



## HAITIAN DIASPORA FORUM: DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION IN HAITI

Washington, DC – February 20-21, 2010

The earthquake in Haiti has left devastation and chaos in its wake. In addition to unthinkable high casualties, 85% of the infrastructure was destroyed. Many observers estimate that this earthquake has set Haiti back decades. The Haitian government's capacity has been severely limited. Many government staffers were lost in the earthquake and entire ministries have been incapacitated. Furthermore, the National Palace, the government's command center, is uninhabitable. There is an urgent need to identify and engage resources to fill these critical gaps in capacity. The Diaspora community throughout the Americas presents an immediate resource and a wealth of experience and expertise that can be put to work to address both short and long term priorities. To that end, the Haitian Diaspora community will convene at the OAS in Washington, DC to form a Haiti Coalition that will develop a comprehensive and strategic recovery and reconstruction plan.

### OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Forum is for the Haitian Diaspora to come together to develop a plan for recovery and rebuilding in Haiti as well as to exchange views with the OAS Member States, General Secretariat, and other international institutions on the short-term recovery and long-term reconstruction efforts in Haiti. At this conference, the Diaspora will also design a collaborative strategy that addresses key issues for an integral and sustainable development.

The three broad areas, which the Forum seeks to address, are:

1. How to get immediate and necessary relief to Haitians in need;
2. How the participants of the Forum can contribute to addressing the current challenges in the relief and reconstruction efforts in Haiti; and
3. How to rebuild Haiti into a vibrant and functioning country with economic development potential and poverty alleviation.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results of this Diaspora Forum are to:

1. Develop a specific plan for the projects, programs, and strategies to be executed in support of the recovery and reconstruction efforts in Haiti, including immediate humanitarian needs and a process to manage reconstruction projects; and
2. Develop a coordinated strategy for how the Haitian Diaspora will engage in capacity and nation building and integrate other international partners in this effort.

## METHODOLOGY AND PROPOSED FORMAT

This Haitian Diaspora Forum will be open to the participation of the Haitian Diaspora. The Forum will last one and a half days and consist of an inaugural session as well as workshops intended to achieve the expected results. In advance of the program, a core team of forum organizers will put together and circulate draft discussion format papers with recommended topics and takeaways for each workshop. This will allow for a more effective discussion and results papers in the short time frame we are proposing.

Participants will have the opportunity to dialogue, exchange experiences, and formulate a collaborative strategy. Each workshop will be moderated. One rapporteur will be assigned to each workshop, and an officer from the Department of International Affairs will also be in attendance. The rapporteur will be responsible for taking notes during the deliberations, compiling and organizing the comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding a collaborative strategy with the Haitian Diaspora.

The results of each workshop will be merged into one overarching document by the rapporteurs. The document will include a broad vision for Haiti's reconstruction, results of the workshops, and an action plan for the Diaspora organizations to implement. The report will be submitted to the Haitian Government and distributed widely to OAS member states, donors, and various international and domestic actors. The final document will also be posted on the OAS Civil Society Website and widely disseminated to civil society networks throughout the region. We will also prepare and issue a press release highlighting the key results of the document and the formation of a Haiti Coalition.

## DRAFT AGENDA

**Rubén Darío Room, OAS General Services Building, 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 (TBD)**

*\*\* will need six rooms for concurrent sessions*

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>8:30 – 9:00am</b> | <b>Registration</b>  |
| <b>9:00 – 9:30am</b> | <b>Inaugural Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS</li><li>• Ambassador Duly Brutus, Permanent Representative of Haiti to the OAS</li><li>• Michael Jean, Governor General, Canada</li><li>• TBD, Haitian Diaspora Representative</li></ul> Moderator: Irene Klinger, Director Department of International Affairs OAS |
| <b>9:30-9:40am</b>   | <b>Overview of the current situation in Haiti</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBD, OAS representative</li><li>• TBD, Haitian Diaspora Representative</li></ul>   |

