

AG/RES. 2487 (XXXIX-O/09)

SUPPORT FOR SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE POLITICAL STABILITY IN HAITI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 4, 2009)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that some of the essential purposes stated in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) are to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to promote, by cooperative action, the economic, social, and cultural development of the member states; and to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the Hemisphere; and reaffirming its strong attachment to the sovereignty, independence, well-being, and prosperity of the people of Haiti;

UNDERSCORING that, according to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, “democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing”;

EMPHASIZING the need to support the efforts of the Government of Haiti to stimulate economic growth, strengthen governance and Haitian institutional capacity, reduce poverty as well as social exclusion, and mitigate natural disasters.

RECALLING its resolutions, in particular resolution AG/RES.. 2424 (XXXVIII-O/08), those of the Permanent Council, and the report presented by the Secretary General to the Permanent Council on developments in the situation in Haiti (CP/doc. 4361/08);

UNDERSCORING the positive change in the level of political stability resulting from the efforts of the Government and people of Haiti at inclusiveness and dialogue, as well as progress regarding security, with support from the OAS, the United Nations, other international organizations;

NOTING that progress in these areas has not yet had sufficient impact on the economic and social conditions of the majority of the population: a fact that, combined with shortcomings in employment generation, the global economic crisis, and the disastrous effect of the hurricanes that struck Haiti in 2008, could have negative repercussions for the sustainability of advances in democracy;

CONSIDERING that, with the support of the OAS and other international partners, the Provisional Electoral Council organized the first round of partial elections to the Senate on April 19, 2009, which will fill all Senate seats and strengthen Parliament;

NOTING the efforts of the Haitian authorities to strengthen and streamline the judicial system, fight illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, and fight corruption;

CONSCIOUS that to reach sustainable economic and social development and political stability in Haiti, in addition to the firm will of the Haitian people, it is desirable that the international community continue to strengthen cooperation with this country;

NOTING ALSO the results of the Third Conference on the Economic and Social Development of Haiti, held in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 2009, which seeks a new paradigm of cooperation for stimulating growth and promoting equitable and inclusive development, and which reaffirms the commitments of the Haitian Government aiming to promote democratic governance and make aid more effective;

EMPHASIZING the objective of donor countries to take actions to make—aid more effective;

CONSIDERING the Statement by the Chairman of the Fifth Summit of the Americas regarding the renewed commitment of the leaders of the region to support the development of Haiti;

CONSIDERING that the Republic of Haiti will soon reach “completion point” under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which will reduce Haiti’s debt;

REAFFIRMING the steadfast commitment of the OAS to equitable and inclusive socio-economic development, as well as sustainable political stability in Haiti;

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Government of Haiti on progress made on strengthening security and law and order, as a result of the efforts of the Haitian National Police with the support of international partners, and on its ongoing policy of fostering inclusion and dialogue. That policy contributes to the promotion of a peaceful environment conducive to employment generation, sustained economic growth and sustainable development in a context of social equity.

2. To welcome the holding on April 19, 2009 of the first round of the elections for the partial renewal of the Senate, and to encourage the holding of the second round of indirect elections, aimed at the establishment of a Permanent Electoral Council;

3. To commend the progress made in the area of institutional strengthening in Haiti, essential to the preservation of democratic gains and to the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

4. To commend also the Government’s efforts to reach “completion point”, in order to obtain a remission of Haiti’s debt, under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), which will provide relief in respect of Haiti’s financial obligations.

5. To support the conclusions of the Third Conference on the Economic and Social Development of Haiti in the quest for a new paradigm of cooperation for growth and development.

6. To support also the implementation of the Economic and Social Stimulus Plan aimed at creating 150,000 new jobs in various sectors over a period of two years, in both urban and rural areas.

7. To urge international lending institutions and Haiti’s partners to continue to coordinate their initiatives with the Haitian Government on the basis of priorities it sets, in particular with a view to maximizing outcomes through coordinated channels and procedures for the delivery of aid.

8. To support the efforts of the Government of Haiti to achieve sustainable development in the areas of agriculture and food and nutritional security, especially through

technical cooperation activities involving technology transfer and professional training and education, in light of the priorities set in the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy paper.

9. To follow up on the renewed commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas to supporting Haiti's development and on their request that the subject of development program financing be discussed at this regular session. To ask international financial institutions and donors and creditors to consider reinforcing financial flows for development programs in Haiti, and expediting the disbursement of the funds promised during the above-mentioned Conference on the Economic and Social Development of Haiti.

10. To support the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of the Government of Haiti in the wake of the 2008 hurricanes, which cost the equivalent of almost 15% of GNP. Likewise to support adjustment of the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy to allow for a more apt response to natural disasters and to international efforts to raise funds to address this humanitarian situation. To support, finally, the Haitian authorities' disaster mitigation initiatives, including risk management and the reduction of vulnerability by improving and implementing building codes, town and country planning, and protection of the environment.

11. To support the resolve of the Government of Haiti to reform and reinforce – including through dialogue on amending the Constitution -- state institutions, in particular, the justice system, the Haitian National Police, and the penitentiary system so that Haiti will be in a better position to fight drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, combat corruption, increase government revenues, control the border area, ensure law and order, and provide basic services to the population, such as education and health care.

12. To recognize the contributions of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), in which several member states participate, with a view to achieving ongoing improvements in security conditions, as part of the efforts to strengthen the political and institutional setting and improve socioeconomic conditions in Haiti.

13. To continue to support the Government of Haiti's violence prevention and reduction efforts and programs for teaching nonviolence, as essential ingredients for sustainable peace and reconciliation in Haiti, in order to ensure ongoing improvements in security conditions.

14. To underscore the importance of the Haiti Task Force as a mechanism for coordinating and promoting cooperation with Haiti within the General Secretariat and the Group of Friends of Haiti that facilitates the sharing of information on developments in that country and encourages initiatives designed to advance its socioeconomic development; and to make sure that the efforts of the Task Force be achieved in a coordinated fashion with other interventions of the international community, thus taking into account the objectives for aid effectiveness.

15. To consider ways to reinforce the actions of the Group of Friends, including the establishment of a regular schedule of meetings and ensuring the maintenance of a regular information network among its members, and the establishment of contacts that strengthen the knowledge base of the Group of Friends.

16. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Task Force on Haiti and other support mechanisms:

- a. Continue its work in support of the Government of Haiti in relation to electoral processes and the establishment of the Permanent Electoral Council;
- b. Continue to support the Haitian authorities, especially the National Registry Office (*Office National de l'Identité*), as part of the process of modernization of civil registration and the issuance of national I.D.s, and work on transferring the required technical skills to that institution in order for that process to become permanent and sustainable;
- c. To strengthen its activities in the area of trade and tourism promotion;
- d. To assist the Haitian authorities with strengthening the process of inclusive and open dialogue on the need for, and scope of, constitutional reform and other major governance-related reforms;
- e. To continue to play a prominent role in raising funds for Haiti and in coordinating international cooperation with Haiti through already established coordination mechanisms;
- f. Continue its technical cooperation with the Haitian Secretariat of State for the Integration of People with Disabilities;
- g. To prepare a study on the modalities for establishing a Hemispheric Development Fund for Haiti;
- h. To continue providing its cooperation to the Drug Observatory in Haiti, in the form of technical, financial and scientific support for drug prevalence surveys and in the development of its drug information network, with a view to obtaining accurate and reliable information on the real situation in the country in this area.

17. To ask the General Secretariat to present an annual report to the Permanent Council on political, economic and social developments in Haiti and to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution, which will be subject to the availability of the financial resources assigned for this purpose in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

18. To request the OAS Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.