

## HAITI DONORS CONFERENCE

“Toward a New Cooperation Paradigm for Growth and Opportunity”

April 14, 2009

Draft Remarks for Secretary General José Miguel Insulza

Her Excellency Prime Minister of Haiti Madam Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis,  
Her Excellency Secretary of State of the US Madam Hillary Clinton,  
Her Excellency Minister of Cooperation of Canada Madam Beverly Oda,  
UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,  
IDB President, Luis Alberto Moreno,  
EU High Representative Javier Solana,  
IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn,  
World Bank Managing Director Juan José Daboub,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appreciate this opportunity to speak on behalf of the OAS at this important event. It is an opportunity for a renewed engagement and a new cooperation paradigm.

Let me thank the Government of Haiti, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Government of Canada for preparing this Donor Conference. I would like to recognize

also the efforts made by the United Nations to highlight the value of this meeting and express our gratitude to all partners of Haiti for their support and contributions.

The donor conference is taking place at a significant juncture. In three days, in Trinidad and Tobago, for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, Heads of State and Government of our hemisphere will explore ways to secure their fellow citizens' future by promoting human prosperity. This search for sustainable progress befalls in a context characterized by worldwide efforts to face a global recession and identify implement solutions at all levels to avoid massive unemployment and an increase in poverty.

The impact the global financial crisis will have on the Americas is considerable and, in the specific case of Haiti, it has been and will be more profound, given the country's weakened social framework and precarious economic structure. It is therefore urgent that this Conference considers this situation and the best ways to help the government and people of Haiti in these difficult moments.

Through all the process of institutional building that is taking place in Haiti in the past four years, the OAS has provided support in some fundamental areas, with funding from hemispheric and extra-regional partners. We played a decisive role in the electoral registration process and in the subsequent election of 2006 and have continued working with the government of Haiti in several ways.

The OAS flagship program in Haiti, the civil registry modernization project, lays the foundation for improved policy making process, economic governance, community driven initiatives, youth-related programs, and better development planning. Thanks to this project implemented in cooperation with the Government of Haiti, about 92% of the adult population enjoys an ID card which facilitates the provision of services and participation in elections, thus contributing to the respect of human rights.

Book entries in the National Archives are being digitalized and made secure, while the National Office for Identification (ONI) ensures that the population has access to civil registry services through 141 offices spread throughout the Haitian territory.

As we look toward the future, work on the civil registry will have to be complemented in the short term by progress on birth registers so that ID cards can be issued to minors.

Another OAS important program is the support for the Electoral Provisional Council and the electoral process. Through this program, voter's lists are updated and printed out, a tabulation center is established to strengthen the transparency of the elections and the credibility of the results, and technical assistance is also provided which will facilitate the transition to an Electoral Permanent Council.

Even though we are laying the technical foundations, we must always bear in mind that democracy cannot be established without elections, but that elections require participation by all citizens. Likewise, democracy must be forged with everyone who accepts its rules and principles. In this connection, the OAS has always supported the inclusion of all political persuasions so that citizens may identify themselves with their elected officials. It was on the basis of this fundamental principle that, in 1991, we adopted the

Commitment of Santiago and a decade later the Inter American Democratic Charter, in which we set out the fundamental components of democracy.

In preparation for the upcoming elections on April 19, 600,000 ID cards are at the disposal of voters throughout the country. To date more than half of them have been picked up. In addition, the SONAPI area tabulation center is ready for counting votes.

In short, all of the necessary technical support the OAS is responsible for is in place in order to ensure smooth elections. And we hope that all the efforts will be made to ensure that as many citizens as possible participate in the upcoming elections.

We cannot fail to mention the work under way to assist people with disabilities. The OAS, with USAID support, and of course at the request of the Haitian Government, has distributed special equipment to help enhance the mobility of people with disabilities. This activity is part of the Organization's concern for helping the weakest and most vulnerable sectors of society and providing them with social

welfare benefits; in Haiti this activity, which is not always well known, has been essential.

One of the oldest ties the OAS has in Haiti is through the Pan American Development Foundation, the Pan American Development Foundation is a specialized development NGO created as an incubator and implementer of innovative development models throughout the hemisphere.

PADF's latest initiative, "Building Haiti from the Ground Up" is intended to focus on success stories and garner additional support for effective programs such as: Community-driven development, Disaster relief and mitigation, Human Rights, Border Development.

I am pleased to announce that PADF will be partnering with the Haitian Government to implement a new \$8.8 million urban Community-driven Development program funded by the World Bank and private donors.

This Donor Conference should not be one more event for Haiti, where the attention of the international community is drawn to the socioeconomic plight of the Haitian people. It

should not go into history as an exercise without actual impact on the livelihood of the simple citizen of Haiti. It must mark a new beginning for strengthened partnership which will spur growth, create sustainable prosperity and equitably spread opportunity across society.

Trust and mutual accountability must become the norm for cooperation between Haiti and donors. In that context, budget support to the Haitian Government appears to be an excellent mechanism to increase transparency and efficiency in a new cooperation framework.

After five years of MINUSTAH presence in Haiti and the enormous strides made in strengthening security and forging peace in the country, it is now essential to move on to another stage in Haiti's socioeconomic development.

In this connection, the OAS is prepared to make a contribution to judicial and penitentiary reform. We have shared with the Haitian Government the experience of several countries of the Americas in the process of training a "neighborhood" police, which is respectful of human rights and familiar with its functions and scope of action in a

framework of the rule of law. These factors should also be considered during the Haitian National Police reform process.

The 2+9 Mechanism is supporting and lending its experience to this task, with support from the Rio Group and CARICOM.

In this regard, we cannot fail to mention the imbalance that exists between the contribution made by Latin America to the MINUSTAH armed forces (58%) and that of the Latin American countries to the Haitian National Police (only 2%).

Emphasis must also be placed on the need for relevant actors and representatives of Haitian society to sign and commit themselves to an Agreement on Freedom and Democratic Guarantees. Many of the member countries of our organization made the transition from countries with states of exception to countries in which the rule of law prevails through such agreements. The OAS would therefore be favorable to the conclusion of such an agreement as the country proceeds along the path toward consolidating democracy as an unshakable framework for solving social conflicts.

It is, in our view, also of critical importance to focus on effective coordination of cooperation in line with the Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (DSNCRP). In this regard, the OAS is pleased to note the regular meetings of the G-10 with Haitian Authorities in Port-au-Prince. However, we can do more. I believe the OAS should become part of that group, given the scope of the projects we are executing on the ground and our important partnership with other donors.

In the new paradigm cooperation we are shaping now, we need to do more and we need to do better. In this partnership of Haiti with the international community, we all share responsibilities. We believe that the Government and people of Haiti have the primary responsibility to make and implement sound development policies, maintain political stability, uphold good governance, motivate participation of youth, women, civil society organizations, and private sector institutions in the business of moving Haiti forward. We believe also that the international community has an obligation to politically and financially accompany this process of recovery and reconstruction.

Our organization is fully aware of its historic responsibility to the Haitian people and is working with the peoples of the Americas to ensure that Haiti will be able to achieve socioeconomic development in a democratic setting and thus to occupy the place it deserves in the concert of nations of the Americas.

Thank you very much.