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# Horizon Summit Dominican Republic 2026 Report

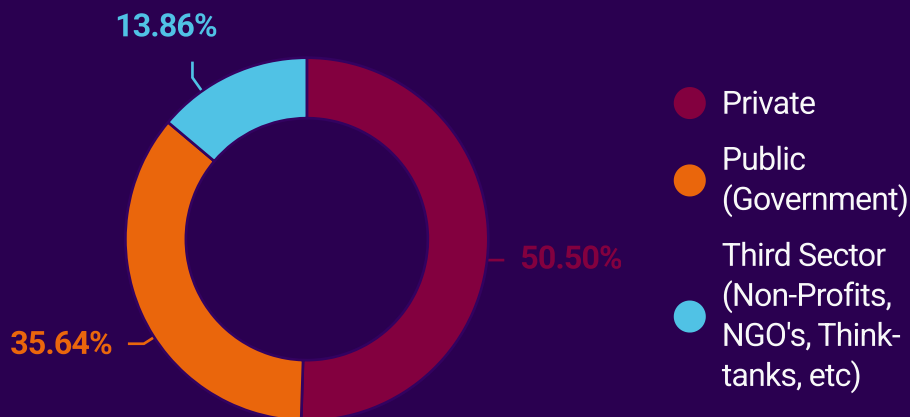


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# Horizon Summit Dominican Republic 2026

in Numbers:

- 18** Countries represented
- 247** Attendees
- 1** Programming Partner
- 6** Programming Sponsors



**Figure 1**

*Attendees by Sector*

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# Global Economy & Trade

Global trade and economic dynamics are undergoing profound transformations, driven by shifts in manufacturing, supply chains, and international trade disputes. These changes reshape how goods are produced and exchanged, impacting emerging and established economies. To ensure long-term prosperity, it is vital to strengthen supply chain resilience, promote standardization, and foster sustainable growth through innovation in trade and manufacturing. Government and private sector leaders must work together to address shifting opinions on tariffs and how countries trade with each other.

## Key Takeaways & Policy Recommendations

### ***Addressing Security and Development in Guatemala***

- Guatemala is navigating interconnected pressures, from climate change and migration to inequality and urbanization, each of which threatens stability, markets, and democratic institutions.
- Long-term security calls for a preventative, whole-of-government approach, one focused on strengthening institutions and broadening access to education, health, and economic opportunity.
- Resilience is built through coordinated investment across systems, social protection, infrastructure, and human development, in ways that make progress both inclusive and sustainable.

### ***Reinforcing Economic Security in an Interconnected Hemisphere***

- Economic security in the region is increasingly linked to resilient supply chains, nearshoring, and strategic industries like energy and semiconductors.
- The rule of law, security, and justice are essential foundations for economic development and democratic stability.
- Latin America and the Caribbean faces high levels of organized crime, with the region representing a disproportionate share of global homicides and illegal markets.
- Philanthropic and development organizations are shifting toward deeper collaboration with governments and the private sector to address regional challenges.
- The region needs stronger infrastructure and connectivity within the hemisphere to better integrate trade and economic cooperation.

### ***Dominican Republic as a Strategic Growth Partner***

- The Dominican Republic has positioned itself as a leading trade and investment hub, with strong infrastructure, connectivity, and free trade access to over 1.2 billion consumers.
- Consistent economic performance and pro-investment reforms, including anti-corruption efforts and zero-bureaucracy initiatives, have strengthened investor confidence.
- The country is now a top recipient of foreign direct investment in the region, capturing over half of

Caribbean FDI and setting consecutive annual records.

- A long-term national goal to double the economy by 2036 is driving close collaboration between government, private sector, and international partners.
- Future growth depends on expanding into high-value industries, including AI, semiconductors, and advanced manufacturing, while continuing to develop skilled human capital.

### ***Sustainable Growth and Resilience in Global Trade***

- Global trade resilience depends on diversified supply chains and nearshoring strategies to reduce exposure to external shocks.
- Public-private collaboration is critical to align investment, infrastructure, and policy with long-term economic priorities.
- Strengthening logistics, manufacturing, and trade facilitation systems enhances competitiveness in an interconnected global economy.
- Sustainable growth requires integrating environmental standards and responsible investment practices into trade and development strategies.
- Building a skilled workforce and advancing innovation are essential to support evolving industries and maintain long-term trade resilience.

