

Haitian Led Reconstruction & Development:

A compilation of recommendation documents from several Haitian civil society and diaspora conferences, organizations and coalitions.

March 29, 2010

This compilation was prepared by a Washington, D.C. based ad-hoc Haiti advocacy coalition (contributing members listed inside). Views expressed in the documents included are not endorsed by and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the coalition that prepared this document.

Haitian Led Reconstruction & Development

The following documents have been developed by Haitian civil society and diaspora conferences, organizations and coalitions in response to the January 12, 2010 earthquake. The purpose of this compilation is to ensure that Haitian input is accessible to international policymakers, donors, and media as critical strategy and funding decisions are being made that will impact Haiti's future. The views expressed in the documents included are not endorsed by and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the coalition that prepared this document, nor do all contributors endorse each document included. However, each has invaluable insight for recovery, reconstructive and long-term development in Haiti. Within the many upcoming international discussions on Haiti, it is imperative to include the voices of those who are closest to Haiti's challenges.

Below are common strategy points as well as process guidelines that are raised in multiple documents, both for immediate relief efforts and long-term reconstruction and development efforts:

SHORT-TERM RECOVERY

- **Provide locally or regionally produced emergency food aid** with coordinated and equitable distribution in both urban and rural areas of need.
- **Preparation for the imminent planting season** by the procurement and purchase of tools and culturally appropriate seeds, as well as by providing agricultural training for displaced persons.
- **Support for shelter and temporary housing for internally displaced people**, including adequate food, clean water, appropriate shelter for the rain season, medical services and psycho-social support.
- **Protection of human rights of especially vulnerable populations**, such as women, children, displaced persons and people with disabilities, including security strategies to prevent gender based violence, documentation of human rights abuses, and provision of universal, non-discriminatory access to support and resources.

LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Support for agricultural infrastructure and development** including investments in: seeds and tools; reforestation; water cisterns, new wells, and irrigation systems; soil conservation; and animal husbandry to repopulate the Creole pig.
- **Promotion of policies that foster food sovereignty** that include land reform, financial support for small farmers, rural investment, and regulation of food markets to protect the local economy.
- **Leadership training, capacity building, and support for civil society groups** conducted in a way that promotes participation within local, national and international government structures, as well as the ability of Haiti to break its dependency on international aid.
- **Strengthening and investment in formal and informal education systems** to build national literacy, job creation and universal access in both urban and rural areas.

PROCESS

- **Strengthened civil society participation** in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of all immediate and long-term reconstruction and development initiatives, both by the Haitian government and international actors. This necessitates sensitivity to language barriers and includes participation in the upcoming March 31 donor's meeting.
- **Promotion of transparency and accountability** among the Haitian government, NGOs and international donors that is fostered by a robust and active civil society with access to information in locally accessible languages.
- **Decentralization of infrastructure and resources** in the long-neglected rural areas, including health, agriculture, education, water, sanitation, communications, power, housing, justice and social services.
- **Coordination with local, regional, international actors** at all levels for reconstruction efforts, which includes aid distribution and repair of infrastructure.

The included recommendation documents from Haitian civil society and diaspora conferences, organizations, and coalitions are listed below:

1. After the Catastrophe: Our Country Can Rise Again, Compiled the coordinating committee of progressive Haitian organizations with SAKS (Sosyete Animasyon ak Kominikasyon Sosyal) saks@saks-haiti.org, ICKL (Institut Culturel Karl Léveque) ickl@ickl-haiti.org, PAPDA (Plateforme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif) info@papda.org
2. Haiti Response Coalition National Conference Press Briefing, Issued by the Haiti Response Coalition <http://www.haitiresponsecoalition.org/>
3. Haitian NGOs Decry Total Exclusion from Donors' Conferences on Haitian Reconstruction, Compiled by Jesuit Refugee and Migration Service jrsusa@jesuit.org
4. Helping Haitians Help Themselves: Strategic Plan to Defend Life & Rebuild Rural Agricultural Economy, by FONDAMA (Fondasyon Men Lan Men Ayiti/ Hand in Hand Haiti Foundation)
5. Letter from Camille Chalmers, Sent from the Platform to Advocate Alternative Development (PAPDA) info@papda.org
6. Letter from Jean Valéry Vital-Herne, Sent from The Micah Challenge info@micahchallenge.us
7. Rebuilding Haiti, Prepared by TransAfrica Forum info@transafricaforum.org and KONPAY(Konbit Pou Ayiti)
8. Tet Ansanm Pou Yon Nouvel Ayiti: Reflections on the reconstruction of Haiti from a meeting of representatives of national NGOs and displaced persons from the camps Port-au-Prince, Compiled by Oxfam International info@oxfamamerica.org
9. United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Fifty-fourth Session Oral Statement on the Topic of: Ensuring Haitian Women's Participation and Leadership Are Institutionalized in All Stages of National Relief and Reconstruction, Submitted by the Huairou Commission info@huairou.org
10. A Vision and Principles for Rebuilding Rural Haiti, by Cantave Jean-Baptiste, Partenariat pour le Développement Local and Steve Brescia, Groundswell International www.groundswellinternational.org

This was compiled by the Washington, D.C. based ad-hoc Haiti advocacy coalition, which includes:

ActionAid USA
American Jewish World Service
Center for Human Rights and Global Justice
Church World Service
Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti
Foreign Policy In Focus
Grassroots International
Groundswell International
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Lambi Fund of Haiti
Latin America Working Group
Lutheran World Relief
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Outreach International
Oxfam America
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights
TransAfrica Forum
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Washington Office on Latin America

HAITI: AFTER THE CATASTROPHE, WHAT ARE THE PERSPECTIVES ?

Port-au-Prince, 27th January 2010 - Statement by the coordinating committee of progressive organizations (see the list of the participating platforms and individual organizations at the foot of the text)

To all our partners

On January 12th 2010 an earthquake of unprecedented force struck our country with dramatic consequences for the people of many areas in the west and south east, and for the country as a whole. The tremor registered 7.3 on the Richter scale, and the irreparable losses it caused have left our country in mourning and unbearable pain. The tragedy we are facing today is certainly one of the gravest in our history, and its traumatic effects will stamp their mark on our 21st century.

The partial accounts that have already been disseminated go some way to expressing the dreadful, indescribable horror that we collectively lived through during those endless 35 seconds on January 12th, and which have left so powerful a legacy of pain and tears. More than 150,000 dead, 500,000 injured, over a million homeless, tens of thousands who have lost limbs, 300,000 refugees who have fled into the countryside, more than 3 million disaster victims who, from one minute to the next, saw their lives, their homes and their society changed forever. A whole society is traumatised, and lives in fear of probable aftershocks or of a second earthquake.

Our organizations have all been profoundly affected by this event. We have lost close relatives, work colleagues, children, young people, professionals with dreams full of promise and skills, buildings, equipment, tools, and a huge body of documents embodying thirty years of the collective experience of grassroots and community organizations. The losses are enormous and irreplaceable.

Despite our pain, it is important that that we all pause to reflect on what has happened and to draw from this tragic experience the lessons and the guidance that will allow us to continue our tireless dedication to building a different country, one that is capable of overcoming the cycle of dependency and destruction and rising to the level of the dreams of universal emancipation of its founders and of all the people of Haiti.

The extent of the disaster is certainly linked to the character of the colonial and neo-colonial State our country has inherited, and the imposition of neo-liberal policies over the last three decades. The extreme centralization around the 'Republic of Port-au-Prince' imposed after the US occupation of 1915-1934 is certainly one determining factor. In particular the complete liberalization of the housing market has opened a space for rampant speculation by every kind of opportunist.

We have been deeply moved by the extraordinary spirit of solidarity displayed by the people of the metropolitan area who for the first three days after the disaster responded with self-organization,

helping to save the lives of thousands of people trapped under the rubble and building 450 refugee camps which made it possible for 1.5 million people to survive thanks the sharing out of the available resources (food, water, and clothing). We honour and respect the people of Port-au-Prince! These spontaneous organs of solidarity must now play a central role in the reconstruction and reconceptualising of our national space.

