

Message from the Constitutional President of the
Dominican Republic
Dr. Leonel Fernández
11 January 2012

Aware of the strategic value today of living in harmony and integration in the search for common solutions to the problems that affect our countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic views the launch of the Call to Action for the elimination of cholera from Haiti and Dominican Republic as a laudable initiative.

We understand that this initiative, promoted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO), in coordination with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, should receive the support of the Dominican and Haitian authorities.

The global community is well aware that cholera caused the death of thousands of Haitian and, to a lesser extent Dominican, citizens in 2011. Our brothers, the people of Haiti, endured the assault of this terrible disease more dramatically, motivating the authorities of the Dominican Republic and other nations to provide collaboration in solidarity with them to alleviate the situation.

The Government of the Dominican Republic spared no efforts to collaborate with its neighbor through vaccination programs and a host of cholera prevention and control strategies.

Two years after the catastrophic earthquake that devastated Haiti on 12 January 2010, the time is ripe for reiterating our willingness to aid the Haitian people insofar as our material resources permit.

This prevailing social reality in the Caribbean region, specifically in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, leads us to consider the work that we have before us in the sphere of health.

We believe that we can bring greater forces to bear in 2012 to combat cholera and thus relieve the suffering of our peoples.

I salute you, for the launch of this program it will help to combat cholera in our region. Thank you so much and may you have great success.

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