### ***Risk, Resilience, and the Global Investment Climate***

- Rapid geopolitical shifts and security challenges are reshaping global investment decisions and creating both opportunities and uncertainty for investors.
- Multilateral institutions are focusing more on economic development and regional cooperation to strengthen resilience across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The global reorganization of supply chains presents new investment opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean if countries offer stability and clear regulations.
- Institutional stability, transparency, and consistent policies are key factors investors evaluate when deciding where to invest.
- Greater regional collaboration and economic integration can help countries scale investment and compete more effectively in the global economy.

### ***Creating Opportunity Through Crisis and Recovery***

- Effective recovery requires a holistic ecosystem approach combining financial inclusion, health support, and local partnerships.
- Recovery efforts must restore education access and support family livelihoods to rebuild resilient communities.

- Maternal mental health strongly shapes child outcomes, influencing learning, behavior, and long-term wellbeing.
- Children face heightened vulnerability during crises, requiring safe spaces, psychological support, and protection services.
- Women are key drivers of economic recovery, rebuilding households and local economies during crises.

### ***Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure & Energy***

- Energy demand in the Dominican Republic is projected to rise significantly by 2050, requiring major expansion of generation and infrastructure.
- Public-private partnerships and supportive regulation have enabled significant renewable energy financing, including wind and solar projects.
- Transitional solutions that optimize existing fossil-fuel infrastructure can reduce emissions while long-term technologies develop.
- Energy storage and grid stability are emerging priorities to prevent outages and support growing renewable capacity.
- Predictable regulation and clear permitting processes are critical to attracting investment and financing large energy projects.

### ***Strengthening UK–Dominican Republic Cooperation: Trade, Security, and Climate Leadership***

- The UK-Dominican Republic relationship is being advanced through five priorities: recognition, peace, friendship, commerce, and navigation.
- The Dominican Republic was highlighted as making real progress on transparency and public procurement reform, strengthening investor confidence.
- Security cooperation is growing through defense collaboration, disaster preparedness, and regional resilience efforts.
- Trade and investment ties are expanding, with a strong focus on infrastructure, energy, transport, water, and healthcare.
- Climate cooperation includes work on access to climate finance, mangrove restoration, coastal protection, and support for small island states.

### ***Driving Growth that Counts: Connecting Capital and Communities in the Dominican Republic***

- Aviation, Small and Midsize-Enterprises (SMEs), and foreign investment were framed as key growth drivers, expanding jobs, trade, and connectivity across the country.
- The government highlighted strong support for small and medium-sized businesses through training,

technology access, and easier microcredit.

- Sustainable and green projects were presented as especially attractive because they draw strong investor demand and broaden access to capital.
- Growth was tied not just to job creation, but to building transferable skills and stronger long-term workforce capacity.
- Sports were described as a powerful community asset that creates visibility, investment, philanthropy, and economic opportunity beyond the field.

## Democracy, Security, and Geopolitical Risk

Focusing on redefining foreign policy, cooperation between countries, and a sense of domestic peace and security will be high on governmental agendas. How can political parties in divided countries come together to combat the rampant mis- and disinformation across all societal discourse levels? How can initiatives designed to situate underrepresented voices as key actors in preventing conflict, promoting peace, and countering violent extremism affect a change? What role does technology like artificial intelligence play in navigating geopolitical risk and policy making? And how can sectors and multilateral organizations work together to strengthen democracy and national security in a time fraught with threat and conflict?

### Key Takeaways & Policy Recommendations

#### ***Navigating Security as the Foremost Political Risk***

- Caribbean countries face complex security challenges such as narcotics trafficking corridors, often with limited resources to combat organized crime.
- Security threats linked to drug trafficking also include human trafficking, financial crime, and port vulnerabilities.
- The Dominican Republic has strengthened interagency coordination between police, drug enforcement, prosecutors, and defense institutions to address security threats.
- Public-private cooperation and intelligence sharing are important for preventing crime and protecting investment and economic growth.
- Governments are expanding cybersecurity capabilities and regional intelligence cooperation to address cybercrime and digital threats.

#### ***Diaspora, Democracy, and Representation: Strengthening Ties Across the Americas***

- Diaspora communities, particularly Dominicans in the United States, play a major role through remittances, economic mobility, and growing middle-class investment potential.
- The Dominican Republic was described as a stable and growing economic anchor in the Caribbean,

supported by tourism, remittances, and strong labor participation.

