

## **Patterson Pleads for Coordinated Support of Haiti Capacity Building at UN Security Council**

Just two days after the announcement of the official results of Presidential elections, former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Special Representative on Haiti, made an impassioned plea for a coordinated support of Haiti's capacity building at a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council convened by Colombia in New York on Wednesday April 6, 2011.

Lauding the Haitian authorities, people and their partners for having achieved a clear democratic election despite the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake, the cholera epidemic and political insecurity, Mr Patterson said that the "outcome is a testament to what can be achieved through partnership". He went on to say that the success of the elections represented "a welcome victory for democracy which must not fail to be rewarded by a premium to enhance the success of reconstruction efforts during this phase of democratic transition..."

Mr Patterson warned however, that "the reinforcement of the capacity of the Haitian State is now of the utmost urgency. The pace of progress will be retarded and the most immediate priorities of Haiti will remain at the bottom of the ranking unless the state has the administrative and technical capacity as well as access to the financial resources to provide the public goods and services that are unquestionably the responsibility of all States."

Speaking for CARICOM, the former Prime Minister reiterated that "the restructuring, strengthening and building of Haiti's institutional [capacity] is the lynchpin and lies at the heart of any plan for National Recovery and Sustainable Development. CARICOM regards strong, robust and flexible institutional capacity as a sine qua non for sustainable development, good governance and security."

Explaining that CARICOM has decided to concentrate its direct support to Haiti in the area of institutional development and augmentation by making available experienced personnel in different areas of governmental administration; providing opportunities for training in areas of

high need and helping to establish regional standards in such areas as in the establishment of a Building Code, and Regional Standards for Goods and Professional Services, Mr Patterson pleaded for the support of UN Agencies, and Hemispheric groupings in an effort to coordinate the work and ensure that duplication of effort was avoided.

In particular, he cited the importance of the involvement of MINUSTAH (the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti) and insisted that that agency “must be guided to become even more actively engaged with the Agencies of the United Nations in supporting and strengthening the core structures and capacities of Haiti. It should extend beyond security and stability to embrace support for strengthening the institutions of State in order to accelerate economic, social and territorial rebuilding.”

Mr Patterson insisted that the time had come to turn the international community’s “weapons into ploughshares” and contribute to the realization of the bold strategy approved 15 months ago that will result in the economic, social, political and institutional development of Haiti. He made reference to the fact that although the assistance and achievements of the international community in Haiti thus far have been laudable, there was concern that “the pledges made by the International Community have fallen short and the inflows to the Haiti Recovery Fund have been insufficient to make a visible impression on the ordinary Haitian as another Hurricane season draws nigh”.

As Haiti enters its new period of governance, Mr Patterson contended that there “is a compelling need for greater coordination between the multilaterals, the bilateral and the NGOs to fulfill the urgent needs and priorities of the Government of Haiti and its people”.