

PERMANENT COUNCIL



OEA/Ser.G
CP/doc. 4253/08
15 January 2008
Original: English

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON HAITI
AND OAS PROJECTS IN HAITI
(July-December 2007)

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**Report of the Secretary General to the Permanent Council on Haiti
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I. Introduction

1. By Resolution 2306 (XXXV11 O/07), the General Assembly requested the General Secretariat to submit a semiannual report to the Permanent Council on developments in the situation in Haiti and on the activities of the Task Force on Haiti. The present report covers major developments in Haiti and describes the work of the OAS Haiti Office, as well as the activities of the Haiti Task Force (HTF) during the period July to December, 2007.
2. The general political and security climate in Haiti showed signs of improvement during the period July to December 2007. Despite ongoing challenges, the level of political polarization appears to have diminished. Reported incidences of kidnapping and gang violence appear to have declined although concerns remain.
3. The extended period of political, economic and social stability that has prevailed has bolstered expectations of a continued and sustained effort to strengthen and consolidate democratic governance. This sustained period of transition to democratic governance presents a unique opportunity for the Republic of Haiti to begin consolidating institutions and place renewed emphasis on short as well as long-term economic development initiatives.
4. The significance of these developments was noted by Member States last year and the support for continuation of seem is reflected in AG/RES.2306 (XXXV11-O/07) ("Support for the Strengthening of Democratic Institutions and Socioeconomic Development of Haiti"). OAS Member States have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to Haiti through the OAS as well as through bilateral initiatives.

II. Political and Socio-Economic Developments in Haiti

5. A draft budget for 2007-2008 was adopted on July 9, 2007, after a significant amendment of the draft National Budget by the Senate that involved the reallocation of the budgetary appropriations adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. At that time, it was reported that 95% of the investment budgets of Government Ministries had not been absorbed during the first eight months of the 2006-2007 fiscal exercise. By early August, it was reported that, with less than two months to the end of the fiscal exercise, less than 18 billion Gourdes (US\$480 million) of the total approved budget of 64 billion Gourdes (US \$1.7 billion) had been spent by the Treasury. Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis attributed the failure to expend the allotted budget to the limited absorptive capacity of local firms as well as institutional weaknesses of the Haitian State. These budgetary developments took place against the backdrop of a situation in which the 48th Legislature has not achieved optimal functioning. The Chamber of Deputies has had difficulties in convening sessions due to a variety of reasons including an absence of quorum. This has prompted the formation of a *Group of Parliamentarians for the Strengthening of Representative Democracy, (60 deputies)*, whose objective is to resolve the situation. The first session took place on August 2nd 2007, at which 58 Deputies were present.

6. The mandate of one-third of the 30-member Senate expired on the second Monday of January 2008. According to the Constitution, the elections to renew that segment of the Senate's membership should have been held before the end of 2007. November had seemed to be the likely period during which said elections would have taken place. However, by the beginning of December, no formal indication had been issued in that regard. The government subsequently announced that the elections have been postponed for a date to be determined in early 2008. Based on the budget prepared by the CEP, it is expected that US\$13 million will be needed for the holding of partial Senatorial elections as well as elections to the Assembly. Both sets of elections are necessary for the formation of the Permanent Electoral Council envisaged by the Constitution.
7. In the absence of a Permanent Electoral Council and the expiration of the mandate of the CEP, the issue was widely debated as to whether another CEP should be established. In the last 20 years, some eleven Provisional Electoral Councils have been established. A new Provisional Electoral Council was established by presidential decree on December 11, 2007 with a mandate to:
 - Organize the elections for renewing one-third of the membership of the Senate;
 - Organize the elections to fill all the other elective posts that are currently vacant or which might become vacant; and
 - Organize indirect elections to the Municipal and Departmental Assemblies, of the Departmental Councils and of the Interdepartmental Council. These elections will be programmed taking into account the establishment by Parliament of the legislative framework to govern the organization and functioning of the local governments (*collectivités territoriales*).
8. The new CEP came into being on December 12, 2007, after nine members, who were selected from a wide cross-section of Haitian society, took the Oath of Office. According to the presidential decree, the mandate of this new CEP terminates upon the completion of its mission as indicated. There has not been any official announcement of a new date for the "senatorial elections", which should have been held by the end of 2007. A period of about three months is required for adequate preparation of elections in Haiti.
9. On October 17, 2007, President Préval formally launched a debate on the reform of the 1987 Constitution on the occasion of the commemoration of the 201st anniversary of the assassination of Jean Jacques Dessalines, the founder and first Head of State of the Republic of Haiti. President Préval expressed the view that, "while the Constitution had been drafted with the aim of avoiding another dictatorship, it could not help in stabilizing democracy. The danger today [is] not the possible return to dictatorship but instability".
10. Concerns in the 1987 Constitution that have been mentioned include: the complexity of the procedures envisaged in the Constitution that would allow for possible amendments; the authority of the President to dismiss the Prime Minister; provisions with respect to elections, including the current prohibition for a second consecutive term of the President and the large number of required elections; provisions relating to the abolition of the Army; the financial weight and institutional complexity of the Constitution; the failure to specify a Court or other body to interpret the Constitution, and the prohibition of double nationality, a major issue for individuals of Haitian descent living abroad. A Presidential Commission of experts has been