We address this letter to our partners, and the national and international networks in which we participate, to inform you of the actions we have taken and our objectives for the short, medium, and long term.

For over a week now a group of organizations and platforms have been meeting regularly to address the new situation, setting up new strategies and methods of work. As representatives of the organizations and platforms who are signatories to this document, and as a result of a number of meetings to assess the new situation and define common strategies, we have adopted a position based on the following guidelines:

To contribute to defending the main gains made by the popular and social movements of Haiti now threatened by the new situation. To help to respond to the urgent immediate needs of the people, by setting up community service centres with the means to respond to the following needs: food, primary health care, medical and psychological assistance for those in shock as a result of the earthquake. To take advantage of the presence of the international press in our country to present a different image to that disseminated by the imperialist forces. To establish new ways of overcoming the atomisation and dispersal which are among the central weaknesses of our organizations.

This process of gathering our forces should begin with the creation of a common space where our six teams can provisionally come together while they continue to work independently, while at the same time putting in place permanent mechanisms for mutual exchange and joint work. We will seek to establish a collective approach in seeking common responses to our problems, and to build a real and viable alternative based on popular democracy.

As far as the immediate emergency is concerned, we are in the process of setting up centres in each area of the city. One is already operational at 59 Avenue Poupelard in the premises of a community school run by the SAJ/VEYE YO (Solidarite Ant Jen) organization. It provides for nearly 300 people who are given two meals a day and accommodated in tents. The centre offers them consultations, medicine, and psychological support. These services are also offered to those living in the refugee camps that have been spontaneously set up in the area. The centre functions thanks to the generous support of a group of Haitian professionals (doctors, nurses, psychologists, and social

workers) with the support of the aid organization, Deutsche Not Ärzte e.V. (German Emergency Doctors Union) - Cap Anamur. We are trying to extend the centres into other metropolitan districts badly hit by the earthquake and where no centres of this kind currently exist. We anticipate that four more will be set up the districts of Carrefour (Martissant, Fontamara) and

Gressier. We would call upon the solidarity of all our partners in helping to ensure that they function effectively.

At the same time, the two platforms and four organizations involved have set up a meeting and coordination centre at the offices of FIDES-Haiti, in Impasse Gabriel-Rue de Fernand in Canapé Vert. This space is open to other platforms and organizations of the popular and democratic movement. We are committed to mobilizing the different elements of that movement with a view to, on the one hand, extending emergency help to the disaster victims, and on the other, to lead to the formulation of a joint plan designed to rebuild our organizations and institutions. We will communicate this plan, and the concrete projects associated with it, to our partners as soon as possible.

The emergency aid effort we are involved in is alternative in character and we expect to advocate a method of work which will denounce the traditional practices in the field of humanitarian aid which do not respect the dignity of the victims and which contribute to the reinforcement of dependency. We are advocating a humanitarian effort that is appropriate to our reality, respectful of our culture and our environment, and which does not undermine the forms of economic solidarity that have been put in place over the decades by the grassroots organizations with which we work.

Finally, we would like to salute once more the extraordinary generosity of spirit which has moved public opinion across the world in the wake of the catastrophe we have suffered. We acknowledge it and we believe that this is the moment for creating a new way of seeing our country that will make it possible to build an authentic solidarity free of paternalism, pity, and the taint of inferiority. We should work to maintain this spirit of solidarity as against the momentary impact of fashion and media exaggeration. The response to the crisis has proved that in certain situations the people of the world can move beyond hasty judgments based on sensationalism and stereotypes.

Massive humanitarian aid is indispensable today, given the scale of the disaster, but it should be deployed in terms of a different vision of the reconstruction process. It should connect with a break from the paradigms that dominate the traditional circuits of international aid.

We would hope to see the emergence of international brigades working together with our organizations in the struggle to carry out agrarian reform and an integrated urban land reform programme, the struggle against illiteracy and for reforestation, and for the construction of new modern, decentralised and universal systems of education and public health.

We must also declare our anger and indignation at the exploitation of the situation in Haiti to justify a new invasion by 20,000 U.S.

Marines. We condemn what threatens to become a new military occupation by U.S. troops, the third in our history. It is clearly part of a strategy to remilitarise the Caribbean Basin in the context of the imperialist response to the growing rebellion of the peoples of our continent against neo-liberal globalization. And it exists also within a framework of pre-emptive warfare designed to confront the eventual social explosion of a people crushed by poverty and facing despair. We condemn the model imposed by the U.S. government and the military response to a tragic

humanitarian crisis. The occupation of the Toussaint Louverture international airport and other elements of the national infrastructure has deprived the Haitian people of part of the contribution made by Caricom, by Venezuela, and by some European countries. We condemn this conduct, and refuse absolutely to allow our country to become another military base.

As leaders of the organizations and platform who have set this process in motion, we are writing to share our initial analysis of the situation. We are certain, and you have already shown this to be true, that you will continue to support our work and our struggles in the framework of the construction of an alternative from which our country can rise again from this terrible catastrophe and struggle to break free of the cycle of dependency.

For the Coordinating Committee:

Sony Estéus
Director of SAKS

Marie Carmelle Fils-Aimé
Programme officer for ICKL

Camille Chalmers
Director of PAPDA

On behalf of the organizations and platforms taking part in this initiative:

Marc Arthur Fils-Aimé, Institut Culturel Karl Léveque (ICKL); Maxime J. Rony, Programme alternatif de Justice (PAJ); Sony Estéus, Sosyete Animasyon ak Kominikasyon Sosyal (SAKS); Chenet Jean Baptiste, Institut de Technologie et d'animation (ITECA);

Antonal Mortimé, Plateforme des Organisations Haïtiennes de Droits Humains (POHDH) composed of: Justice et Paix (JILAP), Centre de recherches Sociales et de Formation pour le Développement (CRESFED), Groupe Assistance Juridique (GAJ), Institut Culturel Karl Léveque (ICKL), Programme pour une Alternative de Justice (PAJ), Sant Karl Lévèque (SKL), Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains (RNDDH), Conférence haïtienne des Religieux (CORAL-CHR)

Camille Chalmers, Plateforme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA) composed of: Institut de Technologie et d'animation (ITECA), Solidarite Fanm Ayisyèn (SOFA), Centre de Recherches Actions pour le Développement (CRAD), Mouvman Inite Ti Peyizan Latibonit (MITPA), Institut Culturel Karl Léveque (ICKL), Association Nationale des Agroprofessionnels Haïtiens (ANDAH)

Translated from French by Mike Gonzalez

Haiti Response Coalition National Conference
Parc Historique de la Canne A Sucre
February 23-24, 2010

Press Briefing¹

After the great and incomparable earthquake hit the country of Haiti, on January 12, 2010, more than three hundred thousand (300,000) people, from all areas and of all ages, died. State infrastructure and all its institutions have been destroyed. Many have been wounded or have become handicapped. Many are hopeless. People have lost family members, their possessions, money, and work.

When we look at the absence of the state, the inadequate manner in which aid is being distributed, it has diminished our sense of dignity even more as people. Where only strangers who do not fully share our interests are managing emergency aid, where many Haitians are not confident in the people and the manner in which aid is being distributed, a coalition gathered a group of Haitians from all social aspects and from all organized sectors, who desire to become one, to reconstruct their country. On February 23 and 24, 2010, at the historic park “Parc Historique de la Canne A Sucre,” these individuals met to come up with solutions and answers, which will be good for all those in the country for the moment, for the days to come, and the future.

Here are the five (5) objectives we had for this meeting:

1. Agree on our needs, priorities, and perspectives in regards to the important sectors in the national life of the country.
2. Translate these needs, priorities, and perspective in the language of the international community.
3. Identify those who will bring these views to international meetings, where decisions will be made to respond to the disaster.
4. Establish an evaluation mechanism to measure the results of international response throughout the land.
5. Inform the national and international press regarding this initiative.

