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Coordination, programme and other questions:

Long-term programme of support for Haiti

Report of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti²

¹ E/2014/1/Rev.1

² The report was submitted late in order to reflect on the latest developments in Haiti

Summary

The present report highlights the main findings of the Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti following its visits to Washington D.C. and to Haiti as well as during meetings held in New York. The report welcomes the tangible progress observed in Haiti on the economic and social front, which goes well beyond post-earthquake recovery efforts. It also expresses concerns as to the sustainability of the development process in the current political context. Despite these concerns, the report emphasizes the need for continued donor engagement given the high vulnerability of the country, both in terms of natural disasters and economic shocks, and given the need to sustain development progress that have been achieved. United Nations support has to be adapted to better answer these needs, in the context of the transition phase around a possible consolidation of MINUSTAH. The Group further advocates for a "Delivering as One" approach that should guide UN action on the ground. It also calls on increased aid effectiveness through improved and simplified donor support and accelerated governance reforms by the Haitian authorities, with a view to create a new momentum for effective development support to the country.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the tenth submitted by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti since reactivation in 2004. Following a request made by the Government of Haiti at the time, the Council adopted resolution 2004/52 by which it decided to reactivate the Group, which was established in 1999 to help coordinate the development of a long-term programme of support for the country.

Mandate and composition of the Group

2. In accordance with Council decisions 2004/322, 2009/211, 2009/267, 2011/207, 2011/211, 2013/209 and 2014/[L2, L.6 and L.10], the Group is composed of the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, The Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay to the United Nations and the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Since its first meeting, on 23 November 2004, the Group has been chaired by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. As stipulated in decision 2004/322, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti are invited to take part in the Group's meetings.

3. In its resolution 2013/15, the Economic and Social Council decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until its substantive session of 2013 with a view to closely following and providing advice on long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the

need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building on the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms. The Council also requested the Group to report on its activities to the Council at its substantive session of 2014.

Outline of the Group's activities

4. The Group's visits to Washington and to Haiti are the basis for most of the conclusions contained in this report. On 28 April 2014, the Group went to Washington DC where it met senior officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the InterAmerican Development Bank and the Organization of American States. A working lunch with representatives of the American Jewish World Service, a non-governmental organization active in Haiti, was also organized. From 12 to 15 May 2014, the Group carried out its annual visit to Haiti, where it met President Michel Martelli, Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, Minister of Foreign Affairs Duly Brutus, the President of the Senate, Mr. Dieuseul Simon Desras, other high-level officials, civil society representatives and a wide range of development actors. The Group also visited projects led by United Nations organizations, in particular the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), as well as a camp of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

5. In preparation for and to debrief on the two visits, the Group had meetings jointly organized with the Group of Friends of Haiti in New York, including a meeting with

Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary-General Special Representative of the OAS on Haiti, and a working session with Mr. Robert Jean, Director-General of Planning of Haiti, and Mr. Peter de Clercq, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti.

6. Members of the Group wish to express their profound gratitude to the Haitian authorities, civil society representatives and development partners of the country who spared no time to explain their activities and share analysis with the Group, in Haiti, New York and Washington DC. The Group wishes to express its particular appreciation to the highest authorities of Haiti for the open and constructive exchange it had with them. In addition, the Group is grateful to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for its constant and dedicated support to its work, to Mrs. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH and the two Deputy SRSGs, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Resident Coordinator a.i. during the Group's visit, as well as the whole United Nations country team for their excellent support. The Group is also grateful to the International Financial Institutions and the Organization of American States for their continued interaction and willingness to share views and analysis. The programme of the Group's visits to Washington DC and Haiti is annexed to this report.

II. A momentum for development on the ground

7. With a growth rate of 4.3 percent in 2013, Haiti has reached a new phase in its development process. The level of economic activity and the physical improvements in Port-au-Prince are a great source of encouragement. Efforts made by the Government to reach out

to the private sector and promote investments have obviously led to positive results, in particular as it relates to road infrastructure and the construction sector, be it for private housing or the opening of new hotels and businesses. The Group was pleased to note the useful role of the UN system, in particular UNOPS, in these efforts. The construction of infrastructure in the provinces (roads, airports, wharfs...) is also promising. While the Group witnessed strong signs of recovery in 2013³, this year's visit has shown that the country is now engaged in a construction and development phase, which goes well beyond post-earthquake reconstruction efforts.

8. Inflation has fallen from 6.5 percent to 4.5 percent (year to year), amid a modest depreciation of the gourde. In this context, the International Monetary Fund has qualified the macroeconomic performance on fiscal year 2013 as favorable and performance under the Fund's Extended Credit Facility supported programme as broadly satisfactory. In an international context marked by slow recovery and continued economic constraints in many parts of the world, this overall positive performance by Haiti deserves to be highlighted.