established with a mandate to elaborate and present concrete proposals for the reform of the 1987 Constitution. The constitution requires that amendments be approved by two consecutive parliaments and that successful amendments may only take effect after the installation of a newly elected president. Referendums on constitutional reform are expressly forbidden. Under current circumstances, proposed amendments could not be adopted by parliament until 2010 and could not become effective until 2011.

11. Efforts at improving the human rights situation have been noted. A delegation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in September 2007, led by the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, commended the government for its efforts, with the support of the international community, to strengthen the rule of law and for measures taken to improve the administration of justice. Further, the Special Rapporteur recognized the creation of the Independent Commission to Support Investigations related to the Assassination of Journalists ([Commission indépendante d'appui aux enquêtes relatives aux assassinats des journalistes](#) (CIAPEAJ). This Commission, appointed by President Préval in August 2007, comprised of nine journalists, is charged with assisting the Haitian authorities in the investigation of the killing of various journalists in Haiti since 2000. The Office of the Special Rapporteur considers the creation of this Commission as a demonstration of the political will of the government to propel advances in investigations and combat impunity in these cases.
12. In early August 2007, over 200 persons were released from prison, in accordance with national law and international Conventions, which state that all persons arrested must be presented before a judge within 24 hours and tried within a reasonable period. Significantly, most of the individuals released had already served more than the maximum period of legally sanctioned preventive detention. Others were released for humanitarian reasons e.g. health (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis etc); pregnant women; minors; and cases of false arrest. In this regard, there continues to be concern regarding the practice of lengthy pre-trial detentions. Attempts at compliance with national and international law, and efforts to continue with reforms of the judicial system are encouraged. The OAS has provided support toward the process of judicial reform and is committed to continuing its accompaniment of the government of Haiti in this area.
13. While the security situation in Haiti has improved over the last few years, acts of criminality remain a major challenge, especially in Port-au-Prince where kidnappings, murders, and assaults continue. Between October and December 2007, approximately 40 people had been abducted. In 2006, 225 kidnaps were reported and, in 2005, that number was in excess of 300. The Haitian National Police has intensified its operations against criminal activities and increased the number of arrests (1,091 in August and 1,404 in September). In a Christmas address, President Préval called on gangs to give young people a “chance” or face police action, in the face of violence against children and youth. A proposal to establish a new Public Force at a cost of 125 billion Gourdes (US \$3.3 billion) has been presented and has also generated much debate in terms of its implications for the forthcoming national budget. This issue is likely to continue into the new year.
14. Since the launch of the National Program for Disarmament and Demobilization of Armed Groups in Haiti a year ago, there is consensus that very few illegal weapons have been surrendered to the Authorities. According to the Head of the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (CNDDR), Mr. Alix Fils-Aime, slightly

more than 300 weapons (*armes de guerre*) and over 6,000 cartridges have been recovered, mostly in Cite Soleil, which was, until recently, controlled by armed gangs. On the other hand, according to a study undertaken by a Swiss NGO, in 2005, over 250,000 illegal firearms were in circulation across the country.

