

# The Dominican Republic - IAEA

The Dominican Republic is a nation of approximately 48,670 sq km, located on the island of Hispaniola. The Dominican shares the island of Hispaniola with the Republic of Haiti, although the Dominican occupies two-thirds of the island.<sup>1</sup> The Island was first inhabited by the Taino people prior to the arrival of Columbus, who claiming the island for Spain in 1492. Spain occupied the Dominican Republic for many years, until France gained control of the Dominican in 1822. The Dominican Republic gained independence in 1844.<sup>2</sup> The Dominican is a presidential democracy with a population of approximately 10.5 million inhabitants. Santo Domingo serves as the capital, and also as the etymology for the name the Dominican. The people have been represented by President Danilo Sanchez since he was first elected in 2012, he is currently serving his second term. The Dominican is an active member in several international organizations, such as the UN and the IAEA.<sup>3</sup>

The Dominican Republic believes that a comprehensive ban on all military nuclear weapons is the best course of action in response to the threat of nuclear terrorism. The Dominican has signed and ratified the non proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear state, and has no plans to develop any nuclear weaponry.<sup>4</sup> The Dominican Republic strongly believes in the IAEA's goals to end proliferation and reduce stockpiles globally. There is an inherent risk of proliferation if any terrorist organization is able to purchase any nuclear technology whether it be nuclear material or means of delivery. The Dominican Republic believes that increasing nuclear security at key transit points and increasing security, including storing all

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"The World Factbook: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC." *Central Intelligence Agency*. Central Intelligence Agency, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/dr.html>>.

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Guitar, Lynne, Dr. "Dominican Republic History by Hispaniola.com." *Dominican Republic History by Hispaniola.com*. Hispaniola.com, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <[http://www.hispaniola.com/dominican\\_republic/info/history.php](http://www.hispaniola.com/dominican_republic/info/history.php)>.

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> "Calls for a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons." *ICAN*. ICAN, 1 June 2016. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <<http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/calls-for-a-treaty-banning-nuclear-weapons/>>.

information on site, offline, to reduce the chances of a cyber attack on a nuclear plant. As this future action will require more funding, therefore the Dominican believes that member states should have to pay slightly more, based on their GDP per capita since an equal portion the additional funding would not be feasible for smaller, developing nations, such as the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic believes that there is great potential for future applications of nuclear energy, and that it could have a dramatic effect on the ability of smaller developing countries to decrease their reliability on imported fossil fuels. This is especially the case for nations like the Dominicans, where current electrical capabilities are not able to keep up with the demands of a developing nation. The Dominican Republic gets 85.2% of its electricity from fossil fuels, 13.2% for hydroelectric and 1.6% from other renewable resources.<sup>5</sup> Dominicans live with frequent blackout and have to pay high prices for any electric power, and so nuclear power is an option that the government of the Dominican is looking into in conjunction with the IAEA as an alternative to the highly priced imported fuel.<sup>6</sup> Although there is great potential for future application, the Dominican Republic is concerned with the proper disposal of nuclear fuel and nuclear waste as well as potential attacks, despite being located in a fairly stable country. If the Dominican does not choose to develop nuclear energy, there is potential for wind and solar alternatives but both require a significant land mass, which could pose a threat to the agricultural sector, which plays an important role in the Dominican Economy.<sup>7</sup> The Dominican plans to work closely with the IAEA and other organizations in order to find the best possible solution to these issues and encourage future nuclear development.

The Dominican Republic encourages the Republic of Iran to abide by the terms of JPOA and believes that it is an incredibly important agreement. The Dominican believes that the deal addresses the

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<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

<sup>6</sup> Services, American Technology. "DefinitionSearch." *Dominican Republic Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Environment*. Dominican Republic Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Environment, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <[http://www.diccionariomedioambiente.org/DiccionarioMedioAmbiente\\_en/en/cpo\\_new\\_energia\\_y\\_ambiente.asp](http://www.diccionariomedioambiente.org/DiccionarioMedioAmbiente_en/en/cpo_new_energia_y_ambiente.asp)>.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

military concerns surrounding Iran, as they are forced to reduce their nuclear stockpiles but proper enforcement must be included. After the first decade of the treaty, Iran is required to slowly reduce the number of IR-1 centrifuges they possess.<sup>8</sup> It is important as Iran currently possesses between 4,000 and 5,000 centrifuges.<sup>9</sup> The Dominican Republic believes that if Iran back out on the deals the international should re-impose the sanctions to limit the potential for proliferation, the IAEA should also impose frequent inspection requirements of all nuclear facilities and have a staff member on site at all times, if Iran adheres to these requirements their international reputation.

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<sup>8</sup> "Key Excerpts of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)." *The Whitehouse*. The Whitehouse, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/14/key-excerpts-joint-comprehensive-plan-action-jcpoa>>.

<sup>9</sup> Tabatabai, Ariane. "Hitting the Sweet Spot: How Many Iranian Centrifuges?" *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 27 Oct. 2014. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <<http://thebulletin.org/hitting-sweet-spot-how-many-iranian-centrifuges7763>>.

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