperation aimed at those priorities.

Within this context, the objective of this document is to identify and scope the limitations that the Dominican Republic has, in order to enhance its capacities related to trade. The document has two basic sections: first, identification of requirements for the correct implementation of the commitments within the Agreement, and second, how to build on the opportunities offered through those commitments.

The requirements identified in each stage are classified according to the core problem that needs to be solved and the specific area of action, presenting projects capable of providing a solution to the identified core problem.

This document offers initial guidance to identify potential cooperation areas, taking into consideration that some of such areas require closer attention as the implementation of DR-CAFTA evolves and the international context of the country changes.

This plan has been designed considering the opinions, contributions and information provided by several sectors of the national economy both at public and private level, the National Systemic Competitiveness National Plan, and strategies and action plans of public institutions aimed at strengthening international trade.

The requirements identified within NAP are directly linked to the development strategy of the Country, strengthening the internal productive capacity and the development of capacities to compete in foreign markets. Such needs match the objective of the Country to meet the commitments within the framework of the agreement and to achieve growth through sustainable competitive development while taking advantage of the process of globalization.

For a rapid identification and management of the action plans and associated operative programs, a matrix summarizing the profiles of the identified projects, classified according to the area of action is included.

## II. Project Profiles

### II. A. Section I. Implementation of the Agreement

Project Nº I-1      SECTION I: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT      Priority 1

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#### 1. Project Description.

**Project Name:** *Institutional and operational strengthening of the Foreign Trade Office and International Trade Agreement Administration (DICOEX).*

**Strategic guideline:** Institutional Strengthening.

**Area of Impact:** Institutional, transparency.

**Country:** Dominican Republic.

**Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.

[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

- **Executive Unit:** Foreign Trade Office (DICOEX), Industry and Trade Ministry.

#### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Institutional weakness in coordinating and execution capacities for the correct implementation and management of trade agreements.

2.2 DICOEX is responsible for the administration and implementation of trade agreements signed by the Government of Dominican Republic. To date, the Dominican Republic has signed 5 international agreements (WTO, Central America-DR FTA, CARICOM-DR FTA, Partial Scope Agreement with Panama, and DR-CAFTA), all of them of very recent implementation. The lack of experience in managing these agreements and lack of technical capacities evidence the necessity to support the strengthening of commercial capacities within the Office.

#### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

##### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to institutionalize the application of mechanisms for the correct implementation and management of trade agreements.

3.2 The Purpose is to contribute to the creation of an organizational structure in the General Foreign Trade Office in order to strengthen its capacity, develop efficient implementation mechanisms and supervise the necessary institutional coordination among all stakeholders in the implementation of DR-CAFTA.

## **B. Components and Activities.**

**Component 1. Technical Assistance for institutional strengthening of DICOEX.** This component will fund the necessary projects to strengthen the capacity of DICOEX in supervising institutional coordination of the Government for the implementation of DR-CAFTA. To that end, it is required;

1. A “Benchmarking” study on international best practices for management and implementation of trade agreements, and matching these best practices to the reality of Dominican Republic.
2. Technical advice for re-engineering the DICOEX Office staff. Establish reporting strategies and commercial standards for timely decision making.
3. Visit of DICOEX staff to Treaties Implementation Agencies in Chile, Mexico or Colombia in order to take internship programs and share experiences to adopt international best practices and enhance treaty implementation and the administration process.
4. Design an adequate logical platform to manage information between DICOEX and other DR-CAFTA-related agencies.
5. Design “hot-line” type automatic consultation and controversy settlement mechanisms.
6. Access to statistical data through an international trade related database (trade map, United States International Trade Commission (USITC), etc.), that permits to draw information on trade flows for monitoring and analysis, and offer services to stakeholders.
7. Database design, implementation and management to monitor trade flows, and tariff follow up applied to DR imports.
8. Organizational development strategy that includes an organization flowchart with contacts and change protocols for the committees established under DR-CAFTA.

**Component 2. Training.** This component is intended to enhance trade capacity and strengthen DICOEX institutionalism. It intends to implement:

1. A training program on Agreement Administration and best international practices for DICOEX staff.
2. A training program on foreign trade database management and data analysis.

