

**HAITIAN DIASPORA FORUM:
CONTRIBUTING TO A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN HAITI**

March 21-23, 2010

CONSOLIDATED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Haitian Diaspora wishes to thank the Organization of American States (OAS) for convening some 400 representatives from the Haitian Diaspora in its headquarters in Washington, DC, from March 21-23, 2010, to submit recommendations to the Government of Haiti and donors ahead of the discussion to be held on March 31st, 2010 at the United Nations in New York, as part of its contribution into the elaboration of a strategic plan for the reconstruction and development of its homeland. Following are the recommendations that emanated from the two-day discussions:

URGENT HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN AID

The Diaspora acknowledges and supports efforts by the Government of Haiti (GOH) and the private sector to address the post-earthquake urgencies. It welcomes their insistence to the international community that, in purchasing food aid, preference be given to local producers and national suppliers in order to avoid the contraction of domestic production. It also welcomes efforts initiated with the help of the international community to assess the structural integrity of existing homes, and to implement cash for work programs.

The Diaspora would like to urge the GOH to:

- R1. Collaborate with the international community to ensure that food distribution systems and shelter arrangements take into account social and cultural factors and respect the dignity of people (e.g. establish distribution schedules and community kitchens; keep lines short at distribution points; target vulnerable beneficiaries for special distribution channels including home delivery; uphold regional equity by extending distribution to areas that have welcomed the displaced population; etc.).
- R2. Transform the idle time at the camps into educational opportunities and provide various trainings, including civic education for children, young adolescents and adults. At the same time, strengthen the educational infrastructure outside of Port-au-Prince including at pre-school, primary, secondary, adult, vocational, and higher educational levels. Emphasize teacher training throughout the country.
- R3. Seek the coordination of distribution efforts with all stakeholders, including local governments, international aid agencies, hometown associations and community groups in Haiti and abroad. Additionally, increase transparency and accountability by requiring aid agencies to publicize a detailed accounting of funds expended in Haiti.
- R4. Given the fast-approaching rainy and hurricane season, seek the collaboration of aid agencies and local Haitian organizations to identify and prepare areas outside of Port-au-Prince that are less susceptible to natural disasters. Build seismic and cyclonic resistant temporary housing, such as modular housing and prefabricated homes. In the design of long-term housing and shelter plans, adopt and enforce seismic and cyclonic resistant building codes.

- R5. Increase the effectiveness of humanitarian aid by empowering aid recipients through the extension of work-for-food and cash-for-work programs within the camps and throughout the critical areas, with a focus on the youth and women. Collaborate with aid agencies to assess periodically the humanitarian needs and the effectiveness of aid distribution within and outside of Port-au-Prince, including through feedback from beneficiaries.

ENSURING A DYNAMIC AND TRANSPARENT RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS

- R6. Increase accountability through greater transparency and oversight of all reconstruction funds (public or private) with the creation of an Inspector General Office. Such Office shall be required to conduct audits and investigations to prevent fraud, waste and abuse, and shall report its findings publicly.
- R7. Make best efforts to ensure that firms that are contracted in Haiti hire Haitian workers and contractors as a priority, including from the Diaspora, as a means to alleviate poverty, enable job training and creation, reverse the brain drain by expanding human capital that will, in turn, attract foreign investment.
- R8. Recognize the importance of the Diaspora in the Haitian economy and, referencing the *Plan d'Action pour le Relèvement et le Développement National* (March 2010), yield to the Diaspora's strong request for a full voting seat in *la Commission Intérimaire pour la Reconstruction d'Haïti*.
- R9. Create a Civil Service Corps with the participation of Haitian nationals and the Diaspora, particularly women, to assist in the building process. Donors are encouraged to review their personnel's legal framework with the view of facilitating the transfer or detail of Creole-speaking employees to work on loan in Haiti.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Diaspora stands ready to play its part in the development of private capital vehicles for investing in Haiti such as social venture capital funds, and to bring to bear its multifaceted expertise in capital markets, technology, engineering, green energy, etc. The proposals of the Diaspora for a sustainable development are articulated around two themes: (i) greater involvement of the Diaspora and (ii) sector specific recommendations.

The Diaspora urges the GOH to:

- R10. Set an ambitious but concrete and quantifiable goal for the short and medium run, particularly in terms of GDP growth (6% per year or more) and reduction of poverty.
- R11. Work with donors to formally engage the Diaspora in the implementation and follow up of measures and recommendations for recovery and reconstruction. As such, create a platform for exchanging information and ensuring that (i) the Diaspora is updated on business opportunities as well as other developments and (ii) at the same time that the GOH is aware of resources available in the Diaspora (financial and human).
- R12. Publicize eligibility and selection criteria for donor-funded projects and ensure greater participation of Haitian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Diaspora investors. Moreover, create streamlined/expedited processes for business formation and license applications including a single point of entry for business proposals where investors can get responses from relevant authorities on firm timetables.

- R13. Recognize dual nationality. Although the Diaspora understands that there are no legal impediments to investments, dual nationality will create greater inclusion and incentive.
- R14. Increase accountability, transparency and oversight of all funds with detailed reporting through a public information system and a reformed/strengthened judicial system.
- R15. Have an updated and publicly available inventory of all NGOs operating in the national territory and a mapping of their activities and their sources of funding.
- R16. Promote green (solar, wind, ocean thermal and geothermal) and/or locally produced energy to achieve energy independence and security. Reduce electricity theft through wireless usage meter. Provide training opportunities to sustain a workforce prepared to install and maintain alternative energy solutions.
- R17. Prioritize projects based on their contribution to decentralization, deconcentration, and the participation of women.
- R18. Strengthen the role of the Investment Facilitation Center (*Centre de Facilitation des Investments* -CFI) and institute self-contained, automated regional branches to facilitate the establishment of corporations and investments directly outside the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Also, amplify the database within CFI of potential partners by sector.
- R19. Create a mechanism to promote Haiti as a tourism destination even in the short term and to address all aspects of tourism security. Provide training opportunities to sustain a workforce prepared to install and maintain a thriving hospitality industry.
- R20. Have a subaccount for the apparel industry within the framework of the Guarantee Fund which is currently being created. Moreover, create a mechanism to make credit readily available for the productive activities, particularly in the agricultural sector.
- R21. Increase productivity by strengthening vocational training and targeting skills demanded by the market, while promoting the employment of women. This would include an assessment of available skills and needs by sector.
- R22. Encourage innovation through the strengthening of intellectual property rights.
- R23. Transform the rural landscape by promoting local farming to better compete with agricultural imports, by aggressively pursuing food security and promoting agro-exports and agro-industry (including vertical integration). Specifically, promote rural units of integrated production including aquaculture, livestock, light manufacturing, services, etc.
- R24. Identify each region's comparative advantage and invest accordingly. Provide for appropriate financing of development activities, particularly through the widening of the tax base.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

The Diaspora views institutional rebuilding and the consolidation of democratic governance as imperative. It believes that social justice, the rule of law, the respect of civil liberties and the protection of private property are key to creating an environment conducive to economic growth and development. Thus, it encourages the GOH to:

- R25. Combat impunity and review immunity provisions in order to prosecute to the full extent of the law officials who have been perceived to abuse their privileges.
- R26. Use the expertise of the Diaspora to continue the process of reforming the Constitution, including those provisions related to granting Dual Nationality to members of the Diaspora and facilitate enactment of new measures and legislations at the Executive and Parliamentary levels that will integrate the Haitian Diaspora in Haiti's society.
- R27. Implement provisions of the Constitution with regards to decentralization.
- R28. Adopt a realistic decision on the scheduling of the elections taking into consideration the special circumstances as a result of the earthquake. Collaborate with international partners and Diaspora organizations to put in place a mechanism to encourage greater participation of the Diaspora as electoral observers in all upcoming elections.
- R29. Pursue the transfer of knowledge and expertise to help strengthen capacity through effective mechanisms such as (i) twinning/exchange programs with Diaspora professionals and through online communities and (ii) partnerships with academic centers for the training of civil servants.
- R30. Establish an independent judiciary and accelerate the reform of Haiti's criminal laws and procedures, including the correctional system, and increase the number of judges, prosecutors, police and corrections officers, and other court personnel.
- R31. Reform the country's justice system, and strengthen the capacity of its Ministries, including the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, to support national government institutions operating in local communities, and to develop and train a core of middle managers to assume leadership roles within their organizations.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION

The Diaspora believes that natural disaster management should be a long-term priority of the State. If Haiti cannot control the likelihood of natural disasters, it must manage the ensuing vulnerability and risks. Hence, the GOH should:

- R32. Strengthen the capacity of the country to react to catastrophes and manage natural disasters through the implementation of a national emergency action plan. Particularly, implement strict building codes.
- R33. Reinforce *La Direction de la Protection Civile* through formal training of public servants at all levels in disaster-related fields. At the same time, implement programs for disaster preparedness and simulation exercises. For example, implement a web-enabled crisis information management system to provide real-time information sharing to improve the response to disasters.

