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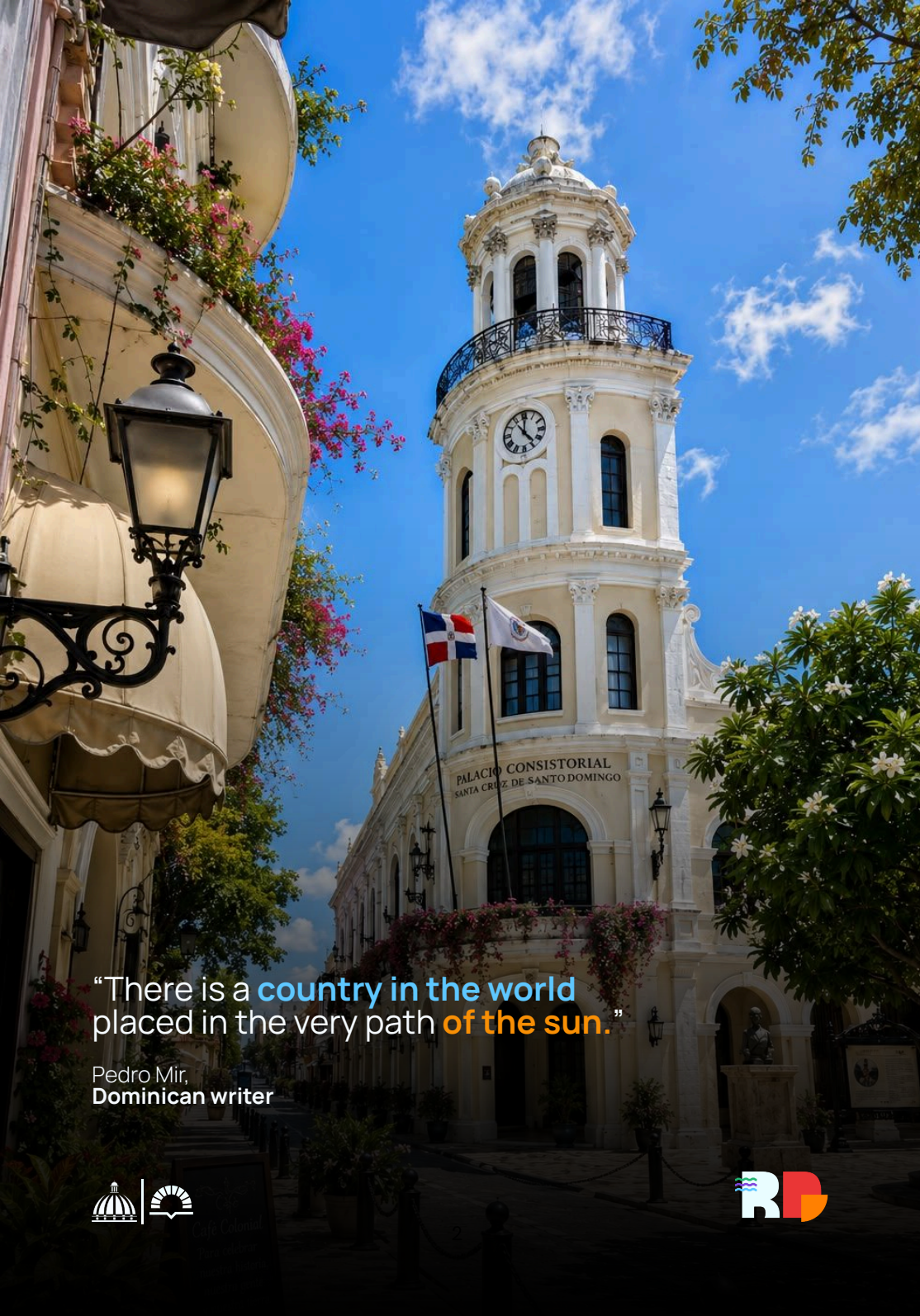
WSDC | 2028 

OFFICIAL BID FOR WSDC 2028

World Schools
Debating Championships

Santo Domingo, Dominican
Republic, 2028





“There is a **country** in the world
placed in the very path **of the sun.**”

Pedro Mir,
Dominican writer



Event	World Schools Debating Championship 2028 (WSDC 2028)
Host City	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Host Organization	Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic, Directorate of Student Participation and Leadership (PLE-RD)
Proposed Dates	4–14 July 2028 (tentative – arrivals 4 July, departures 14 July; exact round dates to be confirmed with WSDC Ltd.)
Convenor	Juliana Martínez
Chief Adjudicators	Keana Reinu · Scott Ralston
Tab Master	Lucien Mendela · Roc Grandia
Main Venue	Carol Morgan School, Santo Domingo
Accommodation	Sheraton Santo Domingo, Renaissance Santo Domingo Jaragua, Crowne Plaza Santo Domingo
Registration Fee	US\$0 for up to five official debaters and one team manager per national delegation. Coaches, non- funded judges and observers pay US\$750 per person under the budget model. Approved funded independent adjudicators receive a registration fee waiver.
Team Capacity	Maximum of 100 teams (team cap), in line with WSDC guidelines – one national team per country
Airport	Las Américas International Airport (SDQ), Santo Domingo
Format	WSDC format – prepared and impromptu rounds, three-on-three, conducted fully in English



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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

World Schools
Debating Championships

Santo Domingo, Dominican
Republic, 2028



Organizing Committee

Convenors



Convenor
Juliana Martínez



President of the debate club at Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE); Open octofinalist and 2025–2026 breaking speaker at the World Universities Debating Championship in Spanish (CMUDE). Extensive WSDC-format judging and adjudication-core experience, including the Adjudication Core of Pre Med Guatemala 2025 (WSDC format) and Regional Tournament 08 Santiago (WSDC format, PLE-RD), and a judging break at the New Nations Pre-WSDC 2026. Co-coach of Team Dominican Republic for the New Nations Pre-WSDC and WSDC Kenya 2026, and a national trainer delivering WSDC workshops through PLE-RD.



Co-Convenor / Organisational Advisor
Gerand Ventura



Gerand Ventura has directed the Dominican Republic's Programa de Liderazgo Educativo since 2021, leading initiatives that expand student leadership, debate and civic participation across the country. A Magna Cum Laude graduate in Education from PUCMM, he holds a master's degree in Caribbean Studies and has pursued doctoral studies in Caribbean History. His work has helped establish debate within national education policy, strengthen the programme's processes and develop its General Academic and Normative Manual. He has also supported school leadership clubs and the organisation of national and international debate events. Drawing on his experience as an educator and youth mentor, Gerand promotes spaces where students practise critical thinking, democratic dialogue and collaborative problem-solving.

Organizing Committee

Chief Adjudicators



Chief Adjudicator
Keana Reinu



WSDC 2028 will mark Keana's 15 year anniversary at the World Schools Debating Championships. She made history as the first ever Malaysian to be appointed to the Chief Adjudication Panel of WSDC Germany in 2016 after her extensive involvement in the community as a multi-time breaking adjudicator, Complaints Officer, and Executive Committee member in prior editions. She is the Founder of Team Costa Rica and led them as Head Coach to their historic debut as one of the Best New Nations at WSDC Kenya 2026. To date, she is arguably Malaysia's most successful Schools coach holding the nation's records at Cambridge Schools, Oxford Schools, Harvard World Schools, and the International Competition for Young Debaters.



Chief Adjudicator
Scott Ralston



Scott Ralston has been part of WSDC since competing as a speaker in 2009. He served as Chief Adjudicator in 2019 and has sat on the WSDC Board of Directors since 2020. He also joined the organising committee for Dundee WSDC and coached teams from the UAE, Nepal and Scotland. Previously Director of Coaching for Public Speaking and Debating at the Oxford Union, Scott won the World Masters University Debating Competition. His adjudication work spans international school and university tournaments, including LSE, UCL, ARGO Open, ESDC and Sheffield. He has served three times on the WSDC Motions Committee and as a motions advisor for past championships.

Organizing Committee

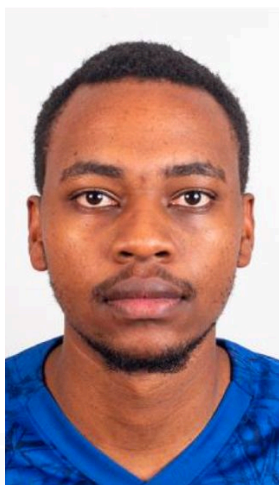
Complaints Officer



Complaints Officer
Masako S. Takahashi



Masako Suzuki Takahashi is a leading figure in international debating, with experience across the World Universities Debating Championship and the World Schools Debating Championship. She served as WUDC Council Equity Officer from 2004 to 2008 and again in 2010. As an adjudicator, she has joined the Chief Adjudication Panels of WUDC and the All-Asians Inter-varsity Debating Championships and judged the AUSTRALS Grand Final. Masako also coached Team Japan at WSDC from 2007 to 2011 and again in 2014. Her long-standing work in equity, adjudication and coaching brings valuable experience to her role as Head Complaints Officer for WSDC Dominican Republic 2028.



Complaints Officer
Leon Mungai Gitau



Leon Mungai Gitau is a finance and project advisory professional with more than eight years of experience in budgeting, financial modelling, cash flow and risk management. He was Head of Finance for the African Debate Academy during the bid and delivery of WSDC 2026 in Kenya, overseeing financial planning, payments and controls for an event with more than 76 national delegations. As a consultant, he supports organisations across debate, development and manufacturing. Previously, at Synergetic Development Group, he monitored 25 energy projects with a combined portfolio value of approximately USD 12.9 million. Leon holds an MSc in Development Finance, a Bachelor of Commerce, and ACCA and PMP qualifications.

Organizing Committee

Training Program / Advisors



**Director of Adjudication
Training Program**
Ashish Kumar



Anticipating WSDC's largest ever adjudication pool, Ashish Kumar will be leading a specialised online adjudication training program for WSDC Dominican Republic 2028. Participating institutional and independent adjudicators will have exclusive access to his judging workshops ahead of the championship. Ashish has chaired multiple Grand Finals at both the World Universities Debating Championship and the World Schools Debating Championship. As a debater, he won WSDC Scotland in 2011 and was the overall best speaker at WUDC Malaysia 2015. He served as Chief Adjudicator of WUDC Thailand 2020 and is set to serve in the same role at WUDC Ottawa 2027.



Advisor
Václav Soukup



Václav Soukup is Executive Director of the Czech Debate Association and President of the International Debate Education Association (IDEA). His involvement in international debating spans more than seventeen years, beginning as a debater. He represented the Czech Republic at the World Schools Debating Championships in 2011. Since then, he has organised more than 50 major debate tournaments and events. These include all twelve editions of Prague Debate Spring and the inaugural European Schools Debating Championship. His experience in tournament delivery, debate education and international governance will support the planning of WSDC Dominican Republic 2028.