9. The overall objective of the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti elaborated by the Government for the period 2010-2030 is that the country should become an emerging country within fifteen years from now. Although this requires massive investments and a marked increased average income of the population, recent progress suggest that Haiti is engaged in a path that can bring it closer to this ambitious goal if progress is to be sustained and in as much as Haiti does not relapse in political turmoil.

³ See Report of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory on Haiti, E/2013/90 in particular paragraphs 8 and 9

10. Some social progress is also observed. It is estimated that poverty decreased by 4 to 5 percent in urban areas, although inequalities remain high. The Haiti Millenium Development Goals (MDG) report⁴, launched earlier this year by the Government of Haiti and the United Nations Development Programme, indicates that important progress have been made on most MDG indicators. Extreme poverty has declined from 31 percent to 24 percent since 2000, and some targets have been reached ahead of the deadline, such as the reduction by half of underweight children. The Haitian Statistic and IT Institute (IHSI) issued new data based on a Household Living Conditions Survey, supported by the World Bank, which show that both income and access to services have improved.

11. The Government of Haiti has been paying increased attention to on extreme poverty and implements several cash transfer programmes targeting the poorest. Through these programmes, for example, students can receive direct subsidies and poor mothers whose children attend schools are supported. Progress has also been made on MDG2 on education, with an increase in school attendance that has reached 88 percent. Food assistance programmes, including through the opening of community restaurants, are also laudable initiatives, in particular in rural areas where extreme poverty remains widespread and local food production should be further supported.

12. Following the same trend, child mortality has decreased by 44 percent since 1990, at a faster pace than global trends, and 90 percent of women have had at least one pre-natal care visit during pregnancy, thereby contributing to a marked decrease in maternal mortality, estimated at 157 for 100,000 by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, which has released maternity statistics for the first time in 2013. It is recalled that according to the

⁴ Rapport OMD 2013 - Haïti: un nouveau regard, République d'Haïti - PNUD

findings of the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (*Enquête mortalité, morbidité et utilisation des services, EMMUS V*), the fertility rate in Haiti has dropped from 6.3 per cent children per woman in 1987 to 4 in 2006 and 3.5 in 2012, an encouraging trend that will have major consequences for the long term development of the country, especially if positive results are also achieved in rural areas. The Group witnessed during its visit the effective support provided by UNFPA and MINUSTAH to a nursing and midwifery school as well as to maternity clinics in the metropolitan area and it was impressed by the involvement of Haitian health professionals in building facilities that make a difference in women's lives.

13. At the political level, the inter-Haitian political dialogue made some steps forward earlier this year. Through the political agreement known as “El Rancho accord”, which was facilitated by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, the decision was made to hold combined elections by 26 October 2014 for two-thirds of the Senate, the entire Chamber of Deputies, Municipal Administrations and Local Councils. It also called for the conversion of the former *Transitory College of the Permanent Electoral Council* into a new *Provisional Electoral Council*, with an agreement that each branch of Government could change up to one of its three nominees. Following the agreement, the cabinet was reshuffled and the Chamber of Deputies adopted an electoral law, which remains to be approved by the Senate. Although this process has not appeased political tensions, in particular between the Executive Branch and a group of six Senators, the fact that political parties hold a dialogue, with the support of civil society actors, appeared as a step in the right direction as to the capacity of the society to elaborate collective solutions.

14. This process must, however, be completed with the organization of long overdue elections in order to avoid a situation where local authorities and the National Assembly no

longer enjoy a legal mandate and the Government is placed in a position where it would be necessary to set a date for elections, and carry out other functions, by decree. This could have detrimental effects on the confidence of donors and the delivery of development support to Haiti, where the risk of donor fatigue is always present, even among long-term partners. Ensuring the proper functioning of fundamental political institutions must be a priority, in as much as international support remains of crucial importance for the full realization of Haiti's development objectives.

III. The need for continued donor engagement

15. Development processes require time, and this applies to Haiti even more given the vulnerability of the country to man-made and natural disasters. Political instability has prevailed over the last three decades and can still jeopardize development support. In that respect, the decisions of Haitian political actors are the key factors. However, there are other risks over which Haitians have little control. Natural disasters, particularly flooding resulting from hurricanes and earthquakes are recurrent obstacles to development and have led to degradation of Haiti's physical environment.

