

**Declaration of President Luis Abinader
Upon Re-election as President of the Dominican Republic
Santo Domingo, May 19, 2024**

(Informal transcription and translation)

Civility and the participation of each one of you has been fundamental to strengthening our institutions and once again displaying the image of an exemplary country with deep democratic convictions.

With your vote you build our country. The vote is the most powerful tool of progress and democracy, and this election day has demonstrated it. The people have spoken with clarity. Dominicans want to continue profound change. This is demonstrated by the fact that we have obtained a better electoral result compared to 2020, with more popular support and more votes.

The voice of Dominicans has been heard, approving the efforts we have made so far—this great effort in governing with honesty, transparency and efficiency. We did it to recover the economy, to guarantee social protection, and to strengthen our institutions.

I acknowledge the trust that I have received and the obligation not to abuse it. I will not let you down. I will not let you down, and above any partisan sentiment is my loyalty and pride. And my commitment is to the Dominican people. I am, and will be, the President of all Dominicans, without distinction, without sectarianism, and without party colors.

Friends, we have traveled part of the way, and now it is time to continue deepening the changes and reforms, and to remain firm in the line of progress and development that we have undertaken. For some time, we have been demonstrating that progress can be achieved with inclusion, growth, with solidarity; and justice with independence.

Four years ago, I stood before you hoping for change, and now I do so as I execute that hopeful change. And I do not speak to you with blind optimism or hope that ignores the obstacles we will encounter along the way. I'm not talking about naive idealism. In the Dominican Republic, the best is yet to come, and the best is yet to come because we have—because I have—the courage to continue trying, to continue working and fighting with all my might, with the renewed strength that you have given us today.

Today, the Dominican Republic has issued a vote of confidence, a vote of hope, and with our eyes set on the future, the message from the polls is clear: the changes we have made are going to be irreversible. There is no going back. The Dominican Republic has changed and has changed forever.

These elections will also mark a turning point in our institutions, because I will vow to promote a constitutional reform that I hope will be the last and that will prevent

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continuity in power from depending on the personal whim of the president in power. This will be my last electoral victory because I will respect the limits in the constitution in the terms of re-election. I will not be a candidate again. It is my word. It is my commitment and will be part of my legacy to the Dominican Republic. Today is not a day of arrival, it is the first day of a new era and a new push to deepen change.

Ladies and gentlemen, as president I want to congratulate all those candidates who have won: Senators, Members of Congress—whatever party they belong to—in each community, in each province, and ask for their generosity and their hand extended in victory. Let us adopt the example of the Dominican people who know how to live together, who know how to understand each other, and who know how to love each other.

In democracy, no one wins or loses everything. The era that begins today needs us all united. Those who have won and also to those who have not. Each and every one, from their place and with their way of seeing things, because what we all want is to serve the people. In this country there is no one left behind. We are all necessary.

Above the political differences between the parties is the Dominican Republic. And I am convinced that there is much more that unites us than what separates us, and today I reaffirm myself in this reality. Let's not waste a minute. I call on all of you, starting tomorrow, to continue building that country that we deserve, that Dominican Republic that awaits us and that wants to show itself to the entire world as joyful, hospitable, productive, thriving, competitive and—above all—democratic, honest, and prosperous.

However, I cannot hide that the electoral results have been very generous to me and my party. It is the first time that this party revalidates its trust. Thank you with humility to my entire country, to the PRM [*Partido Revolucionario Moderno*], and to our allies. And, also to all the leaders and all their militants.

Finally, I thank everyone who has contributed to these elections taking place in a peaceful and orderly manner. I especially congratulate and thank the Central Electoral Board, the national and international observers, who have done an independent and impeccable job.

But I especially congratulate the Dominican people for their civic and democratic behavior. Let us all continue to strengthen our democracy together, and may God always bless the Dominican people.

Thank you very much.
