The Dominican Diaspora and the Homeland: Building Global Partnerships for Development

Presentation by:

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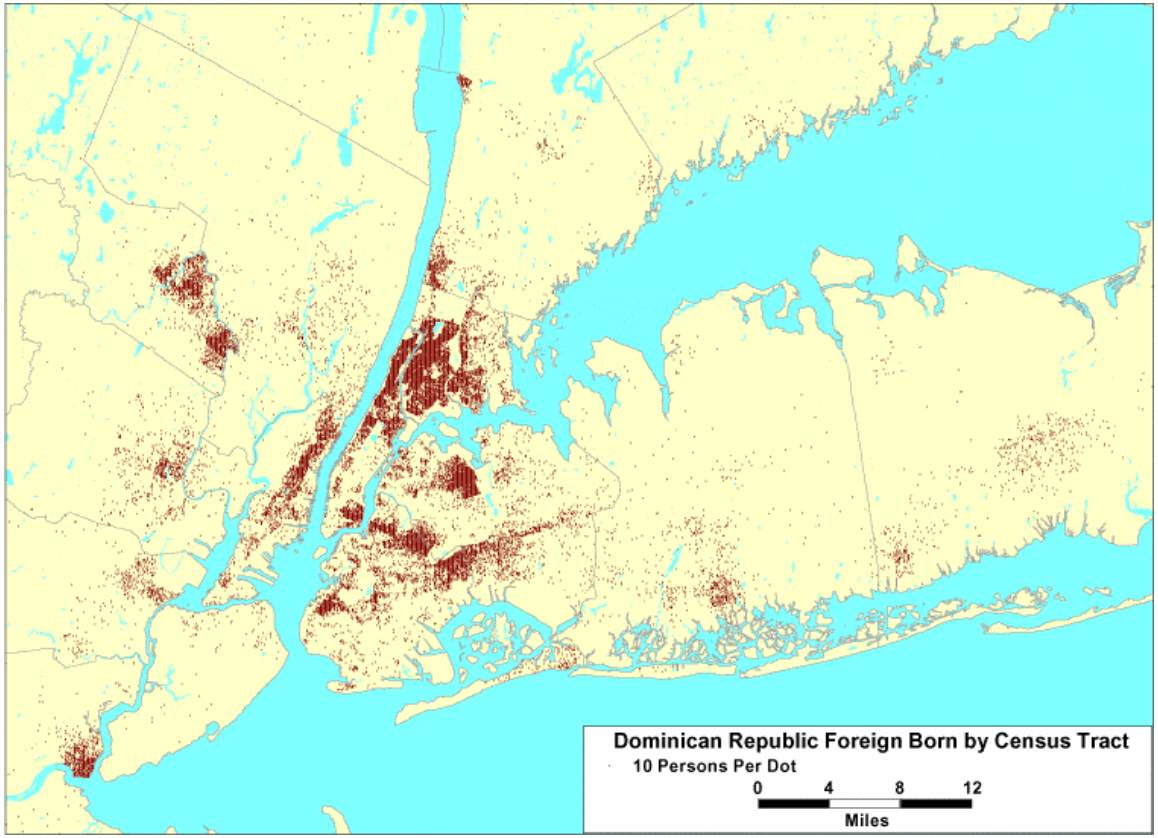
Who are we?

"The Global Foundation for Democracy and Development is a non-profit, private institution aimed at formulating innovative proposals of strategic nature that reflect themes relevant to national concern, elevating the quality of national debate and elaborating public policy crucial to the governability, and economic and social development of the Dominican Republic."

Dominican Diaspora in the U.S.

- Population was 1,041,910 (2000)
- Fourth largest Hispanic/Latino group
- 1 out of 3 is U.S.-born
- Average per-capita household income and labor force participation are below national average.

Where is most of the Dominican Diaspora found?



Source: Beveridge, Andrew A., *Immigrant Advances in Metropolitan New York*, Queens College and Graduate Center- CUNY, November 21, 2002.

Human Capital

- Dominicans have higher enrollment rates - at both high school and college levels- than other minority groups.
- For U.S.-born Dominicans in NY, some college education attainment rose from 31.7% in 1980 to 55.1% in 2000.

Our Vision

The Dominican Diaspora is a vital part of the country's sustainable development. In reality, it is our greatest asset and presents an excellent opportunity to leapfrog into higher living standards.

Our Goal

To develop and implement a long-term strategic project aimed at strengthening social, educational, cultural, economic, and technological links with the help of key actors and stakeholders from the Dominican Diaspora in the United States.

Our Mission

To reach out to the Dominican Diaspora and develop strategic alliances that will foster human and economic development.

We are committed to constructing a sustainable platform that will contribute to a comprehensive development of the Dominican Community in the United States and the Dominican Republic.