**9:40 – 10:30am**

**Reconstruction: Vision 2020**

This panel will provide a broad vision for two major questions: 1. In the immediate term, how do we quickly and efficiently rebuild housing and basic services for the two million displaced people; and 2. What is the grand vision for what Haiti should look like in 10 years – a “Vision 2020”. Where should the capital city be? Should it remain in Port-au-Prince or move to a location further from the fault lines? Should Haiti aim to become an “eco-tourism” destination and focus on adopting clean energy technologies, promoting reforestation initiatives and building a tourism infrastructure? What are the real possibilities given Haiti’s current development and strengths of the populace? This panel will serve as a foundation for the workshops.

Panelists (3):

- TBD, OAS
- Haitian Diaspora representatives (academic or development specialists)

**10:30-11:15am**

**Q&A**

**11:15-11:30am**

**Coffee Break**

**11:30am – 1:00pm**

**Convene Simultaneous Workshops**

**Workshop 1: Urgent Humanitarian Needs and Effective Deployment of Foreign Aid**

Two weeks after the earthquake hit Haiti and people were still only eating once every three to five days despite hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid and donations. This panel will convene to explore the current challenges with the deployment of aid and recommendations for how to improve the process. It will also outline where the humanitarian needs remain and provide estimates on how much and how long emergency aid will need to continue. This panel will include representatives of the PADF, Red Cross, USAID, and other first responders.

**Workshop 2: Ensuring a Transparent Reconstruction Process**

The earthquake has cast a spotlight on questions surrounding how international aid has been deployed in Haiti over the years. In order to build confidence in the country, we will explore how to put in place a transparent system for reconstruction, including open bidding processes and RFPs. Several countries, for example, have worked with USAID to launch a public private partnership (PPP) for rebuilding. Additionally, this session should explore the establishment of a Haiti Reconstruction Authority tasked with managing the reconstruction efforts. This workshop should be focused on process and technical issues.

**Workshop 3: Government Capacity Building**

This workshop will take up the longer-term issues related to government capacity building in-country. The earthquake has highlighted the need for stronger institutions in Haiti better equipped to handle natural disasters -- and economic and social development. This workshop should take up the broad

issues of building government capacity, including proposals for training programs and cooperative partnerships, as well as focusing on how to structure a functional emergency management and disaster relief system.

#### **Workshop 4: Economic Development**

Developing a concrete and sustainable plan for economic development will also be a key longer-term priority. This panel should focus on finding ways to attract foreign investment. Many observers have flagged the potential for Haiti becoming a “sweatshop of the world”. This panel will take up also best practices for building a responsible manufacturing sector. Additionally, this document will discuss development of vibrant commercial sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing in the short term and potentially tourism in the long term. Finally, this panel should focus on critical infrastructure development issues, including energy, road reconstruction, port and airport, and telecom.

#### **Workshop 5: Social Development**

Prior to the earthquake, the education and health services systems in Haiti were already substandard and failing. Almost 40% of Haiti’s children were not able to attend any school. Haiti has one of the worst doctor-to-patient ratios in the world. The earthquake destroyed many hospitals and 85% of the schools in three geographic departments. The medical school and the state university are also gone. Education is critical to rebuilding and to economic development overall. Tunisia and Columbia heavily invested in education and turned around violent and economically challenges societies within the span of a decade. This panel should take up issues such as allocation of funds to education and how to rebuild schools and hospitals in short order.

#### **Workshop 6: Security**

Haiti suffered significant challenges related to gangs and organized criminal activity prior to the earthquake. Kidnappings and murder were all too common. Given the desperate circumstances, criminal activity is expected to increase. This panel should take up the specific needs for how to build up a professional and neutral police force. Haiti has lacked a comprehensive national security strategy since 1994. This panel should develop both a broad vision for security as well as specific recommendations on police forces. Finally, they should draw up a plan on how to leverage international security cooperation.