Organizing Committee

Advisors



Advisor
Christianna Dakin



Christianna Dakin coaches Team Bermuda and serves on the boards of the Bermuda Debate Society and the Bermuda branch of the English-Speaking Union. Active in debate since 2004, she coached Team Bermuda at WSDC from 2008 to 2016, then passed the role to former debaters to develop local expertise. She resumed coaching the team in 2025. Across more than twenty years, Christianna has taught public speaking and debate, mentored coaches and trained judges. Her tournament experience includes co-hosting the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition in Bermuda in 2024 and serving on the core organising committee for Pan Americas 2013.



Advisor
Kallina Basli



Kallina Basli works in education in Greece and first attended the World Schools Debating Championships as a judge in 2006. She has coached Team Greece since 2009, combining long-standing work with students and extensive experience in debate organisation. Kallina served on the organising committees of WSDC 2009, WUDC 2016 and EUDC 2019. She was also a member of the WSDC Board from 2020 to 2025. Her background in coaching, tournament management and international governance brings an informed perspective to the advisory team for WSDC Dominican Republic 2028.

Organizing Committee

Tab Master



Tab Master
Lucien Mendela



Lucien Mendela is a South African tab director, tournament organiser and software engineer with extensive experience across African and international debating. His tabulation work includes WUDC Panama, Accra X, Uhuru Worlds, Kenya WSDC, IPDC 2025 and 2026, New Nations 2026 and the upcoming EurOpen. He has worked across PAUDC editions in Kenya, Togo and South Africa, including convening and tabbing its largest edition to date. Lucien is also the Convener of Tshwane WUDC and the creator of Debase, a software platform for debate tournament management. He brings together major event operations and technical expertise to support large-scale competitions.



Tab Master
Roc Grandia



Roc Grandia is a political communications and electoral strategy specialist and the current President of the World Debate Council. He worked on tabulation for CMUDE 2024 and 2025 and has served on the adjudication teams of more than 75 in-person and online tournaments. A former member of GAD-UAB, Roc also brings substantial experience in organising and producing large events. His work includes TDC 2025, which brought together more than 2,000 participants, and UABMUN 2024, where he served as Director of Communications. He combines tournament operations, communications and strategic planning experience in his role as Tab Master.

Organizing Committee

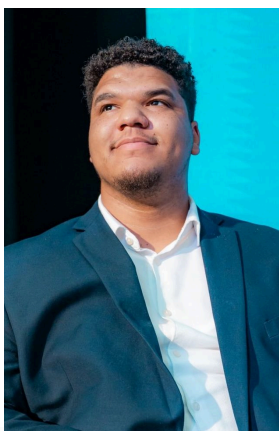
Registration / Volunteer Officer



Registration Officer
Nátaly Raposo



Nátaly Raposo is a Telematics Engineering student, English teacher, national volunteer with the Dominican Republic's Programa de Liderazgo Educativo (PLE-RD). She has experience in participant management and event coordination at major national events, including the IV National Debate Championship and MINUME 2026. She has also served as Chief Adjudicator of the V National Debate Championship and held tabulation roles at national and international debate tournaments. As Registration Officer for the WSDC Dominican Republic 2028 bid, Nátaly brings experience in participant coordination, organizational leadership, and tournament operations, with a commitment to ensuring a welcoming and well-organized experience for all participants.



Volunteer Officer
Royer Bernabé



Royer Bernabé coordinates the Integrated Debate Policy and the Volunteer Programme of the Dominican Republic's Programa de Liderazgo Educativo (PLE-RD). He has helped organise the National Debate Championship in the Dominican Republic and served as a coach for Team Dominican Republic at the World Schools Debating Championships. Across more than 30 debate tournaments, he has taken part as a debater, adjudicator and organiser, including serving as runner-up at the second National Debate Championship. He also contributed to the management of CMUDE 2025 in Santo Domingo. A law student at the Instituto OMG (IOMG).

Organizing Committee

Budget Officers



Budget Officer
Bryan Vásquez



Economist, development project manager, and volunteer in social and youth initiatives from Santiago de los Caballeros. A graduate of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), he was selected as one of the 25 Young Ibero-American Leaders by Fundación Carolina, the Spanish Cooperation Agency, and Banco Santander. In 2021, he became University Debate Champion and was named the second-best speaker in the Alternative Speech Competition. He participated in CMUDE Ecuador 2021 and CMUDE Madrid 2022. He served as Chief Adjudicator of the first National Debate Championship and Chief Adjudicator for Speeches at the 2023 and 2024 National Debate Championships.



Budget Officer
Keyla Zorrilla



Keyla Zorrilla holds a degree in Accounting, graduating magna cum laude from Universidad Central del Este, and a diploma in Accounting for Retainer-Based Services. She has worked as an interviewer for the National Statistics Office (ONE) on the ENAE survey and works at the Association for Investment and Employment. She is an alumna of Miami University's SUSI program and has participated in workshops on the right to participation, access to public information, and mechanisms for citizen participation. A national PLE-RD volunteer, she led the logistics team for the first regional debate tournament.

Organizing Committee

Logistics Manager and Foreign Affairs / Head of Media and Branding



Logistics Manager and Foreign Affairs
Franchesca Hilario



Franchesca Hilario Mejía. Former Deputy Director of the Campeonato Mundial Universitario de Debate en Español (CMUDE), where she coordinated teams of more than 120 people and supported an event with over 500 participants. She has been behind the organization and logistics of the first three Dominican National Debate Championships, held in 2022, 2023, and 2024, working across tournament logistics, institutional coordination, volunteers, venues, travel, and participant services. Her experience includes extensive coordination with universities, international participants, academic teams, and external partners, combining event management with international affairs and cross-institutional coordination.



Head of Media and Branding
Fanuel Mesa



Fanuel Mesa Sánchez is a graphic designer and motion graphics creator specialising in visual identity, animation and audiovisual content. He holds a Multimedia Technology degree from the Instituto Tecnológico de las Américas (ITLA) and is currently studying Digital Communication. His experience spans branding, design, audiovisual production and digital communications for institutions, brands and projects across different sectors. At the Dominican Republic's Programa de Liderazgo Educativo (PLE-RD), he develops visual content and design solutions for educational initiatives aimed at students and teachers. His work brings together design, communication and emerging technologies, including AI tools, to create practical visual solutions tailored to each project.

Convenor Letter

Dear international schools debating community,

We come before you to say: **"there is a country in the world placed in the very path of the sun."** A nation defined by an unshakeable joy — the same warmth you see on the face of every Dominican as they greet you — full of generosity, optimism, and a heart that beats to the rhythm of its music and the memory of its rich history.

With unmatched enthusiasm, we address you as representatives of the Dominican Republic to express our sincere interest in bidding to host the World Schools Debating Championship 2028. We are a new nation within the central WSDC landscape stepping forward with a clear, transformative mission: **to make this the most accessible, inclusive, and excellent championship** the circuit has ever seen.

For too long, **financial barriers and high costs have locked out nations, schools, and brilliant young minds that have never had the opportunity to participate on this global stage.** We refuse to let cost dictate talent. While we may be a fresh face hosting this specific global summit, we are far from inexperienced when it comes to guaranteeing absolute accessibility and delivering high-quality events. Through pioneering frameworks like the Programa de Liderazgo Educativo del Ministerio de Educación (PLE-RD), we have made student debating accessible across our entire country, running national schools championships in the official WSDC format.

We want to open the doors for **new nations and communities** that have historically been left behind, gifting the global circuit an event marked by unprecedented financial viability without ever compromising on world-class academic and logistical excellence.

Beyond our tropical climate and paradise-like setting — as a vibrant Caribbean leader, a stable democracy, and a powerhouse of tourism and culture — **our greatest strength lies in our people.** Our country counts on a massive, highly trained body of young volunteers ready to welcome the world with unmatched charisma and dedication.

We commit to working tirelessly as the WSDC 2028 team to ensure the successful execution of a Championship that **breaks barriers and makes history.** There are no words enough to express how deeply we wish to receive you, expand our global community, and open our arms to the world.

A warm embrace,

Juliana Martínez — Convenor

Gerand Ventura — Co-Convenor / Organizational Advisor

On behalf of the BID Team — WSDC Dominican Republic 2028

Adjudication Core Letter

To Our Dearest World Schools Debating Community,

At the risk of sounding like 'ultra-dinos' (as we've recently been termed by the newer generation), we've witnessed many highs and lows of WSDC's throughout our almost two decade long membership in this esteemed community. We've personally experienced editions of various scale, size and success - at no intentional fault of any hosts but rather financial and logistical constraints as universal costs increase. **The reality of each WSDC as the years went by have meant steadily increasing registration fees (more than most country's average monthly salaries) yet a reduction in services like ceremony quality and number of meals provided.** WSDC has seen an unfortunate decline in participation access and event grandeur due to cost - with seemingly no solution but grand scale sponsorship and support.

When we were approached as prospective Chief-Adjudicators, we were honoured to continue serving this community but also highly skeptical of a fully funded bid that seemed too good to be true. Why would a new nation pledge this much money to host something they've only just become a part of? **As a Caribbean nation who have been overlooked in many ways, an eager administration is now ready to change their international perception and bring growth and opportunity to all the untapped talent in the region.** This bid is one of the many ongoing projects by the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic to platform youth voices in the Dominican Republic and its neighbours. This is the very ethos of WSDC and we are proud to play a role in this momentous occasion.

Very honestly however, we believe the impact of this bid is even more valuable than its intention. **Financial backing of this scale will mean that up to 100 nations will be able to participate at WSDC Dominican Republic 2028 - projected to be the largest ever.** There are many regions in the world still uncharted at WSDC due to geographical location and lack of institutional support, and this bid will change this reality for the Caribbean. 11 English speaking nations in this region have yet to debut, **and we've only just recently seen what close proximity and financial access can do for New Nations based on their success at WSDC Kenya 2026.** Rather than selective scholarships that only benefit a few nations, we believe this bid levels the playing field for all participating nations and ensures that National Organisations have lesser financial burden to participate at WSDC 2028. There is no other time but now for us to live up to our values of diversity and inclusion and bring this life-changing prospect to a new region.

This November 2026, both us Chief Adjudicators will be travelling to the Dominican Republic to meet with the Minister of Education, Mr Luis Miguel De Camps Garcia to ensure that all our values and vision for WSDC 2028 are aligned. We will also be visiting all proposed venues and getting an inside look into another international youth conference being organised by our Convening Team. We wholeheartedly believe that a collaboration of our experience and these generous resources will result in one of the best WSDC's in history.

We also believe that the governmental backing and state endorsement of this bid, previously only ever done by Qatar in 2010, provides a stronger opportunity for all participating nations to fund raise and seek sponsorships from their home communities for non-covered costs such as international flights to the Dominican Republic. **We believe that the official documentation supporting this WSDC Dominican Republic 2028 bid, issued by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Education, gives unique assurance and credence to all potential sponsors, maybe even your own respective Ministry of Education - as to the legitimacy of this edition when requesting funding.** For more established teams, saving on registration fees for debaters and Team Managers can mean that these funds are re-allocated towards developing more WSDC quality coaches and judges from your circuit. We warmly welcome additional Team Judges in your delegation to continue with the vision of growing our community.