In order to reach these objective results, five major working groups met to discuss the following five (5) areas:

- **Emergency Aid-** this included the following issues: Shelter construction, respect for the dignity of human beings, distribution plan with listed beneficiaries, local authority, civil society and donors, decentralization of the aid and work for cash programs to all areas of Haiti.
- **Health-** gather questions regarding the people’s hygiene concerns, quality and variety of products being distributed, education and training for all health professionals, psychological support, create a public health position, etc.

¹ This document was translated from Haitian Creole to English by Régine Mondé

- **Education**- gather questions regarding decentralization, psychological and social support, school stipends, creation of a special village for schools and universities, need to increase the education budget from the national budget.
- **Agriculture**- gather questions regarding rural development, rebuild the life of farmers, reforestation of more land with fruit trees, education and professional training in agriculture, transform the agricultural products of the country, need to increase the agricultural budget from the national budget, etc.
- **Human Rights**- gather questions regarding economic, social and cultural rights, especially for groups who are most vulnerable, such as children, women, disabled, and the elderly. There is a need to create positions for social and legal support throughout the country. There is also a need to respect the instruments which the United Nations use as guiding principles when dealing with internally displaced persons. Finally, there is a need for NGOs to respect the principles of the Red Cross when these NGOs provide rescue in disaster areas.

We will propose these ideas to the relevant national and international community, such as the working group meeting at OCHA which is an office of the United Nations, which deals with humanitarian issues. These ideas will also be presented to the UN office of Post Disaster Needs Assessment, which is a multilateral tool used to evaluate need after disasters for donor conferences, etc.

We, the group, still believe in Haiti, despite its tumultuous times. This is the reason we hope that all living Haitians can believe this- as long as there is life, we must work until we reach a day where hope flourishes. We each must do a good deed to rebuild our minds and our country.

We bow our heads to salute the memory of all Haitians and the memory of those of other nations who perished in the catastrophe of January 12, 2010.

ORGANIZATIONAL LIST

Alternative Louvertureans
 Asosyasyon Edikasyon Popilè Ans-Wouj
 Association de Soutien de Lancartienne et de Christ-Roi
 Association des Jeunes Militants Consequents pour le
 Developpement de Thomonde
 Association Nationale des Agro-Professionnels Haitiens
 Centre d'Appui a la Production Agricole du Sud
 Centre Medico-Social de Port-au-Prince (CMSP)
 Comite pour le Developpement de Delmas Haiti
 Commission Nationale des Ouvriers Haitiens
 Famn Viktim Leve Kanpe
 Fédération des Organisations Haitiennes de
 Developpement
 Fondasyon Lakay
 Fondation Ecosophique Canabo
 Fondation N'a Sonje
 Fondation pour la promotion et la Santé
 Fondation Lakay
 Fundacion Caribe para el Desarrollo - RD
 Haitian Citizen United Taskforce
 Horizon de L'Espoir
 Jeunesse Pionniere d'Haiti pour le Developpement des
 Talents
 KONPAY
 Komisyon Famn Viktim pou Viktim
 Mouvman Peyizan Nasyonal Kongre Papay

Orfanization des Paysans Haitiens Pour le Developpment
 Monesila
 Organisation des Amis du Progres, du Developpement
 Organization USPE La Jeunesse
 Partenariat pour le Developpement Local, American
 Jewish World Service
 Pax Christi Haiti - Mouvmant Intènasyonal pou Fè Konbit
 pou Lapè
 Plateforme Nationale des Organisations Paysanne
 Haitiens
 Platfòm pou Pledwaye pou Developman
 Altènatif/Association Nationale des Agro-Professionels
 Haitiens
 Projet Papillon
 Reseau de Defense des Droits de l'Enfant
 Staff Hollywood
 TransAfrica Forum (US)
 Terre des Jeunes
 Tèt Ansanm pou yon Nouvo Ayiti
 Union des Femmes pour un Meilluere Avenir
 Union Vision Communautaire
 Vision Pour Enfants Démunis

On March 13 and 14, 2010, Jesuit Refugee and Migration Service – Dominican Republic hosted a binational meeting between Haitian and Dominican civil society groups. Forty-seven civil society groups attended this binational meeting, including 26 Haitian NGOs, 17 Dominican NGOs, and four internationally based civil society organizations. Following the meeting the 26 Haitian groups, led by Colette Lespinasse, of GARR, addressed the Dominican Press. While these Haitian civil society organizations appreciate the generosity of the international community in the face of unspeakable tragedy, they decried what they view as the remarkable exclusion of Haitian voices in the Donors' conference in Santo Domingo. To such an end, they hope the New York Donor's Conference planned for the end of the month will involve more outreach to the Haitian civil society community.

Haitian NGOs Decry Total Exclusion from Donors' Conferences on Haitian Reconstruction

March 18, 2010

SANTO DOMINGO .- More than 26 organizations and social movements in Haiti reported that the process established for formulating the "Plan for Reconstruction of Haiti" at the donors' conference that concluded yesterday in Santo Domingo has been characterized by an almost total exclusion of Haitian social actors and civil society, and very limited participation by uncoordinated representatives of the Haitian State.

The path set for the reconstruction of Haiti in the National Plan of Post-Disaster Assessment may not meet the expectations of the Haitian people as it fails to address sustainable development needs, and instead focuses on restoring old development plans, rather than complete reorientation of the Haitian development model.

"We regret that this document, produced by a group of 300 technocrats, is presented to donors first, without first having exhausted a broad process of consultation with Haitian civil society.

We believe that the meeting scheduled for March 19 with some organizations of civil society in Port au Prince is no substitute for the actual mechanisms of participation of the various components of Haitian society in defining their collective future.

The crisis generated by the earthquake challenges us to initiate an alternative process aimed at defining a new national project, envisaging serious strategies to overcome exclusion, and economic and political dependence. Through this new orientation it is possible to move toward a new era of prosperity. We need to part with the old paradigms that have been followed up until now and develop an inclusive process of mobilization of social actors. To achieve this it is necessary to do the following:

1. Break with exclusion. Breaking this dynamic is an essential condition for true integration, based on social justice and for the strengthening of national cohesion. This involves the

participation and mobilization of social forces traditionally excluded such as women, peasants, youth, artisans and so on. It also means targeted investment on the part of official institutions associated with current exclusion, and the reinvention of the Haitian state, whose practice should be geared towards transparency, institutional integrity, social justice, respect for diversity, and human rights.

2. Break with economic dependence. Build an economic model that encourages domestic production, with emphasis on agriculture and agro-industry turned first to the satisfaction of our food needs (cereals, tubers, milk, fruits and fish, meat etc.).

This new model should not be dominated by the logic of excessive accumulation of wealth or speculation, but oriented towards the welfare of the people, appreciation of national culture and the recovery of our national forests. It should also reduce dependence on fossil fuels by promoting a shift towards the use of the vast reserves of renewable energy available in our country.

3. Break with the excessive centralization of power and utilities. Develop a governance plan based on decentralization of decisions, services and resources and strengthening the capacities of local governments and the establishment of mechanisms to ensure the direct participation of actors of civil society in Haiti.

4. Break with the current destructive land ownership policies. Implement a process of reorganizing the physical space in rural areas and cities, allowing the development of public spaces and social institutions and resources, such as public schools, public parks, housing, etc.. This involves conducting comprehensive agrarian reform and urban reform which would enable solutions for the hundreds of thousands of people who are homeless. To meet these challenges it is necessary to redefine the role of the state and its functioning.

Building a new model of development requires a comprehensive, consistent and widespread mobilization of popular sectors with an interest in decentralization and greater access to public resources and services (health, education, clean water, sanitation, communication, power and housing). Those who were traditionally exploited and excluded should be the main protagonists in this process.

This national project that we foresee for the sustainable development of Haiti, must allow a new system of public education that facilitates access to quality education for all children, without discrimination, valuing the Creole language spoken by all people, raising awareness in favor of strong environmental protection, focusing on the preventing further vulnerability to natural disasters.

It is necessary to reorganize the health system with hospitals in various departments, valuation of traditional medicine, and particular attention to women's health.

Reorganization of the justice system will facilitate access to justice for all and will fight against corruption. We want a state that has the ability to manage and direct the country, a state capable of taking the lead and coordinating international aid efforts.

In terms of international relations, the country must develop new relationships with friendly countries, strengthening our ability to defend our interests and fostering friendship among states and peoples. With the Dominican Republic we must formalize relationships around various issues, including trade, binational markets, and migrants rights.

We request the cancellation of all of Haiti's debts. The tragedy of the earthquake should not cause Haiti to spiral into greater indebtedness.

The social institutions and NGOs that have signed this statement call for mobilization and soon will undertake to organize an Assembly for the Haitian People to address the challenges and to define strategies for the alternative and sustainable reconstruction of our country.

Signed:

PAPDA, JURISHA, ENFOFANM, GAAR, Fondation TOYA, AFASDA, Gammit Timoun, GIDH Group entevansyon, MPP, CROSE, KSIL, KONAREPA, PADAD, MOREPLA, SOFA, Mouvement scolaire Foi et Joie, Media Alternative, Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix, CHANDEL, ICPJLDH, REBA, TKL, Cellule Réflexions et d'Actions Sj, Confédération des Haïtiens pour la Réconciliation, VEDEK, CODHA

Participants in the March 13-14 Conference

Haití

1. PAPDA
2. JURISHA
3. ENFOFANM
4. GAAR
5. Fondation TOYA
6. AFASDA
7. Gammit Timoun
8. GIDH Group entevansyon
9. MPP
10. CROSE
11. KSIL
12. KONAREPA
13. PADAD
14. MOREPLA
15. SOFA
16. Mouvement scolaire Foi et Joie
17. AlterPress
18. Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix
19. CHANDEL
20. ICPJLDH
21. REBA
22. TKL
23. Cellule Réflexions et d'Actions Jésuites

- 24. Confédération des Haïtiens pour la Réconciliation
- 25. VEDEK
- 26. CODHA

Dominican Republic

- 27. Centro Cultural Poveda
- 28. Red Ciudadana
- 29. PROGRESSIO
- 30. Plataforma Ayuda Haití
- 31. SJRM
- 32. Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo
- 33. CIPAF
- 34. Ciudad Alternativa
- 35. Comité Dominicano DDHH
- 36. Red Urbana Popular
- 37. Confederación Nacional de Unidad Sindical
- 38. Redesol - IDEAC
- 39. COOPHABITAT
- 40. Cooperativa Unión Integral
- 41. COPADEBA
- 42. Foro Social Alternativo
- 43. Articulación Campesina (ANC)

International

- 44. Alianza Internacional de Habitantes (AIH)
- 45. Asamblea de los Pueblos del Caribe
- 46. CASAL de Solidaritat con America Central de Prat de Llobregat.
- 47. Manos Unidas España

Helping Haitians Help Themselves:

Strategic Plan to Defend Life and Rebuild the Rural Agricultural Economy

FONDAMA (Fondasyon Men Lan Men Ayiti/ Hand in Hand Haiti Foundation), representing 11 organizations, including 4 national farmer networks, with a presence in 80% of the municipalities of Haiti, and approximately 400,000 members. (Note: most of these organizations are also members of Via Campesina.)

Report by Stephen Bartlett, Agricultural Missions, Inc (AMI) January 12, 2010 Papay, Haiti

"The clock of Haiti was turned back to Zero on January 12, 2010." --Director of the Mouvement Paysan Papay (MPP) Chavannes Jean-Baptiste.

On February 10 and 11, 2010 leaders of the national alliance FONDAMA (Hand in Hand Haiti gFoundation) met in Papay, Haiti to plan a national program capable of responding to the enormous challenges faced by the Haitian people in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake that destroyed Port-au-Prince, Leogane and other cities, towns and rural districts near the epicenter. With the colossal loss of life, and the massive destruction of basic infrastructure in the capital city, an estimated 500,000 people have already fled the city to provinces and rural areas in every region of Haiti. With the first rainfall falling on the heads of hundreds of thousands of homeless victims living outdoors in Port-au-Prince yesterday (Feb 10), there is a possibility of a second mass exodus to follow.

In the Central Plateau where the FONDAMA meeting took place, hosted by the Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP), there are an estimated 150,000 displaced persons. In the provincial capital of Hinche there are an estimated 15,000 refugees already registered. The MPP, in addition to receiving about 100 displaced persons in their training center, had on-site registrations of displaced persons over a number of days, leading to a tally of more than 8,000 displaced persons in the two rural districts nearest to Papay. In the course of the registry interviews and in visits to host families in the area, it was learned that most of the 8,000 people are currently spread out among rural households, some of which now number up to 20 or even 27 people in tiny rustic shacks and modest adobe, concrete tin-roofed houses, overwhelming the host households.

The burden and challenge this brings to rural communities is enormous. The MPP, having decided they have a capacity to receive up to 1,000 displaced persons, is nevertheless reluctant to erect the first 100 tents delivered, since the World Food Program will only provide one meal per day for what is almost certain to be many months providing shelter, food and water. The

MPP long term plan is to settle 1,000 displaced persons with a rural vocation in three agricultural villages on land already in possession.

The national plan of FONDAMA comprises 4 stages—urgent, short-term, medium and long-terms. Among the urgent needs FONDAMA member organizations are the registering of displaced persons in order to document the level of need and to locate the victims and their hosts. FONDAMA agreed to advocate for the payment of \$100 USD cash grants for up to 5,000 women who lost their homes, and \$100 USD loans for up to 2,500 vulnerable rural women in households actively hosting displaced persons. In addition, FONDAMA member organizations will advocate for adequate food aid for the displaced and for the intervention of psycho-social professionals with auxiliaries trained to accompany the victims and work with the psychologists in treating the large number of traumatized victims of the disaster.

The short and medium term priorities of the FONDAMA plan include the massive procurement and purchase of seeds (270 tons of grains, especially corn, 180 tons of beans or peas) for planting in the rainy season that begins in March and April, and for additional hand tools (machetes and hoes) for 30,000 farmers. This is critical as rural host families are quickly depleting their seed saved for the next planting in order to feed the displaced victims of the earthquake. At the same time there will be a ramping up of the number of tree nurseries for a reforestation effort with a goal of planting 3,700,000 tree seedlings, 30% of which will be fruit trees. Workshops will be established to manufacture 300 community grain storage silos, to accommodate cooperative seed storage for future planting seasons. 1,000 water cisterns will be built in 1,000 family farmers for production of vegetables for the nutritional needs of the rural communities. 50 wells will be drilled, 10 dams built, 10 irrigation systems installed and 50 springs will be caught and channeled per year for irrigation purposes and for pure drinking water.

In soil conservation the FONDAMA plan calls for 200,000 person-days of paid labor at \$5 per day, and 100,000 person-days of labor on a voluntary basis, in order to implement the water management and reforestation projects listed above. Agro-ecological training will be expanded including through the deployment of national and international training brigades, across the productive regions of the country.

A cultural life and integration program will accompany these extensive efforts, in order to provide the kind of community life that will make displaced urban persons understand that the rural areas have a potentially vibrant quality of life. Activities such as song story-telling and poetry contests, ceramics workshops, popular theater productions, sports leagues for soccer, basketball and volleyball, and drumming convergences will provide the spice of life that will

mobilize across generations and provide hope and recreation for the host rural communities and their new members.

In order to reinforce the capacity of FONDAMA member organizations to implement this strategic plan, resources will also be needed to purchase two 4 by 4 vehicles (one to replace the vehicle destroyed by the earthquake and another for coordination and outreach across the Haitian territory). Additional personnel will likewise need to be employed and trained. New technical trainers will have to be trained, as well as managers of the materiel to be distributed. "Training of trainers" educational activities will need to be expanded. New computers are needed to replace those lost in the earthquake, and for the additional personnel needs, and communications improved. The ten-year long-term plan also calls for the building or remodeling of 10 farmer centers for each of Haiti's departments that will serve as organizational centers, offices and meeting points, including new community radio stations in order to connect the Peasant Voice radio transmissions and add transmission relays so that those broadcasts can be heard nationwide.

FONDAMA leaders will be meeting on February 17-18 to iron out details of this plan, as well as a strategy for prioritizing how it will be implemented, in conjunction with a FONDAMA general assembly that will be asked to ratify this plan overall. One of the cross-cutting themes at every level is disaster preparedness, involving training, logistics, communications and decentralization of functions. The size of the program poses a challenge for the member organizations of FONDAMA and their staff, and depends on wide and deep solidarity from abroad, particularly among organizations and people of good will and intelligent discernment to see in this project a ray of hope not only for the Haitian people, but for all of humanity as we confront the challenges of environmental degradation and increased natural and human-aggravated catastrophes across the world. As Haiti is brought back from the brink, we will know that the earth itself can be brought back with them.

The bottom line shared by the member organizations of FONDAMA: environmentally sustainable local economic development undertaken by peoples' organizations holds the key not only to prevent the extent of tragedy in future storms, hurricanes, floods or earthquakes, but also to overcome the vulnerability that has been caused by unjust economic, agricultural and trade policies and foreign interventions both politically and economically motivated. Haiti has historically been an agricultural country, and in order for Haiti to recover from this catastrophe, must return to being a country that feeds and shelters itself, and reclaims its rightful sovereignty as a people. Our solidarity alliance must widen and deepen if sufficient resources can be mobilized for this strategic program! Viva Food Sovereignty!

Letter from Camille Chalmers, PAPDA

By Carol Schachet

January 15th, 2010

Recently, Grassroots International received an email from our partner Camille Chalmers of the Haitian Platform to Advocate Alternative Development (PAPDA). It is translated below.

PAPDA is a coalition of nine Haitian popular and non-governmental organizations which work with the Haitian popular movement to develop alternatives to the neo-liberal model of economic globalization, and has been a leading advocate of debt cancellation, food sovereignty and sustainable development. When the Haitian government moved to privatize certain industries, PAPDA worked with the unions and the business community to create strategies that would improve production and minimize cost without privatization. The coalition has worked with the agricultural sector to devise ways of producing and selling indigenous Haitian crops and protecting Haitian farmers from cheap imported grains, especially rice. Camille's analysis below exposes the dangers of this type of privatization and warns that it needs to be avoided as Haiti rebuilds. This could not be more timely as the IMF -- as a response to the earthquake -- is pushing more loans (and debt) on Haiti with a string of devastating conditions.

Camille also lays out the kind of aid that is needed in the long run to rebuild the infrastructure of Haiti in a way that benefits the island's people.

Translation of correspondence from Camille Chambers (PAPDA)

January 15, 2010

Communication has been very difficult.

I would like to inform you that my partner, children, and I are alive. My house and everything we had were totally destroyed, and personally the most serious [loss] is that my wife's mother died in the catastrophe.

The situation is dramatic. Three million homeless. An entire country crying. Over 100,000 dead. Hundreds of thousands injured and dead bodies everywhere. The entire population is sleeping in the streets and waiting for replies to their pleas and more blows...

The response from the State is very weak, almost absent. The 9,000 UN troops are not doing anything to help people. The majority of people have been without medical assistance for 48 hours because the largest hospitals in the capital were also damaged and are not functional. Firefighters are also completely powerless because their stations are buried and they are overwhelmed by the scale of the catastrophe.

In such extreme cases there are three important elements:

- Coordinated emergency assistance
- Rehabilitation
- Structural solidarity

1) Drinking water, food, clothing, temporary shelter, basic medical supplies. Treat the wounded in make-shift hospitals that would hopefully be established in all the neighborhoods. Get people out from underneath the remains of buildings. Fight epidemics and the risk of epidemics and disease due to the presence of piles of corpses.

2) Credible mechanisms for coordination, a crisis committee for scientific assessment and monitoring of the situation, and coordination of aid and its distribution with intelligence and transparency to ensure that victims receive help as quickly as possible. Be in permanent communication with the population about instructions as to what to do.

3) Rehabilitation: recover and repair communications and all infrastructure, especially transportation within and between cities.

4) Structural solidarity: activities and investments that will allow people to rebuild their lives in better conditions. It is time for a great wave of solidarity brigades with the people of Haiti different from the misery and characteristic aggression represented by MINUSTAH (the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti). Instead, we need a broad movement of solidarity between peoples that makes it possible to:

a) Overcome illiteracy (45% of the population)

b) Build an effective public school system that is free and that respects the history, culture, and ecosystem of our country

c) Overcome the environmental crisis and rebuild Haiti's 30 watersheds with the massive participation of young people and international volunteers

d) Construct a new public health system which brings together modern and traditional medicine and offers quality, affordable primary services to 100% of the population to overcome child mortality, malnutrition, and maternal mortality (currently 630 women per 100,000 live births)

e) Reconstruct a new city based on different logic: humane and balanced urbanization, respect for workers and the real wealth creators, privileging public transportation, parks that maximize our biodiversity, scientific research, urban agriculture, handicrafts and the popular arts.

f) Construct food sovereignty based on comprehensive agrarian reform, prioritizing agricultural investments that respect ecosystems, biodiversity, and the needs and culture of the majority.

g) Destroy the dependency ties with Washington, the European Union, and other forms of imperialism. Abandon policies issued by different versions of the Washington Consensus. Cut ties with the International Financial Institutions and their plans: structural adjustment, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and Post-Conflict Countries.

h) Expel MINUSTAH and build people to people solidarity brigades.



March 19, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It is evident that, following the earthquake on January 12th, 2010, Haiti faces the kind of poverty that often leads to social and political upheaval. The nation needs to get back on its feet, and this time on a track that will lead to sustainable development.

On March 31st significant decisions will be made which affect the destiny of Haiti. The Plan being presented at the United Nations Headquarters in New York entitled "Plan d'Action Pour le Relèvement et le Développement National" (Action Plan for the Reconstruction and National Development of Haiti) is a matter of significant concern for us, the people of Haiti. The plan itself is not inclusive of broad sectors of the Haitian population and key stakeholders across the nation. It was not prepared in consultation with important sectors in the country: Religious sector, political parties and the broader civil society. It is a plan that proposes the restoration of Haiti to a position of vulnerability at a time of political transition.

As a representative of Défi Michée, a broad network of protestant Haitian organizations that serve nearly 40% of Haiti's population, we petition the international community to hear the voice of the people of our nation. Any national plan put forward for the nation of Haiti must address the longstanding systemic issues present before the earthquake: educational reform, national food production and food security, the implementation of good governance practices, ensuring environmental protection, civil protection, the enhancement of social services and the creation of new jobs in a revived national economy.

We are in the process of engaging national leadership within our own networks in a consultation process on ways to move forward as a nation; which we expect to be completed by the middle of May 2010. Ours is a voice that should be heard, along with the rest of Haitian civil society, the business community and the Government of Haiti. We recognize the seriousness of the hour we live in and admit openly that significant changes must be made in our nation to reduce the vulnerabilities of our citizens, to ensure that our people never again suffer the loss that they have recently endured.

We ask that no final approvals or definitive decisions be made in New York on March 31st regarding the allocation of development funding; that development allocations be fulfilled after an inclusive national process is completed in the next several weeks with the participation of the Haitian people. We ask the international community to support a Haitian-led, broad based consultation that addresses the aforementioned systemic issues in the recovery process.

It is with deep appreciation to the people of the world that helped us in our hour of need that we, the people of Haiti, say thank you. We ask that you continue to stand with us as we recover as a nation from this tragedy. Stand with us to ensure that the will of the people of Haiti is accounted for in the rebuilding of the nation.

Stand with us to ensure that the voices of the Haitian people are heard so that, together, we can rebuild a stronger and better Haiti for all of our people.

Jean Valéry Vital-Herne
National Coordinator

REBUILDING HAITI

Prepared by:
TransAfrica Forum and KONPAY (Konbit Pou Ayiti)
March 2, 2010

The Haiti Response Coalition, of which TransAfrica Forum and KONPAY are members, convened a two-day consultation with rural and urban members of Haitian civil society in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, February 23-24, 2010. Prior to the January 12, 2010 earthquake conference participants were engaged in a variety of community-based development activities throughout the country. Since the earthquake, groups have used their previously established relationships with community and neighborhood groups to assist with camp construction for internally displaced people (IDPs), relief distribution, and needs assessment production. The following observations and recommendations provide a brief summary of civil society views regarding the emergency phase of the crisis.

EMERGENCY RELIEF IN PORT-AU-PRINCE - Currently, the United Nations and its related agencies have prioritized distribution to 19 major camps in Port-au-Prince, leaving the majority of the affected population (an estimated 700,000 in Port-au-Prince) without access to food, water, and shelter.

- For example, in Delmas 33, which is located approximately 15 minutes from the airport, a neighborhood of approximately 300 people has self-organized. Relying on community resources, including food and financial savings, they have been able to provide for basic needs. To date that community has received a one-day supply of food from a Baltimore-based agency, and regular access to water. As a result of the quake community members are unemployed, schools are destroyed, and savings are now exhausted. This community, and communities like it throughout the country do not have

access to food or other relief distributions.

Small and medium NGOs, particularly those with strong neighborhood and community ties have the capacity to distribute to hundreds of small and medium camps, and do provide regular service where and when possible. Groups, both Haitian and expatriate, have the relationships and the resources to distribute emergency goods and supplies to communities like Delmas 33. However, a variety of barriers have worked to impede the regular transport of small and medium NGO supplies. For example, the Denton Program, which allows non-profit organizations to register with the U.S. military in order to have charity items transported by Air Force planes, has not worked for many groups. Our partners at Sirona Cares have received Denton certification but are still not able to get supplies transported from their location in California to Haiti. In other instances, groups have not received clearance for shipment of their goods, either through air or sea.

Solving the disconnect between international, small, and medium distribution agencies, and clarifying the transportation available for relief efforts is a priority. This issue has been raised with the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and to date remains unresolved. Left unresolved, IDPs will migrate from their established community camps to one of the 19 camps, which will strain the resources of the United Nations and related agencies.

DECENTRALIZE THE TRIAGE - The earthquake produced widespread damage in throughout the country. Several cities, including Leogane are effectively destroyed. Additionally, over 500,000 people have left Port-au-Prince area for the rural countryside and smaller towns. IDPs and earthquake survivors in affected areas need resources immediately, particularly food, water, shelter, and sanitation.

- In the Central Plateau there are an estimated 150,000 displaced persons. In the provincial capital of Hinche there are an estimated 15,000 refugees already registered. The Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP), in addition to receiving about 100 displaced persons in their training center, had on-site registrations of displaced persons over a number of days, leading to a tally of more than 8,000 displaced persons in the two rural districts nearest to Papaye. In the course of the registry interviews and in visits to host families in the area, it was learned that most of the 8,000 people are currently spread out among rural households, some of which now number up to 20 or 27 people in tiny rustic shacks and modest adobe, concrete tin-roofed houses, overwhelming the host households." (from Helping Haitians Help Themselves: Strategic Plan to

Some assistance is flowing to areas outside Port-au-Prince, but efforts must accelerate. Provincial integration offices, where the distribution of a combination of food aid and agricultural inputs can be coordinated at the local level is essential. Additionally, donors must prioritize the creation of job creation programs in the provinces to encourage migration from Port-au-Prince. The city was made for a population of 200,000 and has become the home for over 3 million, which has overwhelmed the city's infrastructure. Moreover the U.S. Geological Survey predicts that Haiti will continue to experience aftershocks, some of 5.0 magnitude, for the next year. Strong aftershocks mean that the weakened structures in Port-au-Prince pose a serious risk.

SECURITY - Outside of isolated reports of criminal activity the country is calm and U.S. troops may be needed to assist with the logistics and security of aid distribution, but Haitians question the need for large numbers of troops. While Haitians are extremely appreciative of the humanitarian outpouring of support from the United States, large numbers of heavily armed troops create confusion and concern within Haitian civil society.

- *"Haitians are highly functional people dealing with unmanageable grief..." "We need tractors. We don't need soldiers; our children's bodies are still buried under the rubble."* Civil society leader.

The Department of State should clarify and publicize the troop rules of engagement and operating protocols. Additionally, State should consider modifying the rules, particularly those that require soldiers to carry weapons during

their free time and in public places, for example in parks and restaurants.

ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS - There is anecdotal evidence that humanitarian agencies have not uniformly applied international humanitarian standards of ethics and practice in creating camps and in disposing of rubble and waste. A news agency reports that only *one* camp conforms to international standards. Additionally, trade unionists report that several agencies have distributed foodstuffs for textile workers through the workplace. Factory owners, rather than distribute food equally or on a needs-basis, have used the food as an incentive to speed up production. Haitians already work 12 hour shifts for \$3.57 per day.

In the rush of addressing a major catastrophe, it is possible, and even likely that some standards are relaxed. USAID and the international community must ensure that all agencies apply international standards and agencies and intermediaries should be held accountable for variances.

HAITIAN LEADERSHIP AND A HIGH LEVEL OF COORDINATION - Haitian and U.S. civil society groups fully support the integration and leadership of the Haitian government in the reconstruction efforts; though severely weakened by the earthquake, the government must lead the national recovery effort. To facilitate that leadership role, U.S. government policies should include: a) support for the 1987 constitution and its process of

decentralization, and b) development activities that build on existing plans for long term development, including Haiti's National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (DSNCRP). Additionally, the U.S. government should encourage the Haitian government to develop an appropriate timeframe for the postponed February elections. Some members of the international community have suggested that Haiti hold a general election in November; any timeframe should be based upon new electoral and registration processes, and should take into account the possible need to relocate Parliament.

COORDINATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY - Conference participants revealed that Haitians are startling uninformed about the humanitarian efforts underway. The UN reports that local authorities in Jacmel are holding two press conferences per week in order to share information with the population. The UN has transmitted child protection messages via SMS in Creole to 1 million cell phone owners and plans to use national radio and posters to disseminate information on violence prevention, exploitation and abuse. USAID and international agencies should also ensure that basic information regarding the earthquake and its aftershocks, resource distribution, and availability of opportunities is disseminated widely, preferably through Creole language radio.

Konbit Pou Ayiti/KONPAY (Working Together for Haiti) is a Haitian-American not-for-profit organization focused on building sustainable livelihoods for the communities in southeast Haiti.

TransAfrica Forum is the oldest and largest African American human rights and social justice organization working on U.S. international policy toward Africa and the Diaspora.

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Tet Ansanm Pou Yon Nouvel Ayiti

‘Let’s Unite ourselves for a New Haiti’, the name of one of the organisations present

Reflections on the reconstruction of Haiti from a meeting of representatives of national NGOs and displaced persons from the camps Port-au-Prince, 5 March 2010



Introduction from Oxfam, an international NGO in Haiti since 1978:

“Today, Oxfam has invited you to find out what a new Haiti might look like. This is the time to get connected more with the field, with the experience that people have, in an effort to collect ideas. The aim of this conference is not to put together a consensus document, nor one that necessarily reflects the views of Oxfam: it is to be a small microphone for civil society to input into the reconstruction process, and in particular into the Santo Domingo and New York donor meetings later in March. In conversation, the Prime Minister noted that Haiti already had major problems prior to the Earthquake. Let’s see how we can turn this tragedy into an opportunity to address both immediate and long-term challenges”

Organisations and persons present: CAP, CLES, CLIO, KONPAY HRC-TAYNA, KNFP, MIT, PAPDA, RACPABA, RECOCARNO, SOHADERK, TEARFUND, USCRI, Georges du Saieh Camp - Carrefour Feuilles, Lina du Camp Place Jérémie, Nicolas du Mocejeh camp.

Disclaimer: this document is a series of quotations from the Conference. The views herein are not attributed to specific organisations, nor to Oxfam International.



Theme 1 – The priorities of reconstruction

“Reconstruction is a big word, we need to be clear on what we mean by this. Haiti has not been destroyed: Port au Prince is not Haiti. Three departments have been affected; we have to make this distinction. Haiti has resources, not everything has to come from the outside.

The “re” in “reconstruction” should be left out. The word ‘reconstruction’ implies that we will be rebuilding in the same manner, whereas in fact we should begin on new grounds. What is needed is a new perspective, a new vision of Haiti. The disaster has opened a window of opportunity to start over, for an ‘alternative construction’.

*Haitians, with their
cultural riches,
must be at the heart
of it.*

Shouldn't we also talk about the ‘restoration’ of Haiti? This needs to be about restoring our mentality, values, socio-cultural and linguistic importance. We must change the way we do things and the way we act. Haitian history is unique and loaded, with a legacy that creates complications even today. A collective, deep, and psychological recovery is needed before a new system can be created.

We must stop considering Haiti as a solely French-speaking country. Predominantly in the countryside, but also in the city, Creole is spoken and French is often not even understood. We must also stop seeing Haiti through a western cultural model. Currently, reconstruction is being considered from a foreign viewpoint, which puts forward the project of modernizing and democratizing the country according to a western model that doesn't reflect Haiti's cultural complexity. This new modernity must rest on Haitian traditions and cultural values.

An essential question to put to the actors - who *thinks through* the reconstruction? With whom and to what ends? There is currently very little room for civil society; the voice and the choices of the Haitian people must have greater visibility.

Decision-making needs to be made truly democratic in order to overcome the existing disconnect between decision-making and Haitian reality. We need to ensure that the Haitian people are included in the debate. This will be a cultural shift, so there is a need for a national awareness campaign to get people to think along the lines of their country and wider community, not just family and friends

The reconstruction process needs to address the issue of social exclusion. Haiti is a country of the excluded: education, classes, and women. Inclusion must be part of the reconstruction effort. We cannot rebuild with 40% of the wealth in the hands of 5% of the population.



*We have to
change the
way we are
...*

Education is a top priority. Rather than just rebuild the same schools (most of them private) should we not instead take this opportunity to extend educational services to the whole population? The failings of the educational system have been one reason for migration overseas. We have to offer an improved, free and universal education system. We also have to move away from the present system where the private sector controls 90% of education. The Government must be



responsible for the education system, but is this feasible at the present?

Another immediate priority is housing. We need to rebuild. We may need more than 150,000 qualified workers for building but we don't have them yet. We must improve training. A great number of Haitians who have received training and experience migrate to the Dominican Republic: these people could be called back.



There is a real problem with the quality of the buildings. So far, as a whole, there have not been any coherent, sustainable plans of development up to now. Many areas were destroyed because people did not abide by the rules for construction. We should take this opportunity to begin training engineers on a large scale, specifically in antisismic construction, using the knowledge and resources available through the aid effort. Local government must also take responsibility in planning and authorising construction.

Why not rebuild the city around biodiversity?

Food security is another major issue. We should be working towards food sovereignty. If food programs look at local products and cooperatives for their contracts, that will give Haitian people the means to become self-reliant, more organized and community-minded. We also need to push for an agricultural reform. We need to develop our rural economy, and tie this in with environmental protection.

*Agriculture must be
put at the forefront of
any decentralization*

Other key areas for reconstruction are healthcare, infrastructure (electricity, water, roads, ports, airports), development of industries and services, and financial institutions/availability of credit.

We need to improve relations with our partners, such as the United States, France and financial institutions. Talk of 'alternative constructions', of 'occupation', must stop.

It is vital to keep in mind that Haitians do not want aid. They want to be self-reliant. A few days after the earthquake, I lent a thousand gourdes to a person who lives in a camp, two weeks later I found out that he he had opened a small business there with the money I had given to him! ” ”

Theme 2 – Displacement and decentralisation

“ What is the role of the other urban areas in the new construction? Haiti is like a mother of ten, who has given everything to one child, to the exclusion of the others. Port-au-prince was that child, and now that it is ill, what will the family do? The earthquake has shown to what extent the country must be decentralised.

People died because centralisation forced every one to be in Port au Prince - everything goes via a central authority: there's no ability for local government to do anything. All the major universities, to get a passport, or a driving permit, means coming to the capital. So, when Port-au-Prince collapsed, the state collapsed, and the people with it.

Decentralisation must happen. We have to transfer the means and the competence to local authorities – and the state has to give the means to the collectives. We have to have a democratic state. We need to



decentralise the state, but also administrative services, industry, investment, international institutions, education, healthcare – all the services provided to the Haitian people.

If the people do not have access to certain services in their localities, they will come to Port au Prince to get them, or to any other cities that offer them.

*Because authority
is centralised, the
villages can't even*

The day after the earthquake, we took our wounded to a hospital in Saint Marc. The facility was lacking in terms of structure, but I got the help I needed. If the ten departments had valid health structures in place, we could have avoided a lot of unnecessary deaths.

It is not only the Government and the private sector that will be solely responsible for decentralizing the capital but the investors also. Private investments should also be decentralized.

And beyond decentralisation, what we need to do is rethink the whole Haitian territory, which also includes land ownership and agricultural reform, as well as infrastructure. When we talk about building roads, shouldn't we also think about coastal trade? There was a network of coastal trade that was demolished by the American army and could be revived. It would relieve the road infrastructure and be a good method of decentralisation.

Building around harbour towns is colonial reasoning. We need to think in terms of the Haitian culture.

We have to take advantage of the opportunity of 600,000 persons having left the city for the countryside. How can we help make it possible for them to stay there? At the same time, we must not confuse decentralization with population displacement. What we saw on the aftermath of January 12 was not what is referred to as decentralization but more of a migration.

The Government must take measures to lower taxes for investors looking to invest in the provinces.

How do we keep professionals from leaving the county? What system can we put in place? We must be able to offer them what it is they seek elsewhere. The government and the public sector have to create opportunities for the Haitian people here and now. ” ”

Theme 3 – Confidence in the state

“ This is the time for the state to relaunch its leadership role.

The state isn't playing its role – it makes claims that aren't correct and doesn't take any action.

The state has to play its role – they have to be in charge. There must be credible processes for civil society and the population to input into the decision-making processes.

Civil society has to have a role in building the relations between the State and the people, but now there is a rupture between the state and the people – this will change if decision-making becomes more





democratic, and if the people are consulted and informed. Civil society does a lot but has little influence, it needs to be able to hold the government accountable.

The state also needs to do what it was created for and provide real services to the population. Services should be in the following sectors: information, education, health, basic infrastructures (aqueducts, sewers, energy, roads, ports, airports) and support to economic development, employment and the environment. If these were provided, the people would begin to trust the state again.

*The relations between
the people and the
state have
deteriorated since then*

The state has the monopoly on coordination, but they have to be accountable and transparent, which they are not at the moment. If the government wants to earn the trust of the population, transparency is key. And it's not just the state; the international community must also be transparent and accountable.

The interventions of NGOs can weaken the state: for example, professionals work with and are engaged by international organisations instead of working for the civil functions. NGOs should work *with* the state and they should follow the codes and standards set out by the government.

NGOs must integrate their plans into the national plans – they must ensure they do not overlap and that they are not working contrary to the national development plan.

How can the government regain its leadership while being relegated to spectator status? Most of the international aid for Haiti is channeled through NGOS.

The government can be strengthened by professionalizing the public office. Give qualified individuals the opportunity to build a career in public administration. People should be given jobs not because they are family members or close friends but because they have experience and knowledge. And there should not be a change of personnel each time a new administration is installed. Civil service jobs need to become sustainable careers, providing continuity and expertise, allowing civil servants to take on an advisory capacity.

The following approach has been proposed:

Step 1: Widespread consultation (civil society – national and local associations, economic organizations – NGOs, diasporas, etc.) on the part of the Haitian government.

Step 2: Synthesis of the various propositions and preparation of a development plan with a clear vision, objectives, priorities, roles and responsibilities, required resources and timeframes.

Step 3: Coordination of different actors wishing to participate (Country, UN, NGOs, foundations, etc.) and finalization of the action plan.

Step 4: Dissemination of information to the population, transparency on the part of the state and partners.

” ”

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Fifty-fourth Session, 2010 February 26, 2010

Oral Statement on the Topic of: Ensuring Haitian Women's Participation and Leadership Are Institutionalized in All Stages of National Relief and Reconstruction.

Authors: A coalition statement submitted by the Huairou Commission on behalf of United Methodist Women, Caribbean Association for Feminist Research & Action (CAFRA), CAFRA Haiti, MADRE, Women in Cities International, CDD, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Mexico, Ipas Mexico, GIRE, Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida, GROOTS International, Huairou Commission, Gender and Disaster Network, AWID, AJWS

Statement to be presented by Constance Mogale or Lana Finikin
Contact email & cell phone: 3475879572

As organizations committed to partnering with Haitian women to ensure their effective participation in rebuilding Haiti, we call upon member governments and international humanitarian aid agencies present at the CSW to commit to actions that will ensure that all future relief, recovery and reconstruction investments declare and adhere to measurable standards of gender equality. In the current period of relief and temporary shelter, in the design and distribution of entitlements, and in the planning and rebuilding of infrastructure and development programs, we urge implementing actors to establish collaborative processes that are anchored in formal partnerships with Haitian women's groups (particularly local grassroots groups) who are empowered and resourced to take public leadership in the protracted process of reconstruction.

As a coalition of groups and networks active in the global women's movement we will partner with Haitian women's groups to ensure that equitable, transparent, and socially just standards are adhered to in all phases of recovery and will regularly monitor:

Participation: Haitian women are disproportionately impacted by the crisis as well as key to their country's recovery. Thus we expect to see a large and diverse number of Haitian women's organizations consulted and included in needs and damage assessments, and in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of post-disaster aid programs. Financing large numbers of grassroots women and their community organizations is essential to ensuring that -- women's needs and priorities are reflected in relief and recovery and that displaced women are socially legitimated as a key stakeholder group.

Leadership: The legacy of Haitian women's leadership at home, in workplaces and across communities is a strong foundation for designing, implementing and evaluating long-term recovery as well as continuing aid. Women's leadership and care-giving work **should be recognized and supported by policy and program mandates and transparent resource commitments** that enable women to play meaningful, sustained and formal roles in the long-term recovery process. And, as social and political leadership positions are restored or created Haitian women must hold a proportional share.

Non-discrimination: Given that temporary and impermanent settlements and housing arrangements are likely to persist for a long period, measures to protect women from sexual violence must be implemented in all areas of Haiti, especially the capital where security concerns are high. These include: safe access to storm-resistant temporary shelters, adequate street lighting and safe spaces where women can relax and organize around basic needs. As temporary and permanent housing plans and entitlement policies are finalized, the explicit protection of women's land and housing rights—through enforceable tenure security-- must be explicit. Across all states, reproductive health services must be guaranteed and accessible.

Capacity Development: Governments and aid agencies should provide resources and facilitate technical assistance to help grassroots and other women's organizations build their capacity to function effectively as development and social justice promoters (short and long term). Such assistance should conform to capacity gaps identified by a wide range of women's organizations and organized networks of grassroots women. (As often as possible, training and other technical assistance should be supplied by grassroots and other women's organizations.) Economic recovery programs must give priority to economically vulnerable women—especially single heads of households and informal sector workers—and offering them a full range of training, credit, and business support services.

Transparency and Accountability: Opaque bureaucracy, unfulfilled pledges and self-serving aid policies by donor countries have long plagued Haiti. Thus Aid machinery must be reformed to strengthen democratic governance in Haiti and build the national economy to reflect the rights and priorities of Haitians, not the economic interests of donor countries.

Mindful that a donor's conference is scheduled for the end of March 2010, we call upon member governments at this CSW, and other civil society organizations gathered at this CSW to affirm the principles outlined in this statement and to join us in calling for the inclusion of representatives of Haitian women's organizations (including grassroots groups) at the donor meeting. The design and affirmation of policy targets and aid commitments that institutionalize the participation and leadership of Haitian women in the rebuilding of their country must be a key element of these deliberations. (Resolution 1325 on women's roles in post conflict reconstruction is an important precedent.) This level of inclusiveness is required if Haitian women are to believe the global community is committed to 'building a road' that upholds their human rights, facilitates their citizenship, and builds new economic, political and social structures that will redress the decades of poverty and aid-dependency they have been forced to endure. Only bold action will accomplish this and allow a phoenix to emerge from the earthquake's ashes.



A Vision and Principles for Rebuilding Rural Haiti

January 22, 2010

Vision: We will work towards a ten year vision of a prosperous and sustainable Haitian countryside as the foundation for national development. Haiti's rural communities will be healthier and more productive, community organizations will be stronger and have greater control over their resources and destinies, and soils and natural resources will be conserved and improved.

Principles:

1. **An Asset Based Approach-** Haiti's small scale farmers, rural communities, community-based organizations and natural resource base are assets upon which the future must be built. Women play important roles in agriculture, commerce and local organizations. Urban people displaced to the countryside can be employed short term to help build rural productive infrastructure. Haitians must mobilize these assets – starting with people and local organizations – to sustainably generate prosperity and create the future they desire. Those providing external aid and technical support should do so in a way that builds upon and strengthens Haiti's assets, rather than depleting them or creating dependencies. This means: strengthening *human capital* like skills, education and health; *social capital* like community-based organizations, networks, and linkages to service providers; *natural capital* like improved soils, local seed production, water management and trees; *financial capital* like increased community savings and credit groups and cooperatives; and *built capital* like soil conservation structures, water catchment infrastructure and irrigation, roads, local grain reserve banks, seed banks, and tools banks.
2. **Sustainable agriculture by small scale farmers:** Evidence increasingly shows that for small scale farmers in the developing world agroecological approaches are “equal or better than most conventional systems and more likely to be sustainable in the longer term.”ⁱ This means “a holistic production system based on active agroecosystem management rather than on external inputs,”ⁱⁱ and includes conserving and improving soils, harvesting and managing water, regenerating forests, improving local access, production and control of quality seed varieties, sustainable livestock management and diversifying production.
3. **Community Health:** Promote health through community-based efforts to improve nutrition, disease prevention and reproductive health, and by strengthening access to health services.
4. **Increase Production for Communities and Local Markets:** National food production for domestic consumption – led by small scale farmers – should be doubled in the next five years. Strengthen rural communities' ability to produce enough to meet their own food needs and then sell surpluses to urban consumers. Increased food production and stronger local markets will promote food security and resilience for rural communities and all of Haiti.
5. **Sharing Knowledge:** Strengthen or establish formal and informal systems for sharing information between farmers and rural people's organizations on what is working, both inside of Haiti as well in similar circumstances in other nations. This

can include sustainable agriculture technologies and approaches for soil conservation and improvement, seeds, water, livestock management, market linkages and reforestation. Knowledge sharing can be accomplished through farmer-to-farmer networks, cross visits, documentation, web-based platforms, radio and other media.

6. **Food Sovereignty- supportive policies and institutions:** An enabling environment is required for such a vision to succeed. This would include commitment by Haiti's government and civil society to supporting small scale farmer sustainable agriculture, capitalizing rural communities rather than creating dependencies and decapitalizing them, incentivizing local production and markets, appropriate government policies on issues such as trade, land reform, food reserves, and subsidies, as well as suitable support from ministries and service providers.

Cantave Jean-Baptiste, *Partenariat pour le Développement Local*
Steve Brescia, Groundswell International

ⁱ UNCTAD (February 2009). *Policy Brief No. 6 – Sustaining African Agriculture: Organic Production*.

See also: UNCTAD–UNEP (2008). *Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa*. (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/15);

The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)

ⁱⁱ *Ibid*