16. In addition, Haiti is a small economy open to the world and is therefore sensitive to regional and global external trends. The increase of the price of commodities can create external shocks on the Haitian economy, with direct consequences, for instance, in the energy and transportation sectors and additional pressure on the Government to absorb such costs through public subsidies. Similarly, the volatility of other commodities, in particular wheat and rice, has direct effect on the country's balance of payments.

17. The energy sector is broadly considered as the one of the weakest link of the Haitian economy, given insufficient infrastructure and poor management. The rehabilitation of the Peligre dam is a promising step. However, the process of transforming public utility will necessarily take time and the Government is likely to absorb deficit in this area for some time before the system can be effectively restructured.

18. This reflects a reality that broadly applies to the development of Haiti, namely that building capacities is a long process that requires continued involvement by all relevant actors in order to achieve sustainable progress. As called for in the Istanbul Programme of action for the Least Developed Countries, a group of countries of which Haiti is a member, the international community is expected to mobilize sustained support to the strengthening of productive capacities in these countries, under their leadership. In the case of Haiti, special attention needs to be given to the agricultural, manufacturing and tourism sectors.

19. Another illustration of the need for time is the education sector. As mentioned earlier, concrete results have been achieved in terms of school construction and access to education, including through a dedicated conditional cash transfer programme and the establishment of a new tax to fund it. However, all actors recognize that quality of education remains insufficient and will continue to be until the structures to train future teachers and to enforce education standards are in place and commensurate with the needs of the country.

20. Progress on the environmental side also remains very uneven. A significant increase in forest plantations has not yet reversed the trend towards deforestation (natural forests represent 2 percent of the territory only), in as much as over ninety percent of Haitian

households continue to use coal to cook their meals. The Group noted the increased consumption of propane gas, facilitated by tax incentives and subsidies, and its use in houses rebuilt with the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services in the metropolitan area, which the Group visited. The United Nations system has a catalytic role to play in this respect and should continue to do so through its portfolio of projects and by scaling-up these innovations when they are successful. A lot remains to be done to achieve effective environmental protection, with a needed focus on biodiversity protection and sanitation.

21. The State reform process, led by the Office of Management and Human Resources, under the office of the Prime Minister, is conceived as a long-term exercise which may need up to ten years. Meanwhile, mentoring activities by the United Nations system and other development partners are crucial to steadily enhance skills in the public service, both in central administration and in the provinces and municipalities, where capacities are particularly weak. Consequently, the continued technical and financial involvement of partners, including in the strengthening of the *Ecole nationale d'administration publique* and the provision of equipment and facilities, remains a condition to reach the ambitious development goals rightly set by the Government.

22. While the growth rate and newly released statistics on poverty are encouraging, many economists and development partners whom the Group met, including from the International Financial Institutions, expect that time is needed before growth can be significantly reflected in the standards of living of the population. This is all the more problematical as inequality in income has increased in Haiti, with a Gini coefficient of 0.66 in 2012, compared to 0.61 in 2001. Unemployment rate is officially of 27 percent, and it is estimated that two thirds of the population suffer from unemployment or under employment. According to the 2013 MDG

report, employment does not allow many individuals to satisfy their basic needs, as 44.9 percent of working persons live with less than 1.25 dollar a day. Rising inequality is a destabilizing factor that should not be underestimated. Continued investment in other ways to reduce poverty, pending more widespread benefits of growth to the population, is therefore a requirement.

23. According to recent figures, around 90,000 displaced persons continue to live in camps, a sharp decrease compared to 1.3 million following the earthquake. Living conditions, in particular the sanitary situation, are extreme. In spite of training and awareness raising activities implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and some other organizations, the national and international presence in these camps did not appear to the Group as commensurate with the needs of the population and with the threat that diseases, included those that recently appeared in the country such as cholera and the chikungunya, constitute for these vulnerable persons. The Group therefore calls for continued humanitarian assistance. It also stresses the important role of the IOM and the United Nations system in these efforts, given that a significant number of international non-governmental organizations have ceased their operations in the country after providing emergency assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake and the cholera outbreak.

24. While the Group understands the concerns raised by the Haitian authorities that the continued provision of services encourages the displaced persons to become long-term residents of these camps, the Group also stresses the importance of well-targeted support to populations in such precarious conditions, particularly as far as access to water and sanitation is concerned. Such support can also include subsidies for the *relocalisation* of people and the dismantling of tents, as witnessed by the Group in *Camp Dahomey*, supported by IOM.

National actors are expected to play a proactive role in providing sustainable solutions and to solicit support when needed from the international community.

25. A momentum is under way in Haiti that needs to be supported in an appropriate manner. The possibility of a sharp decrease in international support is a matter of concern for many actors working on the ground. It is also a concern for the sustainability of United Nations support to Haiti which is undergoing a transition phase.

IV. Adapting United Nations support to the transition context

26. The United Nations country team in Haiti consists of 19 agencies, funds and programmes. The size and scope of their activities has varied significantly over the last years, with a significant increase following the January 2010 earthquake and a steady decrease since 2012. The latter is due to reduced funding, in particular the non-replenishment of the Haiti Reconstruction Fund set up after the earthquake. These fluctuations make it difficult for these entities to adjust to the changing needs of the country and limit their capacity to take over functions from a consolidated MINUSTAH. The Group stresses the important role that the UN country team carries out in supporting the Haitian authorities, in particular in the transition context in which the UN presence is engaged, and calls on donors to ensure that funding to support key Government priorities are met. The Group also welcomes the recent decision by the International Labor Organization to re-establish a permanent presence in Haiti.

27. The common approach and cooperation mechanism among UN agencies, funds and programmes, together with the activities of MINUSTAH in the development field, are reflected in the Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF). The current ISF is a four year strategy for 2013-2016, which in addition to economic and social programmes, places an emphasis on support to the rule of law, governance and disaster risk management. It is aligned with the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti and has been endorsed by the Government of Haiti.

28. Earlier this year, Heads of agencies have decided to anticipate the mid-term review of the ISF in order to better take into account new elements such as the possible consolidation of MINUSTAH, longer-term programming, new strategic documents from the Government, including its Triennial Investment Plan, and new sources of data for baselines and indicators. The Group welcomes this initiative and looks forward to learning more about the revised framework.

29. In this context, the Group stresses the need to take additional steps towards a “Delivering as one” approach to the work of the UN system in Haiti. As Haiti phases away from a humanitarian and reconstruction phase to embrace a true development process, modalities for a more integrated functioning of UN entities should be defined. In addition to maximizing the use of resources, such an approach could create incentives for the Government to develop national programmes across ministerial lines and to turn to the UN system for joint funding. It would also make it easier for donors to channel support through the UN system, thanks to increased legibility and flexibility. The Group calls on the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Haiti to take proactive steps in this direction and encourages United Nations entities on the ground, including UNDP, to engage in these efforts.

30. The Group witnessed the added value of joint efforts by several UN entities when visiting the National Institute of Training of Nurses and Midwives, whose construction was conducted by engineering units of MINUSTAH while equipment, supplies, revision of curriculum and technical support to operations are provided by UNFPA. The newly built facility, located within the largest maternity of Haiti, has opened doors to 80 midwifery students, after two years of disruption following the collapse of the building during the earthquake. The Group also visited a maternity and family planning center, supported by UNFPA in collaboration with UNOPS and UNV, in Port-au-Prince. It encourages the UN system to expand these activities in the provinces given the continued need to improve maternal health throughout the country.

31. Similarly, the Group recalls the integrated programme called “*Initiative Côte Sud*” run by several agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNOPS with support from FAO and others) which it visited in 2013. This project, aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Southern Department, constitutes a “Delivering as one” experience at the local level which could usefully inspire other initiatives of the UN system at a wider scale.

32. The Group was pleased to note the emphasis placed by the United Nations system on the strengthening of national capacities. For example, in the health sector, WHO and the UN system at large support the Government’s plans, and the Secretary-General himself has launched the second phase of a major vaccination campaign against the cholera as well as a sanitation campaign in the *Département du Centre*, together with the Prime Minister. The UN system also provides important support to the Haitian structures set up to prevent and manage disasters.

33. The work of United Nations specialized agencies in Haiti may not always be very visible as it focusses on developing capacities and it implies a longer term involvement in mentoring national structures in support of sectoral Ministries. It is though very important to increase absorptive capacities of the Haitian institutions.

34. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council (see S/2014/617), the consolidation and transition process in which MINUSTAH is now engaged is expected to lead to a reduced physical and staffing footprint of the Mission, beyond the troops themselves. Incremental disengagement from the Mission is therefore likely in areas related to institution building. In its report to the Council last year, the Group recognized that the gradual transfer of responsibility for activities from MINUSTAH to UN agencies in areas such as governance, human rights and disaster preparedness might prove difficult given budgetary constraints. Special efforts are therefore needed to secure continued assistance by the UN system in peacebuilding related areas.

35. The Group welcomes the idea of a comprehensive transition plan exercise involving MINUSTAH, UN agencies, funds and programmes, the Government of Haiti and donors who contribute to the UN system on the ground. Increased cooperation among UN entities in order to optimize the use of resources is part of the solution, in the spirit of “Delivering as One” initiatives. Joint mobilization of resources will also be important in order to involve donors. In all this process, UN agencies should provide back up and means to their offices in Haiti, commensurate to their needs in these exceptional circumstances.