15. Some progress has been noted in this area with the CNDDR reporting enrollment and training of 250 youth “who have left the armed groups and put down their arms.” However, the planned reintegration of former gang members has encountered challenges in that, after receiving training and psycho-social assistance at rehabilitation centers, the individuals concerned have found it difficult to gain employment in the private sector. Concern also remains with regard to possible arms caches that remain hidden and can be retrieved at any time. Police reports from Cité Soleil have indicated that, “the notorious criminals have either been apprehended or killed, but their soldiers are still around with their arms”. Over 10,000 such arms are estimated to be hidden in Cite Soleil alone.
16. Meanwhile, joint operations by MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police (PNH) continue to yield significant results, including in such areas as Martissant and Cité Soleil. Notwithstanding this, calls continue to be made for the provision of continuous training to the Haitian police officers in order to equip them to prevent and suppress crime. While welcoming the “pacification” of areas such as the 200,000-300,000-strong community of Cité Soleil, in which a considerable degree of normalcy has been restored to daily life, a number of analysts have suggested that, unless prompt action is taken by the Authorities to address the underlying socio-economic conditions, this “new-found” peace could prove to be transient.
17. On September 4, 2007, Defense Authorities from Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay and Paraguay, the nine Latin American countries involved in MINUSTAH traveled to Port-au-Prince to show support to the Government of Haiti and to encourage the extension of MINUSTAH’s mandate for an additional 12 months. Secretary General attended that meeting and reaffirmed the readiness of the OAS to cooperate with other players engaged in that country. Following that encounter, the “2x9” Mechanism met again in Buenos Aires, Argentina to further discuss needs and concerns, and areas of cooperation. At that meeting, OAS Assistant Secretary General who led the OAS delegation, called on the international community to improve coordination in their aid program for Haiti. This meeting concluded with an agreement to cooperate on the design and launch of a substantive regional cooperation program with the active support of the OAS.
18. In May 2007, attention was drawn to the problem of aid coordination and also to the lack of experts and technicians. Some 83% of Haitian trained personnel are estimated to have emigrated, mainly to Canada, France and the USA. President Préval’s consideration of a revision of the National Constitution to include a provision for double nationality would facilitate the return of expatriates to work and invest in the country.
19. Allegations of corruption remain an issue although there are efforts to broadly address this issue. For example, on July 30, 2007, pursuant to Article 129-3 of the Constitution, five Deputies of different political parties called for the Minister of Culture and Communication to be summoned in connection with his failure to present a report on the use of funds that were allocated for the 2007 carnival celebrations. Although the allegations of

misappropriation of funds were disputed, the Minister was removed from the Government by a vote of 68-5, becoming the second minister to have been ejected from the Parliament since the entry into force of the 1987 Constitution.

20. Additionally, a “*Colloque Scientifique: Vers Une Strategie Nationale de Lutte contre la Corruption*”, was convened by the Government of Haiti, August 20-23, with the aim of developing the main elements of a National Strategy for the fight against corruption. Participants included parliamentarians, senior officials from government departments including the Revenue and Customs Departments, representatives of political parties, wider civil society, as well as representatives from diplomatic missions and international organizations. OAS representatives attended the colloquium. A significant outcome was the official announcement of the results of a survey on “Governance and Corruption in Haiti” which was sponsored by the World Bank Institute, the Bureau de Recherche en Informatique et Developpement Economique et Social (BRIDES) and the Government of Haiti through the Unite de Lutte Contre La Corruption (ULCC). The survey found that corruption is considered “a serious problem” and a “significant obstacle” to economic growth by 93% of households and over 70% of business enterprises.
21. The ratification on May 14, 2007 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the *Colloque* are expected to pave the way for the adoption of appropriate legislation to give effect to the Convention.
22. The Center for Trade Facilitation (Centre de Facilitation des Investissements) (CFI) was inaugurated on July 13, 2007 with the full support of the government to become the identified central point for facilitating trade and investment. The CFI will seek to become a one-stop investment centre to provide assistance to investors; reduce delays in, and obstacles to, the investment process; promote transparency in business processes; assist with job-creation; and contribute to overall economic growth. The Department of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness (DTTC) has been working with the CFI in the design of a joint campaign to attract investors. Furthermore it has provided technical assistance in trade assessment, strategic planning and training of different government officials from various ministries on key issues of the trade agenda. In the first quarter of 2008, the DTTC will organize a four-day seminar with the CFI on market access, rules of origin, agricultural and phyto-sanitary measures, trade services and investment.
23. In July 2007, the government of Haiti, represented by Prime Minister Alexis, formally inaugurated the **Commission for the Implementation of the HOPE Law, (CMO-HOPE)**. The CMO-HOPE, which has been established for a period of 15 months, comprises ten representatives of the public and private sector and trade unions and will explore the strategic and operational aspects of the HOPE legislation in order to permit Haiti to derive the maximum benefits. The HOPE law (Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act) passed by the US Congress in December 2006 is aimed at encouraging investment and employment in Haiti. It is estimated that 1,200 jobs have already been created in the area of textiles. Overall, some analysts estimate that HOPE could be instrumental in facilitating the creation of some 50,000 jobs in Haiti in the sectors of textiles, clothing and motor vehicle parts.

