Sharing that we distributed this message to media on behalf of Panama’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Let me know of any questions.

Best,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 2:31 PM
Subject: Joint Statement from the Foreign Ministers of Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic

**Joint Statement from the Foreign Ministers of Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic**

*From Left to Right: Foreign Minister Erika Mouynes of Panama, Foreign Minister Rodolfo Solano of Costa Rica, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez of the*
2 March 2022: On the occasion of their visit to Washington, DC to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and senior members of the U.S. Government, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic issued the following statement:

We, the Foreign Ministers of Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic met in Washington, DC on March 22022, to discuss matters of shared interest, including how our three countries are cooperating to strengthen democratic institutions and create social and economic opportunities for our people and region. At a moment when democratic governments around the world face a growing number of challenges, we believe like-minded countries must act together to show that democracy is the best way to deliver results on the greatest challenges we face today.

In September 2021, Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic – three of our region’s most forward-looking, stable and open democracies – formed the Alliance for Development in Democracy to represent our common principles and promote prosperity, economic revival and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. We believe the United States is a pivotal partner in this effort, and we are grateful for the support that President Biden, his administration and members of Congress have expressed for the Alliance.

During our visit to Washington, we updated Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the actions our countries are taking in protecting democracy in the region. We also reiterated the Alliance’s position in condemning the aggression and the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

Our countries, on the basis of respect for democratic values, international law and the Charter of the United Nations, support U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres – as well as the U.S. administration – in the call for a cessation of hostilities, for diplomacy to resume, and for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians to be respected. We believe that all efforts must be made to enable the rapid, safe and unhindered distribution of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Ukraine, especially children. Finally, we reiterate our conviction that multilateral dialogue and respect for international law constitute the only guarantee for a lasting solution to this conflict.

We conveyed this information to Secretary Blinken, and also discussed how Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic are working together with the United States to address the challenges facing our region. We intend to further cooperate to:

- **Strengthen democratic institutions** in Central America and the Caribbean by developing and implementing recovery policies that show that democracy can deliver economic growth and sustainability.
- **Restore stability in Haiti** by supporting the implementation of a development plan that generates economic opportunity and improves the quality of life for the Haitian people.
- **Address irregular migration** with multilateral action to dismantle criminal smuggling networks and confront other root causes, while also providing migrants with the humanitarian assistance they need and deserve in the framework of human rights.
Enable a just and sustainable energy transition that meets climate goals and creates new economic opportunities for all people.

Preserve our natural ecosystems via multilateral agreements to protect forests and marine resources in a way to foster mitigation actions and adaptation to climate change.

Since the adoption of the Alliance, our countries have held a series of presidential summits to align policies on these and other key priorities. We appreciate Secretary Blinken’s attention to these matters and have invited him to attend the fourth presidential summit, scheduled to be held on March 21 in Costa Rica. Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic look forward to continued cooperation with the United States to build a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future for our region.

H.E. Erika Mouynes
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Panama

H.E. Rodolfo Solano
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Costa Rica

H.E. Roberto Álvarez
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Dominican Republic

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