Our Role

To facilitate and take part in the creation of Global Partnerships that allow for:

- pooling of resources,
- strengthening of networks,
- sharing of “best practices”

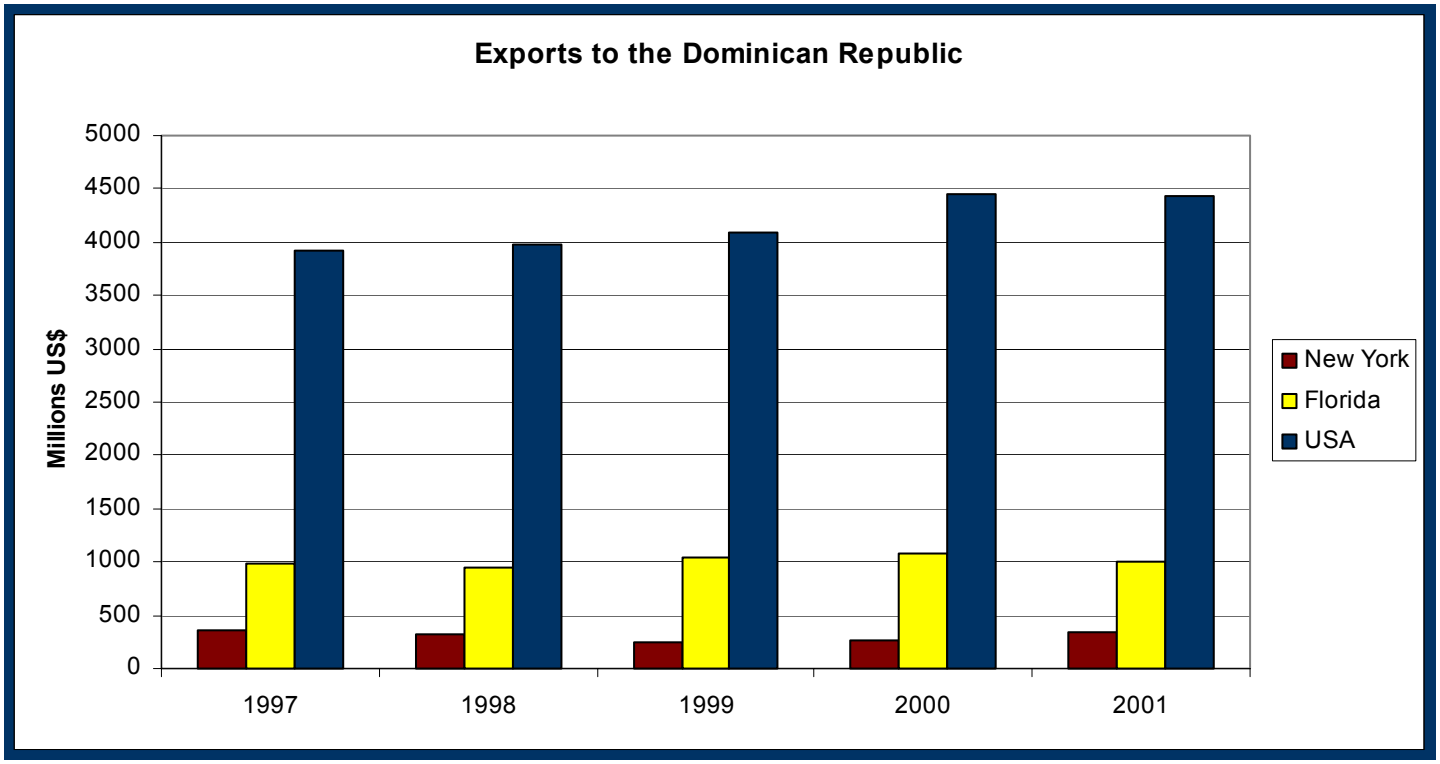
Who are the Partners?

- Academic Institutions
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private Sector
- Public Sector
- Community Leaders