**Component 3. Dissemination and Promotion.** An important component of this institutional strengthening project is the development of mechanisms to promote participation of the civil society in the application of DR-CAFTA, and promote diffusion and educational activities within the context of the Agreement. It requires:

1. Technical assistance to develop operational and consultation manuals on standards and policy regarding trade technical barriers.
2. Design and implementation of communications strategy and the associated action plans on DR-CAFTA for the civil society.
3. Technical and financial advice to design an electronic website on DR-CAFTA, and its implementation and management process.
4. Development of an informative document on DR-CAFTA utilizing plain language for the general public.
5. Development of implementation guidelines by chapters and associated entities on the commitments under DR-CAFTA and procedures to disseminate the information.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** *Institutional Strengthening of Environment Sector in Trade Matters*
- **Strategic guideline:** Institutional Strengthening.
- **Area of Impact:** Environment
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- **Executive Unit:** Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Low compliance level of environmental laws and policy, therefore low compliance level of commitments regarding environmental matters contained in Chapter 17 of DR-CAFTA.

2.2 The Ministry of Environment is the institution in charge of environmental management, ecosystems, and natural resources. This institution also has the responsibility to develop and supervise environmental policy and enforcement of commitments set forth under DR-CAFTA.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective of the project is to increase compliance levels of environmental laws.

3.2 The Purpose is to develop human and technological capacity to create a platform that encourages compliance with environmental laws, promotes generation of environmental information by public and private sector entities and adoption of environmental compliance measures in business management.

#### B. Components and Activities.

The execution of activities proposed in the components of the project will increase the level of compliance of environmental law through development of institutional strengthening activities, technical assistance and training.

**Component 1. Organizational Development.** Technical assistance for organizational development of the private sector – Ministry of Environment contact agency for an effective coordination, communication and information on improvement of practices and environmental conservation. The activities to develop under this component are:

1. Design of an organizational development strategy that includes the contact and information exchange protocol organizational diagram among DR-CAFTA signatory countries.

2. Design an action plan indicative of the country in trade and environmental matters based on the precautionary principle.
3. A study on the mix of environmental management regulatory instruments that best responds to environmental compliance of the trade sector.
4. Development of an information and documentation system through a page on the internet that provides bilingual information on environmental legislation, international commitments about environmental progress indicators, and that will act as a documentation and assistance center to firms on environmental law compliance.
5. Technical assistance to create an environmental information system within firms to generate geo-differentiated statistics that allows them to develop environmental performance indicators.
6. Technical assistance to create a program of environmental audits in the firms.

### **Component 2. Training**

1. Training and qualification program on environmental policy and international commitments, mainly on DR-CAFTA environmental legislation.
2. Training of company personnel and establishment of cooperation networks in order to develop environmental law implementation efficiency.
3. Training and technical assistance of public and private sector agents on effective follow up and application of CITES, Montreal Protocol, and other agreements.
4. Development of operational manuals on wildlife control and inter-sectoral protocols (environment, health, agriculture)

## 1. Project Description.

Project Name: Transparency Assurance

- **Strategic guideline:** Business environment
- **Area of Impact:** Transparency
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- **Executive Unit:** Office of Foreign Trade (DICOEX). Industry and Trade Ministry

## 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Low level of transparency and dissemination of legal and administrative changes.

## 3. Objectives, Components y Activities.

### A. Objective and Purpose

3.1 The objective of the Project is the dissemination of legal or administrative changes at the various government agencies to insure transparency.

3.2 The purpose is to develop capacity to control, notify and disseminate legal and administrative changes that impact the implementation of DR-CAFTA.

### B. Components and Activities.

The execution of the activities proposed in the project components will contribute to increase the level of compliance set forth in the chapter on transparency of DR-CAFTA, by conducting institutional strengthening activities, specialized technical assistance, and training.

### Component 1. Transparency.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Establish a program to control publication and notification of legal and administrative changes that impact implementation of DR-CAFTA.
2. Development of procedures and adequate means to publish legislative changes and its dissemination.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Technical assistance to implement numeric portability in the DR marketplace
- **Strategic guideline:** Market access
- **Area of Impact:** Telecommunications
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- **Executive Unit:** Dominican Republic Telecommunications Institute (INDOTEL)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Necessity to comply with commitments under DR-CAFTA for application of numeric portability.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities

#### A. Objective and Purpose

3.1 The objective of the project is to assess and recommend adoption of numeric portability in the DR telecommunications market in the best possible manner, taking into consideration the Dominican reality and thus obtain an efficient execution of operative functionalities of the database of ported numbers for both fix-to-fix telephony within the same tariff zone, and for the mobile-to-mobile service.