From an adjudication perspective, **our priority is first and foremost to every team's holistic experience at this event.** As longtime educators and devoted members of the WSDC community, our promises are as follows:

- 1) No external influence is attached or expected in how the debating or judging aspect of the tournament is run - the integrity of WSDC is non-negotiable.
- 2) A diverse and high quality Chief Adjudication Panel selection process.
- 3) Motions that are culturally conscious, education forward and youth friendly.
- 4) In depth judge training programs by the Chief Adjudication Panel before the Championships.
- 5) A fair and transparent registration system for up to 100 participating national teams, with the registration timetable and confirmation requirements announced in advance.

For all these reasons, we are incredibly proud to propose the WSDC Dominican Republic 2028 bid for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keana Reinu & Scott Ralston

Proposed Chief-Adjudicators for WSDC Dominican Republic 2028



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WHY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC?



Why the Dominican Republic?

On behalf of the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic, we bid to host WSDC 2028 as a connected, experienced and state-backed host, determined to deliver an unforgettable Championship and to expand opportunity across Latin America, the Caribbean and every emerging debating region of the world. Our proposal rests on the following pillars.

1.1 Accessibility, Connectivity, and Flight Logistics

The Dominican Republic is among the most visited countries in the Americas and the leading destination in the Caribbean. With major international airports serving Santo Domingo and high-frequency, direct flight routes from North America, Europe, and Latin America, delegations can reach us efficiently. To deepen true global accessibility, our logistics team will coordinate specialized regional travel hubs, preferential group airline partnerships, and streamlined airport reception protocols to minimize transit stress and reduce overall airfare friction for long-haul or under-resourced delegations. Furthermore, travel remains accessible without complex visa barriers for most participating nations.

1.2 Proven capacity to host large-scale academic events

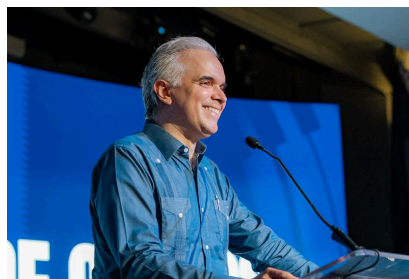
Hosting WSDC would not be an experiment for us – it would be a continuation. Each year our Ministry of Education runs the Campeonato Nacional de Debate, with an average of more than fifty simultaneous debate rooms, and MINUME, our international Model United Nations, which gathers over 1,000 high-school students annually. In 2025 we hosted CMUDE, the World Universities Debating Championship in Spanish and one of the most prestigious parliamentary tournaments in the world, receiving more than 15 countries and 500 participants. We know what it takes: adjudication logistics, tabulation, accommodation, transportation and the human warmth that makes a tournament memorable.



1.3 Full government support

This bid carries institutional weight. It is presented by the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic through its Department of Participation and Student Leadership, and the Minister of Education has expressed his complete support. This is not a private initiative, it is a state commitment.

"It would be a great honour for our nation and our government to host such an important gathering of young people from around the world." — **Luis Miguel De Camps, Minister of Education, Dominican Republic**



1.4 Financial accessibility and circuit growth

Because this bid is backed by a government budget, we can waive the registration fee for every official debater, whether a team brings three, four or five, and for one team manager per delegation. Coaches, non-funded judges and observers pay US\$750 per person. Approved funded independent adjudicators receive a registration fee waiver and may receive travel support. Our goal is to lower the economic barrier for students and bring new nations into the WSDC circuit, particularly from Latin America, the Caribbean and other emerging debating regions.

1.5 An unforgettable host experience

Beyond infrastructure, the Dominican Republic offers a distinct cultural heartbeat and protagonist identity that transforms a standard tournament into a life-changing journey. As a vibrant Caribbean powerhouse, our nation brings a unique flavor of warmth, rhythm, and communal joy that permeates every aspect of the event. Santo Domingo is the largest metropolis in the Caribbean and the first city of the Americas — home to the hemisphere's first cathedral, first university, and a UNESCO World Heritage Colonial Zone where history lives in every stone. Participants will experience world-class hospitality, modern urban development, safe environments, and the unmatched charisma of a country that lives to make others feel at home.

1.6 A Declaration of commitment

This would be our first time attending WSDC, but not our first time organising international debate at the highest level. Our debate tradition grew within the Spanish-language circuit and through international university tournaments. With this bid, we declare our long-term commitment to the WSDC community and its growth.



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SCHEDULE FOR WSDC 2028



Schedule for WSDC 2028

Day / Date	Time	Session
Day 1 — Tue 4 July. <i>Arrivals</i>	Throughout the day	Arrival of delegations at Las Américas International Airport (SDQ)
	On arrival	Airport reception and transfer to official hotels by delegation liaisons (edecanes)
	Afternoon	Hotel check-in and registration desk open
	19:30	Informal welcome dinner at hotels
Day 2 — Wed 5 July. <i>Briefings & Tests</i>	07:00–08:30	Breakfast
	09:00–11:00	Team registration, accreditation and badge collection
	09:00–12:00	Judge briefing and adjudication accreditation test
	11:00–12:00	Equity briefing (all participants) · Team Managers' meeting
	12:30–13:45	Lunch
	14:30–16:30	World Schools Debating Council — First Meeting (hotel conference hall)
	18:30–20:30	Opening Ceremony (Teatro Nacional)
	20:30	Welcome reception

Breakfast is included at the official hotels. Lunch and dinner are provided to registered participants from the arrival day through the final evening, including participants who are not attending a briefing on Day 1. Exact session times and special-event venues will be confirmed with WSDC Ltd. and the relevant venue authorities.

Day / Date	Time	Session
Day 3 — Thu 6 July. <i>Rounds 1 & 2</i>	07:00–08:30	Breakfast and transfer to venue
	09:30	Round 1 (prepared motion)
	12:30–13:45	Lunch
	14:30	Round 2 (prepared motion)
	Evening	Free / optional guided walk of the Colonial Zone
Day 4 — Fri 7 July. <i>Rounds 3 & 4</i>	07:00–08:30	Breakfast and transfer to venue
	09:30	Round 3 (impromptu motion)
	12:30–13:45	Lunch
	14:30	Round 4 (impromptu motion)
	19:30–22:30	Cultural Night / Noche de Países (MIREX) — country stands, talent show and prize

Day 5 — Sat 8 July. Off Day

Day / Date	Time	Session
Day 6 — Sun 9 July. <i>Rounds 5 & 6</i>	07:00–08:30	Breakfast and transfer to venue
	09:30	Round 5 (impromptu motion)
	12:30–13:45	Lunch
	14:30	Round 6 (impromptu motion)
	Evening	Free
Day 7 — Mon 10 July. <i>Rounds 7 & 8</i>	07:00–08:30	Breakfast and transfer to venue
	09:30	Round 7 (impromptu motion)
	12:30–13:45	Lunch
	14:30	Round 8 (impromptu motion) — final preliminary round
	19:30	Break Announcement
	20:00–23:00	Break Night (exclusive hotel venue)
Day 8 — Tue 11 July. <i>Break Rounds</i>	07:00–08:30	Breakfast and transfer to venue
	09:30	Break Round 1 — Partial Double Octofinals
	12:30–13:45	Lunch
	14:30	Break Round 2 — Octofinals
	Evening	Free

Day / Date	Time	Session
Day 9 — Wed 12 July. <i>Quarters & Semis</i>	07:00–08:30	Breakfast and transfer to venue
	09:30	Quarterfinals
	12:30–13:45	Lunch
	14:30	Semifinals
	Evening	Free
Day 10 — Thu 13 July. <i>Grand Final & Closing</i>	07:30–09:00	Breakfast and transfer
	9:00 - 12:00	Tournament Committee meeting
	10:30 - 13:00	Grand Final (Palacio Nacional)
	13:00–14:15	Lunch
	15:30–17:30	Closing Ceremony and Awards (Auditorio Banco Central / MIREX)
	20:00	Farewell Party
Day 11 — Fri 14 July. <i>Departures</i>	Throughout the day	Hotel check-out and airport transfers (participants may extend their reservations)

Ceremonial and special venues

Beyond the main debating venue, the Championship's landmark moments will be hosted at some of Santo Domingo's most iconic locations: the Opening Ceremony at the National Theatre; the Cultural Night at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX); Break Night at an exclusive hotel space; the World Debate Council meeting in a hotel conference hall; the Grand Final at the National Palace; and the Closing Ceremony at the Central Bank auditorium or MIREX.



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ABOUT THE DOMINICAN CIRCUIT



About the Dominican Circuit

While Dominicans have loved debate all their lives, this art remained for many years outside educational institutions as a competitive discipline. It was not until the Dominicana Debate initiative, conceived by Mirta Aguirre, that systematic efforts began to train debaters and judges in our country. An association of young professionals, students and educators committed to spreading debate as an educational tool for social impact.

In 2014, PUCMM Debate was born. The first official university debating society of the Dominican Republic, in the province of Santiago under the direction of Rawill Guzmán, championing the British Parliamentary format and serving as a bridge for its integration into the Dominican circuit, alongside the Campeonato Universitario de Debate (CUD), the longest-running tournament in the country. New societies then emerged in Santo Domingo, such as UNPHU Debate and the Club Iberoamericano de Debate Universitario (CIDU), with roughly eight active societies across the country today.

The Dominican circuit steadily entered the international stage: since 2015 the country has participated in international Spanish-language championships, and today sends dozens of debaters and judges abroad every year. Around 2018-2019 the Sociedad Dominicana de Debate (SODODE) was founded to promote debate as a tool to strengthen democracy, participation and civic awareness.

The decisive turning point for schools debating came in 2022, when the Programa de Liderazgo Educativo (PLE-RD) institutionalised debate as national educational policy and held the first Campeonato Nacional de Debate (CND) with more than 800 university and pre-university students. Since then, PLE-RD has organised regional debate tournaments feeding into annual national championships, bringing together the best student debaters and judges in the country. The most recent editions of the CND are run in the WSDC format, and in 2026 the Dominican Republic proudly sent Team Dominican Republic to WSDC Kenya 2026, consolidating a national pipeline from classroom to world stage.

Debate in the Dominican Republic has consolidated not only through national championships, but through sustained efforts to give young people leadership and critical-thinking tools. The circuit projects itself in accessibility and expansion, with active school clubs across all regions of the country and university societies including PUCMM Debate, UNPHU Debate, CIDU, UASD Debate, INTEC, UCSD, UCNE, ISFODOSU and ITLA, among others.