**1:00 – 2:00pm**

#### **Lunch with Speaker**

Proposed: Presidents Bush and/or Clinton, or Secretary Clinton

**2:15 – 4:15pm**

#### **Reconvene Simultaneous Workshops**

**4:15-4:30pm**

#### **Coffee Break**

**4:30-6:00pm**

#### **Reconvene Simultaneous Workshops**

**6:00pm**

#### **Sessions end for the evening**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

- 9:00-10:00am**            **Panel Discussion: Recovering from an Earthquake, Experiences from Around the World**  
This panel should include representatives of countries and cities that have recently or in the past experienced devastating earthquakes, including Mexico City, San Francisco, China, and others. Panelists would be invited to share their experiences with rebuilding and lessons learned.
- 10:00-10:15am**            **Q&A**
- 10:15-10:30am**            **Coffee Break**
- 10:30-11:00am**            **Presentation of Draft Strategy and Action Plan**  
The rapporteurs will present the summaries of the workshops and the draft action plan.
- 11:00am-12:00pm**        **Discussion and Q&A**  
Moderator: TBD
- 12:15-1:45pm**            **Working Lunch: Building an Effective Haiti Coalition**  
This discussion will take up the issue of how to organize the Haitian Diaspora community to present a cohesive and united platform. We will explore how to structure the organization, how to integrate with the Haitian Government, engage with international actors, and implement the action plan.
- 1:45-2:00pm**            **Closing Remarks**
- Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin
  - TBD, Haiti Coalition

## THE OAS AND HAITI

The involvement of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Haiti has been concentrated on strengthening the country's governance and institutional capacity, stimulating economic growth in order to reduce poverty and social exclusion, and preventing and mitigating natural disasters. The recent positive changes in political stability as well as progress in security have been achieved with the cooperation of the United Nations, the OAS, and other international and nongovernmental organizations. Nevertheless, this progress is now threatened by the impact of the recent tragedy.

The OAS had developed the Haiti Task Force as an internal mechanism for coordinating and promoting cooperation with Haiti within the General Secretariat. The Group of Friends of Haiti had been created to facilitate the sharing of information between the OAS and interested outside organizations on developments in that country, as well as to encourage initiatives designed to advance Haiti's socioeconomic and political development.

Following the tragic earthquake that occurred in Haiti on January 12, 2010, the OAS has utilized both mechanisms to coordinate action in response. Member States contributed nearly US\$170 million and sent over 200 tons of supplies for humanitarian assistance, as well as medical doctors and experts in search and rescue operations in the first ten days after the disaster. Permanent Observer Countries to the OAS have also generously contributed to the disaster relief effort in Haiti, including the commitment of Italy to cancel Haiti's bilateral external debt (approximately US\$ 57 Million) and the donation of US\$4.41 million in medicine and rescue aid supplies from the government of China, among others (see annex). The Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF), an OAS arm for disaster relief, has been a key partner in coordinating the assistance to Haiti by taking part in rescue missions to the devastated areas of downtown Port-au-Prince. International cooperation, including that of civil society, is providing a wellspring of efforts to build national and local resilience to current and future natural disasters as well as future development initiatives. These are all initial responses that will continue to grow in the days to come. See attached a detailed matrix of contributions so far.

The wide-spread devastation caused by the earthquake has impacted all Haitian citizens. The recent tragedy that has brought about so much suffering should be seized by the international community as an opportunity to redesign and rebuild the damaged human, physical, institutional and cultural underpinnings of the Haitian state. It underscores the urgent need to work towards building stronger institutions and more effective public policies and practices, including those related to natural disaster prevention and preparedness in Haiti and the need to make economic, social, physical infrastructure more resilient for sustainable development and national security.

To reap the greatest benefit from the current international engagement, it is essential for all of the actors, including the Haitian Diaspora, the OAS General Secretariat, Member States, and the international community at large, to share knowledge, information, and resources, so as to implement effective and sound policies for the rebuilding of Haiti in all its dimensions – institutional, physical and social. All engaged actors should work together to help Haiti reduce its vulnerability in the prevention and mitigation of future natural disasters. International aid and reconstruction efforts should be

coordinated to establish effective synergies, optimize scarce resources and avoid duplication. Civil society and, in particular, the Haitian Diaspora have much to offer in this critical process.

