



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 10, 2019

Honorable Alejandrina Germán Mejía
Minister of Higher Education
Av. Maximo Gomez No. 31
Esq. Pedro Henríquez Ureña
Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic

Dear Dr. Mejía:

On April 16, 2019, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCyT) describing the current standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of NCFMEA's review was to determine the comparability of the country's medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the system used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that NCFMEA finds comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' participation in the Direct Loan program, visit the Foreign School Information web page at: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA reviewed the information submitted regarding the country's accreditation activities for a redetermination of comparability. The NCFMEA wishes to thank Dr. Saturnino de los Santos Solis, Vice Minister of Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education at the MESCyT, and Dr. William Duke, President of the Dominican Association of Schools of Medicine, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding MESCyT's accreditation activities. Their testimony was insightful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

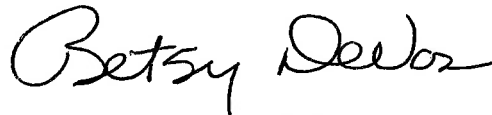
The NCFMEA determined that it needs additional information in order to make its decision regarding the comparability of the standards used by MESCyT to accredit medical schools in the Dominican Republic. In particular, the NCFMEA requires responses to be provided in English when a country responds to issues identified in the final staff report. The NCFMEA further requests that the country returns before the Committee with a representative who is conversant

with the technical details governing the quality assurance process for medical schools in the Dominican Republic.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Dominican Republic several months before the spring 2021 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the application. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at jennifer.hong@ed.gov.

Thank you for providing the information regarding the country's accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high-quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy DeVos

cc: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Dominican Republic Desk Officer