

DOMINICAN PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION ON FREE TRADE

New York, USA.

June 22, 2004

To: The Honorable Congressional Representatives of the US
The Honorable Congressional Representatives of the
Dominican Republic

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, write to express our strong opposition to CAFTA, the proposed free trade agreement between Central America, the Dominican Republic and the United States. While we recognize that the Dominican Republic cannot remain on the outskirts of regional integration, we demand that any trade agreement promote sustainable development for the Dominican people.

We call upon our representatives to demand that:

- 1) Any trade treaty presented to congress first undergo extensive public consultation, particularly with the most vulnerable economic sectors
- 2) Small and medium agricultural industry and regional provisional production be protected
- 3) CARICOM be given equal priority as a guide for the establishment of trade agreements, to be constantly improved upon through bilateral and trilateral agreements that improve the well-being of the Dominican people and institutions, such 2001 FTA between the DR and El Salvador
- 4) That essential services such as water, electricity, health care and education be protected from privatization
- 5) International Labor Organization labor standards be established and enforced
- 6) Industrial environmental contamination be reduced and standards protecting biodiversity and public health be established and enforced
- 7) National sovereignty be respected and protected by the elimination of any text resembling Chapter 11 of NAFTA, which would expose governments to corporate lawsuits for the enforcement of labor or environmental standards

- 8) Any trade agreement facilitate technological assistance for the equitable advancement of all citizens
- 9) Any agreement include provisions addressing the emigration of the labor force and the subsequent concerns of immigrants
- 10) That regional trade treaties not depend upon compliance with US military goals

Signed:

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