LETTER OF ARRANGEMENT

BETWEEN

THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CONCERNING WAGE AND HOUR LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO DOMINICAN WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) of the Department of Labor of the United States of America and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, through its Embassy and consulates in the United States, hereinafter "the Participants";

CONSIDERING their commitment to protect the well-being of Dominican workers in the United States;

CONSIDERING their desire to establish programs of cooperation to educate and inform Dominican workers and employers in the United States as to their respective workplace rights and responsibilities, to provide them with information about WHD resources to strengthen implementation of the laws enforced by the agency;

CONSIDERING the importance of promoting a better understanding of wage and hour laws and regulations by Dominican workers in the United States through outreach, education, training, and replication of best practices, and to help address wage and hour issues impacting Dominican workers in the United States; and

CONSIDERING the intention of the Participants, through the U.S.–Dominican Republic Joint Declaration between the Department of Labor of the United States of America and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, signed at Washington, DC on November

6, 2014 to work together to inform Dominican workers in the United States about their labor rights,

Intend to collaborate as follows:

SECTION 1
Objective

To promote the workplace rights and well-being of Dominican workers in the United States through joint efforts between the Participants and with other relevant governmental agencies and private organizations in the United States, as appropriate and as mutually consented to by the Participants.

SECTION 2
Areas of Collaboration

In furtherance of this objective, the Participants intend to pursue the following initiatives concerning workplace issues affecting Dominican workers in the United States to the extent funds are available:

1. Joint development, translation, and dissemination of informational materials, utilizing print and electronic media, addressing workplace laws and regulations affecting Dominican workers in the United States.

2. Distribution and publicity by WHD and the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and its consulates in the United States of Spanish language brochures (where applicable), pamphlets and other informational materials to Dominican workers regarding applicable labor protections in the United States, both prior to and after their arrival in the United States.

3. Joint strategic expansion of collaborative partnerships, to other areas in the United States, with each initiative tailored to the special characteristics of the target communities.

4. Development with the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and its consulates in the United States of other appropriate models for collaboration for implementation in regions in the United States where there are Dominican worker populations.

5. Outreach by the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and its consulates in the United States to entities such as faith and community-based organizations that routinely interface with Dominican workers to:

a. facilitate meetings with Dominican workers to provide information about worker protections in the United States and where to seek assistance; and

b. promote the distribution of materials providing information about worker protections in the United States and where to seek assistance.

6. Outreach by the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and its consulates in the United States to Hispanic or Dominican employers and Hispanic or Dominican business associations to facilitate training by the WHD on applicable wage and hour laws.

7. Outreach by the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and its consulates in the United States to Spanish-speaking national media outlets and local community media to facilitate public service programs to provide information about worker protection laws in the United States.

8. Assistance by the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and its consulates in locating Dominican workers following their return to the Dominican Republic to:

a. provide information about a Dominican worker's current address to facilitate the payment of back wages; and

b. provide information for developing an enforcement action against an employer of Dominican workers in the United States.

SECTION 3
Process of Consultation

The Participants intend to collaborate through joint efforts at the national level between the WHD and the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Washington, D.C. and at the regional level between the WHD regional and area offices and the Dominican consulates. The Participants intend to identify points of contact for formal communication at the national and regional levels, which would be responsible for developing joint efforts within the areas of cooperation as may be decided. Representatives of the Participants intend to meet on a periodic basis to assure that these functions are carried out. The Participants have exchanged lists of national and regional representatives, who would serve as contact points to support these efforts.

SECTION 4
Expenses and Costs

Each Participant intends to finance its participation in any areas of cooperation undertaken pursuant to this Letter of Arrangement and subject to the availability of funds in each Participant's respective budget.

SECTION 5

Final Provisions

This Arrangement becomes operative on the date of signing and is intended to cease after a period of three years. It may be modified by written consent of the Participants. This Arrangement may be continued by written consent of the Participants. Either Participant should endeavor to provide three months written notification of its intent to discontinue this Arrangement to the other Participant.

Signed at Washington, D.C., in duplicate, in English and Spanish, on the sixth day of November, two thousand fourteen.

FOR THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

David Weil, PhD
Administrator

FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Aníbal de Castro
Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the United States of America