3.2 The purpose is to develop implementation capacity for numeric portability.

#### B. Components and Activities.

##### **Component 1. Specialized technical assistance.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. A study on the necessary technical and operational functionality for managing numeric portability in Dominican Republic.
2. Establish a strategy in terms of time and costs in order to adopt numeric portability in Dominican Republic.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Intellectual Property Law application capacity development
- **Strategic guideline:** Institutional strengthening
- **Area of Impact:** Intellectual property
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- **Executive Unit:** Industrial Property National Agency (ONAPI)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Institutional and operational weakness in the application of provisions contained in the chapter of intellectual property under DR-CAFTA.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities

#### A. Objective y Purpose

3.1 The objective of this project is to achieve, through adoption of procedures and capacity development, the correct implementation of the law on Intellectual Property and the commitments acquired under DR-CAFTA.

3.2 The Purpose is to develop capacity and procedures for the application of the commitments acquired under DR-CAFTA on Intellectual Property.

#### B. Components and Activities.

##### Component 1. Development of standards and systems.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. A study on institutional weaknesses, and legal/administrative instruments and technological needs for the correct application of the provisions under Chapter 15 of DR-CAFTA and associated laws.
2. Development of a procedures manual aimed at compliance of standards related to the linkage register-patent, in accordance to DR-CAFTA and local legislation.
3. Design of a strategy and action plans for compliance of the commitments under the agreement and under international treaties signed by the country regarding intellectual property.
4. Development of manuals and procedures for patent filing and registration of medicines and agro-chemical products, as well as regulations and operational manuals about compensation for unjustified delays, obligatory licences and exclusive protection regime of test data.
5. Development and implementation of an electronic system for requests for processing and registration of new brands and available electronic databases.
6. Set forth provisions and procedures for controversy settlement on cybernetic piracy.

### **Component 2. Training.**

1. Qualification and training of Customs personnel on industrial property matters and knowledge of the intellectual property theme.
2. Qualification and training on the process of medicines and agro-chemical products registration.
3. Training on standards of intellectual property applied to computer software.
4. Training program on analysis and conduction of patent examination.
5. Internship program in peer agencies for the adoption of best practices for examination of patent requests.
6. Training of Court personnel on the observance of industrial property rights and controversy management.
7. Training program on development of patents for plants and animals in case of bio-technological advancements.
8. Training of SMEs on application of protective mechanisms for industrial property.
9. Development of a study program on patent matters.
10. Internship program for ONAPI officers in the area of controversy settlement at the WTO.

### **Component 3. Dissemination.**

1. Development of a dissemination strategy for services provided by the National Industrial Property Office and commitments by the country on matters of intellectual property.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** Technical assistance for the application of new framework for public sector procurement
  
- **Strategic guideline:** Institutional strengthening
- **Area of Impact:** Government Procurement
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- **Executive Unit:** Treasure Ministry.

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Low level of transparency and efficiency in public contract processes.

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to implement efficiency and transparency in public sector procurement and the correct application of the law.

3.2 The purpose is to develop specific policies aimed at improving efficiency and transparency in public sector contracts.

**B. Components and Activities.****Component 1. Development of Standards and Systems.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. To establish procedures for declaring a supplier ineligible to participate in government procurement bids.
2. Design a training and dissemination program on government procurement and procedures for participating in bids.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** Implementation of a program for dispute settlement under DR-CAFTA framework.
- **Strategic guideline:** Institutional strengthening
- **Area of Impact:** Government Procurement
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- **Executive Unit:** Office of Foreign Trade (DICOEX).

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Low level of experience and mechanisms to develop a program of dispute settlement.

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to build capacity for dispute management and application of provisions set forth under DR-CAFTA.

3.2 The purpose is to develop specific policy aimed at establishing a program for dispute settlement.

**B. Components and Activities.****Component 1. Development of Standards and Systems.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Establish a procedure to select Dominican Republic arbiters as accorded under DR-CAFTA.
2. Evaluation of this possibility by Dominican Republic. Adoption of legislation on settlement and international arbitration.
3. Specialized technical assistance for establishing model rules on procedures regarding cases of dispute settlement.
4. Technical assistance to develop an appealing dependency for the chapter of dispute settlement.