The opportunity offered by the coming meeting will allow us the first opportunity to exchange ideas with the Haitian Diaspora on how to better support the Haitian reconstruction efforts and to design the appropriate mechanism for facilitating coordination and interaction among all stakeholders.

### **CO-ORGANIZERS**

- The Haitian League (THL)
- National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians (NOAH)
- Haitian-American Doctors Association
- Haitian-American Engineers Association
- Association of Haitian-American Elected Officials
- Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition (HAGC)
- Haitian-American Lawyers Association
- Haitian-American Teachers Association
- Haitian-American Police Officers Association
- Haitian-American Nurses Association
- Greater Washington Haiti Relief Committee (GWHRC)
- Others TBC

### **LOGISTICS**

The Haitian Diaspora Forum registration form is to be filled out and sent to the Department of International Affairs prior to the event in efforts to facilitate registration procedures. Registration will take place at the OAS General Secretariat building at 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20006 between 8:30am and 9:00am on morning of the event. Participants will be issued identification cards, which, for security reasons, must be displayed during the event.

### **LANGUAGES**

The proceedings of the Haitian Diaspora Forum will be conducted in French, Creole and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in all languages.

# General Secretariat



Organization of  
American States

January 20, 2010

## Update on OAS Efforts in Support of Haiti

Heads of the Inter-American institutions met today at OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC, to continue coordination efforts and further develop a common strategy for medium and long-term efforts of collaboration on Haiti ahead of the Montreal meeting, begin strategizing on long-term efforts for Haiti recovery and reconstruction, and to develop a response roadmap for disaster response in the region. Participating in the meeting were OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza; Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin; PAHO Director, Dr. Mirta Roses; John Sanbrailo, Executive Director of the Pan American Development Foundation; Dora Currea, Caribbean Country Manager at the Inter-American Development Bank; Brigadier General Ancil Antoine, Director General, Inter-American Defense Board; and David Hatch, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Since the 7.0 earthquake in Haiti on January 12, there have been four significant earthquakes in the region:

- |                               |     |                         |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| • Venezuela                   | 5.6 | (Friday, January 15)    |
| • Argentina (off south coast) | 6.3 | (Sunday, January 17)    |
| • Guatemala & El Salvador     | 5.8 | (Monday, January 18)    |
| • Cayman Islands              | 5.9 | (Tuesday, January 19)   |
| • Haiti                       | 6.1 | (Wednesday, January 20) |

## Communication and Coordination

- The OAS' Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) has announced the formation of a joint task force with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to work on telecommunications for disaster relief and assistance in Haiti. The task force will explore ways to coordinate the many offers of telecommunications support to Haiti received by both CITEL and the FCC. This would facilitate deployment of equipment and services to areas of most urgent need for the local population and humanitarian assistance crews. The task force will compile and structure a database ("inventory") with information about telecommunications donors and their respective offers; liaise with OAS-PADF and other involved agencies to identify the most pressing needs and logistical problems to be tackled; identify regulatory and spectrum related issues and appropriate solutions; and cooperate with foreign governments, international agencies, local authorities and operators to facilitate the immediate deployment of telecommunications capabilities where required.