- Future U.S.–Dominican relations may expand into higher-skill industries such as medical devices, microchips, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing.
- Inclusive leadership and representation were highlighted as key to strengthening political and economic ties across the Americas.
- Immigration reform in the United States remains possible but will likely require bipartisan cooperation and broader agreement on enforcement policies.

### ***Defending Democracy in the Age of Disinformation***

- AI-driven disinformation is rapidly expanding, influencing elections and public opinion across multiple countries.
- Governments face growing challenges maintaining public trust and verifying accurate information in the digital age.
- Platforms like TikTok moderate misinformation through community guidelines, AI screening, human moderators, and independent fact-checkers.
- Smart regulation and international collaboration are needed to balance freedom of expression with preventing harm.
- Digital literacy and public education are critical to help societies recognize and resist misinformation.

### ***Driving Economic Transformation: Growth, Governance, and Investment in the Dominican Republic***

- The Dominican Republic continues to experience strong economic growth driven by diversification, including tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and technology sectors.
- A major new initiative will position the country as a regional digital hub, highlighted by Google's planned \$500 million investment in digital infrastructure and connectivity.
- Institutional reforms, including an independent public prosecutor and constitutional limits on presidential terms, aim to strengthen rule of law and investor confidence.
- The crisis in Haiti remains a major regional security concern, requiring international cooperation and coordinated stabilization efforts rather than unilateral action.
- Economic growth has been paired with social progress, including reductions in poverty and hunger, expanded health insurance coverage, and improved public safety indicators.

# Speakers

**H.E. Luis Abinader**, President, Dominican Republic

**Leonardo Aguilera**, Executive President, Banco de Reservas de la República Dominicana

**Jeremy Almond**, CEO and Co-Founder, Paystand

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

**Sara Aviel**, President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation

**Cristina Barrera**, Directora Regional, Américas, ChildFund International

**Amb. James (Wally) Brewster**, CEO and Former US Ambassador to Dominican Republic, Insignias Global

**Lidia Castro**, Director, Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability CARICOM, Coca-Cola Latin America

**Carlos Charme**, Senior Specialist in Security and Justice, CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

**Karina Chez**, Managing Partner, KAYA Energy

**Alice Clark**, Senior Vice President, Trade, Investment, and Digital, USCIB

**Carmen Correa**, CEO, Pro Mujer

**Nelson Cruz**, Former Professional Baseball Designated Hitter and Right Fielder, Major League Baseball

**Cesar Dargam**, Executive Vice President, The National Business Council (Conep)

**Amb. Paula Dobriansky**, Former Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs (2001-2009); Vice Chair, Atlantic Council Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security

**Jonathan Duarte**, Partner, Head of LAC Advisory, Cross-Boundary

**Daniel Erikson**, Practice Head, Latin America, Covington & Burling LLP

**The Hon. Adriano Espaillat**, US Representative, New York's 13th congressional district

**Francisco J. Garcia**, VP of Investment Banking and Leasing, Banco Popular

**H.E. Dr. Karin Herrera Aguilar**, Vice President, Republic of Guatemala

**Lyana Latorre**, Vice President, Latin America and the Caribbean, The Rockefeller Foundation

**Hanne LeCount**, Executive Director, Concordia

**Nicholas Logothetis**, Co-founder & Chairman of the Board, Concordia

**Nitzia Logothetis**, Founder and Executive Chairwoman, Seleni Institute

**The Hon. Julio Moltó**, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Republic of Panama

**Víctor Pacheco Méndez**, CEO, Arajet

**Lorena Pierre**, Master of Ceremony, Tres Media

**Jean Marco Pou**, Fellow and U.S.-DR Manager, Global Americans

**The Hon. Faride Raful**, Minister of Interior & Police, Dominican Republic

**Ben Richardson**, CEO, Sulnox Group

**Biviana Riveiro Disla**, Executive Director, ProDominicana

**Amb. Leandro Rizzuto Jr.**, U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States, U.S. Department of State

**Edgar Rodríguez Rudich**, Public Policy Director, Latin America, TikTok

**H.E. Eduardo Sanz Lovatón**, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Dominican Republic

**Douglas Smith**, Global Head Public Affairs and Executive Director, The Nuclear Company and MENA

**Matthew Swift**, Co-founder, President & CEO, Concordia

**Tatiana Torres**, Associate Partner, DGA Group

**Amb. Dr. Carol van der Walt**, His Majesty's Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Jose Gregorio Vidal Perello**, Senior Partner, ValueCorp





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