**Component 2: Training.**

1. Design a training program on dispute settlement under DR-CAFTA.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** “Licenciatura” degree validation program
- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Services
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- **Executive Unit:** Higher Education, Science and Technology Ministry (SEESCYT)

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Lack of “Licenciatura” degree validation system for the practice of professionals in foreign countries.

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to obtain validation of “Licenciatura” degree for the practice of foreign professionals in the country.

3.2 The purpose is to develop a validation program of “Licenciatura”

.

**B. Components y Activities.****Component 1. Technical assistance.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Development of rules and procedures for a program of validation of “Licenciatura” degree for the practice of professionals in the country.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** Exporters Register Program

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Transparency
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Dominican Republic Export and Investment Center (CEI-RD)

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Lack of an adequate register system for exporters and exported products.

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to have in place a follow up system for exported products with civil responsibility code.

3.2 The purpose is to develop a registration and follow up program of exports with civil responsibility code.

**B. Components y Activities.****Component 1. Technical assistance.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Establishment of a registration and follow up program for exports with civil responsibility code.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** Industrial Free Zone Regime Regional Policy Coordination
- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Business environment
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Free Export Zones National Council (CNZFE)

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Necessity to modify the Free Zone Law to comply with requisites set forth under DR-CAFTA and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to increase the flow of investment and promote integral development of the sector and its bond with the rest of regional economy.

3.2 The purpose is to establish free zone guidelines with incentives that do not infringe WTO or DR-CAFTA provisions, and to homologate legislation and obligations at regional level.

**B. Components and Activities.****Component 1. Technical assistance.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Development of a program to modify the Free Trade Zone regime in the region in order to be compatible with the WTO and DR-CAFTA.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** Re-engineering and modernization of customs processes
- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Trade facilitation
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Customs General Administration

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Necessity to strengthen and standardize imports and exports customs processes.

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to increase efficiency and transparency of customs procedures and harmonize them with provisions set forth under DR-CAFTA.

3.2 The purpose is to establish a system of risks in custom clearance processes.

**B. Components and Activities.****Component 1. Technical assistance.**

Activities to develop under this component:

Develop and implement a risks system for custom clearance and exportation activities.

**Component 2: Training.**

1. Workshop on risk systems.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** Free Trade Commission
  
- **Strategic guideline:** Institutional strengthening
- **Area of Impact:** Free trade
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Foreign Trade Office

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Necessity to comply with DR-CAFTA provisions regarding the administration of the Agreement

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to increase the efficiency and transparency in the Agreement administration process.

3.2 The purpose is to constitute the commissions set forth in the Agreement

**B. Components y Activities.****Component 1. Technical Assistance.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Technical assistance to establish rules and procedures to be followed by the Free Trade Commission as established in the Agreement
2. Technical assistance to establish contacts and procedures of commissions as set forth within DR-CAFTA.

## 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Implementation of import quota administration system and the application of safeguard measures
  - **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
  - **Area of Impact:** Agriculture
  - **Country:** Dominican Republic.
  - **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- Executive Unit:** Agriculture Commercial Agreements Office (OTCA)

## 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Lack of systematic procedures for administration of import quotas and application of safeguard measures.

2.2 Lack of information, transparency, automation and agility to allocate import quotas and management of safeguard measures.

## 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to increase efficiency and transparency in the import quota, and management of safeguard measures process administration.

3.2 The purpose is to establish procedures for the allocation of import quotas and safeguard measures.

### B. Components y Activities.

#### Component 1. Technical assistance.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Obtain advice for implementation of an administration and control system for import quotas, and the application of safeguard measures.
2. Development of a system and monitoring regulations and determination of automatic application of safeguard measures.
3. Workshops at national level for dissemination and instruction on the quota administration system that will be created.
4. Printing of procedure manuals for requests of quota allocations.
5. Procedure manuals on administration of quota allocation.
6. Manuals on automation of safeguard measures application.

7. Internships at import quota administration agencies in order to implement best international practices.
8. Train customs personnel in administration of safeguard measures.
9. Workshop on the system for the administration of import quotas.