Child Welfare

The Diaspora believes that laws and regulations that govern child abandonment, foster care, kinship care, domestic and inter-country adoption need to be modernized. Diaspora professional social workers and specialists in child welfare models as well as legal experts stand ready to consult and partner with the Ministry of Social Affairs, particularly l'Institut du Bien-Être Social et de Recherché (Institute for Social Welfare and Research), to provide training and technical support. NGOs working with children should be required to register with the Ministry prior to having access to children, and then be monitored by a set of guidelines.

The Diaspora makes the following recommendations for short-term improvements and long-term sustainability:

- R34. Adopt the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention), which aims to prevent the abduction, sale or traffic of children, and prioritize the adoption of children by Haitian families in Haiti and the Diaspora. Further, work with identified partners to develop culturally congruent education and training for those wishing to care for Haitian children in order to minimize additional trauma and maximize adaptive outcomes consistent with Haitian culture and values.
- R35. Support family preservation to prevent child abandonment, by offering support services to families and/or extended families to care for their own children. Moreover, phase out the orphanage system through the re-integration of children into family/extended family like settings (i.e. foster care models).
- R36. Create a central database of all children in out-of-family placement, where progress and services are recorded and tracked ---modeled after best practices.

Education

Members of the Diaspora who are in academia wish to collaborate with the government and the private sector to offer their services in implementing the following recommendations:

- R37. Implement quality *Universal Education For All (EFA)* that assures equitable access to all children, including over-aged students and students with disabilities, that offers health and sports program, and civic education, that supplies second-chance education (drop-outs and youths) as well as youth mentoring and adult literacy programs, and that provides free meals (breakfast and lunch), free transportation, potable water, uniforms, and school supplies. Such education will have to be provided in schools built on the basis of safe building codes and fitted with all modern sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- R38. Strengthen the certification process of teachers and administrators, and implement (i) appropriate training structures to ensure their ongoing professional development and (ii) a mentoring and exchange program between Haiti and Diaspora teachers. Similarly, implement a program of adoption of Haiti schools and students by Diaspora schools and students. Such partnership should occur also at the higher learning level, and extended through collaboration with foreign universities. Moreover, provide incentives to teachers and administrators through decent wages and reasonable benefit packages.
- R39. Design school programs that utilize results-based criteria and reflect national standards. Such programs should be culturally relevant (use of Creole), promote differentiated curricula (by age and ability level), foster STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs, uphold technologically

friendly tools and conduits (distance learning, media, internet, etc.), and support post-secondary internships for workforce readiness, as well as school readiness programming through a community approach that leads to higher education and vocational training.

- R40. Address the needs of all vulnerable groups (special education, orphans/unaccompanied minors, restavek/children in domesticity, exploited children, disabled youths, etc.). Further, implement psycho-social support services.

Women

Haitian women are facing specific challenges as the impact of the devastating earthquake meets the limitations of their gendered social roles. The disaster has further weakened their ability to perform their already overwhelming tasks as mother, wife, caregiver, educator, financial provider, entrepreneur and activist. International aid and assistance, as well as the involvement of Haitian women living abroad, will be a significant determinant of recovery and growth, dignity, equal opportunity and the overall development of Haitian women during this recovery and reconstruction phase.

- R41. Conduct a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) with a direct focus on women and from a gender perspective, in order to identify specific challenges and good practices. On the basis of this Gender PDNA, allocate an equitable percentage of funding for meeting these documented needs.
- R42. Encourage the Haitian government, civil society and the Diaspora to take gender issues into consideration in the conception, formulation and implementation of policies, structures and programs (affirmative action), and work with the media to support positive reinforcement of the status of women.
- R43. Reinforce security in temporary shelters, food distribution centers and other environments for women and children by increasing the presence of women among security personnel, including both local and foreign troops. In particular, security personnel should be trained to recognize and gender-based violence.
- R44. Adopt and implement a zero tolerance policy towards violence against women and children and implement the necessary measures to make this policy operational, including detention and prosecution of alleged offenders, stricter punishment relating to sexual offences against women and girls and the protection of victims and witnesses.
- R45. Allow Haitian women, more particularly Haitian women living in rural communities, fair consideration and access to funding (in particular micro-credit), which will permit them to purchase land, supplies and equipment that will strengthen their role in agriculture.

Health Development

The need for medical attention and care has nearly tripled as a result of the seism; and the doubling of medical infrastructure and services is indispensable to avoid a major health care crisis. As a result, the Haitian government needs to:

- R46. Increase Haiti's medical and health care capacities to meet the actual and future needs of the population through a medical assistance program with the Haitian Diaspora where Haitians from abroad will provide their services for two weeks at time on a year round basis.

- R47. Foster a partnership between Diaspora and local health care professionals to provide intense and modern technology training. Particularly, offer clinical mentorship programs to build technical and practical capacity for the numerous medical students who are no longer in school.
- R48. Partner with universities as well as public and private hospitals to achieve uninterrupted medical service through clinical education. Further, maintain a medical residency and fellowship, focusing on diseases that are endemic to Haiti and the Caribbean (use of current technologies where continued training and support of Haitian doctors and nurses can be done through teleconferencing).
- R49. Create a “mini-fellowship” fund in infectious diseases for local doctors and nurses.
- R50. Strengthen family planning, women’s reproductive health and child health organizations, health centers in conjunction with the GOH. Special attention must be given to pregnant women living in precarious conditions in temporary shelters.
- R51. Create mental health clinics to address the various post-earthquake traumas to provide therapy, especially to children and other vulnerable groups. Social workers from the Diaspora can be key in addressing this issue while understanding how culturally sensitive this is.
- R52. Create therapy centers for the rehabilitation of thousands of amputees and for their reintegration in society.
- R53. Urge donor countries to create a program to sponsor a certain number of students (a number to be agreed upon) per accredited medical schools per year during the period of reconstruction.

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WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were generated through dialogue among the Haitian Diaspora representatives within the framework of six workshops held as part of the Haitian Diaspora Forum: Contributing to a Strategic Plan for Reconstruction and Development in Haiti, which took place from March 21-23, 2010 at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

WORKSHOP 1: URGENT HUMANITARIAN NEEDS, EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN AID, AND EXPERIENCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN RECOVERING FROM AN EARTHQUAKE & CURRENT HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES, DEPLOYMENT OF AID, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DIASPORA ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE PROCESS

1. Food distribution
 - a. Distribute uncooked food in kits easily portable;
 - b. Establish standard operating procedures (SOP) for food distribution that protects the dignity of the population and includes the most vulnerable, people with disabilities, for example;
 - c. Food has to be distributed based on a schedule known to the beneficiaries;
 - d. Establish relationships with Mayors and other Local Authorities and Organizations, particularly women's groups, to support distribution;
 - e. Identify criterion such as efficiency and transparency in the choice of local partners in Haiti;
 - f. Promote local agriculture by distributing locally produced food;
 - g. Include aid distribution in areas beyond Port-au-Prince, which have welcomed displaced people;
 - h. Encourage the use of community kitchens in camps.

