“Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills
and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process.”

International Conference on Population Development Programme of Action,
Paragraph 4.2

GFDD and FUNGLODE, in partnership with the Dominican Republic Mission to the UN, The Dominican Ministry of Women, Reso-Femmes-International and the Alliance of Civilizations, will collaborate on a
discussion panel “Education and other Important Tools for Women Empowerment and the
Prevention of Violence Against Women” during the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of
Women to be held on

Date: Wednesday, 6 March 2013 - Time: from 1:15pm to 2:30pm
Location: United Nations HQ. North Lawn Building, Conference Room 7
New York, NY 10017

On behalf of GFDD and FUNGLODE, we are pleased to announce that Ms. Alejandrina Germán, the
Minister for Women Affairs in the Dominican Republic, will report on the Dominican Republic’s
achievements and challenges in eliminating violence against girls and women through education and
other important tools. As the Dominican Republic is referred to as a model country where women have
risen to participate in every aspect of society thanks to education, central to the presentation will be the
theme of education in the DR as one of the tools to empower women. In addition, the Dominican
Republic was host country since 1982 of the United Nations International Research and Training
Institute for the Advancement of Women until it became part of the United Nations Entity for Gender
Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN). At present the Dominican Republic is host
country of the Global Training Center of UNWOMEN and also of an UNWOMEN National Office.

The given panel discussion will feature presentations by accomplished and influential women who will
speak about best practices in their respective countries, which include European, Latin American and
African states. Although these countries have vastly different historical, political and cultural contexts,
the shared struggle by women to gain equality and opportunity in traditionally patriarchal societies will
unify the various nations represented in this panel.

Education is one of the most important tools to delegate power to groups and minorities that are
discriminated on the basis of their disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. From best practices of
civil society organizations that work in the field of education, empowering women through training and
other academic tools advances their status to intermediaries in society. Women participation in national
and international governance not only changes a traditional, obsolete view on women as community
leaders, but also helps government create development policies that eliminate violence and
discrimination against them.

The 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will bring together government officials,
representatives of the United Nations and civil society, the media and the private sector from all regions
of the world. They will meet at United Nations headquarters to review progress, share experiences and
best practices, analyze gaps and challenges and agree on priority actions to eliminate and prevent all
forms of violence against women and girls.

Guest Speakers include:
Ambassador Virgilio Alcantara, Welcome by the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the
United Nations
Natasha Despotovic, Welcome and introduction of panel on behalf of Global Foundation for
Democracy and Development
Alejandrina Germán, Minister, Ministry of Women Affairs in the Dominican Republic
Nadege Chell, President, Reso-Femmes International
Anniette Cohn-Lois, Youth Representative, Soy Mujer and Clinton Global Initiative for Universities
Moderated by Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Special Advisor, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations