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United States of America

## Organization of American States

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**XLIII MEETING OF THE GROUP OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS  
FOR THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING  
SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2016  
PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.4.43  
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9 September 2016  
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### INFORMATION BULLETIN

#### 1. LOCATION

The XLIII meeting of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering will be held on September 28-29, 2016, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic. The sessions will take place in Hotel Barceló Bávaro Beach located in Carretera Bávaro No. 1, Avenida Barceló, Higüey (23000), Dominican Republic.



#### 2. PREPARATORY GELAVEX MEETING

The coordination meeting among the Chair, Vice Chair, coordinators of the Sub-Working Groups, and the Technical Secretariat will take place on September 27, 2016 in Barceló Bávaro Beach Hotel at 10:00 a.m.


#### 3. LODGING:

All hotel expenses are responsibility of each guest. Please note that a valid MasterCard or Visa credit card number is required to guarantee the reservation.

Room reservations must be done directly by the participants to the **Barceló Bávaro Beach Resort**. The rates presented in this document have been agreed between the Financial Intelligence Unit of Dominican Rep. and the hotel. When making your reservation, please mention your participation in the "XLIII Meeting of the Expert Group Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) of OAS".

Also, we must mention that the Hotel accepts only adults.

Due to the high demand of hotel rooms during that week, it is recommended that reservations shall be made **at your earliest convenience** contacting directly the following contact:

HOTEL BARCELÓ BAVARO BEACH <b>(Adults only)</b>	
	<p><b>RATES:</b> In american Dollars, with taxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• US\$ 165 Superior</li></ul> <p>In case of doble accomodation add + US\$ 55.00 All rates are all inclusive.</p> <p>To make a reservation please contact:</p> <p>Department of Reservations <b>Carolina Alcequiez</b> Phone: 809-563-5000 ext. 7155 Email: dominicana.ventas2.rd@barcelo.com</p>
<p><b>Directions:</b> Located at Carretera Bávaro No. 1, Avenida Barceló, Higuey (23000), Dominican Republic</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> (809) 563-5000 ext. 7155 <b>Web:</b> www.barcelo.com</p>	

#### 4. TRANSPORTATION

##### *Airport-Hotels*



The Financial Intelligence Unit of Dominican Republic will offer each participant the round-trip transportation from the Punta Cana International Airport to the Hotel Barceló Bávaro Beach.

**It is recommended that all participants of the GELAVEX make their flight reservations to arrive at Dominican Republic through the Punta Cana International Airport.**

**In order to arrange for your reception at the Punta Cana International Airport, we ask you to send, as soon as possible, the flight itineraries of each participant to the emails [lacosta@uaf.gov.do](mailto:lacosta@uaf.gov.do) or [leddyacosta@gmail.com](mailto:leddyacosta@gmail.com)**

For transportation to all national territory the Hotel counts on taxi services provided by the company Vacaciones Barceló y Taxi Siutratural. The rates vary depending on the destination address, the vehicle's size (car or van) and the number of passengers. The minimum transportation fare in Bávaro - Punta Cana area from the hotel is approximately US\$ 45.00.

It is not recommended to take a taxi outside the airport which offers lower rates but do not guarantee your safety.

TAXI COMPANY	
	<p><b>Phone:</b> (809) 686-5797 EXT. 1618 Y 1619  <b>Contact:</b> Liz Báez  <b>Email:</b> receptivo1.rd@vacacionesbarcelo.com  <b>Web:</b> www.barcelo.com</p>
	<p><b>Phones:</b> (809) 552-0617 / (809) 221-2741  <b>Fax:</b> 809 552 0505  <b>Email:</b> siutratural@gmail.com  <b>Category:</b> Transporte  Taxis/bus/transportes</p>

## 5. PASSPORTS, TOURIST CARDS AND VISAS

American, Canadian and most European countries' citizens are able to enter the country with a touristic card of 30 days, which can be bought in your arrival for US\$10 or 10€. Anyone, regardless of his nationality, can enter the Dominican Republic with a tourist card if they own any of the following valid visas in their passport: United States, Canada, United Kingdom or European Union (Schengen). If you wish to extend your tourist card for 90 days, you must pay the migration department RD\$2.500 when leaving the country. The exit fare is US\$20, but it is usually included in the flight ticket.

To consult a list of countries that require visa to enter the Dominican Republic check the link below:

<http://www.dgii.gov.do/tarjetaTuristica/en/about/Paginas/default.aspx>

Please note that the expiration date of your passport should be at least 6 month from the date of travel and must contain at least two pages in blank.

### ***Letters for visa request***

If you need a letter of invitation from the Financial Intelligence Unit of Dominican Republic for the visa application, you can send an email to Leddy Acosta: [lacosta@uaf.gov.do](mailto:lacosta@uaf.gov.do)/ [leddyacosta@gmail.com](mailto:leddyacosta@gmail.com) indicating: the event's name in the subject, a photograph and a copy of your passport page where your personal information is displayed.

### **6. LANGUAGE**

Spanish is the official language of Dominican Republic; however, you will be surprised to see how many employees of the hotel and other touristic places are able to speak English, French, German and Italian.

### **7. ELECTRIC CURRENT SUPPLY:**

Just like in the United States and Canada, the power supply in Dominican Republic is 110 volts. For that reason, we recommend the participants of other countries to bring their own electrical adaptors.



### **8. CURRENCY:**

The official currency of Dominican Republic is the “peso dominicano” (RD\$, dominican peso). Coins of 1, 5, 10 and 25 pesos and bills of 50, 100, 200, 500, 1.000 and 2.000 pesos are currently on circulation.



### ***Currency exchange***

It is recommended to change cash at hotels, banks and authorized bureau of change (from 9:00 am to 18:00 pm). On Saturdays, banks are open until noon, except those agencies that are located in supermarkets or shopping malls. The exchange rate from dollar is RD\$45,95 (variable); please check the exchange rate before changing money. It is important to have in hand coins and small value bills to facilitate transactions, especially for taxis and small purchases.

The US dollar is accepted in most stores, restaurants and service stations, where the exchange rate is calculated each day. The current exchange rate is approximately RD\$45.95 for US\$1.

### **9. CREDIT CARDS**

In Dominican Republic, credit cards are accepted in most commercial establishments. The most commonly used are: Visa and MasterCard. Traveler checks have limitations, please check if they are accepted.

### **10. BANKS**

ATMs in Dominican Republic allow withdrawals in pesos dominicanos by using international credit cards.

### ***Sales and Services tax***

In Dominican Republic a general tax is charged to consumption, like value added, that applies to transfer and import of industrialized goods (ITBIS), as well as to the provision of service. In other countries this tax is called "Tax on Value Added" (IVA).

Complying with what was established in paragraphs I and II of art. 23 of the Law 253-12, it is informed to all taxpayers that the fare of ITBIS to be applied to the transfer of taxed assets and/or provision of services from 2016 will be 18% over all purchases of products made in the country.

The prices indicated in the items tags usually include ITBIS fare, unless specifically instructed otherwise. For any purchase made, the buyer must receive receipt.

### **11. WEATHER**

The weather in Dominican Republic is tropical throughout the year, with temperatures that vary between 19°C a 34°C (66°F y 93°F). The coldest season is between November and April, and the warmest one is between May and October, with August being the warmest.

### **12. EMBASSIES**

To consult a complete list of foreign embassies in Dominican Republic check the link below:

<http://www.mirex.gob.do/servicios/directorio/cuerpo-consular-acreditado-republica-dominicana>

### **13. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**



Dominican Republic is located in the eastern part of the island La Española, occupying two thirds of the island, which is shared with the Republic of Haiti. It is the second largest country in the Caribbean region, with a surface of 48.442 km<sup>2</sup> (18.704 mi<sup>2</sup>). Placed in the heart of the Caribbean, Dominican Republic is surrounded by the North Atlantic Ocean in the north, and the Caribbean Sea in the south. The capitol of Dominican Republic is Santo Domingo, the oldest city of the New World.

The population of Dominican Republic is 9.980.243 people, according to the last census made in 2015. The local time corresponds to GMT -4, that means one hour ahead of the Atlantic Standard Time of the United States in winter. In Dominican Republic there is no summer time (Daylight saving time (DST)).

#### **GOVERNMENT**

The government system in Dominican Republic is a representative republic, comprised of three branches of government: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. Every four years the country elects its president, vice president, congressman and government officials for the cities. The President, Danilo Medina, and the vice president, Margarita Cedeño, were elected for a four years mandate that started on August 16, 2016 and will be over on August 16, 2020.

#### **GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF PUNTA CANA**

Punta Cana is located in the east of Dominican Republic and is washed by the Atlantic Ocean waters. Geographically, it is known as a Cape and it is located in the province of Altagracia. Punta Cana's Airport is only 30 kilometers from Higüey y La Romana.

The main attraction of the area are the beaches, starting north with the Playa de Arena Gorda, and then Playa Bávaro, Playa Ubero Alto, Playa Macao and the Playa de El Cortecito. When the geography of the place corresponds to a peak, there are other beaches such as Cabo Engaño, Playas de Cabeza de Toro, Juanillo and Punta Cana.

The surroundings of Punta Cana can also be visited. There are other cities close by, such as Bayahibe, Altos de Chavón, la Isla Saona, etc. Among other activities, Punta Cana offers golf fields, possibility for

windsurfing, Manatí Park and trips on sailboats and a wonderful gastronomy of fresh seafood at the seashore.



**14. USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

- **Punta Cana International Airport**  
Phone: (809) 959-2376
- **Touristic Police (Cestur)**

With special training to help tourist, Cestur is an initiative created by the National Police, Ministry of Defense, and Minister of Tourism. Their offices are located in most touristic places. If you are a victim of a crime, Cestur can help you get to a police station to present your complaint and seek further assistance. Their headquarters is located at avenida 30 de Marzo on the corner of avenida México, Bloque D, Edificio Gubernamental, Santo Domingo. Phone: 809 221-8697, 809 222-2026 o 809 685-0508. Email: politur@gob.do

**Commercial Centers**

Bávaro - Punta Cana counts on several commercial centers, where you can find stores and boutiques by department, restaurants, movie theaters, jewelry stores, banks, pharmacies, beauty salons, handicrafts, etc.

COMMERCIAL CENTERS	
	<p><b>PALMA REAL SHOPPING VILLAGE</b></p> <p>Palma Real Shopping Village Bávaro - Punta Cana Dominican Republic</p> <p>Phone: 809-552-8725 / 26 Email: <a href="mailto:info@palmarealsv.com">info@palmarealsv.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.palmarealshopping.com/">http://www.palmarealshopping.com/</a></p>
	<p><b>SAN JUAN SHOPPING CENTER</b></p> <p>Avenida Barcelo Km. 9 Bávaro, Dominican Republic Email: <a href="mailto:info@sanjuanshoppingcenter.com">info@sanjuanshoppingcenter.com</a> Phone: 809.466.6000 Web: <a href="http://www.sanjuanshoppingcenter.com">www.sanjuanshoppingcenter.com</a></p>

Most stores, commercial centers and handicraft markets work 7 days a week (including holidays) from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.