2. Working with the International Community
 - a. Cooperation must be multilateral;
 - b. International cooperation and OAS inter-American disaster mitigation: Early warning system, risk management and post standard for construction. Sustainability of progress;
 - c. Principles to keep into account: Deepen democracy, peace, security, gender equality and the strengthening of institutions;
 - d. All actors, from public and private sectors and civil society, must be involved in the reconstruction process: local, national and international.

3. Shelter
 - a. Immediate relocation of displaced Haitians because of the rainy season;
 - b. Solicit the assistance of the US Corps of engineer to rapidly relocate populations;
 - c. Cannot move people from one disaster area into another. Evacuate people from Port of Prince as soon as possible, before the raining season (to higher areas in Haiti). However, the houses and the areas must be ready for the people to move before they do;
 - d. Build smaller but more solid structures;
 - e. Have shelters like the ones build for Katrina victims in New Orleans (Dormatories);
 - f. Consider more resistant shelters – other than just the short-term tents;
 - g. Registration form to identify camp population;
 - h. Look for transitional/temporary housing;

- i. Improve security environment in camps, with a focus on women and girls and the prevention of gender-based violence.
4. In relation to the use of the money
 - a. Transparency is necessary to avoid frustration and doubt;
 - b. Be sure that money goes to organizations able to provide credible reports;
 - c. Monitor the allocation and distribution of funds from a gender perspective in order to ensure that women benefit equally from aid.
 5. In relation with coordination and capacity of interventions
 - a. Promote preparedness so as to facilitate quick and efficient response;
 - b. Promote Coordination between competent Agencies through the use of Emergency Management Softwares (web EOC);
 - c. Coordination should be before coming to Haiti. We have had two mistakes, one the lack of resources, and then, we are receiving resources we don't need. In this sense, coordination should be done in advance;
 - d. Make assessments about what is needed before requesting and receiving (example: clothes for adults and kids receive in an improper manner making it hard to distribute);
 - e. Ensure that the beneficiaries' voice is taken into account to get regular feedback on the effectiveness of aid distribution; include a voice in cluster meetings;
 - f. Strengthen Haitian NGOs on the ground;
 - g. Foster employment: Putting Haitians back to work in close coordination with the civil society, the Haitian Government, and the International Community;
 - h. Encourage legislators and cooperation agencies to keep aid organizations and other aid providers accountable by requiring that a feedback loop be created to verify the effectiveness of aid programs with beneficiaries.
 6. Need to reunify families – community organization
 - a. Reunite families and re-start building communities. To build communities, families need to receive the proper conditions (transportation, literacy, health, food distribution, civil and community education, water systems, recreation areas, waste management, among other basic needs), in order to transit to a new society and to a new way of life for Haitians;
 - b. Empowering people and victims become workers, community facilitation;
 - c. Employment: cash for work program to clean the drainage to avoid disaster during the rainy season;
 - d. Put Haitian back to work – regain dignity.
 7. In relation with the intervention capacity
 - a. The civil protection needs to have its own capacity.
 8. In relation with the Diaspora
 - a. The Diaspora has an advantage: the knowledge of the country, which should be taken into account;
 - b. Database for people able to help for the reconstruction of the country;
 - c. Make in place a corps of volunteer including the Diaspora;
 - d. The Diaspora must be involved (communications)
 9. Coordination of the Diaspora
 - a. Vote in favor of the Diaspora federation
 - b. Reunification – actions by commune
 - c. Promote network

10. Other recommendations:

- a. Absolutely take into account the long-term implications of aid distribution so that population eventually becomes self-sufficient (i.e. consider agricultural industry) and not wholly dependent on economic aid.
- b. Give them an incentive to do activities (job creation), especially building homes and also inside the camps (for example, people to work within the camps)
- c. Haitians are willing to find ways to work efficiently and strive for our country's development. We welcome international help but we don't have to put any blame or claim in support of organizations if they don't come on time or in an appropriate way. Haitians to develop our country in respect to our motto: "L'union fait la force"
- d. Recommendations put together by the Montreal Diaspora can be found at www.grahn.net
- e. Promote tourism.
- f. Little plans and projects are ok, but massive action is needed.
- g. Establishing of a central national agency to coordinate investment and manage reconstruction efforts. Channeling reconstruction funds and efforts directly to communities.
- h. Make simulation exercises with the population for preparedness of disasters.
- i. Youth have to be involved in this process that will serve as therapy in terms of providing literacy and civic education, organizing food and/or goods distribution.
- j. Need to create the environment so that investors perceive liberty to invest in the country.

11. Watchwords to keep in mind (Rep. from the Ministry):

- a. Preparedness for the 2010 cyclone and rainy seasons (identify at-risk zones, reassure populations affected by the earthquake, strengthen early warning and evacuation systems, rebuild the sector's infrastructure, and increase capabilities at the national level and those of departmental, communal, and local teams).
- b. Systematic inclusion of environmental factors in all decisions regarding recovery and development.
- c. Inclusion of risk and disaster management in measures taken by all sectors (building code, insurance, consolidation and operating budget, contingency plans, and continuity of activities).
- d. The challenge the country must face today is how to reduce losses in GDP by changing the paradigm through the promotion and adoption of effective measures such as the inclusion of risk management in development programs, in school and university curricula, and in land use.

WORKSHOP 2: ENSURING A DYNAMIC AND TRANSPARENT RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Participants of the workshop consisted of architects, engineers, project managers, curators and human rights activists from the United States, Canada, Haiti, France and elsewhere. Sustainable development efforts that include green building, harnessing solar energy, use of indigenous building materials and the incorporation of Haitian esthetic sensibilities and other design issues are imbedded in the pragmatic and philosophic viewpoints of this particular workshop.

By taking serious ownership of the process, participants quickly acknowledged the urgency on the ground – namely the need to provide immediate and significant temporary shelter solutions to internally displaced persons as long terms answers are sought.

Workshop participants elected to focus on five keys recommendations to ensure a more organic and transparent reconstruction process in Haiti. They include but are not limited to the following matters that emphasize transparency, accountability, compliance, inclusion and the mitigation of corruption:

1. The need for an Inspector General to oversee the procurement process for contracts relative to the built environment, NGO funding, and other transactional relations is strongly prioritized and recommended for issues such as:
 - a. How the bidding process is organized;
 - b. Bid selections and notifications;
 - c. How contract generation is facilitated and managed;
 - d. Control of building and infrastructure compliance and regulations including safe zones [or earthquake free areas];
 - e. Ensuring accountability, transparency, responsibility and compliance from top to bottom through the duration of building processes;
 - f. Accountability of NGO's in Haiti.

2. The Inspector General (IG) whose post is potentially accounted for via the Executive Directors post in the Interim Haitian Recovery Commission (the pre-cursor of the Haitian Development Authority) would have the following duties and responsibilities:
 - a. Provide for the independent and objective execution and supervision of audits and investigations;
 - b. Provide objective leadership and coordination of and recommendations on policies designed to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in management of Haiti's reconstruction programs and operations, prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse;
 - c. Review existing and proposed legislation and regulations and make appropriate recommendations;
 - d. Maintain effective working relationships with other government agencies and non-government organizations regarding oversight in Haiti;
 - e. Report irregularities to appropriate stakeholders;
 - f. Submit reports in a consistent and timely fashion to relevant stakeholders in the Haitian redevelopment process.

3. Mechanism to develop strategic partnerships with Haitian nationals and Haitians of the Diaspora for meaningful, sustainable, mutually beneficial and inclusive procurement and bidding processes is urged of the donor community. A goal of 40% (25% minimum) must be "set aside" or accounted for to make sure that when non-Haitian firms are hired, they have Haitian nationals and her Diaspora at the table if not as primary, then as secondary or sub-contractors to rebuilding efforts. This is especially important as capital is sought and joint ventures within the Haitian community-at-large are created to further enable participation in larger procurement contracts. This methodology aims to alleviate poverty in the country, enables job training and creation; reverses the brain drain by expanding human capital exponentially and attracting foreign investment.

4. Emboldened by the OAS Haitian Diaspora Forum, the Diaspora recognizes the magnitude of its remittances to the Haitian Republic and how those contributions totaling \$2 billion dollars annually allots for 30% of the GNP of Haiti. With the creation of the **Interim Haitian Recovery Commission** that seeks to spend hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 18 months in rebuilding efforts, we in the Diaspora recognize that we are the single largest donor to Haiti, as such, we strongly urge our current seat as a formal "observer" to the Commission's work be up-graded to a full voting seat in the interest of equity, parity and accountability.

5. Relative to the Interim Haitian Recovery Commission is the **Multi-donor Trust Fund** with some 18 members that may have the World Bank pooling donor dollars towards reconstruction. There are no members of the Haitian Diaspora on the Commission. We formally request two (2) voting seats for the Haitian Diaspora on the Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF). This is strongly recommended.

6. An architectural term applied to this exercise is the "scaling up" of skills in terms of capacity building, technical assistance, professional development and apprenticeship programs that expand and sustain the

building process. This notion speaks to enabling a design and build process in Haiti that necessitates serious vocational preparation or training; further refinement of existing skill sets; advanced management; technology and other tools for a rebuilding process that will meaningfully include Haitian nationals and members of the Diaspora. Expansion of skill sets also encourages putting exacting systems in place to manage the overall process. To that end, built environment professionals propose creation of a Civil Service and Professional Support unit that consists of Haitians, Haitians descendents, and members of the Diaspora.

7. In conclusion, Haitian nationals and the Haitian Diaspora possess the intellectual and creative capital to rebuild the country towards prosperity. Resources in the form of training, financial capital, re-enfranchisement of its citizenship, repatriation, technical assistance, investment in schools, education, health, cultural patrimony and the environment must be made by the Haitian government to buoy the unprecedented talent, efforts at resource mobilization, political will, vision and courage at its disposal. The Haitian government must facilitate the enrichment of Haitians first: practically, spiritually, morally, economically and intellectually before it enables this for others. Inclusionary processes, implementation of best practices, transparency and good governance enable our collective move towards progressive and sustainable change.

WORKSHOP 3: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

The Haitian Diaspora is cognizant of the fact that numerous studies have been conducted and many solutions have been proposed over the years to strengthen governance and the justice system in Haiti. The Diaspora proposes a fresh approach, seizing on the opportunity presented by the disaster of January 12 to build a better and stronger Haiti. Members of the Diaspora strongly urges that that any Justice Sector/Governance initiatives in Haiti be organically conceived and implemented, and encompass working with all levels of the Haitian government, beginning with the smallest township authorities to the highest level officials in the three branches of government, but not neglecting other domestic actors, including school age children and post-secondary students, on their role in having a justice and governmental system that works for all. These efforts must be long term, as past experiences have shown that short term efforts generally only yield short term results.

We urge all stakeholders involved in the reconstruction of Haiti to make full use of the Diaspora: the Diaspora is poised to play a significant role, offering its professional skills, cultural awareness and language capabilities, to work in Haiti, within Haitian governmental institutions and the foreign and local NGO communities; as well as in the donor countries with governmental, nongovernmental and private entities involved in the reconstruction process. The use of Haitian professionals of the Diaspora shall be in the same manner and with similar remuneration as transfers, details, or employment of non Diaspora members.

The goal is not to duplicate nor supplant the much needed long term changes to the GOH Civil Service career track, and the need for a larger programmatic objective of reversing the brain drain in Haiti; instead it is designed to address the immediate human resource needs that currently exist in Haiti.

1. Institutional rebuilding and democratic governance consolidation

Constitutional Reform: while constitutional reform is important, the immediate and basic needs of the Haitians on the ground must be the primary focus of the reconstruction strategy. However, we urge the GOH to use the expertise of the Diaspora to continue the process of reforming the Constitution, recognizing that the new provisions, including those related to granting Dual Nationality to members of the Diaspora, will not take effect immediately. In addition, the aspiration is that as the new Constitution is contemplated, the drafters consider eliminating the constitutional provision granting what amounts to

absolute immunity from prosecution to parliamentary and high government officials; officials involved in wrongdoing must be held accountable like every other citizen, they should not be shielded by immunity.

Decentralization: We urge the GOH to give full force and effect to constitutional provisions regarding decentralization, and this must occur with all deliberate speed. The decentralization process must include providing the necessary competencies (legal authority to get things done) and resources (funds) needed to effectuate it.

Elections: Political stability is the cornerstone of any prosperous nation, and Haiti must provide political stability to its citizens, local and foreign investors, partners in the reconstruction effort and geographic neighbors. We urge the government of Haiti to find a solution to the potentially destabilizing political climate that is forthcoming as the term of the lower Chamber of Parliament and some members of the Senate expires in May 2010, and that of President Preval and his cabinet in February 2011. In that light, members of the Diaspora have called for free and fair elections to be held as soon as possible, possibly at the end this calendar year, but certainly before February 7, 2011, to ensure an effective transfer of power to a legitimate constitutional government. Others in the Diaspora recognize that these are extraordinary times and elections may not be possible; in that case, an alternative form of government is urged (such as an Assemblée Constituante) that would govern the country until free and fair elections can be organized. In any event, a survey of the population should be conducted to assess whether the Haitians living on the ground believe it is best to hold elections between now and February, or schedule them for later.

We urge the domestic entities organizing the elections as well as the international donors supporting them to make full use of the Diaspora as Election Observers in all upcoming elections.

2. Increasing the State's capacity in governance matters

Any reconstruction strategy must prioritize strengthening State institutions so they become able to provide basic services to the citizens of Haiti as soon as possible. The Diaspora can serve as a bridge between the donor and NGO communities abroad, and the Government and people of Haiti on the ground, to effectuate that goal, through the following initiatives:

- a. Train the trainers initiatives, using the skills of Kreyòl speaking Diaspora members whenever possible
- b. Partnerships between the GOH, the Diaspora, and donor communities through, for example:
 - Twinning/exchange programs between Diaspora professionals and the national and local governments in Haiti;
 - Creation of online communities of practice;
 - Use of an open source database of Diaspora expertise (not owned by any one organization)
- c. Partnerships with academic centers, such as Haitian and foreign universities, for practical training programs for government officials
- d. Programs that promote accountability, transparency, and combat impunity within the GOH; establish watchdog organizations both in Haiti and in the Diaspora; and provide strong incentives for good governance
- e. Institutionalization of a rigorous evaluation and monitoring mechanism for all program activities in order to ensure that implementing entities are held accountable for the results desired
- f. Establishment of a Civil Servant career track
- g. Support of a strong and sound educational system in Haiti that will strengthen the capacity of all in Haiti

- h. Establishment of a Civic Engagement Board to facilitate input from all segments of society, including the Diaspora
- i. Integration of a structure of the Diaspora within the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad to facilitate enactment of new measures and legislations at the Executive and Parliamentary levels that will integrate the Haitian Diaspora in Haiti's society

3. Rule of Law and Public Security

Prior to the earthquake, the weaknesses of Haiti's criminal justice institutions were well known to all, domestic and international actors alike. Haiti's laws are antiquated, the system is slow and burdensome, the detention facilities and prisons are overcrowded, justice sector personnel are not well trained, equipped, or supported, the experience gaps in middle management is pronounced, and corruption plague the system. These weaknesses have been exacerbated by the death of key personnel within the Ministry of Justice as well as non-governmental entities working on Rule of Law issues in Haiti, the collapse of the Ministry of Justice building, the destruction of courthouses, police stations, and detention and correctional facilities in the earthquake zone. In the aftermath of the quake, the escape of more than 4,000 detainees and prisoners from the National Penitentiary and detainees now pose a domestic security threat for an already weak justice sector. While a lot progress in reducing crime was made by the Haitian National Police, with the support of MINUSTAH, in previous year, more needs to be done to professionalize the police in order to address emerging threats.

The Haitian Diaspora, at its March 2010 conference in Washington, DC, renewed its commitment to assist Haiti in the reconstruction effort by drawing on the thousands of professionals within its ranks. To that end, we offer the following specific recommendations:

- a. The GOH should implement without delay the three laws enacted in 2007 establishing an independent judiciary
- b. The GOH should accelerate the reform of Haiti's criminal laws criminal procedures, and donors should increase their financial assistance in support of the same
- c. The GOH should, with donor support, take immediate steps to reform its civil code (e.g., contract, labor, and property, environmental) in order to facilitate economic growth, create jobs, pull citizens out of poverty, and foster a safe and secure environment for all Haitians to prosper
- d. The GOH should increase the number of judges, prosecutors, police and corrections officers, and other court personnel, and with donor support, train them to meet post-earthquake law enforcement and economic development requirements
- e. The GOH, as it reforms the country's justice system, should strengthen the capacity of its Ministries, including the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, to support national government institutions operating in local communities, and to develop and train a core of middle managers to assume leadership roles within their organizations
- f. The GOH should, with the support of the international community, develop a correctional system that consistently meets international standards.
- g. The GOH should establish a robust anticorruption regime, staffed by properly vetted personnel charged with enforcing laws with severe penalties, including the suspension or revocation of the visa of public officials formally charged with corruption
- h. The GOH should use the expertise of the Diaspora in developing policies related to Rule of Law and Public Security
- i. Donors should resolve and make it a high priority to utilize, in the first instance, police, attorneys, corrections and other justice sector (rule of law) professionals within the Haitian Diaspora in implementing all the above mentioned reform initiatives

WORKSHOP 4: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION

The recommendations of this workshop are based on the finding that most of the Haitians who are in the home country dream of leaving the country for a variety of reasons, whereas the majority of the Diaspora dreams of returning to Haiti, if not permanently, at least as often as possible. The question then arose as to the rationale underlying our relationship with the country where we would like to live. If we take a close look at common practices and evaluate the mobility of goods and persons, we realize that our relationship with the country goes beyond the narrow definition of national territory. The crisis triggered by the earthquake has made the Haitian issue an international cause that engages the responsibility of an entire generation, beyond the borders of the Republic of Haiti. It involves Haitians who have left the country, who in 2010 represent a population of over three million, and their progeny, as well as «Haitians in soul,» foreign friends who see in the future of these prophetic people a universal cause worthy of their solemn commitment.

Our work was also guided by the idea that we wanted to participate in the common task of the citizens concerned, not to give them orders or plan their lives for them, but to help them to realize a common achievement, based on a coordinated, rational plan, initially as an urgent response to the crisis touched off by the earthquake, and then to lay the groundwork for sustainable longer-term development.

Our proposals can be summed up in four points that stress the following factors:

- Emergency risk-based intervention;
 - Risk management linked to the vulnerability of the population;
 - The need for a master plan for management and sustainable development of the land.
1. Crisis management
 - a. After past experiences that have revealed the gravity of the situation, it is important to produce relevant information to anticipate disasters. The first thing to do is to put in place a culture of risk within the government, without delay. It is in emergencies that people learn what is needed to improve aid techniques.
 - b. Tell people the approaches to adopt in emergencies, with regard to health and sanitation, relationships, management of traumatized persons, and assistance to and handling of maimed persons, and especially children, to name a few;
 - c. The radio should be used systematically, because it is the most accessible media in Haiti;
 - d. Haiti is a country of plans and projects for tomorrow, but that is no longer enough. Rational, urgent action is required. A climate of trust must be established between the population and the authorities, by widely circulating the national emergency intervention and risk management plan. Everyone should have access to a document like this. This is the way to disseminate the culture of risk and to ensure that it is really taken into account in coordinated land planning and development efforts. This means that all partners and stakeholders should have access to the same quality of information needed to make important decisions.
 - e. A system for recruitment and training of an active corps of volunteers that could be immediately mobilized needs to be developed. This could be done in the context of a post-baccalaureate civil service for youth at the end of their secondary or university education, to further enhance all their skills.
 - f. Haitian first-aid workers must be trained on the basis of international standards, to facilitate coordination with international volunteers and to enable them to participate eventually in aid operations in foreign countries, wherever emergencies occur. This would be a way for Haiti to express its gratitude for the universal empathy expressed following the January 12, 2010 earthquake.
 - g. A platform for disseminating information is needed. Emergency plans should be conceived in the form of possible disaster scenarios.

- h. A scale of alerts or warning levels should be defined, and each level should have a credible and clear scenario, that is accessible to the population.
- i. A GPS monitoring system should be put in place, as a means for preventing earthquakes. \$75,000 was collected here in Washington, D.C. in 2001 to purchase equipment and take it to the country. School children must be mobilized.
- j. A water supply system or at least a basic emergency system for providing water and sanitation should be put in place. Water should be a central focus of our short- and long-term concerns. Public fountains and cisterns need to be multiplied, and a service plan adapted to the reality of the refugee camps needs to be put in place, to prevent them from becoming new slums in the heart of the city. The Champs de Mars is not meant to be a shantytown.
- k. The children must also be educated, and shown how to create shelters, and how to get to them as quickly as possible.
- l. A soil conservation plan must be developed immediately, as it is needed for the defense and protection of certain zones, such as the steepest inclines and mangrove swamps.
- m. A marine park is needed to protect the gulf of Port-au-Prince and to protect the birds and animals living in the mangrove swamps, which have been seriously compromised by the silting up of the bay.
- n. The intervention capacity of professionals, and especially engineers and architects must be strengthened, through increased accountability; this entails the existence of accepted standards and penal sanctions in the event that construction licenses are not in compliance.

Disaster information; a plan is needed; communication among the segments of the population; improved knowledge; establishment of a civil defense system based on volunteers; a map of damaged areas; urban renewal is essential.

2. Management of vulnerability

- a. Vulnerability has physical and social aspects. A map representing risk is needed. Vulnerability is linked to both hurricanes and earthquakes. Vulnerability factors are also sometimes advantages, as in the case of water.
- b. A national risk reduction plan, a sustainable risk management plan must be developed, beyond the term of the government in power. A national policy should be supported by legislation adapted to a sustainable management plan. In this way, sectoral and local concerns can be gradually taken into account.
- c. A Master Plan for Land Management and Development must be defined, and articulated on three levels: a regional, municipal, and local level. The overpopulated situation of Port-au-Prince must be counterbalanced by building up three or four other cities, where investments can be channeled through a fiscal incentive policy. Towns that do not have regular streets and roadways should be rebuilt. Aid has not been delivered in time because alleyways are difficult for aid trucks to access. The irrational construction of towns must be ended. Houses are built on top of each other in a helter-skelter fashion, without any order or services, and then afterwards people realize that they are inaccessible and have no basic services. The supply of basic services must be guaranteed for rural communities that account for over 60% of the country's population.
- d. Construction standards must be imposed. Local "*plu*" that are interactive and capable of receiving emergency intervention are needed.
- e. Chile is an example of the dissemination of an efficient risk culture, to be used as a model.
- f. The cultural aspects of vulnerability must also be taken into account. Thought must be given to the culture of those who are being asked to implement the principles of a culture of risk. It is important to explain to the people the reason for the measures adopted in the common interest, as this is the only way to obtain results and change prevailing attitudes.
- g. It is important to consider the decisions of popular, grass-roots associations, such as Fondwa, Pandiassou, and Fonkoze, and pioneering experiences such as the Lèt a gogo, etc., that have put in place

local development strategies with encouraging results and have helped to instill increased responsibility in the country's rural areas.

- h. The capacity of local communities should be reinforced.
- i. DINEPA, the national drinking water and sanitation department, has been a key element of development since 2009. It has proven its capacity for coordination in a crisis. For the past two and a half years, DINEPA has demonstrated a better public organization. The Diaspora can contribute to strengthening it by making experts and financing available on a long-term basis.

Certain areas must be protected; construction standards must be applied; satellite imagery should be used in prevention policies; the population should be actively involved in development; institutions should be strengthened and application of laws encouraged; an effective warning system should be put in place; a chain of accountability and sanctions is needed so that officials feel committed to their public service; human failings should be punished, and sanctions imposed, in keeping with the human and material stakes involved.

3. Role of the Diaspora

- a. The Diaspora should help to improve the situation in Haiti by transferring their skills.
- b. Missions of Diaspora Haitians should be facilitated, to share skills. Volunteers and involvement in favor of Haiti should be encouraged. An emergency program and intervention plan coordinated with the local Haitian plan are needed.
- c. Funds sent by the Haitian Diaspora must be able to be traced. A precise, situation-based report of the money spent should be accessible.
- d. The Diaspora can help in training aid workers. The experience of the 2009 Carnival is a success: only one death by accident, thanks to the training of 200 first-aid volunteers the previous year as part of a mission of volunteer trainers from the Diaspora.
- e. Financial assistance has been obtained, to the tune of over \$1.3 million a year; what is needed now is technical and social assistance. The construction sector is key to the development of relations between the Diaspora and the home country. It can help to put in place a center for basic and advanced training in the building trades or civil engineering in general.
- f. The Diaspora has proposed the creation of a fund for a memorial to victims of the earthquake. The disaster must be inscribed in our memory. «Bay kou bliye pote mak sonje,» according to a Creole proverb.
- g. Foreign universities (French-speaking universities of the French-speaking University Agency, for obvious reasons of common language, and universities in the United States, Canada, and the Dominican Republic, for reasons of geographical proximity) are already very involved, alongside public and private Haitian universities. The Diaspora can mobilize resources for many cooperative arrangements to pass on knowledge, skills, and know-how.
- h. In 2004, the OAS assisted in the return of 90 to 200 members of the Diaspora to help the country: a program of this sort could be systematized.
- i. It is essential to work together, in synergy with the home country. The Diaspora should be humble, but it also is entitled to examine the decisions that involve the future of their families who have remained in the country.
- j. How can the return of the most highly trained émigrés be envisaged?
- k. There should be a bridge between the Diaspora and the ministry in charge of risk management in Haiti. A plan to ensure the availability of Haitian professionals and physicians should be devised, and social networks should be used to circulate relevant information expeditiously.
- l. The right to dual nationality must be established for all Haitians, those born Haitian and those who have become Haitian by choice or direct relationships.

The Diaspora should be organized organically; the transfer of skills and knowledge should be encouraged; financial transfers are important, but technical and scientific transfers are as well; a memorial should be built to

those who disappeared in the disaster, as this is important to the dissemination of a true culture of risk; the Diaspora should participate in the political life of their home country; bridges should be built with the ministries, in order to help deal with the problems; integration between the home country and the Diaspora should be improved, so that work is done in concert, and not in competition.

4. Sustainable development plan

- a. It is important to distinguish between physical risks or hazards and economic and social stakes or challenges: the risks are known and can be analyzed independently of society, but the stakes are directly correlated to social concerns. The poor are just as keen on their little huts as the rich are on their palaces. A public policy for sustainable development should take into account the interests of persons above all, and their desire to live together. In rehousing the people, it is important to follow the rules of neighborhood solidarity as much as possible, to maintain their longstanding ties. The same communities can be regrouped into safe housing away from their original sites. This concern to keep neighborhoods together will contribute to the long-term psychological equilibrium of the population.
- b. Haitian public policies have usually been emergency policies. It is critical to think in terms of long-term development policies.
- c. A development and reconstruction bank is needed, and its absence is critically felt in the country. A Diaspora bank would be welcome. That would give greater access to credit for productive investments.
- d. A policy to improve infrastructure is needed, including highways connecting the regional capitals and the major provincial towns, and roads to link up rural communities.
- e. It is important to focus on the sectors where the country has a comparative advantage, such as exports of animal products, (goats and guinea hens living in the Dominican Republic), music, painting, sculpture, and all the arts and crafts, etc. Economic information must be disseminated to businessmen and small producers.
- f. The people must be prevented from building in the same way as they did before. Drastic measures should be adopted.
- g. It is important to distinguish between emergency plans and sustainable management plans. Priorities involve food production, then housing for displaced persons, and micro-credits should be promoted.
- h. The countryside has a shortage of entrepreneurial farmers to develop sustainable farm production. The small farmers are traditionally poor, and live on the periphery of the real economy. This trend must be reversed and land-holding and the skills of farmers must be strengthened.
- i. A priority sector must be recourse to new sources of energy. Renewable energy should be promoted, and public incentives and subsidies should be used to encourage use of new resources, such as solar and wind energy, bio-fuels, etc.).
- j. A policy of decentralization and industrial development is needed, in the form of techno-poles where ITC would play a central role. This is the way to best coordinate training, higher education, and production, by using cutting-edge universities in the service of companies geared to making export products with a high value added.
- k. A metropolitan techno-pole in the Port-au-Prince area should be developed, supported by an international university campus (CUI) and regional techno-poles, and regional universities, smaller in scope but capable of attracting people to the primary provincial towns, built up as "equilibrium cities," the dynamic forces needed to rebalance the national economic fabric.

The educational system should be geared to a development policy; information and communication technologies must be encouraged; anti-poverty efforts should focus on facilitating mechanisms for access to credit and knowledge; the communications and telecommunications infrastructure must be strengthened; production of food crops must be enhanced; a mechanism for public intervention to establish an emergency action plan must be developed; a disaster alert system must be set up.

WORKSHOP 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Workshop on Economic Development (and Job Creation) is considered by the Diaspora as a consultancy forum and the recommendations formulated by participants can be regrouped under three themes.

1. To have a greater involvement of the Diaspora in the definition, implementation and monitoring of economic policy and development initiatives through the following points:
 - a. Create a Peace Corps model in every country where Haitians and people of Haitian origin can offer their services free of charge to Haitians and Haiti (foreign governments);
 - b. Increase the level of participation of the Diaspora in the Sister City Initiative in order to strengthen economic development and institutional capacity;
 - c. Fix an ambitious but concrete quantifiable goal for the short and medium term, for example, in terms of GDP growth (6% per year or more) and reduction of poverty;
 - d. Officially have donors and the government of Haiti (GOH) agree to formally engage the Diaspora in the implementation and follow-up of measures and recommendations for recovery and reconstruction;
 - e. Create a platform for exchanging information and ensuring that (i) the Diaspora is updated on business opportunities as well as other developments, and (ii) at the same time that the GOH is aware of resources available in the Diaspora (financial and human).

2. To instill confidence and leverage greater Diaspora involvement in the recovery and reconstruction, through the following points:
 - a. Recognize dual nationality: although the Diaspora understands that there are no legal impediments to investments, dual nationality will create greater inclusion and incentive;
 - b. Increase accountability through greater transparency and oversight of all funds through the strengthening of the judicial system, the appropriate and detailed reporting of through a public information system;
 - c. Create a Diaspora fund with the possibility of matching contributions from donors and others;
 - d. Create a social venture fund which could be in the form of a Haiti Bond or private equity fund;
 - e. Have an updated and publicly available inventory of all NGOs operating on the National territory and a mapping of their activities and the sources of their funding;
 - f. Publicize eligibility and selection criteria for donor funded projects and ensure greater participation of Haitian SMEs and Diaspora investors;
 - g. Home countries provide Tax relief incentives for investing in Haiti.

3. Specific sector recommendations and proposals are key to fostering job creation and a sustainable economy. They can be regrouped under the following topics:
 - a. Mechanisms and tools to promote and attract investments in priority sectors such as agriculture, apparel industry and tourism particularly in newly defined economic hubs:
 - Prioritize projects based on their contribution to decentralization, deconcentration, and the participation of women in economic activity;
 - Strengthen the role of the Centre de Facilitation des Investments (CFI) and institute regional representation to facilitate outside the metropolitan area;
 - Create a mechanism to promote Haiti as a tourism destination even in the short term and to address all aspects of tourism security;
 - Have a subaccount for the apparel industry within the framework of the Guarantee Fund which is currently being created;
 - Create a mechanism to make credit readily available for the productive sector particularly the agricultural sector;
 - Increase productivity by strengthen vocational training and targeting skills demanded by the market. This would include an assessment of available skills and needs by sector;

- Strengthen the database within CFI of potential partners by sector;
 - Encourage innovation through the strengthening of intellectual property rights;
 - Transform the rural landscape by protecting local farming against agricultural imports, aggressively pursuing food security, and promoting agro exports and agro industry (including vertical integration);
 - Promote rural units of integrated production including aquaculture, livestock, rudimentary manufacturing, services, etc.;
 - Identify each region's comparative advantage and invest accordingly;
 - Provide for appropriate financing of development activities, particularly through widening of the tax base.
- b. Under the Infrastructure development particularly outside the capital city, the following suggestions were made:
- Energy:
 - Allow the private sector to distribute electricity; at the same time reinforce the power of the state to reduce non-technical losses;
 - Promote green energy by pursuing solar energy production and developing inexpensive storage systems (electro-chemical, kinetic, etc.) that can stock energy;
 - Provide alternative energy solutions for reaching remote areas not serviced by national grid.
 - Housing
 - Create mortgage banking;
 - Provide tax incentives for investments in social housing.
 - Others
 - Encourage investments in talent and promote culture sectors;
 - Fiscal incentives to encourage investments outside Port-au-Prince;
 - Ensure transfer of technology;
 - Advocate green construction and use disaster resistant structure.

WORKSHOP 6: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Child Welfare

A central flaw of the child welfare system in Haiti prior to the earthquake was that it was mostly private and suffered from the absence of appropriate government regulation. To address this, technical assistance should be provided to the GOH to develop laws that govern child abandonment, foster care, kinship care domestic and intercountry adoption. Many members of the Haitian Diaspora are social workers with master's degrees who have become specialist in child welfare models. This Diaspora can consult and partner with the "Ministère des affaires sociales" in particular "l'Institut du bien Etre social et de Recherche" to implement, provide training and technical support in order to strengthen the infrastructure of the child welfare system. NGOs working with children should be required to register with the GOH prior to having access to children, then be monitored by a set of guidelines.

The Diaspora makes the following recommendations in which they believe that the Government should be able to implement in the short term, and create infrastructure for long term sustainability:

1. Adopt the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention) that aims to prevent the abduction, sale or traffic of children and works to ensure that inter-country adoption is in the best interest of children.
2. Support family preservation to prevent child abandonment, by offering support services to the family and/or extended family to care for their own children.

3. Prioritize the adoption of children by: Haitian families in Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora and work with identified partners to assist in developing culturally congruent education and training for those wishing to care for Haitian children in order to minimize additional trauma and maximize adaptive outcomes consistent with Haitian culture and values.
4. Phase out the orphanage system through the re-integration of children into family/extended family-like settings (i.e. foster care models).
5. Create a central database of all children in out-of-family placement, where progress and services are recorded and tracked (modeled from the District of Columbia's child welfare system).

Education

The members of the Diaspora who are in academia wish to collaborate with the government and offer their services in implementing the following recommendations:

1. Holistic view of education;
2. The government should attempt to provide schools with safe building codes, including provisions with access for students with disabilities.
 - a. Provide free meals, transportation, uniforms, school supplies, and have a strategy for the implementation of technology in all classrooms.
3. National free education system to reflect quality schools with no difference between rural and urban schools (Equitable access).
4. Certification process through a professional institute for teachers and administrators
 - a. Ongoing professional development of educators and administrators;
 - b. Higher wages for teachers and administrators;
 - c. Diaspora Teacher Mentoring Exchange Program;
 - d. Diaspora Adoption of School/Students Program.
5. Start school readiness programming through a community approach that leads to higher education and vocational training:
 - a. Develop second chance education (Les suragés) and adult literacy programs;
 - b. Support post-secondary internships with partners in the world for workforce readiness;
 - c. Build capacity of University of Haiti through partnerships with Universities abroad;
 - d. Support of Cultural Art Centers that could also serve as mental health therapeutic medium.
6. Develop curriculum with national standards with result-based evaluation criteria. Integrate the following considerations:
 - a. Create and implement culturally relevant curriculum;
 - b. Create and implement differentiated curriculums (age and ability level);
 - c. Create and implement STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program;
 - d. Use mechanisms such as distance learning, media tools, etc.;
 - e. Create and implement health and sports program.

7. Continue to promote early education in Creole in the provinces with emphasis of French as a second language in primary school to help address high illiteracy rate (Research-Based)
8. Promote civic education program for all students which includes sensitivity education and training awareness regarding student with disabilities
 - a. Youth Mentoring Programs
9. Implement psycho-social support services in the schools, to address the Post-traumatic effects of the earthquake.

The Role of Women in the Reconstruction

Although women are at the heart of the social and economic fabric of the country, access to decision-making positions and higher-salaried, more secure employment are still predominantly reserved for men.

Haitian women are facing specific challenges as the impact of the devastating earthquake meets the limitations of their gendered social roles. The disaster has further weakened their ability to perform their already overwhelming tasks as mother, wife, caregiver, educator, financial provider, entrepreneur and activist. International aid and assistance, as well as the involvement of Haitian women living abroad, will be a significant determinant of recovery and growth, dignity, equal opportunity and the overall development of Haitian women during this recovery and reconstruction phase.

1. Implement a transversal approach to the role of women in all aspects of the society:
 - a. Encourage the Haitian government, civil society and the Diaspora to take gender issues into consideration in the conception, formulation and implementation of policies, structures and programs (affirmative action);
 - b. Work with the media to support positive reinforcement of the status of women.
2. No systematic assessment has been conducted with regard to the situation of women in Haiti. Thus, we recommend conducting a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) with a direct focus on women and from a gender perspective, in order to identify specific challenges and good practices.
3. Ensure that an equitable portion of the international funds is allocated for the improvement of the general condition of the women of Haiti. On the basis of this Gender PDNA, allocate an equitable percentage of funding for meeting the needs of women and girls. These funds could be monitored by a tri-partite committee that partners the Ministry of the Status of Women and Women's Rights (Ministere a la Condition Feminine et aux Droits des Femmes), a coalition of local women's groups (including women from rural communities) and representatives of the Diaspora.
4. Women and more particularly, women in rural areas of Haiti, do not have access or means to obtain a decent education, with the result that the illiteracy rate is extremely high. This is detrimental to the country as a whole, considering the importance of education as the bases for success in all aspects of life, as well as to the participation of women in higher-level decision-making processes. We recommend that strong emphasis be placed on access to education for women, in particular:
 - a. Skills building;
 - b. Literacy;
 - c. Access to higher education;
 - d. Human Rights awareness;
 - e. Empowerment education.

5. Haitian women play a vital role in the country's economic development. We recommend that the role of Haitian women in agricultural reconstruction be recognized and supported through the following concrete actions:
 - a. Allowing them fair consideration and access to funding (ease of access to micro-credit)
 - b. Participation and or managing the processing and selling of agricultural products
 - c. Supplying equipment and materials for such projects.

6. The impact of the earthquake resulted in the deterioration of security, particularly for people living in camps and temporary shelters (Reference PDNA Haiti 2010, page 6). As a result, we recommend strengthening the response to violence against women through education and increased legal, security and protective measures.
 - a. Adopt and implement a zero tolerance policy towards violence against women and children and implement the necessary measures to make this policy operational:
 - Systematically arrest and prosecute alleged sexual criminal offenders;
 - Impose strict punishment relating to sexual offences against women and girls, as well as violence against children (such as child pornography and juvenile prostitution);
 - Insure the protection of victims and witnesses by providing, legal and psychological help, as needed.
 - b. Implement a victim and abuser profile registry to ensure that repeated offenders are dealt with accordingly;
 - c. Support grassroots organizations in their educational efforts to promote awareness and women's rights with additional funding and access to information via internet or any available means;
 - d. Reinforce security on camps for women and children by increasing the presence of women in security personnel including local and foreign troops to help increase the sense of safety, comfort and the ability to report abuse. This will require that Haiti and foreign countries quickly assess the representation of women in their police forces, so they may train can hire more women and/or realign their troops, as required.

7. Ensure that the Diaspora is effectively represented (with at least one of the two representatives being a woman) to present the recommendation at the Donor's Conference to be held on March 31, 2010. As a result of their own struggles and fights, women from the Diaspora have extensive resources and expertise on the subject of Human and Women's Rights issues and will play a crucial role by continually providing legal, psychological, and educational support.

Health Development

It has been conservatively estimated that the approximately two million earthquake survivors who are either injured, displaced or both, will need at least three times the medical and health care services as the remaining eight million or those survived unharmed. This effectively means that Haiti's pre-earthquake capacity has to double. In an effort to avoid excess deaths and debilitations, the urgency to double this capacity is now.

It has also been estimated that the environmental refugee population will continue to be uprooted, poorly-housed and under terrific stress for months if not years. Subsequently, the refugee population will be several times more vulnerable to secondary health problems, infections, accidents and mental illnesses than overall Haitians who were not displaced.

The moderator, rapporteurs and technical experts of the Health Development Section developed an outline of the nearly 40 recommendations that were suggested by the collective Social Development Workshop. The targeted population in need is as follows:

1. **Victims displaced by the earthquake:** The earthquake has caused a development of new population of people, “internally displaced persons”. One out of every five Haitians is in this population. Their needs are specific and immediate. Hence targeted health interventions are necessary.
2. **Women:** Women make up a majority of the Haitian population. Life expectancy is estimated at 53 years of age for women. Women in Haiti suffer high rates of maternal and infant mortality, which is a key indicator of a country’s overall health. Action is needed to improve women’s health outcomes.
3. **Children:** Pediatric care in Haiti is in dire need of strengthening. Due to inadequate sanitation, clean water and poor living conditions, the children of Haiti are developing diarrheal illnesses and infectious diseases that could otherwise be prevented. The children of Haiti are struggling to survive as their mortality increases.
4. **Elderly:** The earthquake’s burden weighs heavy on the elderly. As repositories of Haiti’s history and culture, the elderly have specific chronic care needs, such as diabetes and hypertension that must not go unnoticed. Most elderly are taken care of by family members or neighbors and are at high risk of dying with lack of proper health care.
5. **Laborers:** In a land of manual labor, there are physical and emotional changes that will affect the workforce of Haiti. Many amputees (within all of the listed population in need categories) will not be functional without proper rehabilitation and follow up health care. Health workers who take care of the sick and injured also need appropriate follow up and medical care and often times forego the medical care they need as they take on the needs of others.
6. **Students:** Medical, nursing, paramedical persons are in need of sustained support and continuous training. They should be integrated in the health strategies that are developed so that they are leading the effort for optimal health care in Haiti.

The following recommendations by the workshop are categorized according to the type of professional groupings that will be involved:

Preventive Medicine

1. Promoting health education using the specific framework of social determinants of health;
2. Supporting education campaigns within the camps focusing on infectious diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS, malaria, STDs, and water sanitation hygiene (WASH)- using media forum i.e. radio, oral animation, theatre;
3. Increase a health focus in the penitentiary system, ensuring access for health of prisoners;
4. Promotion of healthy lifestyles for our youth through sports;
5. Implementing a follow-up care system, specifically post amputation, funding existing rehab centers and supporting them by well-established organizations from the Diaspora;
6. Investing in sustainable health by focusing on the environmental effects pre/post earthquake on healthcare in Haiti, (i.e. measuring effectively the amount of toxins in the air and addressing this issue in an effective way, resources toward environmental standards for Haiti’s air, promoting clean air, replanting the trees to prevent continued deforestation of Haiti land mass);

7. Continue to increase the current capacity in Haiti through support of a developed health systems management strategy working with and through the Ministry of Health.

Human Resources

1. Promoting a partnership between Diaspora health care professionals and health care professionals in Haiti to provide intense and modern technology training;
2. Support the existing development of small community health centers outside of the capital;
3. Investing in work force development, community workers and other mid level providers to build the infrastructure; these persons could be trained to be a mid level resource for the community;
4. Create incentives for specialists to work in the provinces thereby decentralizing special care services (an estimated 95% of specialists are living and practicing within Port-au-Prince and the ratio is 25/100,000);
5. Investing in indigenous Haitian organizations that promote health and provide health care and contracting them directly to continue these services;
6. Supporting a Haitian version of the US Comfort relief ship to be docked at the Haitian seaport, supplied with Haitian doctors, specialists, social workers, nurses, and an extended cadre of health care providers for a period of 5 years, while the current health system is being restructured;
7. Investing in a civil service humanitarian act for Haitians to return to Haiti for two weeks to provide services and for their jobs in the States remain secured;
8. While their schools are being rebuilt, using and working alongside the medical students to provide basic primary health care and public health promotion within the camps.

Emergency Preparedness

1. Investing in an adequate emergency system, ICU, CCU system and promoting partnerships between American University Hospitals, and the Ministry of Health (MSPP) to provide sustainable outcomes.

Partnership in Advanced Clinical Education

1. Funding towards building medical schools of excellence in partnership with the private/public hospitals through:
 - a. Rebuilding hospitals (public/private);
 - b. Supporting clinical mentorship programs to build technical and practical capacity for the many medical students who are no longer in school;
 - c. Partnering with the Ministry of Health (MSPP), Notre Dame, Quisqueya, L'Hopital General, and other public/private hospitals to build medical continuum through clinical education;
 - d. Maintenance of a medical residency and fellowship focusing on diseases that are endemic to Haiti and the Caribbean (i.e., Telemedicine where doctors can communicate with international community via internet and web for continued training and support of Haitian doctors in Haiti);
 - e. Supporting Continuing Medical Education by visiting professors already established with the Faculty of Medicine and the General Hospital;
 - f. Supporting the training program already started by reputable medical associations, locally and from the Diaspora.
2. Fund a "mini-fellowship" in infectious diseases for local doctors. This activity will build capacity of the in-country physicians, and strengthen the skills of other members of the multi-disciplinary team, including the

counselors and treatment support staff, and the technical staff (ie, pharmacists, lab technicians). This training will provide an opportunity for continued clinical technical assistance that will be sustainable over time by Haitians.

Women's Health

1. Invest in family planning, women's reproductive health and child health organizations, health centers in conjunction with the Ministry of Health that will promote the expansion of services for women's health;
2. Improving maternal health through increasing skilled midwifery and health providers and strengthening the referral systems to effectively manage complicated births.

Performance Based Evaluations

1. Create a performance based evaluation system through the Ministry of Health for indigenous based organizations, hospitals and international aid working in Haiti.

Mental Health

1. Investing in mental health specifically since the earthquake, looking at different mediums of therapy especially for children;
2. Creating a culturally sensitive model for mental health care.