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ABOUT MINERD PLE-RD



About PLE-RD

The Department of Participation and Student Leadership (PLE-RD) is the key organisation that will enable the effective execution of WSDC Dominican Republic 2028.

It was born from an inter-institutional agreement between the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, and the Dominican United Nations Association (ANU-RD), creating in 2004 the Model United Nations Unit of the Ministry of Education (UMNURD), then in 2022, became the **Educative Student Leadership Program of the Ministry of Education (PLE-RD)** by the ministerial resolution 35-2022, following a broad institutional reform designed to expand the unit's scope with new programmes and projects. In 2026, by resolution 04-2026 became a Department in the Ministry of Education, called **Department of Participation and Student Leadership (PLE-RD, ruling leadership programs, student government, Student Social Service, and national policies, as the Debate National Program.**

the Department of Participation and Student Leadership (PLE-RD), also has the broad mission of promoting comprehensive leadership training for students of the Dominican educational system and their interconnection with students from other educational systems worldwide.

As an organisation, **PLE-RD works with more than 55,000 students every year** through its full portfolio of student-leadership programmes, debate, civic education, camps and competitions, reaching all 18 education regions and 122 school districts of the Dominican Republic.





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5

OUR EXPERIENCE — A PROVEN TRACK RECORD



Our Experience: a proven track record

Hosting world-class debate is not a promise for us, it is our track record. These are the milestones behind this bid:

- **Campeonato Nacional de Debate (2022 to date).** National schools championships organised every year by the Ministry of Education, the most recent editions run in WSDC format, with an average of more than fifty simultaneous debate rooms and full adjudication, tabulation, accommodation and transport logistics at national scale, mobilising teams, judges and volunteers from all 18 education regions.
- **CMUDE 2025.** We hosted the 15th World Universities Debating Championship in Spanish, one of the most prestigious parliamentary tournaments in the world, welcoming delegations from across the Spanish-speaking world to Santo Domingo with a full international adjudication core, hotel logistics and institutional sponsorship.
- **MINUME (2004 to date).** The International Model United Nations of the Ministry of Education, gathering over 1,000 high-school students per edition, including international delegations.
- **Regional debate tournaments.** Dozens of regional debate tournaments across the country in just three years, deploying simultaneous operations across all regions.
- **Youth dialogues.** The National Youth Dialogue and six regional dialogues for the Young Americas Forum, reaching more than 600 young participants combined.
- **International representation.** Preparation and international representation of Team Dominican Republic at WSDC Kenya 2026, a national pipeline from classroom to world stage.

Beyond education, the country routinely hosts major international summits, sports events and conventions, supported by first-class hotel infrastructure, connectivity and a dedicated tourism police (POLITUR). **We know what it takes to welcome the world.**





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6

ABOUT OUR VENUE

Carol Morgan School (CMS)

Founded in 1933, Carol Morgan School is an international educational institution located in the Mirador Sur area of Santo Domingo. Its modern, spacious campus combines academic, technological, artistic and multipurpose facilities within a 15-acre (66,000 m²) site.

98 classrooms · 13 multipurpose learning spaces · 1,800-person event capacity

The campus comprises nine buildings with 98 classrooms, 13 multipurpose learning spaces, three Makerspaces, seven technology laboratories, eight art spaces and nine music rooms. This extensive infrastructure provides an ideal setting for simultaneous debate rounds, workshops and other academic activities.

One of the campus's most notable facilities is the Shark Center, a 1,400 m² multipurpose venue featuring professional FIBA-certified hardwood flooring and a double-court system. For ceremonies and performances it can accommodate up to 1,800 attendees and includes a 350 m² stage equipped with professional LED theatrical lighting and sound systems, particularly suitable for the Opening Ceremony and other major Championship events.

The campus also offers extensive outdoor areas, more than 200 parking spaces, emergency generators, a water-treatment system, comprehensive fire-safety infrastructure and a campus-wide public-address system. Altogether, Carol Morgan School provides a secure, versatile and professionally equipped environment capable of hosting the academic, competitive and ceremonial activities of WSDC 2028.





Accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

August 27, 2026
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

To:
National Delegates of the Tournament
World Schools Debating Championship

Mr. Luis Miguel De Camps
Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic

Mr. Gerand Ventura Inoa
Director, PLE-RD

Dear Delegates, Mr. De Camps, and Mr. Ventura:

Carol Morgan School hereby expresses its preliminary willingness to be considered as a host venue for the **World Schools Debating Championship**, scheduled to take place in the Dominican Republic in July 2028.

Accordingly, we authorize the inclusion of The Carol Morgan School as a proposed host venue in the corresponding bid documentation and express our initial interest in making our facilities available for the championship.

We value the opportunity to support an initiative that promotes critical thinking, communication, and meaningful exchange among students. We remain available to continue the conversation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brian M. Kelly
Head of School
Carol Morgan School





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7

HOTELS



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Sheraton Santo Domingo Hotel

Facing the Caribbean Sea on the Malecón, this five-star hotel offers modern rooms with sea views, an outdoor pool and an international-cuisine restaurant with local flavours. Its location near the Zona Colonial makes it a strategic base for exploring “the land of sun, joy and flavour.”



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Renaissance Santo Domingo Jaragua Hotel & Casino

Also on the Malecón, the Jaragua combines modern facilities with a historic legacy that makes it a city icon: comfortable rooms, spacious common areas, a resort-style pool, well-kept gardens and a diverse gastronomic offer, plus the Jaragua Casino as an entertainment option.



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Crowne Plaza Santo Domingo



Completing the cluster on the Malecón, the Crowne Plaza offers modern rooms, meeting and conference facilities and an international-cuisine offer, moments from the other two hotels.



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8

REGISTRATION FEE



Registration Fee

8.1 Free registration for every national team

WSDC Dominican Republic 2028 will waive the registration fee for every officially registered debater, whether a national team has three, four or five debaters, and for one team manager per delegation. These participants will receive the tournament package, including accommodation, meals, official local transport and access to scheduled social events.

8.2 Judges, coaches and observers

Coaches, judges and observers are subject to a registration fee unless they receive approved funding. The current reference fee is **US\$750 per person**. The fee covers accommodation, meals, local transport and access to social events throughout the Championship.

8.3 Funded judges

The host provides 30 funded independent adjudicator places in the 60-delegation scenarios, 35 in the 70-delegation scenarios, 40 in the 80-delegation scenarios and 45 in the 100-delegation scenarios.

8.4 Independent adjudicator places and travel support

The number of funded independent adjudicator places increases with the size of the Championship: 30 places for 60 delegations, 35 for 70, 40 for 80 and 45 for 90. These adjudicators pay no registration fee and receive the tournament package. The budget separately allocates US\$70,000 for airfare awards and needs-based fare adjustments in the 60-delegation scenarios, US\$80,000 for 70 delegations, US\$90,000 for 80 delegations and US\$88,750 for 90 delegations. The minimum committed airfare allocation across all scenarios is therefore US\$70,000. The separately budgeted accommodation, meals and local transport for funded adjudicators are additional to this airfare allocation.

Applications will be open and assessed by the Adjudication Core and Organising Committee against adjudication experience, tournament needs, regional representation, financial need and conflicts of interest. An award may cover all or part of the applicant's eligible airfare, depending on the route and documented cost. The number of places, the support offered to each successful applicant and the booking procedure will be confirmed before the applicant is asked to commit to travel. The budget's separately identified accommodation, meals and local transport for these adjudicators are additional to the airfare allocation.





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9

WHAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OFFERS



What the Dominican Republic Offers

Beyond a world-class venue and a warm welcome, our bid brings a set of commitments designed to make WSDC 2028 more accessible, more connected and more memorable than any edition before it.

9.1 A dedicated liaison for every delegation

Each delegation will be paired with a trained liaison responsible for any question or concern the team may have, principally around tourism, orientation and day-to-day life in Santo Domingo, serving as a single, friendly point of contact. More formal or serious matters are escalated directly to the Organising Committee by email.

9.2 Daily live analysis broadcast – in English and Spanish

Every morning, a broadcast team will produce a live analysis segment carried on the Ministry of Education's dedicated educational radio and television channel (Radio Televisión Educativa – Instagram: @Edumas). The broadcast will be produced in both English and Spanish, bringing the Championship to audiences across the country and the region and giving delegations a professional media platform for their achievements.





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9.3 The first WSDC in the Caribbean

WSDC Dominican Republic 2028 would be the first World Schools Debating Championship ever hosted in the Caribbean — opening a new region to the tournament and leaving the community larger and more diverse than we found it.



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10

SOCIAL EVENTS





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Teatro Nacional Eduardo Brito

10.1 Opening Ceremony – Teatro Nacional, Eduardo Brito (Formal Dress Code)

We launch the championship in the Dominican Republic's premier cultural venue. Set in the majestic Sala Carlos Piantini, delegations will experience an elite artistic showcase blending classical performance with the rich artistic heritage of our country, setting a prestigious tone for the week.

Museo del Trampolín



10.2 Cultural Night – Museo del Trampolín (Cultural Dress Code)

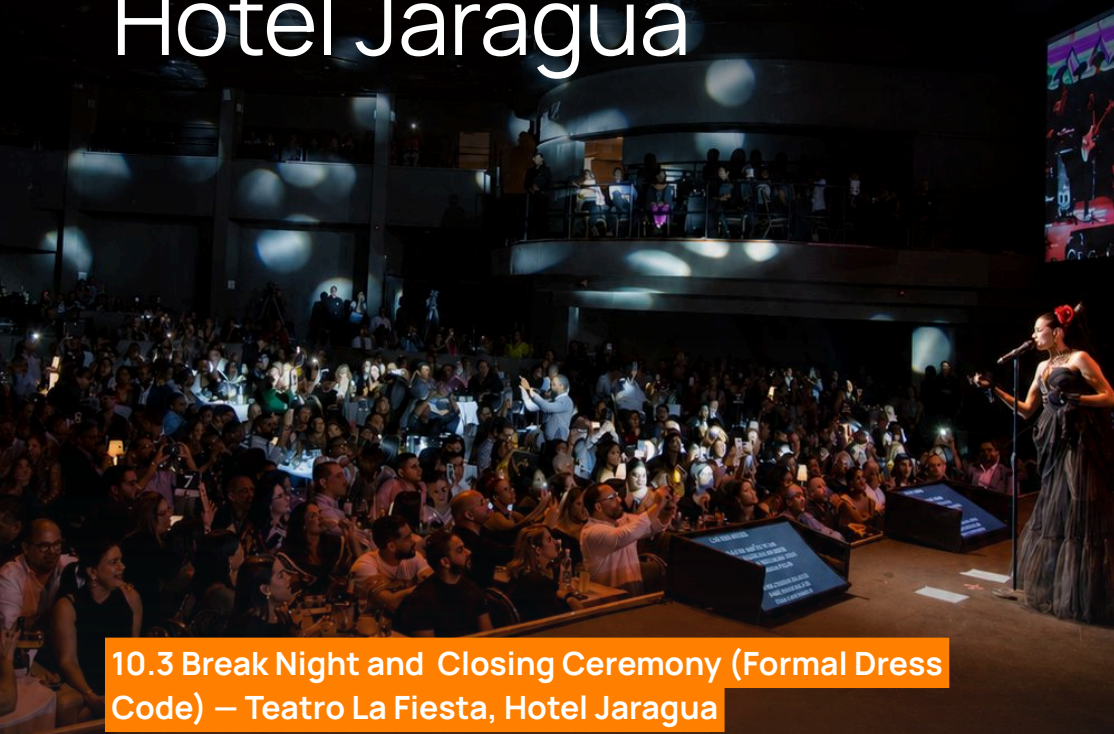
Hosted in the heart of the historic Colonial Zone at the Museo del Trampolín, this is cultural exchange at its absolute maximum expression. Beyond enjoying traditional Caribbean gastronomy and music, each national delegation will present a special performance showcasing their native traditions, music, or folklore. To celebrate this global exchange, we will award an official trophy and medals to the nation crowned the winner of Cultural Night by our panel of judges and audience acclaim.

Teatro La Fiesta, Hotel Jaragua

10.3 Break Night and Closing Ceremony (Formal Dress Code) – Teatro La Fiesta, Hotel Jaragua

A high-energy, electrifying night designed to celebrate the announcement of breaking teams. Held in the iconic Teatro La Fiesta, participants can unwind, dance to live Caribbean fusion rhythms, and celebrate their hard-earned milestones in a world-class entertainment space.

The grand finale of the championship. Returning to the sophisticated atmosphere of Teatro La Fiesta, we will honor the champions, celebrate global achievements, and bid a warm, unforgettable farewell to the international debate community with a gala celebration.





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11

FINANCE

Finance

The Ministry of Education's budget execution letter identifies DOP 50,000,000 specifically for WSDC 2028: DOP 25,000,000 in the 2027 Annual Operating Plan and DOP 25,000,000 in the 2028 planning commitment described in that letter. At the letter's reference exchange rate of DOP 60 per US dollar, this represents approximately US\$833,333.33.

This government allocation is added to, rather than reduced by, registration fees. Official debaters and one team manager per delegation pay no registration fee. Coaches, non-funded judges and observers pay US\$750 per person in the financial model. Funded independent adjudicators receive a fee waiver. Observer attendance is initially set at zero because no reliable registration estimate is available; each scenario provides an editable observer input, and any observer registrations will increase both fee receipts and the associated accommodation, catering and transport costs.

The accompanying budget spreadsheet presents four delegation sizes—60, 70, 80 and 90—each with a two-coach/two-judge planning case and a mixed-attendance case. Mixed cases allocate every delegation either one or two coaches and, independently, either one or two paying team judges. Funded independent adjudicator places increase from 30 to 45 as the event grows. Every case itemises accommodation, meals, partial flights for adjudicators, specialist teams, local transport, social events, operations, safeguarding and additional participation grants.

Accommodation calculations keep minors separate from adults. Adult participants and observers are calculated in a separate shared-room. Actual assignments will respect safeguarding and rooming requirements and may require additional rooms once the final participant list is known.

Case	Attendance case	Government funds	Registration fees	Total available	Projected expenditure
60	Two coaches and two judges	US\$833,333.33	US\$180,000.00	US\$1,013,333.33	US\$1,013,333.33
60	Mixed attendance		US\$123,750.00	US\$957,083.33	US\$957,083.33
70	Two coaches and two judges		US\$210,000.00	US\$1,043,333.33	US\$1,043,333.33
70	Mixed attendance		US\$144,000.00	US\$977,333.33	US\$977,333.33

80	Two coaches and two judges	US\$833,333.33	US\$240,000.00	US\$1,073,333.33	US\$1,073,333.33
80	Mixed attendance		US\$165,000.00	US\$998,333.33	US\$998,333.33
90	Two coaches and two judges		US\$270,000.00	US\$1,103,333.33	US\$1,103,333.33
90	Mixed attendance		US\$185,250.00	US\$1,018,583.33	US\$1,018,583.33

The 100-delegation cases are not yet fully funded at the current cost assumptions. Before confirming capacity at that level, the Organising Committee will document additional funding, verified supplier savings or a revised delivery plan sufficient to close the stated gap. Additional travel and participation grants are allocated only from funds remaining after the other budgeted costs; they are set to zero where a financing gap exists. The detailed, editable calculations and assumptions are available through the QR code below.

Category	Item	Details
Expenses	Social events	Cultural Night, Break Night, and Farewell Party.
Expenses	International travel	Flights for the international Adjudication Core and staff.
Expenses	Logistics and operations	Welcome kits, awards, volunteer shirts, transportation, streaming, and website services. Several items will be covered through institutional sponsorship.
Expenses	Scholarships	Accommodation scholarships for teams and adjudicators, costed against the figures presented in "What the Dominican Republic Offers."
Sponsorship	Ministry of Education support	The Ministry of Education supports the bid through a government budget and institutional sponsorship. A sponsor letter pledging support, as required by the WSDC bid process, will be attached.



Scan this QR code to access the WSDC Dominican Republic 2028 budget spreadsheet. Explore the detailed expenditure breakdown and compare scenarios by delegation size, coach and judge attendance, registration fee revenue, and government funding.

11.1 Letter of approval, Minister of Education



GOBIERNO DE LA
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
EDUCACIÓN

DESPACHO DEL MINISTRO

MINERD-DESP. 3216

27 de agosto de 2026

Señores

Delegados Naciones del Comité de Torneos

World Schools Debating Championships (WSDC)

Reino Unido.

Distinguidos señores representantes:

En mi calidad de Ministro de Educación de la República Dominicana, me dirijo a ustedes para **presentar formalmente la candidatura de nuestro país como sede del World Schools Debating Championship 2028 (WSDC 2028)** y expresar el firme compromiso de esta institución con la organización y celebración exitosa de este importante torneo internacional.

El Ministerio de Educación de la República Dominicana (MINERD) ha asumido el debate escolar como una herramienta fundamental para el desarrollo integral de los estudiantes. A través de la Dirección de Participación y Liderazgo Estudiantil, desarrollamos programas nacionales de debate, oratoria y liderazgo que alcanzan a estudiantes de todas las regiones del país, articulados mediante nuestras 18 direcciones regionales y 122 distritos educativos. Esta experiencia y capacidad institucional nos permiten afirmar que la República Dominicana no solo aspira a recibir el torneo, sino que cuenta con las condiciones necesarias para acogerlo con el más alto nivel de organización y excelencia.

Deseo destacar, de manera particular, que la organización del WSDC 2028 ha sido incorporada a la planificación institucional de este Ministerio. En consecuencia, el MINERD manifiesta su compromiso de respaldar la celebración del torneo con cargo a sus asignaciones presupuestarias, conforme a la programación plurianual correspondiente y a la normativa presupuestaria vigente. Esto permitirá disponer del soporte financiero necesario para garantizar la logística, las instalaciones, la hospitalidad y los estándares operativos requeridos para un campeonato mundial de esta naturaleza.

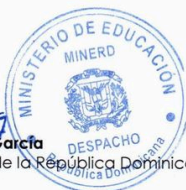
Recibir en nuestro país a los jóvenes debatientes más talentosos del mundo constituiría un honor para el sistema educativo dominicano y una oportunidad extraordinaria para fortalecer la cultura del debate, el pensamiento crítico, la argumentación y el liderazgo entre nuestros estudiantes.

Confiamos en que el Comité encontrará en la República Dominicana un anfitrión comprometido, preparado y plenamente convencido del valor educativo y formativo del debate, así como de su capacidad para promover el diálogo, el respeto y el entendimiento entre jóvenes de diferentes culturas y naciones.

Cordialmente,


Luis Miguel De Camps García

Ministro de Educación de la República Dominicana



11.2 Budget execution letter, Vice Ministry of Planning and Development of the Ministry of Education



GOBIERNO DE LA
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

EDUCACIÓN

VICEMINISTERIO DE PLANIFICACION Y DESARROLLO EDUCATIVO.

Santo Domingo, D.N.
31 de agosto de 2026

VPDE No. 0431 -2026

To the
Delegate Nations of the Tournament Committee
World Schools Debating Championships (WSDC)
United Kingdom.

Dear Representatives:

Further to letter MINERD-DESP. 3216, dated 27 August 2026, by which the Minister of Education, Mr. Luis Miguel De Camps García, formally presented the Dominican Republic's bid to host the World Schools Debating Championship 2028 and expressed this Ministry's commitment to supporting the championship through its budget appropriations, I write to you in order to specify and quantify that financial commitment.

This Vice-Ministry for Planning and Development is responsible for the formulation, monitoring and certification of the Ministry's institutional budget programming. In discharge of that responsibility, I hereby confirm that the organization of WSDC 2028 has funds allocated specifically and exclusively for that purpose, as follows:

Fiscal year	Purpose	Amount (DOP)	Equiv. (USD)
POA 2027	First appropriation: host-city advances, technical preparation and coordination missions	25,000,000.00	416,666.67
POA 2028	Second appropriation: delivery of the host city and staging of the championship	25,000,000.00	416,666.67
	Total committed	50,000,000.00	833,333.33

US dollar equivalents calculated at a reference rate of DOP 60.00 per USD 1.00.

The total commitment amounts to DOP 50,000,000.00 (fifty million Dominican pesos), equivalent to USD 833,333.33. The first appropriation of DOP 25,000,000.00, falls under fiscal year 2027; the second, of the same amount, is recorded in the budget of the Directorate of Student Participation and Leadership for fiscal year 2028, the year the championship is held.



GOBIERNO DE LA
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
EDUCACIÓN

VICEMINISTERIO DE PLANIFICACION Y DESARROLLO EDUCATIVO.

Both appropriations are identified exclusively for WSDC 2028 within the Ministry's Annual Operating Plan (POA) and institutional budget. They are therefore not an estimate, nor funds subject to discretionary reallocation from other activities.

Furthermore, in accordance with the budget formulation procedures of the Dominican State and with the multi-year programming referred to in letter MINERD-DESP. 3216, this Vice-Ministry formally undertakes to include the appropriation for fiscal year 2028 in the Ministry's draft institutional budget, so that funding for the championship is guaranteed on a continuous basis until its conclusion, irrespective of any administrative changes that may occur during that period.

The committed amounts cover, without limitation: the venue and competition spaces; accommodation and meals for participating delegations in line with tournament standards; local transport; technical, technological and tabulation equipment; security and medical coverage; and the opening and closing ceremonies together with the associated cultural programme.

This Vice-Ministry remains available to the Committee to provide the official certification of budget availability, the institutional programming documents and any further verification the Committee may consider appropriate, through plerd@minerd.gob.do and extensions 4350 / 4351 / 4352.

With this letter, the support expressed by the Office of the Minister is backed by a concrete, verifiable and programmed budget allocation, so that the Committee may assess the Dominican bid with full certainty as to its financial sustainability.

Yours sincerely,



Ayax Mercedes

Vice-Minister for Planning and Development





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DOMINICANA
WSDC | 2028 

12

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT COSTS TO SANTO DOMINGO



International Flight Costs to Santo Domingo

COUNTRY	ORIGIN	AIRLINES	FARE · USD
THE AMERICAS			
PUERTO RICO	SAN JUAN (SJU)	JetBlue / Arajet	292 - 502
JAMAICA	KINGSTON (KIN)	Arajet / Copa Airlines	319 - 328
COSTA RICA	SAN JOSE (SJO)	Copa Airlines / Avianca	397 - 450
MEXICO	MEXICO CITY (MEX)	Aeroméxico / Arajet	361 - 418
PERU	LIMA (LIM)	Arajet / Copa Airlines	312 - 363
ARGENTINA	BUENOS AIRES (EZE)	Arajet / Avianca	610 - 743
EUROPE			
SPAIN	MADRID (MAD)	Iberia / Air Europa	750 - 953
FRANCE	PARIS (CDG/ORY)	Air France / Iberia	731 - 1,443
ITALY	ROME (FCO)	ITA Airways / Iberia	780 - 883
GERMANY	FRANKFURT (FRA)	Condor / Lufthansa	928 - 1,683
ENGLAND	LONDON (LHR/LGW)	British Airways / Condor	820 - 884
AUSTRIA	VIENNA (VIE)	Austrian Airlines / Iberia	650 - 1,900
NETHERLANDS	AMSTERDAM (AMS)	KLM / Air Europa	765 - 1,486
SWITZERLAND	GENEVA (GVA)	Air Europa / Iberia	899 - 1,175
DENMARK	COPENHAGEN (CPH)	Scandinavian Airlines / Air Europa	541 - 861
LITHUANIA	VILNIUS (VNO)	Air Europa / Wizz Air	1,075 - 1,501
FINLAND	HELSINKI (HEL)	Finnair / Iberia	460 - 1,500

International Flight Costs to Santo Domingo

COUNTRY	ORIGIN	AIRLINES	FARE · USD
AFRICA			
MOROCCO	CASABLANCA (CMN)	Royal Air Maroc / Iberia	631 - 1,473
ALGERIA	ALGIERS (ALG)	Air Europa / Iberia	841 - 1,187
SOUTH AFRICA	JOHANNESBURG (JNB)	Delta / United Airlines	1,034 - 9,050
ZIMBABWE	HARARE (HRE)	Ethiopian Airlines / Emirates	1,129 - 3,243
ASIA			
QATAR	DOHA (DOH)	Qatar Airways / Iberia	1,000 - 2,600
THAILAND	BANGKOK (BKK)	Qatar Airways / United Airlines	800 - 1,900
VIETNAM	HANOI (HAN)	Vietnam Airlines / United Airlines	856 - 1,475
CHINA	BEIJING (PEK)	United Airlines / Turkish Airlines	1,050 - 4,294
SOUTH KOREA	SEOUL (ICN)	Asiana Airlines / Air Premia	813 - 1,359
PHILIPPINES	MANILA (MNL)	Philippine Airlines / JetBlue	900 - 1,800
MALAYSIA	KUALA LUMPUR (KUL)	Emirates / Singapore Airlines	895 - 2,389
JAPAN	TOKYO (NRT/HND)	United Airlines / Delta	1,304 - 3,205
SINGAPORE	SINGAPORE (SIN)	Singapore Airlines / Korean Air	1,102 - 2,300
INDONESIA	JAKARTA (CGK)	Emirates / Etihad	940 - 1,745



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13

ACCESSIBILITY: VISA & ENTRY

Accessibility: Visa & Entry

The Organising Committee will provide coordinated visa and entry support for up to 100 national delegations. Working with the Dominican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) and the relevant Dominican missions, we will identify the appropriate entry route and documentation for each participant. The host will provide institutional invitation and sponsorship documents. Visa decisions, processing methods, documentary requirements and entry authorisations remain with the competent authorities.

13.1 General entry requirements

- **Valid passport.** Passports must be valid for a minimum of six months from the date of entry.
- **E-Ticket.** Every traveller (with or without a visa) must complete the free electronic entry/exit form within the 72 hours before their flight, at <https://eticket.migracion.gob.do>.



13.2 Visa-free entry – the golden rule

Many delegations will not need a Dominican visa at all. Two groups enter with only the E-Ticket:

- **Visa-free nationalities (reference list):** Spain, Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Uruguay, Colombia, Panama, Nicaragua and the United States, among others.
- **Holders of a valid US, Canada, UK or Schengen visa or residence.** Any traveller – including debaters from Africa, Asia or any other region – who already holds a valid visa or residence from these countries enters the Dominican Republic without applying for a Dominican visa. This exemption covers a large share of the world's travelling delegations.

13.3 For nations that do require a visa

For a non-profit academic and cultural event, the appropriate visa is the Tourism Visa – Single (TS) or Multiple (TM), which Dominican consulates grant explicitly for tourism, cultural activities and attendance at congresses, conventions and intellectual or academic events, provided participants receive no local salary in the country. Applications are filed through the MIREX online portal and finalised at the nearest Dominican mission, typically requiring: a completed visa form, an original passport (valid 6+ months) and a 4x5 cm white-background photo; the MIREX-backed letter of invitation (see below); a letter from the participant's school or debate club; proof of financial means or a sponsorship letter; and a round-trip flight reservation.

13.4 Where the Dominican Republic has diplomatic missions

The Dominican Republic maintains a broad network of resident embassies, and – crucially – each embassy also serves several additional countries through **concurrent accreditation**. This means that even nations without a resident Dominican embassy are formally covered by a designated mission nearby. The tables below list our resident embassies by region and the additional countries each one serves.

Africa & Neighbouring Accreditations

Resident embassy	City	Also serves (concurrent accreditation)
Egypt	Cairo	Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Jordan and Palestine
Morocco	Rabat	The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Tunisia
South Africa	Pretoria	Angola, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda

Americas

Resident embassy	City	Also serves (concurrent accreditation)
United States	Washington, D.C.	Consulates-general in Boston, Chicago, Glendale, Houston, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Paterson and Philadelphia; representation in San Juan and Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
Canada	Ottawa	Consulates-general in Montreal and Toronto
Mexico	Mexico City	—

Resident embassy	City	Also serves (concurrent accreditation)
Guatemala	Guatemala City	—
El Salvador	San Salvador	—
Honduras	Tegucigalpa	—
Nicaragua	Managua	—
Costa Rica	San José	—
Panama	Panama City	—
Cuba	Havana	—
Haiti	Port-au-Prince	—
Jamaica	Kingston	The Bahamas
Antigua and Barbuda	St. John's	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	—
Guyana	Georgetown	Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Colombia	Bogotá	—

Resident embassy	City	Also serves (concurrent accreditation)
Ecuador	Quito	—
Peru	Lima	—
Bolivia	La Paz	—
Chile	Santiago	—
Argentina	Buenos Aires	—
Paraguay	Asunción	—
Uruguay	Montevideo	—
Brazil	Brasília	Consulates-general in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo

Europe

Resident embassy	City	Also serves (concurrent accreditation)
United Kingdom	London	Ireland
Spain	Madrid	Andorra and Equatorial Guinea; consulates in Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Santa Cruz de Tenerife
France	Paris	Monaco; consulates in Marseille and Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe

Resident embassy	City	Also serves (concurrent accreditation)
Belgium	Brussels	Luxembourg and the European Union
Netherlands	The Hague	Consulates in Amsterdam, Sint Maarten and Curaçao
Germany	Berlin	Consulates in Frankfurt and Hamburg
Italy	Rome	Croatia, Greece, Malta, Montenegro, Romania and San Marino
Holy See	Rome	Sovereign Military Order of Malta
Portugal	Lisbon	Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau
Switzerland	Bern	Bosnia and Herzegovina and Liechtenstein
Austria	Vienna	Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia and Slovakia
Sweden	Stockholm	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania
Russia	Moscow	Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan
Armenia	Yerevan	—

In addition to the resident embassies above, the Dominican Republic operates numerous consulates-general and honorary consulates worldwide. The exact assignment of missions is confirmed through MIREX's official directory (mirex.gob.do/directorio).

Asia, Middle East & Pacific

Resident embassy	City	Also serves (concurrent accreditation)
China	Beijing	Malaysia and Timor-Leste; consulates in Hong Kong and Shanghai
Japan	Tokyo	Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Singapore and Tuvalu
South Korea	Seoul	Brunei and Thailand
Vietnam	Hanoi	Philippines
India	New Delhi	Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	Pakistan, Seychelles and Yemen
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Bahrain, Djibouti and Oman
Qatar	Doha	Iraq and Kuwait
Turkey	Ankara	Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran, Lebanon and Turkmenistan
Israel	Tel Aviv	Cyprus



Additionally, we have the full support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate and ensure the visa process for all international participants, including those from Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific. Scan the QR code to view the official letter of support.

13.5 Delegations without a resident Dominican embassy

A delegation without a resident Dominican embassy will be referred to the Dominican mission responsible for its country. Our Visa Support Desk will confirm directly with that mission whether applicants must attend in person, may submit documents remotely or may use a courier service. We will communicate the confirmed procedure before the delegation submits passports or makes travel arrangements. We cannot guarantee that every application can be completed without an in-person appointment or travel to a mission.

13.6 Special and courtesy visas

The Organising Committee will ask MIREX to assess whether any Championship participants qualify for a special or courtesy visa. Eligibility, required documents, the place and method of issuance, and any fee waiver must be confirmed by MIREX or the competent mission for each case. A courtesy visa is not an automatic entitlement, and its issuance on arrival cannot be promised.

13.7 Minors travelling without a parent or legal guardian

Where a minor travels with a team manager, coach or another accompanying adult, the delegation must obtain the parental or guardian authorisation required for that journey. The Visa Support Desk will provide an individual checklist based on the participant's nationality, departure country, visa category and competent Dominican mission. Notarisation, apostille, legalisation or Spanish translation will be requested where the relevant authority confirms that it is required. Delegations must also check applicable departure and transit requirements.

13.8 Institutional coordination with MIREX

The host will seek an official event support letter from MIREX and prepare the relevant invitation or sponsorship documents. These documents will explain the purpose of travel and the support offered to participants. Expedited treatment, reduced documentary requirements, remote processing and special or courtesy visas remain subject to confirmation by MIREX and the competent mission.

13.9 Requirements that remain applicable

Every participant must hold the travel documents and entry permission applicable to their nationality and circumstances. Visa-required applicants must follow the procedure confirmed by the competent Dominican mission. Participants must complete any applicable electronic entry and exit form and comply with the entry, departure and transit rules relevant to their journey.



