



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**14th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14)
Statement by the Representative of the Dominican Republic**

Date: 8 May 2006

Session: *SIDS Day*

Delivered by: John R. Gagain Jr., Executive Director, Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES)

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(Translated from Spanish to English)

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank you Mr. President for your leadership as well as thank the panelists for their presentations, particularly the representative of the United States of America for presenting an initiative that is definitely a great contribution to the sustainable development process in the Dominican Republic.

We have heard today, in the first session that Official Development Assistance (ODA) has decreased by 50% for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Additionally, we have been witnesses to the statement of the European Union, where they have highlighted their commitment to international financial cooperation for the energy crisis.

Recently, the Director General of Development of the European Union, Mr. Stefano Manservigi and the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, Mr. Louis Michel, visited our President, Dr. Leonel Fernández, in the Dominican Republic, where they asked him “how could we help you achieve the MDGs?”. To this, President Fernández answered “help us with our energy problem”.

On that note, we support the ACP/European Union Summit that will take place in Papua New Guinea and the fact that it will focus on energy and the MDGs.

You asked today, Mr. President, “Why some developing countries have mentioned that there is not enough financial assistance available for energy and development, while developed countries say that SIDS do not ask for funds for energy and development”.

Mr. President I have four points that I would like to share with you:

1. Donors have to bear in mind that in order to achieve the MDGs we need to “chronologically front-load” financial assistance for alternative and renewable energy solutions. We need to scale-up funds for energy if we are to achieve the MDGs.



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2. Mr. President, we need overcome the “ideology” that renewable energy initiatives “are to be” financed exclusively by the private sector. For example, more than 60% of our national budget is dedicated to important of petroleum and debt servicing, and this does not include the key public investments that we have to make in sectors including health, education, and environment in order be able to achieve the MDGs. Mr. President, where can we find government funds to contribute to and promote incentives for the private sector for energy initiatives?
3. Mr. President, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) cannot afford to wait for the private sector to take the leadership to finance renewable energy technologies. And donors cannot continue to treat renewable and alternative energy initiatives as special or side projects of the private sector.
4. Mr. President, we need “leadership”, we need “financial assistance directed toward these initiatives”, we need “concrete action”, or regrettably, Mr. President, the energy challenge before us presently, will not allow us to achieve the MDGs.

Thank you Mr. President

(Texto Original)

Quiero agradecerle señor presidente por su liderazgo y a través del suyo, a los miembros de los paneles hoy, particularmente la representante de los Estados Unidos por presentar una iniciativa que definitivamente es un gran aporte al proceso de desarrollo sostenible de nuestro país,

Hemos escuchado hoy, en la primera sesión, que la Asistencia Oficial para el Desarrollo (AOD) ha decrecido en un 50% para los Pequeños Estados Insulares para Desarrollo (SIDS). Hemos sido testigos hoy de las declaraciones de la Unión Europea donde se destacan su compromiso a la cooperación internacional financiera para el problema energético.



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Pues, recientemente, cuando el Director General de Desarrollo de la Unión Europea, Sr. Stefano Manservigi y el Comisario Europeo de Desarrollo y Ayuda Humanitaria, Sr. Louis Michel visitaron a nuestro Presidente de la República Dominicana, el Dr. Leonel Fernández, le han preguntado “cómo lo pueden ayudar a cumplir con los ODM.” El Presidente Fernández respondió, “ayúdenos con nuestro problema energético”.

Apoyamos al Foro de los países ACP/Unión Europea que se celebrará en Papua Nueva Guinea y el hecho de que estará enfocado en Energía y los ODM.

Usted preguntó Señor Presidente, “porque algunos países en desarrollo mencionan que no hay suficiente financiamiento, mientras los países desarrollados dicen que los SIDS no piden fondos para la energía y el desarrollo”.

Señor Presidente, tengo cuatro puntos que me gustaría compartir:

1. Los donantes tienen que tomar en cuenta que para poder cumplir con los ODM tenemos que “adelantar cronológicamente” la asistencia financiera para soluciones energéticas alternativas y renovables. Necesitamos un “escalonamiento” de los fondos.
2. Señor Presidente, tenemos que declinar la “ideología” de que iniciativas de energía renovable “son para ser” financiadas por el sector privado exclusivamente. Por ejemplo, más de 60% de nuestro Presupuesto Nacional esta dedicado a la importación de combustibles y servicios a la deuda y esto no incluye las inversiones públicas claves que tenemos que hacer en los sectores salud, educación, medioambiente para poder cumplir con los ODM. ¿Dónde hay fondos del gobierno para incentivar las iniciativas de esta índole?
3. Señor Presidente, los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo (SIDS) no pueden sentarse a esperar el liderazgo del sector privado para facilitar el financiamiento. Y los donantes no pueden seguir tratando estas iniciativas de energía renovable y alternativa como “proyectos” (especiales) y/o “proyectos” (paralelos) del sector privado.



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4. Necesitamos “liderazgo”, necesitamos “financiamiento dirigido a estas iniciativas”, necesitamos “acción concreta” o lamentablemente señor Presidente, por el reto presentado por la situación energética, no vamos a poder cumplir con los ODM.

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente.