Message by H.E. Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic

There are no more appropriate means of addressing my words of greetings and encouragement to the first United Nations World Conference on the International Women's Year than through the large number of women in the delegation our country has sent to Mexico to co-operate in the great universal effort being made to achieve new triumphs in favour of women in every latitude on earth.

In raising the social, legal and political status of women to its proper level, we will be reaching higher goals than were ever anticipated, for the influence of the delicate nature of the feminine soul on all aspects of man's public and private life must of necessity initiate a new stage in the history of mankind.

Women, who possess the secret of life inasmuch as only they are capable of prolonging it as an expression of their own existence, are as well prepared as men not only to carry out the tasks of everyday life, but also to assume the most important functions in public life.

We are living in an era of violence and threats which endanger the gains of human civilization, attained through a long and painful process that has been unfolding for many centuries.

Women are supremely equipped to impose their goodwill in all matters of concern to the destiny of peoples, regardless of their position in the interrelationship of political and economic forces.

The Government I head is proud to have been the first on the American continent to entrust all the provincial governments of a country to the capabilities of women. This decision has produced positive results and is testimony of what can be expected of the participation of women in public life both at the highest levels and in the most representative capacities. There is no doubt that this will influence the social, economic and cultural processes of all the countries of the world in a positive manner.

On behalf of the Dominican Government and people I am honoured to greet with the deepest cordiality the illustrious women of all the countries of the world who are meeting in Mexico City today. At the same time I send them my fervent
wishes that the deliberations of the Conference may provide a firm basis for the
dynamic plan of action required for the definitive establishment of the conditions
set forth in the United Nations Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human
Rights.

GOD, FATHERLAND AND FREEDOM