13.10 Timing and costs

Delegations will be encouraged to begin the assessment and collection of documents well in advance of July 2028. The Visa Support Desk will provide an individual timetable but cannot guarantee approval within a fixed number of days. Participants should budget for the consular fee applicable to their visa category and any document, translation, appointment or courier costs required in their case. Any fee waiver will be communicated after official confirmation.

13.11 Visa Support Desk

A dedicated Visa Support Desk will support the confirmed delegations, up to the Championship's maximum of 100 national teams. It will assign a point of contact, assess each participant's entry route, issue an individual checklist, prepare event documentation, coordinate with MIREX and the competent missions, track applications and escalate time-sensitive cases. Guidance will be available in English and Spanish. The competent authorities retain responsibility for determining requirements and granting visas or entry permission.



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SAFETY, SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDING



Safety, Security and Safeguarding

Ensuring the safety, security and well-being of every participant is the highest priority for the WSDC 2028 organizing committee in Santo Domingo. Because WSDC brings together young people from across the globe, and because the great majority of debaters are minors, we have built a protection framework designed specifically around child safeguarding and the needs of international visitors. This framework aligns with Dominican national law and the wider WSDC circuit's safeguarding norms, whichever is more protective, and rests on the pillars below.

14.1 Child and Minor Protection (Safeguarding)

Safeguarding is not an add-on to our security plan – it is its foundation. The following measures apply throughout registration, official activities, transit, accommodation and social events:

- **Dedicated Safeguarding Team.** A team of trained Safeguarding Officers, working alongside the Equity Team, will be on duty and reachable 24/7 for the full duration of the Championship. Their contact details will be printed on every accreditation badge and shared with all team managers on arrival.
- **Vetted staff and volunteers.** All organizing staff, volunteers and liaisons who interact with participants are screened in advance, including criminal-record checks, and are trained in our safeguarding policy, code of conduct and reporting procedures before the event begins.
- **Color-coded accreditation badges.** Every participant wears a lanyard accreditation badge whose color instantly identifies their role, allowing staff to distinguish minors from adults at a glance and to verify who belongs in each space:
 - Debaters (minors) – one distinct color;
 - Team managers, coaches and accompanying adults – a second color;
 - Adjudicators and tournament officials – a third color;
 - Volunteers and delegation liaisons (edecanes) – a fourth color;
 - Media and observers – a fifth color. Badges display only the participant's first name, country, role, a unique ID number and the 24/7 safeguarding and emergency hotline. They deliberately do **not** show home addresses, hotel room numbers or other sensitive personal data. A valid, visible badge is required to enter any competition room, ceremony or social event, and access is screened at every entrance.
- **Two-adult rule and supervision.** No adult will ever be alone, one-on-one and unsupervised, with a minor who is not their own child. Coaching, feedback, meetings and pastoral care take place in open, visible or group settings. Minors are supervised at all times during official activities, transit and accommodation.
- **Separate, designated bathrooms.** Clearly signed restrooms are reserved for minor participants at every venue, kept separate from those used by adults, staff and the general public, and monitored by staff in high-traffic areas.

- **Strict zero-alcohol policy for minors.** No alcohol is served or sold at any student-facing event, including the Cultural Night, Break Night or any activity attended by minors. Minors are prohibited from purchasing or consuming alcohol anywhere during the Championship; minibars in minors' hotel rooms are emptied or disabled on arrival; and any adult social space where alcohol may be present is physically separated and off-limits to minors.
- **Accommodation and rooming rules.** Minors are roomed only with fellow team members of the same delegation; adults and minors are never assigned to share a room. Delegations are grouped on dedicated floors or wings wherever possible, with staff and Safeguarding Officers accommodated in the same hotels for immediate response.
- **Curfews, headcounts and room checks.** A nightly curfew applies to all minors. Team managers, coordinated with organizing staff, conduct headcounts and room checks each evening, and delegation attendance is verified at the start and end of every activity.
- **Supervised transport.** All transfers between the official hotels and venues are organized, supervised and accompanied by staff, with roll-call boarding and headcounts. Minors do not travel unaccompanied, and no minor is taken off-site without written authorization from their team manager.
- **Photography, media and data protection.** Filming and photography of participants follow a strict consent policy; images of minors are only captured and published in line with that policy and with delegation consent. All personal data collected during registration is stored securely and shared only with authorized personnel.
- **Code of conduct.** Every participant, coach, judge, volunteer and staff member agrees to a written code of conduct covering child protection, anti-bullying, anti-harassment and expected behavior. Clear consequences apply to any breach.
- **Reporting and response.** Confidential, clearly publicized channels allow anyone to report a concern to the Safeguarding Team at any hour. Every report is handled promptly and discreetly, with defined escalation to the organizing committee and, where appropriate, to local authorities.
- **Medical and psychological first aid.** Trained medical and psychological first-aid personnel are available throughout the event. Based on the health information provided at registration, our team pays special attention to any participant who may require additional care, physical or mental.

14.2 Dedicated Tourist Police (POLITUR)

The Dominican Republic maintains a specialized security force dedicated exclusively to the protection of visitors. POLITUR personnel are rigorously trained, predominantly English-speaking, and maintain direct lines of communication with event organizers to offer immediate assistance whenever needed.

14.3 Institutional Coordination and Emergency Support

Organizers and delegations will have direct communication channels with local authorities and with their assigned institutional liaisons (edecanes). In the unlikely event of an incident, established protocols allow seamless coordination with POLITUR and emergency services through direct telephone lines, guaranteeing a rapid, well-rehearsed response. Free 24/7 roadside assistance is also available nationwide, with response guaranteed within 20 minutes.

14.4 Strategic Venue and Accommodation Security

Our primary event hubs and partner hotels — the Crowne Plaza, Renaissance Jaragua and Sheraton along the Malecón, together with the adjacent Catalonia hotel — sit within one to two minutes' walk of one another in highly secure, well-monitored districts. These areas benefit from specialized municipal and national safety policies designed to protect tourist zones, commercial centers and historic sectors. Every event space is equipped with camera systems, controlled entry and on-site security personnel who verify accreditation.

14.5 Accompanied Delegation Support

Each delegation is continuously supported by an assigned liaison (edecán) who serves as a trusted local expert and single point of contact. These liaisons accompany participants, advise on safe routes, monitor surroundings and provide real-time guidance on local navigation, while escalating any serious matter directly to the organizing committee.

14.6 School Police Corps

The tournament will benefit from the permanent coverage of the School Police Corps of the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic, a body specialized in the protection of school communities and of students taking part in academic activities both inside and outside educational centers. Fixed details will be stationed at the competition venues and at the hotels assigned to the delegations, with escort provided for all official transfers between tournament sites, under a continuous service scheme throughout the days of the event. The assigned personnel will operate in coordination with the competent national authorities and with the organizing committee, ensuring that every delegation is hosted in a safe, supervised environment appropriate to the student nature of the competition.



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14.7 Dominican Republic respects everyone



Dominican Republic has a comprehensive legal framework designed to protect all participants and ensure a safe, secure and well-organized event. Scan the QR code to learn more about the Dominican laws and regulations that guarantee safety throughout the championship.



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TRANSPORTATION AND MEANS OF TRAVEL





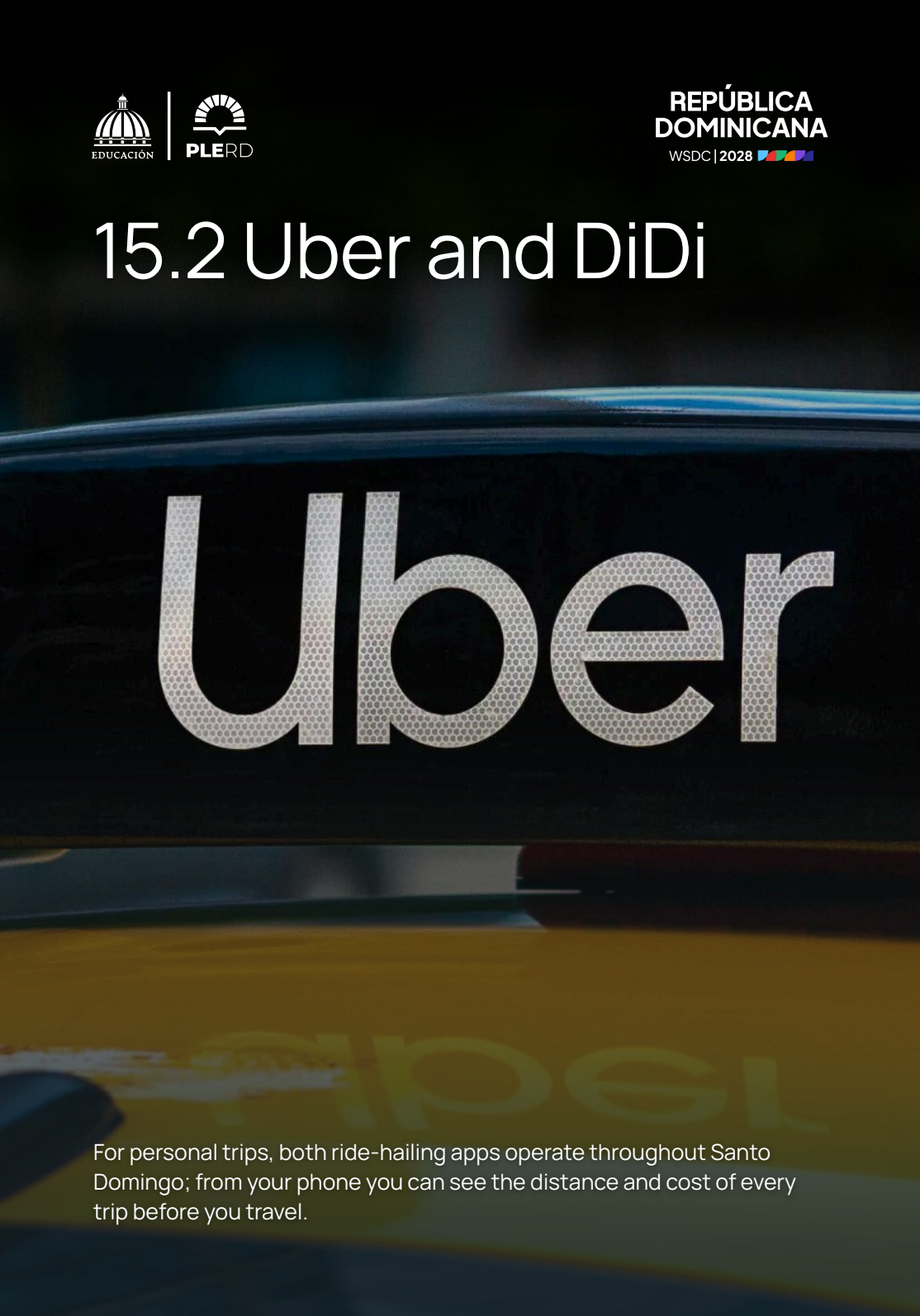
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15.1 Official WSDC transport



Daily transfers between the official hotels and the venue are provided as part of the Championship, with staggered scheduling coordinated by the Logistics Direction. Because the three hotels sit 1-2 minutes apart on the Malecón, pick-ups and drop-offs are simple and centralised.