## II. B. Section II: Taking Advantage of the Commitments under the Agreement

Project II-1 SECTION II: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMITMENTS Priority 1

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### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Integration to the Information System, and sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures regulations

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Agriculture
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Agriculture Commercial Agreements Office (OTCA).  
Ministry of Agriculture (SEA)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 The need to comply with sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures and requirements for agricultural certificate, in order to increase exports to the United States.

2.2 High level of goods turned back for noncompliance with SPS measures.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to increase agricultural exports in order to take advantage of the access level provided by the Agreement.

3.2 The purpose is to develop a program of dissemination and knowledge of SPS measures.

#### B. Components and Activities.

##### Component 1. Specialized technical assistance.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Design and implementation of a phyto-sanitary database to facilitate compilation of information from the internet, and development of bulletins to disseminate the information.
2. Design of an automatic mechanism for the notification of standards, regulations, resolutions and other tools related to implementation of SPS measures.
3. Development of an official supervisory system for farming health and food safety, with periodic diagnose programs and risk analyses on major pests in the country.
4. Technical assistance for upgrading pesticide residue testing laboratories to comply with ISO 17025 Standard and obtain the certification.

5. Design and implementation of an agriculture exporters register with citizen responsibility code to facilitate tracking of products with sanitary or phyto-sanitary non-compliance.

**Component 2 . Training.**

1. Training of personnel from vegetal health, animal health and food safety of the Agriculture Ministry on the following topics:
  - a. Integration of the various regulations on phyto-sanitary matters
  - b. Training on management of risk analysis systems for pests and diseases, and the documentation required to complete the pest risk assessment for exports to the United States.
  - c. Food Safety
2. Training program on how to adequately report phyto-sanitary data to the international community.
3. Internship program at international trade agencies with experience on management systems and control of phyto-sanitary measures.
4. Training course on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures and process improvement.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Program for Meat Exports to the US

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Agriculture
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Agriculture Commercial Agreements Office (OTCA).  
Agriculture State Ministry (SEA)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Impossibility to export meat (bovine, pork, and poultry) due to lack of sanitary certifications and equivalences for meat inspection system.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to export DR meat to the US.

3.2 The purpose is to develop a program of certifications and equivalences of meat inspection system in DR

#### B. Components y Activities.

##### **Component 1 . Specialized technical assistance.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Conduct a benchmarking study about US laws and regulations to control slaughterhouses and export meat processing operations, and the inspections over such operations.
2. Review legal and institutional frameworks in Dominican Republic for meat processing and slaughterhouse operations in order to obtain equivalence with present regulations in the United States.
3. Technical assistance to develop a program to eradicate hog cholera in the country.
4. Conduct an operational survey on meat processing facilities (bovine, pork, and poultry slaughterhouses and processing plants) to incorporate Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems and establish equivalences with the United States.
5. Establish a supervision system and audits on poultry health and safety in accordance to the "Terrestrial Animal Health Code" in order to obtain equivalence of poultry products for export to the United States.
6. Establish a sanitary inspection system for dairy product plants in the Dominican Republic.
7. Technical assistance to implement a control and eradication program for brucellosis and hog cholera in Dominican Republic.

8. Development and implementation of equivalence method in coordination with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

**Component 2 . Training.**

1. Training program for the staff of pre-classified laboratories in order to obtain accreditation on food residue handling and residue contaminant management analysis.
2. Training program on four HACCP levels and critical control point.
3. Training on alternative treatments for sterile heating of pork products processes against the virus of classic hog cholera.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Strengthening innovation and training for post-harvest activities
- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Agriculture
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Agriculture Commercial Agreements Office (OTCA).  
Ministry of Agriculture (SEA)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 High percentage of losses due to wrong post-harvest management of exportation products.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to build capacity in agro-industry to add value to agriculture food products.

3.2 The purpose is to improve post-harvest management of agriculture food goods from harvester to seller, to final user.

#### B. Components y Activities.

##### Component 1. Specialized technical assistance.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Development of a loss reduction program in post-harvest activities that includes:
  - a. Development of national capacity for post-harvest management.
  - b. Development of competitiveness innovation centers
  - c. Certification and follow up for social responsibility.

## 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Advice on standards and technical regulations for possible mutual authentication agreements

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Technical obstacles to trade
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Foreign Trade Office (DICOEX), Industry and Trade State Ministry.

## 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Low level of knowledge of non-tariff barriers and procedures to assess conformance.