- A heavily damaged area of downtown Port-au-Prince and communities in the Southeast province have been assigned to the Pan American Development Foundation and its partners for immediate relief, the non-profit organization announced. Haitian civil defense authorities designated these areas because of PADF's long development experience in these communities and the urgent need for the organization's extensive background in disaster management. PADF's assigned zones are: Port-au-Prince's downtown section of Bel Air, a heavily residential area known for its beautiful cathedral; and the Southeast province, which includes the seaside cities of Jacmel, Cayes-Jacmel and Marigot. Eighteen months ago, these Southeast province communities (which are about a three-hour drive from Port-au-Prince) were severely damaged by hurricanes and tropical storms. PADF will provide relief supplies to these affected communities via the border city of Pedernales in the Dominican Republic. Relief to Bel Air will come through PADF's office in the capital, which receives its supplies from a land route that connects with the border city of Jimani in the Dominican Republic.
- OAS and PADF efforts on the ground are being prominently featured by the New York Times and other major news outlets. The following news sites provide a graphic demonstration of some of the OAS's efforts in immediate disaster relief: <http://www.nytimes.com/imagepages/2010/01/16/world/16haitigfc.html> and <http://www.nytimes.com/imagepages/2010/01/19/world/americas/19aid-graphic.html>

### **Inter-American System/International Support**

- PADF has delivered today a shelter kit, tarps, cooking utensils and water purification tablets. The shelter will house 500 Haitians in Jacmel, one of the relief areas assigned to PADF.
- The Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) has mobilized teams of technicians to help to restore electricity.
- To date USAID/ODFA commodities delivered to Haiti include nine water treatment units to provide 900,000 litres of drinking water for 90,000 persons per day; more than 71,000 10-litre water containers (to benefit 142,000 people), nearly 19,000 hygiene kits (to serve 94,000 people); 700 rolls of plastic sheeting for shelter (approximately 35,000 people) and five UN-WHO medical kits capable of supplying medical service to up to 10,000 persons.
- The Red Cross Society of China announced US \$1 million of emergency humanitarian aid to Haiti and is now collecting donations from all over the country. The Chinese Government pledged RMB 30 million (about US\$4.41 million) of relief supplies. The first shipment which includes medicine, tents, emergency light units and water purification devices is on the way to Haiti. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Public Security have sent emergency task forces to join the rescue and relief operations in Haiti. Italy has pledged to cancel €40 million (approximately US \$57 million) of the bilateral Haitian debt.

### **USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Information on missing relatives, friends and colleagues may be found at the following sites:

ICRC: [http://www.familylinks.icrc.org/WFL\\_HTI.NSF/Bottin?OpenView&StartKey=a](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org/WFL_HTI.NSF/Bottin?OpenView&StartKey=a)

CNN List at [www.cnn.com/haitimissing](http://www.cnn.com/haitimissing)

**OAS SUPPORT AND RESPONSE TO HAITI (as of 01/20/10)**  
(Most recent updates in red)

Member States & Secretariat	Financial support in US\$	Humanitarian assistance
<b>Total</b>	Total contribution to date \$ <b>170 million</b> in financial and humanitarian assistance.	<b>208 tons</b> of supplies and humanitarian assistance search & rescue and medical experts
<b>OAS Secretariat</b>	\$100,000.00 (additional million announced)	Establishment of the Situation Room to provide up to the minute information; regular coordination meetings with the other inter-American institutions
Antigua & Barbuda	\$38,000 (EC 100,000)	Defense force; Search & Rescue unit on standby
Argentina		Military helicopters/airplanes; the Argentine Air Force Field Hospital providing medical assistance, medical personnel and medical supplies, water, water purification equipment
Bahamas		2 Immigration Officers, 50 Defense Force Officers, 8 police officers and Red Cross team to receive Haitian refugees
Barbados		Needs assessment team
Belize		1 container of food and clothing; <b>31 Belizean to participate in CARICO CDEMA deployment to Haiti</b>
Bolivia		<b>50 tons of rice; 200 bags of blood and 600 bags of plasma,</b>
Brazil	\$15 million in humanitarian assistance \$130,000 to World Food Program \$100,000 to Haitian UN Population Fund \$250,000 to the FAO for Haiti	<b>7 military planes carrying: 60 specialists in disaster response; rescue dogs, 60.2 tons of food, 18.5 tons of medications, 14.3 tons of water, 32.5 tons of shelter and other items including an emergency portable hospital.</b> Flights carrying personnel, food items, medications and mobile hospital, rescue teams, disaster relief specialists, 28 tons of water and food, 30 tons of supplies, firemen and rescue dogs, 1 military ship, water treatment equipment
Canada	\$135 million (including \$50 million in matching funds for public donations)	Warships, planes, helicopters; reconnaissance team with Mil guards, consular staff, and relief supplies
Chile		15 tons of medical aid; medical personnel/rescue team; sending 2 planes of assistance
Colombia		Medicine, mobile military hospital, health personnel, 20 search experts, (1) airplane, 35 firemen, water, clothing
Costa Rica		61 person rescue team, doctors, security personnel, medicine, food supplies
Dominica		Bottled water & dried goods; and police support
Dominican Republic		Support to diplomats and international agencies based in Haiti; sending humanitarian aid contingent; and set up "border logistic zone" to facilitate transit of aid; hospitals available; 39 trucks of food dispatched