Task Forces

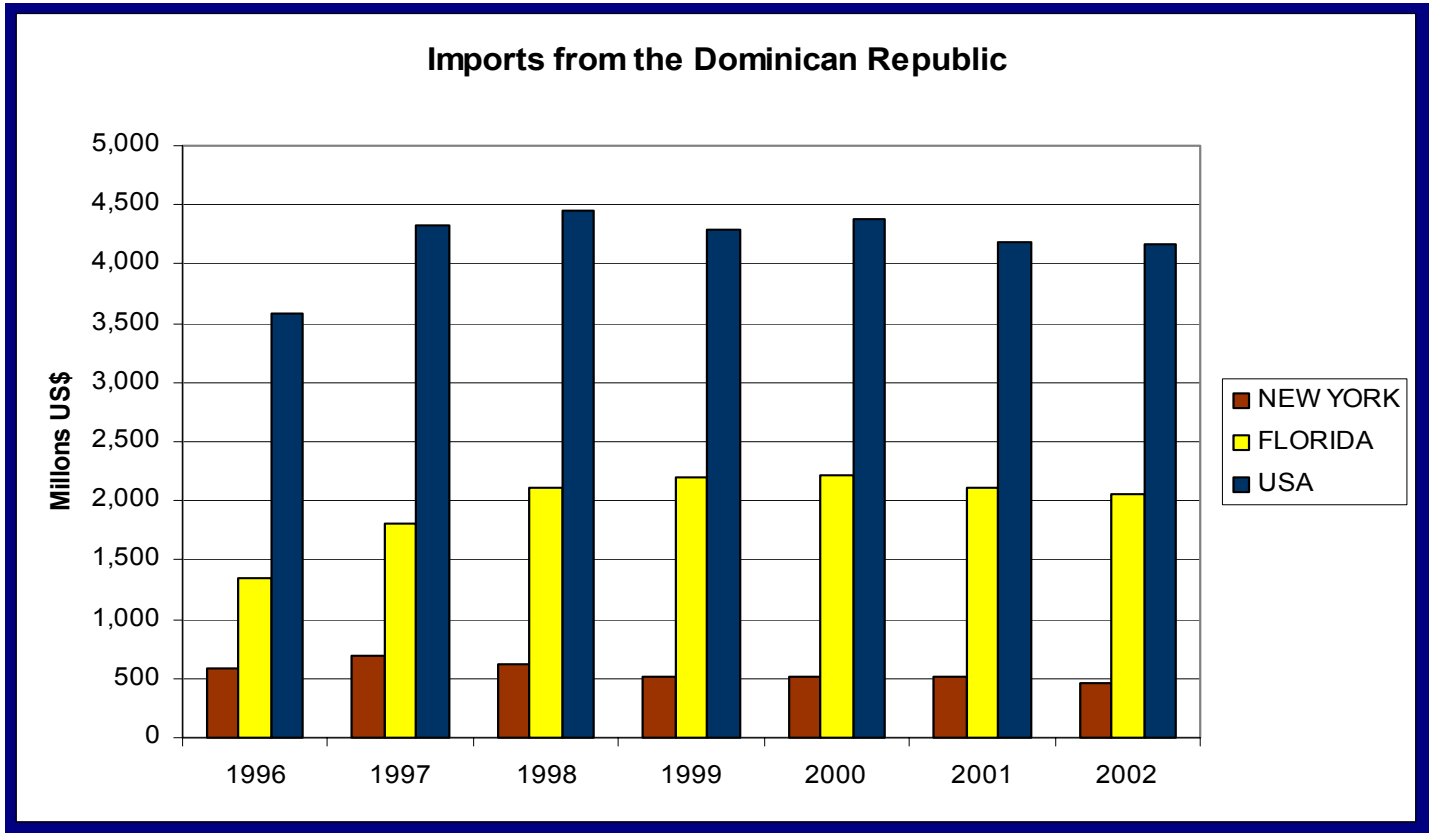
- Immigration and Labor Force
- Education
- Health
- Remittances
- Economic Development
- Civic Participation and Leadership Development
- Culture
- Sports
- Technology

Why so little exports from NY to the DR?



Source: Office of Trade and Economic Analysis (OTEA), Trade Development, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Why so little imports from the DR to NY?



Source: Unites States International Trade Commission Website: http://www.dataweb.usitc.gov

Objectives

- **To establish stronger ties among the Dominican Community and between the United States and their Caribbean neighbor and homeland, the Dominican Republic, through a comprehensive Plan of Action.**
- **To increase the production of R&D that will serve as tools for political leaders and policy makers for effective and strategic policy implementation.**
- **To create a databank on issues directly affecting the advancement of the Dominican Community.**
- **To reposition the Dominican Community as a whole for a greater share of the local, regional and global economy.**
- **To strengthen networks within the Dominican Community that would allow for the creation of a comprehensive and viable development strategy.**

How will the NY-DR Task Force be financed?

Fundraising:

-philanthropic foundations,

-private sector, and

-in-kind contributions.

Partners' agendas.

Products

- Plan of Action
- Research Papers
- Global Dialogues through Video-Conferences
- Public Policy Roundtable Discussions
- Webpage, Electronic Newsletter and Magazine
- Gateways: Education and Health Management
- Annual Event

. . . ***A better connected Dominican Community!***

Aiming for a Sustainable Relationship

- Need to create institutional links between Diaspora and Homeland
  - Ministry or sub ministry to defend interest of Diaspora, as well as promote R&D on Diaspora
  - Include Diaspora as part of foreign policy,
  - Through embassies and consulates
  - Target within trade and investment strategies
  - Increase public sector support to hometown associations

Conclusion

We are committed to meeting the challenge and grasping the opportunity presented by the formation of *Global Partnerships* in favor of the development of the Diaspora and the Homeland.

Thank You!

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