## 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to take advantage of trade agreements signed by the DR.

3.2 The purpose is to have mechanisms in place to identify non-tariff barriers in the form of procedures, regulations, and standards that difficult or constrain free trade

### B. Components y Activities.

#### Component 1. Investigation.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. A study to identify non-tariff barriers in signatory DR-CAFTA countries.
2. Investigate technical barriers and standards of DR products having export potential to the wide US market.

#### Component 2. Training.

1. Training for DICOEX personnel on standards, technical regulations and conformance procedures harmonization process.
2. Training on US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling program (specific labeling requisites for products).

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** Support to origin control activities
  
- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Commerce facilitation
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** General Customs Office (DGA)

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

- 2.1 High level of bureaucracy and costs in managing origin verification.
- 2.2 Distortion of markets due to origin alterations.

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to have an efficient administration of origin rules in order to insure all the advantages of tariff preference set forth by DR-CAFTA.

3.2 The purpose is to establish a system to perform origin verification processes.

**B. Components and Activities.****Component 1. Monitoring.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Have a program in place for recording and customs transactions control linked to DGA and DICOEX for origin identification.
2. Technical assistance to create an auxiliary structure at US embassy/consulate level for origin verification duties.
3. Establish a procedure to conduct investigations about origin in conformance with Article 4.20 of DR-CAFTA.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** *Creation of a Trade Intelligence Unit*

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Institutional strengthening
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Foreign Trade Office (DICOEX), Industry and Trade Ministry

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Low level of access and lack of information on foreign trade statistics.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to attain a higher level of knowledge and improve performance of the foreign trade sector in Dominican Republic.

3.2 The purpose is to establish a unit of trade intelligence that analyzes performance of foreign trade in Dominican Republic.

#### B. Components and Activities.

##### Component 1. Strategy.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Put in place an aggressive international market watch program, the performance of Dominican exports, market assessments, etc. that facilitate inception of Dominican products into the global market.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Regimens for application of safeguard measures
  - **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
  - **Area of Impact:** Safeguards
  - **Country:** Dominican Republic.
  - **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.
- Executive Unit:** Foreign Trade Office (DICOEX), Industry and Trade Ministry

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Low capacity level to enforce safeguard measures.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to reach the correct application of safeguard measures.

3.2 The purpose is to develop a methodology for the application of safeguard measures as set forth in Law 1-02 and international agreements signed by Dominican Republic.

#### B. Components y Activities.

##### Component 1. Strategy.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Development of a methodology to put in place safeguard measures that comprise:
  - a. Investigation authority performance administrative scheme.
  - b. Investigation procedures.
  - c. Yearly and four-year safeguard measures review procedures.
  - d. Requisites, investigation and testing of investigation requests.
  - e. Methodology for damage investigation.

##### Component 2. Training.

1. Development of a training program on the application of impeachment resources and on designed methodologies.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Micro, Small and Mid-sized Enterprise Business Management Information Service
- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** SMEs
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Foreign Trade Office (DICOEX), Industry and Trade Ministry

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Low level of participation of SMEs in DR exports.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to impulse integration of SMEs to international markets.

3.2 The purpose is to create spaces for information, documentation, and management of Dominican SMEs in order to contribute to their development.

#### B. Components and Activities.

##### Component 1. Competitiveness

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Create an information and documentation virtual center for SMEs.
2. Put in place a technical assistance program for research work, export plans, marketing, etc.
3. Create joint ventures with Bilateral Cooperation Programs, Associations and Productive Groups in the United States.
4. Technical assistance to develop incentives policy to use Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in SMEs.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Creation of a National Quality System
- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Quality
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Industry and Trade Ministry (SEIC)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Lack of adequate infrastructure to insure quality of Dominican products in the international market.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to insure the quality of Dominican products in the international market.

3.2 The purpose is to put in place infrastructure and adequate procedures to insure the quality of Dominican products.

#### B. Components y Activities.

##### Component 1. Normalization.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Develop an institutional and normative framework for the design of a national quality, measures, and standards system.

##### Component 2. Accreditation.

1. Technical assistance to put in place a normalization strategic plan.
2. Assessment of national quality standards to insure that are in line either by harmonization, adaptation, or adoption, with international relevant standards.
3. Creation of a normalization public consultation program.