24. Heavy rains associated with Hurricane Noel in October 2007 took a heavy toll including 58 deaths, the disappearance of approximately 17 persons, 114 persons injured, and an additional 14,000 families severely affected. The inadequacy of disaster management arrangements, deforestation, extensive sand mining across the country, and the increasing development of shantytowns in major urban areas all contribute to the severe impacts of natural disasters. The strengthening of disaster mitigation and management programs continue to be of critical importance. In this regard, the OAS is collaborating with United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to provide training to Haitian officials in the utilization of a methodology developed by ECLAC for the evaluation of social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters and will work with other international organizations to have the ECLAC methodology translated into Creole.
25. Haiti continues to work toward a deeper integration into the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). During the 15th Ministerial Meeting of CARIFORUM in Haiti, in October 2007, the Secretary General of CARICOM announced that Haiti had moved one step closer to participating in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) by virtue of its decision to ratify the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Underscoring, Haiti's integration into the sub-regional group, CARICOM reopened its Representation Office in Haiti in October 2007. The Office had closed in 2004.

III. OAS Ongoing Commitment in Haiti

26. Support for Haiti remains a high priority on the OAS agenda. OAS officials have re-energized engagement with Haiti at the highest political level. Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General availed themselves of the opportunity to meet with President Preval and other senior officials on several occasions to maintain a consistent dialogue on needs and priorities. The leadership placed increased emphasis on improving efficiency, transparency and accountability of existing operations in Haiti. This entailed the streamlining of OAS activities in Haiti, establishing clearer communication lines with Headquarters, and putting in place an organizational structure that responds more effectively to the needs of the Haitian Government and people, emphasizes resource maximization, and facilitates timely reporting on projects to donors.
27. OAS efforts to modernize Haiti's Civil Registry and National Identification System have registered significant success and are ongoing. The Project is part of a broader OAS strategy to strengthen Haiti's democratic institutions including the National Identification Office and Civil Registry under the Ministry of Justice, and the country's Permanent Electoral Council. The project has two specific objectives: to complete the registration of all Haitians and provide them with a secure identification card; and modernize the current registration system to ensure its sustainability.
28. On September 4, 2007, the National Identification Office (ONI) resumed the issuance of National ID Cards (CIN) to citizens over 18 years of age. The service had been interrupted in 2006. The Director of the National Identification Office estimates that, within the next five years, ID cards will have been delivered to 95% of Haitian adults (i.e. those attaining the voting age of 18). Additional Registration Offices now being opened will become permanent features of the Haitian institutional landscape as the ID card system has been amplified to serve more than electoral requirements. ID cards are now widely recognized not only to give

citizens the right to exercise their civic duty to vote or to be a candidate, but also to facilitate access to certain basic services such as obtaining passports, driving licenses, and for banking purposes.