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		110 cooks, 8 mobile clinics, 35 doctors, and telecom technicians.
El Salvador		4 members of the El Salvadorian Red Cross and one rescue dogs; 37 tons of food and water and 17 tons of cream soups.
Ecuador		1 C130 plane from Air Force with: 6 tons of supplies, 4 experts in risk management, 6 police officers and 4 military officers, 11 volunteers from Red Cross, 13 rescuers, and A second airplane expected within 2 weeks
Grenada	\$100,000	Rescue and relief workers
Guatemala		4 officers, 24 search and rescue experts
Guyana	\$1 million	Established a Coordinating Committee for reconstruction efforts in Haiti
Jamaica		Coordinating Centre for CARICOM donations, emergency personnel, medical facilities; 10 members of the Jamaica Fire Brigade have been dispatched to Haiti; 159 members of the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) currently stationed in Port-au-Prince; the JDF medical team has established a clinic; a team of 21 medical personnel; two JDF Coast Guard vessels have been used to transport troops and medical and relief supplies, Air Jamaica has provided flights to transport troops and medical personnel to Haiti; government has offered the Norman Manley Airport as a holding area for aircraft while they await clearance for landing at the Port-au-Prince airport
Mexico	\$8 million	10 aircraft; 2 ships (one of which is a hospital ship); 208 experts in search and rescue, structural damage assessments, 1500 tons of humanitarian supplies, including water food and medical supplies, telecommunication equipment, search and rescue equipment, ambulance and a crane.
Nicaragua		2 AN-26 aircraft with a second shipment of food and medicine (9000lbs of medicine, 6000lbs of rice, beans, oil and soy milk for children and 8 Nicaraguan medical doctors to reinforce and rotate with the team already in Port-au-Prince; humanitarian team including experts on damage assessment, medical assistance, and civil defense
Panama		One airplane with: material supplies; rescuers, nurses, experts in infrastructure, rescue team with dogs; 2500 bags of 13.5 kg each of food. Another plane with donated supplies. 8 vans of material to set up 20 centers of operation or temporary government offices.
Paraguay		Rescue team, trauma surgeons, medical experts, blankets, 56,000 kilos of food
Peru		5 tons of medicine and medical material, 58 tons of food, 15 tons of emergency supplies, 28 firefighters, 18 doctors and 2 rescue dogs
St. Kitts & Nevis		Established a Solidarity Fund for Haiti
St. Lucia	\$500,000	Sending assessment team
St. Vincent & Grenadines		Shipment of food and bottled water (public and private sector cooperation). Other shipments will be sent soon.
Suriname	\$1 million in aid	
Trinidad & Tobago	\$1 million	
United States	\$100 million	3,500 soldiers, 2,200 marines; Aircraft carrier with approximately 4000 sailors and 3 additional ships including hospital ship (USNS Comfort)
Uruguay		Uruguayans attached to MINUSTAH assisting in rescue efforts

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Venezuela		26 tons of medicines, food, water and medical equipment, 75 rescue personnel, 30 volunteer medical personnel, fuel
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