##### Component 3. Training.

1. Special training for technical personnel on the theme of dispute settlement regarding normalization.
2. Development of a training program for the adoption of quality measures in business.
3. Training on assessment of conformance, technical regulations, and legal metrology.
4. Training on quality technical inspection of fossil fuels.

**Component 4. Technical assistance.**

1. Technical assistance to create a “National Accreditation Authority” of international prestige.
2. Creation of technical regulations regarding food safety and industrial products handling.
3. Campaign to encourage a quality culture in the country.
4. Put in place technical and safety regulation for fossil fuel handling.

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Creation of an integrated investment mechanism

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Investment
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Dominican Republic Export and Investment Center (CEI-RD)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Bureaucracy and low level of transparency in the process of permit applications for foreign investment

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to enhance direct foreign investment in the country

3.2 The purpose is to create adequate and transparent procedures for foreign investment in the country

#### B. Components y Activities.

##### Component 1. Public management strengthening.

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Creation of a "Single Paperwork Desk" for direct foreign investment.
2. Creation of a strategy to promote foreign investment in the country

### 1. Project Description.

- **Project Name:** Competitive Advantages Development

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Competitiveness
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** D.R. Export and Investment Center (CEI-RD), Foreign Trade Office (DICOEX), Export and Investment Center (SEIC)

### 2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.

2.1 Low level of competitiveness in Dominican Republic exports.

### 3. Objectives, Components and Activities.

#### A. Objective and Purpose.

3.1 The objective is to enhance competitiveness in Dominican exports

3.2 The purpose is to strengthen public services aimed at improving competitiveness of Dominican exports.

#### B. Components y Activities.

##### Component 1. Specialized technical assistance

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Technical assistance to create “Business Centers” in five US states to promote trade with Dominican Republic and provide market information.
2. Establishment of an information network system on commerce in Dominican Republic and links between local exporters and potential foreign importers.
3. Creation of a supply chain and productive processes program for Dominican industrial sector.
4. Study on Dominican economic density in the United States and cash money transferences.
5. Creation of a program for entrepreneur development.

##### Component 2. Training.

1. Development of a scholarship program with US universities on themes related to international trade, trade policy or commerce related topics.

**Component 3. Sector development**

1. Design a support plan to strengthen and develop handicraft enterprises in Dominican provinces.
2. Conduct a survey on practices and cultural usages in Dominican Republic.
3. Development of a strategy for artisan silver/goldsmithing.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** *Technology Innovation and Development National System*

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Competitiveness
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Higher Education, Science and Technology State Ministry

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Low level of technology innovation and development

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to enhance competitiveness of Dominican exports.

3.2 The purpose is to improve competitiveness of Dominican Republic firms and products through creation of an innovation culture.

**B. Components and Activities.****Component 1. Strategy.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Technical assistance to put a strategy in place for development of a Technology Innovation and Development National System. Development of the institutional and regulatory framework.
2. Construction of the first observatory in Dominican Republic about specialized information technology certifications for registration of certified professionals at local level and to detect market demands.
3. Creation of a fund for technology innovation and development to fund research projects, development of innovative products and processes that enhance competitiveness of Dominican Republic firms.
4. Diagnosis on national capacities and needs to encourage Information and Communications Technology (ICT) productive sector.

**1. Project Description.**

- **Project Name:** *Analysis of Marine Transportation in Dominican Republic*

- **Strategic guideline:** Access to markets
- **Area of Impact:** Services
- **Country:** Dominican Republic.
- **Contact:** Pablo Espinal. Foreign Trade Director.  
[Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do](mailto:Pablo.espinal@comex.gov.do). 809/567-7162. Ext.1019.

**Executive Unit:** Foreign Trade Office (DICOEX), Export and Investment Center (SEIC)

**2. Diagnosis of Present Situation.**

2.1 Barriers for development of maritime transportation in DR.

**3. Objectives, Components and Activities.****A. Objective and Purpose.**

3.1 The objective is to enhance competitiveness of Dominican exports through development of marine transportation

3.2 The purpose is to analyze barriers for a thorough development of marine transportation in Dominican Republic.

**B. Components y Activities.****Component 1. Research.**

Activities to develop under this component:

1. Study to identify barriers in the exports sector in regard to marine transportation.
2. Review legislation for development and protection of merchant marine in order to comply with the provisions under DR-CAFTA.

## **ANNEX 1. PROJECT MATRIX**