

## MODERATOR WORDS

### Introductory words:

Good afternoon my name is Marc Jourdan, I am the UN Programs & Outreach Manager for the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), and the Chair of the UNA USA Council of Organizations Environmental Subcommittee.

The environmental subcommittee is a group which aims to “Support and Promote a Sustainable Environmental Ecosystem” is constituted of UNA USA members, that are NGOs engaged in promoting advancement in relevant elements of the topic area. The sub-committee will serve to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), which was adopted in September 2015 and provides the guiding framework for international development over the next 30 years. The sub-committee will look to advance SDGs 9, 11, 12 and 13 which respectively seek to:

- “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation (SDG9);”
- “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable(SDG11);”
- “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns(SDG12);”
- “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts(SDG13).”

This particular event will seek to advance SDG 13 on climate change. With the participation of international science and policy experts, it will seek to inform UNA USA chapter members about the regional impacts of climate change, both in the US and the Dominican Republic, and the efforts made in Paris by the international community to help tackle this global issue.

The title of the panel discussion is therefore aptly named: *Beyond the Road to Paris-Action for Climate Change*.

A registered US nonprofit organization and Executive Committee Member of UNA USA, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development was set up by former President of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Leonel Fernandez, with the aim to promote the social, democratic and sustainable development of the Dominican Republic. An active participant at the United Nations, the organization is also accredited to several UN agencies including, ECOSOC, UNEP, UNCTAD and UN DPI, and is also currently awaiting accreditation with UNESCO and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Thanks to its affiliation to the Dominican Republic but also to the UN system we therefore have with us today a very diverse and high-level panel of policy experts from both the Dominican Republic and the USA.

This includes ...PRESENT EACH SPEAKER

Now let us begin with our first speaker

(introduce first speaker).

Transition to Q&A

Wrap up session (Concluding Remarks by speakers) & Thanks to all speakers and attendees by Marc Jourdan. Invite them to check our website for the follow up material.

Thank the audience for their questions and then remind them that if they have further questions they can raise these with the panel speakers individually.

### **Questions:**

To Omar Ramirez:

- What lessons can our US audience today learn from the national climate policy efforts of the DR?
- Are there any limitations in the Paris climate agreement? What can be done to help resolve them?
- Are you a climate optimist?

To Ruben Torres:

- How do adaptation policies to ocean acidification benefit local economies? Can corals adapt to acidifying oceans?
- Are you a climate optimist?

To Norine Kennedy:

- What benefit can business involvement bring to climate change negotiations?
- Are there any particular leaders on corporate climate policies today?
- How can we force other companies to fall in line?
- Are you a climate optimist?