29. OAS activities seek to further develop a modern civil registry and build on the infrastructure created in the voter registration project in 2005. The OAS project team and the Haitian authorities are making steady progress towards meeting the goals of Phase I of the projects. Phase I is primarily focused on three activities: (i) registration of adults to enable maximum participation in upcoming elections; (ii) inventory of the historical written records on file at the National Archives for the subsequent incorporation of all written records in an electronic database; and (iii) purchase of a specialized printer that will enable Haiti to print its own secure identification cards. Two important benefits have emerged during this early phase. In the first instance, the Haitian authorities are gradually beginning to plan for their assuming full responsibility for the identification and civil registry system and processes. Identification offices are being opened in existing government facilities alongside civil registry and Justice of the Peace offices. In the second instance, public demand for identification services is noticeably high. Consequently, the OAS project has not had to spend much in terms of publicity to announce and introduce the system.
30. Starting in October 2007, the Civil Registry Project has been focused on the important remaining elements of Phase I, namely completion of the adult registration process by February 2008; distribution of approximately 130,000 identity cards that were not collected by individuals during the 2005 registration cycle; purchase of a specialized printer so that Haiti can produce its own secure identity cards; and digitalization of approximately one million historical [written] civil registration records of births, marriages, and death currently kept in the National Archives by the end of the first quarter of 2008.
31. The OAS continues to provide technical support for the establishment of a Permanent Electoral Council in Haiti with the structure and mechanisms to effectively and efficiently manage credible elections. OAS assistance has centered on several areas of expertise: training local personnel to manage the development and maintenance of a permanent electoral registry; development of a computerized documentation system; assistance in the creation of a modern, computerized and integrated information system on registered political parties, and a computerized candidate registration system for future elections; procuring material and equipment for installation in up to 142 offices of the permanent electoral registry offices; and software to facilitate registration, vote tabulation and results transmission.
32. At the 37th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly in Panama, the work of CICAD at its 41st regular session was noted for its consideration to strengthening international support to Haiti to combat the drug problem and encouraging Haiti to implement narcotics demand reduction policies and programs. A three-member mission, led by James Mack, Executive Secretary, visited Haiti in August 2007 at the invitation of Haiti's National Drug Control Commission (CONALD). The OAS-CICAD mission held a series of meetings with top government officials to discuss future CICAD projects and ongoing endeavors to combat illegal drugs in Haiti. The mission also engaged in discussions to present a training workshop on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and to review the progress of Haiti's National Anti-drug Plan.

33. The Department of Public Security of the OAS continues to provide technical assistance to the Director General of the Haitian National Police (HNP) through the services of a Senior Technical Advisor who provides assistance and advice on a range of security matters including command and leadership; resource management; security operations; personnel training; implementation of a career plan for PNH personnel; functioning and coordination of the Director General's office, the central directorates and 10 departmental directorates of the National Police throughout the country; and the preparation of manuals and guidelines. Working closely with the Director General of the HNP, OAS representation has been instrumental in achieving security objectives from a technical assistance perspective which serve to complement the efforts of the MINUSTAH. It is worth mentioning that on October 15, the UN Security Council extended MINUSTAH's mandate for 12 months. That extension constitutes an important element for the ongoing stabilization of the country, a significant contribution in the fight against insecurity, and an opportunity for the OAS to pursue its cooperation with the UN in the field of security in Haiti.
34. Money laundering and organized crime have taken on new dimensions as a result of new financial instruments and the capacity to transfer funds rapidly across international borders. Because of the complexity of these crimes, it is difficult for many prosecutors and judges to investigate prosecute and convict these types of offenses, and therefore the number of money laundering and organized crime cases tried in the country have been minimal. The Haitian judicial system currently has no specialized units in place to fight money laundering offenses. The OAS Department of Public Security and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) have together developed a joint proposal to combat organized crime in the country through a 3-pronged approach: (1) strengthening the capacity of judges and prosecutors to combat drug trafficking and money laundering; (2) strengthening firearms controls; and (3) strengthening the administrative and operational capacity of the Haitian National Police. The proposed activity envisions concrete and measurable results in each of the three target areas.
35. Several steps are being taken by the Haitian authorities with technical support from the OAS to (i) improve regulations and procedures for guiding the application of a proposed firearms control law; and (ii) combat money laundering and organized crime. These efforts have focused on the creation of a specialized group of judges and prosecutors with improved capacity to investigate drug trafficking and money laundering cases, as well community educational activities aimed at increasing public confidence and trust in government authorities to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of money laundering and drug trafficking crimes. In this regard, the Government of Haiti has taken important steps including the launch of a national campaign against corruption and a series of fora in different Departments throughout the country. Anti-corruption efforts should culminate in a National Strategy Document against corruption.
36. The OAS followed through on its commitment to assist with economic and trade development programs by mounting a joint OAS/Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) trade mission to Haiti in October 2007. As a result of that joint mission, a programme is being developed to provide technical assistance in defining national trade policy and instituting a program of training for policy makers and negotiators.

