

**Six-Month Review of Implementation of
Recommendations in the U.S. Department of Labor's
Public Report of Review of Submission 2011-03 (Dominican Republic)
April 4, 2014**

On September 27, 2013, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) issued a public report in response to a submission filed under Chapter 16 (the Labor Chapter) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). USDOL's Public Report of Review offers 11 recommendations to the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) to address the report's findings and improve enforcement of Dominican labor laws in the sugar sector. The Public Report also commits USDOL to review the status of implementation of the recommendations six months and then 12 months after publication.

The U.S. government has engaged with the GODR at senior and technical levels from Washington and Santo Domingo to discuss and assess implementation of the Public Report's recommendations. A USDOL delegation visited the Dominican Republic in March 2014 to meet with representatives from the GODR, the sugar industry, and civil society to evaluate progress.

The Dominican Ministry of Labor (MOL) has committed to measures that, if instituted, would begin to address some of the Public Report's recommendations, including by discussing the Public Report's recommendations and reviewing MOL inspection protocols with regional inspectors before they conduct inspections in the sugar sector and making efforts to supply Creole interpreters during these inspections. Fulfillment of certain goals in the MOL's strategic and operating plans could also represent positive steps towards implementation of some of the report's recommendations. However, the GODR has not yet indicated plans or taken actions to address most of the Public Report's recommendations, which are available in full at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/otla/20130926DR.pdf>.

USDOL, along with the U.S. Department of State and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, will continue to work with the GODR on a way forward to address the issues raised in the Public Report. USDOL underscores its offer of technical assistance to help build labor law enforcement capacity and reduce child labor and improve labor rights and working conditions in the Dominican agriculture sector. Over the next six months, USDOL will continue to monitor and assess progress on implementation of the report's recommendations in the sugar sector.