15.2 Uber and DiDi



Uber

For personal trips, both ride-hailing apps operate throughout Santo Domingo; from your phone you can see the distance and cost of every trip before you travel.



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15.3 Santo Domingo Metro



One of the few metro systems in the Caribbean, with two main lines — Line 1 (north-south) and Line 2 (east-west) — covering much of the city with modern, accessible stations and efficient, frequent service.

15.4 Santo Domingo Cable Car (Teléferico)



The first urban aerial transport system in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean, with four main stations, integrated with the Metro; each cabin carries up to ten people for a continuous, frequent flow of passengers.



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SANTO DOMINGO: THE FIRST CITY OF THE NEW WORLD





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Santo Domingo, Ciudad Primada de América

Santo Domingo is the largest metropolis in the Caribbean and the first city of the Americas — the Ciudad Primada de América — home to the hemisphere's first hospital, first cathedral and first university, and to a UNESCO World Heritage Colonial Zone. It is a city where five centuries of history meet a modern, developed capital that vibrates with music, hospitality and joy.

16.1 Tourist attractions in Santo Domingo

Palacio Nacional · Zona Colonial · Museo del Ron · Microteatro · Faro a Colón · Museo de Larimar · Parque los Tres Ojos · Jardín Botánico · Parque Iberoamérica · Museo de las Atarazanas Reales · Museo de Arte Moderno · Teatro Nacional · Kah Kow Experience.

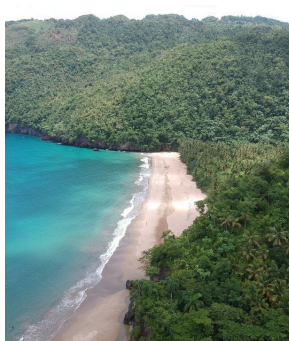
16.2 Santo Domingo Entertainment for All Ages: Trampoline Parks, Adrenaline & Arcades

For delegates, younger participants, and free-time exploration, Santo Domingo offers world-class family entertainment and high-energy indoor attractions:

- **Summit Trampoline Park:** The largest trampoline park in Santo Domingo, located on Level 4 of Centro Comercial Sambil (Av. John F. Kennedy). It features over 90 interconnected trampolines, open-jump zones, trampoline basketball courts, massive air bags, and dedicated play areas ideal for kids and adolescents.
- **Sebelen Entertainment Center / Plaza Bolera:** A premier multi-attraction complex located in Piantini (Av. Abraham Lincoln and Av. Roberto Pastoriza). It combines professional bowling lanes with indoor Go-Karts, pool tables, virtual simulators, and a robust arcade video game zone.
- **Strike Bowling:** A modern bowling alley located inside Sambil Santo Domingo, equipped with cutting-edge lane technology, digital screens, striking cinematic night lighting for youth, and state-of-the-art arcade machines.
- **Dave & Buster's República Dominicana:** Located in BlueMall Santo Domingo (Av. Winston Churchill), this international franchise combines an American-style restaurant with a massive interactive redemption arcade, mini-bowling, and advanced virtual simulators.
- **Lock Mystery Escape Room:** Situated on the Galería Level of Sambil Santo Domingo, this is the premier escape room center in the city. Teams work collaboratively within themed rooms (such as pirate caves or detective mysteries) to decode clues and beat the 60-minute countdown clock.
- **Mundo Sobre Ruedas:** An indoor, climate-controlled roller-skating rink inside Sambil Santo Domingo featuring vibrant lighting, contemporary music, a snack bar, and skate-rental services.
- **The Colonial Gate 4D Cinema:** Located on Calle Isabel La Católica in the Ciudad Colonial, this interactive multisensory cinema presents animated and historical short films enhanced with 4D effects, including motion seating, wind gusts, and surround sound.

16.3 Scenic and Cultural Attractions Beyond the Capital

- **Samaná:** A breathtaking peninsula famous for seasonal humpback whale watching in its protected bay, the towering El Limón waterfall, and pristine, palm-fringed Atlantic beaches.
- **Punta Cana & Bávaro:** Globally renowned for miles of white-sand coastline, barrier reefs, and world-class resort infrastructure on the eastern tip of the island.
- **Jarabacoa & Constanza (The Central Highlands):** Mountainous paradises nestled in Cordillera Central, offering pine forests, rushing rivers, whitewater rafting, dramatic viewpoints, and premier agritourism and ecotourism experiences.
- **Puerto Plata & Cabarete:** The historic Atlantic coast featuring South America's only coastal cable car (teleférico), the Victorian architecture of the city center, and world-famous kiteboarding and windsurfing conditions in nearby Cabarete.
- **Isla Saona & Cotubanamá National Park:** An idyllic protected island sanctuary accessible via catamaran or speedboat, featuring crystal-clear natural swimming pools, starfish banks, and untouched mangroves.
- **Bahía de Las Águilas & Pedernales:** Located in the deep southwest, boasting miles of untouched, glowing turquoise waters and pristine coastline widely considered the most stunning natural beach in the Caribbean.
- **Bayahíbe & La Romana:** Historic coastal towns known for world-class diving sites, sugar cane heritage, and the artistic Mediterranean-style village replication of Altos de Chavón overlooking the Chavón River.
- **San Cristóbal & Baní:** Cultural hubs featuring pre-Columbian Taino caves (Cueva de Borbón), historical sugar mills (Ingenio Boca de Nigua), and the rolling sand dunes of Baní (Dunas de Baní).





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COST OF LIVING IN SANTO DOMINGO



Cost of Living in Santo Domingo

Because national teams attend with registration and accommodation covered, this section is a guide to day-to-day personal spending — the incidental costs of snacks, water, transport, souvenirs and free-time activities — so delegations and accompanying adults can plan a realistic budget. Prices below are approximate, drawn from current 2026 data, and shown in US dollars at roughly RD\$60 = US\$1 (the Dominican Peso, DOP, is the local currency; the exchange rate fluctuates, so confirm it close to travel).

Category	Item	Estimated cost (USD)	Additional information
Food and drink	Bottled water, 350 ml	\$0.65	Tap water is not intended for drinking; bottled water is inexpensive and widely available.
	Bottled water, 1.5 L	\$1.00	—
	Soft drink, small bottle	\$1.15	—
	Coffee or cappuccino	\$2.40	—
	Meal at an inexpensive restaurant	\$8–12	Per person
	Fast-food combo meal	\$8.00	Per person
	Three-course meal at a mid-range restaurant	\$25.00	Approximately \$50 for two people
	Local beer	\$2.50	Relevant only for coaches and accompanying adults of legal drinking age

Category	Item	Estimated cost (USD)	Additional information
Groceries	Milk, 1 L	\$1.40	—
	Bread, one loaf	\$1.40	—
	Eggs, one dozen	\$2.35	—
	Chicken, 1 lb	\$2.55	—
	Rice, 1 lb	\$0.70	—
	Bananas, 1 lb	\$0.40	Fresh local fruit and produce are generally inexpensive.
Transportation	City bus or Metro, one-way	\$0.60	One of the least expensive ways to travel around Santo Domingo
	Ride-hailing service	\$3–7	Typical short trip using Uber or DiDi
	Standard taxi	From \$3.50	Starting fare

Transportation note: Official WSDC transportation between the designated hotels and tournament venue will be provided. The transportation prices above therefore apply only to optional personal trips.

Category	Item	Estimated cost (USD)	Additional information
Accommodation	Budget short-term apartment rental	\$37–48 per night	For participants booking independently
	Average short-term apartment rental	\$67 per night	Airbnb or similar platforms
	Higher-end or well-located apartment	From \$90 per night	—
	Vacation rental during July	\$85–90 per night	Approximate high-season average
	Bed and breakfast or budget hotel	\$32–55 per night	—
Other essentials	Prepaid SIM or eSIM with data	\$10–30	Estimated cost for a short visit
	Monthly mobile plan with 10 GB+	About \$30	—
	Cinema ticket	\$7.50	—
	Museums and cultural attractions	Low-cost or free	Particularly within Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone



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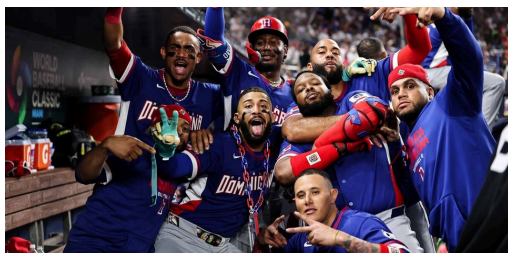
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FUN FACTS ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Fun Facts About the Dominican Republic

Category	Detail
Capital	Santo Domingo — Ciudad Primada de América, home of the first hospital, first church and first European-built city of the Americas.
Population	11.23 million friends full of joy and hospitality.
Language	Spanish (aplatanao'), with cibaeño, southern and metropolitan variants — Dominican speech can be fast, we take no responsibility! English is widely used in tourism, and WSDC will operate fully in English.
Music	Here we sing and dance everything — especially 100% original merengue and bachata, plus dembow, perico ripiao and salsa.
Currency	Dominican Peso (DOP) — don't forget to keep a peseta for good luck!
Climate	Tropical all year, averaging 28°C (82°F).
Useful info	Voltage 110 V (type A and B plugs); time zone GMT-4 (AST).
Birthplace of Larimar	The Dominican Republic is the sole global source of larimar, a rare and stunning blue pectolite stone born from volcanic activity and colored by the Caribbean sea.
Baseball Legacy	The DR has produced more Major League Baseball (MLB) players per capita than any other nation outside the United States, serving as an absolute powerhouse of athletic talent.

Category	Detail
Amber Treasures	The northern coast holds some of the clearest, most ancient amber deposits in the world, famously preserving prehistoric flora and fauna in crystal-clear fossilized tree resin.
The Shortest River	The country features the Los Patos River in Barahona, recognized as one of the shortest rivers in the world, running directly from a mountain spring into the Caribbean Sea over a matter of meters.
First Cathedral	The Cathedral of Santa María la Menor in Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone is the oldest cathedral in continuous use in the Americas, consecrated in the early 16th century.
Merengue & Bachata Heritage	Both merengue and bachata are inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage lists, cementing our island rhythms as universal treasures of humanity.
Whale Sanctuary	Every winter, thousands of North Atlantic humpback whales migrate southward to mate and give birth in the warm, protected waters of the Samaná Bay.
Highest Peak in the Caribbean	The Dominican Republic houses Pico Duarte in the Cordillera Central, the highest mountain peak in the entire Caribbean region, standing at over 3,000 meters above sea level.





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No one here is a **stranger**, only a
friend you haven't met yet.

