

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic (hereinafter, referred to individually as a "Participant" or, jointly, the "Participants"),

AFFIRMING their willingness to cooperate regarding the possible transfer to the Dominican Republic of certain third-country nationals present in the United States,

Have reached the following understandings:

1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (the "Understanding") is to cooperate in the implementation of administrative mechanisms that facilitate the dignified, safe, and timely transfer from the United States to the Dominican Republic of third-country nationals who are present in U.S. territory.

2. Case-by-Case Review and Documentation

- 2.1.1. The Government of the United States of America may, in its sole discretion, propose to the Government of the Dominican Republic the transfer of such third-country nationals, and the Government of the Dominican Republic may, in its sole discretion, consider accepting that proposal in whole or in part.
- 2.1.2. The Government of the Dominican Republic, in the exercise of its sovereignty and in accordance with its applicable immigration legislation, may consider these proposals on a case-by-case basis and decide, in its discretion, whether to accept for transfer the identified persons. In cases accepted for transfer, it may issue a safe-conduct pass for the entry of such persons into its territory, in accordance with its applicable legislation, and permit their stay for such time as it deems prudent or as required under applicable law. In any event, the Dominican Republic does not intend to accept more than thirty (30) requests per month.

3. Assurances

- 3.1. The Participants intend that all measures taken under this Understanding comply with their respective obligations under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on July 28, 1951; the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York on January 31, 1967; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted at New York on December 10, 1984; the principle of non-refoulement; and any other applicable international legal obligations, as well as their respective constitutions, laws, regulations, and relevant immigration and visa policies, including but not limited to Presidential Decrees No. 1569 (November 15, 1983) and No. 2330 (September 10, 1984). Consistent with this intention, the Government of the Dominican Republic assures the Government of the United States of America that it would treat any third-country nationals transferred from the United States to the Dominican Republic in a manner that is in accordance with the Government of the Dominican Republic's international legal obligations and that any third-country national transferred to the Dominican Republic would not be subjected to persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, or to torture in Dominican Republic, or further transferred to any country in which they would be subjected to persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, or to torture.
- 3.2. The Participants acknowledge that individuals transferred under this Understanding have transited through or been present in United States prior to arrival in the Dominican Republic, and the Dominican Republic intends to evaluate claims for refugee status, asylum, or other forms of protection made in its territory on their merits in accordance with the applicable law referenced above, without regard to an applicant's prior presence in or transit through the United States where protection could have been sought.

- 3.3. Nothing in this subsection is intended to imply that the Government of the Dominican Republic intends to waive the application of Dominican immigration law.

4. General Provisions

- 4.1. The Participants intend to establish, as appropriate, operating procedures and technical channels of communication, and to consult to resolve any matter relating to the interpretation or application of this Understanding.
- 4.2. Either Participant may discontinue its participation in this Understanding at any time; if it does so, it intends to provide written notification to the other Participant through diplomatic channels.
- 4.3. The Government of the United States of America intends to review foreign assistance funds that may be available to provide food, housing, and other related support, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- 4.4. This Understanding is not legally binding and does not create rights or obligations under international or domestic law, including with respect to the disbursement or obligation of funds.
- 4.5. The Participants do not intend to publicize this Understanding, except to the extent required by their respective laws or regulations.
- 4.6. This Memorandum becomes operative upon signature by the Participants.

Signed, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally official.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**


Date: May 12, 2026
Place: Santo Domingo

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**


Date: May 12, 2026
Place: Santo Domingo

PROCEDURES FOR TRANSFER OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic intend to use the following Procedures to implement the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic Regarding the Transfer of Third-Country Nationals (hereinafter, the "Understanding"), signed in Santo Domingo on May 12, 2026:

Section 1: Eligibility of Individuals for Removal

- a) Individuals eligible for removal to the Dominican Republic under the Understanding are individuals who are:
 - i) Third-country nationals; and
 - ii) Medically authorized to travel, following the same standards and procedures the Government of the United States of America applies to its removal processes-and
- b) Individuals not eligible for removal to the Dominican Republic under the Understanding are:
 - i) Unaccompanied children under the age of 18;
 - ii) Dominican citizens or nationals;
 - iii) Haitian citizens or nationals; and
 - iv) Individuals with serious criminal records known to the Government of the United States of America, including through Interpol notifications, except in relation to violations of U.S. immigration law.

Section 2: Preliminary Number of Individuals Removed

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic intend for no more than 30 individuals to be transferred per month. Notwithstanding such numerical limitations, the Government of the Dominican Republic may decide to exceed the numerical limitation at its discretion and in such case would inform the Government of the United States of America.

Section 3: Cooperation for Assistance

- a) Subject to the availability of funds and applicable law, the Government of the United States of America intends to compensate a competent international organization for services provided to individuals transferred under the Understanding.
- b) Such services for individuals transferred under the Understanding are expected to be provided at no cost to the Government of the Dominican Republic. The Government of the Dominican Republic intends to coordinate with the competent international organization to initiate those services and to facilitate the entry and activities of the international organization's staff.

Section 4: Procedure Prior to Reception

- a) Forty-Eight (48) hours before a proposed transfer flight, the Government of the United States of America, via the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, intends to send the Government of the Dominican Republic, via Vice Ministry for Consular Affairs and the General Directorate for Migration, the flight manifest of the persons expected to be transferred.
- b) The Government of the Dominican Republic intends to review the flight manifest and indicate its acceptance or rejection of the manifest, or any individual on it, promptly. Any person not included in the manifest at that time is not expected to be allowed on the flight.
- c) For all persons proposed for transfer, the Government of the United States of America intends to provide the following information, if available:
 - i. Name,
 - ii. Medical screening documents,
 - iii. Nationality,
 - iv. Passport number,
 - v. Information regarding whether the person is accompanied,
 - vi. Date of birth,
 - vii. Sex, and
 - viii. Criminal record, to the extent known to the United States.

Section 5: Reception Procedure

- a) The reception of individuals removed is expected to take place at Aeropuerto Internacional de las Américas (SDQ) in the Dominican Republic, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. local time.
- b) To ensure the safety and security of the transfer flight, the individuals being transferred are expected to be accompanied by appropriate U.S. Department of Homeland Security personnel. The Government of the Dominican Republic intends to facilitate entry for them and the transfer flight crew.
- c) The Government of the Dominican Republic intends that any individuals transferred under the Understanding be received and processed under its relevant immigration laws and procedures. Upon arrival, the Government of the Dominican Republic intends to provide individuals with information regarding the process for applying for refugee status, asylum, or other forms of protection, including the applicable timeframes for submitting such claims under Dominican law.

Section 6: Period of Effectiveness and Modification of these Procedures

These Procedures become effective upon signature and discontinue upon the cessation of the Understanding. These Procedures may be modified by mutual written decision of the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic.

Signed, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally official.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**



Date: *May 12, 2026*

Place: *Santo Domingo*

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**



Date: *May 12, 2026*

Place: *Santo Domingo*