

Memorandum of Understanding between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Republic of Haiti

The Bureau of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) met with the President of the Republic of Haiti, H.E. Michel Joseph Martelly, on 13 February 2012 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in the course of a visit of solidarity with and support for the Government and People of Haiti.

They reiterated and endorsed the provisions of the Aide Memoire dated 21 December 2010 which reflected the outcome of the CARICOM-Haiti Planning Conference Report which, inter alia:

- I. Emphasised the urgency of assisting Haiti to build its institutional capacity so as to lead the process of full recovery and reconstruction; and
- II. Enabling qualified and experienced personnel from CARICOM and the Diaspora, particularly from Haiti, to become engaged in the sectors outlined in *Haiti's Strategic Plan for Reconstruction and Development* as well as investments for rebuilding programme of the Haitian Society.

They reconfirmed that the Special Representative of CARICOM Heads of Government on Haiti would continue to engage with the International Community, in consultation with the Government of Haiti, as a key CARICOM advocate on behalf of Haiti and of the Government of Haiti. In this regard, he would continue to participate with international partners, bilateral and multilateral agencies, in all efforts aimed at developing and adopting strategic policy and programming frameworks for more efficient and effective coordination of assistance, based on the priorities of the Government of Haiti.

They agreed that the further support of CARICOM was of vital importance for Haiti, and for the Community itself, and that this support should be outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding as follows:

1. **Institution building** to reinforce the capacity of Haiti's trade and investment promotion agencies to be carried out through the sharing of expertise and experience by similar CARICOM agencies, such as Jamaica Investment Promotion Office (JAMPRO);

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2. Provision of technical assistance and capacity building in the following areas:

- tertiary education, in particular with regard to the management of the new State Universities and the development of programmes such as, an Open Campus, distance learning and post-graduate studies, with the assistance of the University of the West Indies (UWI);
- teacher training programmes;
- the development of policy and management capacity for social housing projects;
- the development of policy, programs and management capacity for a social security system and the provision of actuarial assistance to define the true cost of the initiative;
- agricultural development, through the provision/sharing of programs on new technologies by the UWI; the training of cadres of the Ministry of Agriculture in the use of new techniques; and facilitating the establishment of farmer training schools; the provision of advisors to help make representation to the WTO to prevent the dumping of food products;
- the implementation of areas of support in the tourism sector, as agreed by Caribbean Tourism Ministers in Montego Bay in February 2010, and of other bilateral initiatives (for example, signing a MOU with Saint Lucia on assistance to the Tourist Board of Haiti);
- tariff review and reform;
- sharing of CARICOM experience in the services sector, through the provision of training and the establishment of formal frameworks of service providers;
- public health.

3. Encourage the establishment of air transportation links between Haiti and other CARICOM Member States. In that regard, give urgent consideration to

requests made by the Jamaica Air Shuttle, Suriname Airways and LIAT to develop new air links;

4. **Implement programmes** that address youth through cultural exchanges, the establishment of a youth Parliament, and promote young people to young people exchanges;

5. **Improve collaboration** in the area of security through greater Haitian participation in the work of the relevant Councils, agencies and CARICOM/ Caribbean multilateral initiatives; and through paying greater attention to new security threats, such as cyber crime;

6. **Facilitate travel** through the mechanism of visa waivers for Haitian officials, diplomats and business persons on the way to eventual freedom of movement;

7. **Note** the need to incorporate Haitian nationals in the Staff of the CARICOM Secretariat and **give consideration** to the Haitian request for a senior position.

Implementation

Implementation of the MOU will be coordinated on the CARICOM side, by the CARICOM Secretariat and its Representation Office in Haiti (CROH) and the Office of the Special Representative and on the Haitian side by the Special Envoy to CARICOM of the Haitian Government and the *Bureau de Coordination et de Suivi des Accords de la CARICOM, de l'OMC (WTO) et du ZLEA*.

Agreed to meet within three months of signing this MOU, to evaluate progress made in implementation.

Funding

Haiti recognised that the effectiveness of CARICOM's support is dependent on the resource capacity of the institutions delivering the support and implementing the agreed activities. In this regard, the financial contributions of the Governments of the Caribbean Community, Australia, Canada and Spain and of the CDB and the IDB to the operations of the CROH, the OSPR and the CARICOM Secretariat were acknowledged with deep gratitude.

Representation will be made to countries and institutions which have indicated interest in providing resources to assist in capacity building as part of the reconstruction and

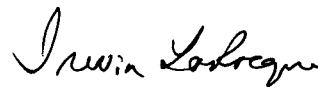
development effort. Haiti will renew its approaches to partners such as Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. Fresh approaches will be made to the CDB, the IDB, as well as to USAID, UNDP, the EU and the OAS for funding and partnership with the full backing of Haiti.

Funding approaches will require that Haiti give the international community the signal that it wishes to proceed with the content of this MOU as part of the reconstruction process, or make a direct request for funds. Joint efforts can also be carried out in trilateral cooperation with Cuba within the framework of the recent agreement at the CARICOM-Cuba Summit of 8 December 2011 and with Chile, in the context of the Second Meeting of the CARICOM-Chile Joint Commission of 4 February, 2012.



Laurent Salvador Lamothe
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti

Port au Prince on February 2012



Irwin LaRocque
Secretary General CARICOM