37. Additional efforts to provide support for trade and investment to facilitate job creation, economic growth and poverty-reduction in Haiti include a joint initiative of the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in collaboration with the government of Haiti, to organize a Haiti Trade and Investment Forum. The scheduling of this activity is being determined by the Government of Haiti to allow for an adequate period to put in place investment-related measures that would enhance the country's business environment and readiness to partner with investors.
38. The Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF), in coordination with the Office of the OAS Assistant Secretary General, has developed a border program aimed at enhancing cooperation on bi-national issues in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and increasing economic opportunities for border residents through training, technical assistance and community and productive investments with a special focus on assisting productive groups to benefit from the DR-CAFTA.

IV. Haiti Task Force

39. The results of the coordination and restructuring initiatives undertaken by the Haiti Task Force, under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary General became evident in the latter half of 2007. One of the first major activities of the Task Force was to streamline the operations of the OAS in Haiti. A preliminary visit to Haiti earlier last year by the Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General and the Director of Budgetary and Financial Services yielded practical results from an onsite diagnostic assessment exercise that laid the groundwork to rationalize operational procedures in line with mandated priorities and available resources. As a result of the decision to introduce a moratorium on new hires the Haiti Task Force was able to improve alignment of resources and personnel, and introduce a transparent operational framework to govern OAS activities on the ground in Haiti. Though challenging, the process of restructuring has been well received by relevant stakeholders including the government of Haiti and donors. The process, spearheaded by the Haiti Task Force, also benefited from close collaboration with the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, the Department of Human Resources and each of the technical areas managing projects in Haiti.
40. The Haiti Task Force is satisfied that the General Secretariat and its stakeholder partners in Haiti are now better able to optimize synergies that will result from the consolidation of operations in the current context in which the Haiti Special Mission, the Electoral Technical Assistance Program in Haiti (ETAPH), the Civil Registry and CEP Programs and Human Rights have been brought under one operational and representational umbrella. In previous years, the segregation of OAS activities along project lines meant different activities were housed in separate and disparate locations with parallel administrative structures and operational costs. Over the course of the last few months, the OAS has consolidated all of its operations in Haiti into a single building which has served to reduce operating and administrative costs, align personnel with actual activities and existing resources, enhance coordination at the project level and with the Office of the OAS Representative, improve the security arrangements for personnel, increase overall service efficiency, and allow the OAS to retain and attract contractors whose expertise and experience match the requirements of the mandates and priorities of the OAS. In December 2007, the Coordinator of OAS Offices visited Haiti to meet with the OAS Representative and Program Directors and staff in order to

evaluate OAS activities in-country, to listen to the staff and to reiterate the importance the General Secretariat attaches to the activities in Haiti, as well as to examine ways to strengthen the Office.

V. Conclusion

41. The Haitian government has an unprecedented opportunity to lay the foundations for sustainable democracy, economic change and growth to allow the Haitian people to live secure lives in an atmosphere conducive to the realization of their human potential. Going forward, OAS activities in Haiti will continue to be informed by the need for cross-cutting strategies to strengthen local institutions and build capacity, to enhance modernization of the State and the ability of institutions to deliver needed services, to facilitate economic development including through public-private initiatives, and to provide support for building a safe and secure environment in which the application of law and order allows individuals and businesses a safe environment in which to operate and build upon progress.
42. It is important to recognize the ongoing work of partners in the inter-American and international systems, including MINUSTAH and its commitment to securing the peace in Haiti, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the increased collaboration between our two Secretariats.
43. Finally, the political and resource commitments of Member States and the support of donors represent the wherewithal by which the OAS can continue to conduct activities to support the government and people of Haiti with their efforts to strengthen democracy and human rights, secure a stable environment, and advance economic growth and development.