36. The question of a contingency plan for the UN humanitarian and development activities in case of a significant reduction in MINUSTAH's presence should also be addressed, although there seems to be a general agreement as to maintaining a strong police component to the Mission. Indeed, support provided to the Haitian National Police (HNP) should be maintained at a high level, at least until the objective of 15,000 officers, set for 2016, is reached. At the time of reporting, the strength of the HNP stood at around 11,000 officers (less than ten per cent being women), which calls for continued efforts to recruit and train cadets. The donor community should keep in mind that the proper functioning of the HNP is key for embedding the rule of law in Haiti and sustaining development gains, and that both go hand in hand.

IV. Increasing aid effectiveness

37. Since the mandate of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission ended in October 2012, the relationship between the Government of Haiti and its development partners has been based on the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti (SPDH), which outlines a longer-term vision and articulates the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need for governance reform. The Strategic Plan is translated in successive triennial investment plans that focus on growth acceleration and poverty reduction and are to be included in the annual finance law.

38. The SPDH makes explicit references to the effectiveness of development assistance, including effective control by beneficiary country over their development policy, coordination of assistance and alignment of donor support to the country's strategies.

39. In practice, donor coordination in Haiti is facilitated by the G12+, an informal forum for donor coordination where fifteen bilateral and multilateral actors meet at least once a month, under the chairmanship of the United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General / Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/HR/HC), whose office provides secretariat support to the Group. In addition, the Country Director of UNDP is an observer of the G12+. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group welcomes the important role of the UN system in these endeavours in support of the Haitian authorities and the donor community at large.

40. The G12+ has been an active partner in the creation of the *Cadre de coordination de l'aide externe au développement d'Haiti* (CAED), the new framework for external assistance, which was launched in November 2012 in order to establish a better alignment between external development aid and national priorities. In March 2014, the first national meeting of the Aid Effectiveness Committee (CEA), a body within the CAED, was held with a wide range of participants and led to a statement agreeing to the implementation of a joint roadmap.

41. The operationalization of these mechanisms is to be made possible through the Planning and Study Units set up in all line Ministries. These units are pivotal in the process of conceptualizing, planning and monitoring projects as well as coordinating activities carried out by partners and providing support to the sector and thematic tables (*tables sectorielles et thématiques*). The latter are forums involving all actors and non-governmental organizations in a given sector, under the leadership of a specific Ministry. In practice, the Planning and Study Units remain weak and progress in strengthening them is contingent on the will of

individual Ministers to carry out reforms and to make use of them. Ministries should be further encouraged to operationalize these mechanisms in order to increase public accountability, donor confidence and aid delivery. The thematic and sector tables, which have produced mixed results, should also be used in a much more systematic way.

42. The alignment of aid with the Government's priorities and strategies is also an area where progress could be made. The Haitian authorities expressed strong expectations as to the alignment of donor support. To make substantive progress in this area, the implementation of the triennial investment plans which operationalize the SPDH should be prepared in consultation with partners and with a strong involvement of sector Ministries, well beyond the Ministry of Planning.

43. Progress on aid effectiveness requires increased transparency on various fronts. Donors are to adhere to transparency commitments by sharing information about their activities with the Ministry of Planning, which is responsible for tracking aid disbursements. At the same time, the donor community expects from the Government a number of institutional reforms related to the management of public finances, public administration and procurement processes. The Group welcomes the elaboration of a new law on corruption in this regard. Reforms also require strengthening oversight institutions, including the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, and making information available to the Parliament. It is also a matter of avoiding over the counter agreements (*contrats de gré à gré*) and keeping well-documented records of procurement procedures. Such reforms are likely to lead some donors to increase direct budgetary support. The Group urges all actors to make additional steps forward towards the full realization of their commitments in that respect.

44. Haitian development actors continue to ask for the simplification of disbursement procedures by donor organizations in order to accelerate project implementation. Several interlocutors of the Group agreed that some progress has been made in that respect, facilitated by the higher number of Haitian contractors capable of implementing activities. Given the importance of the issue in the perception of development support by Haitian recipients, these procedures should be regularly reviewed and adjusted with a view to promote efficiency in aid delivery.

45. The absence of a national budget approved by Parliament for the current year has been a barrier to greater aid effectiveness, as the Government operates on the budget of the previous year. More than half of the budget continues to depend on international support. The Government also benefits from funding under the Petrocaribe alliance, which represent a significant part of total domestic revenue and contribute to funding cash transfer and other programmes. Haiti and all its development partners would benefit from a regular dialogue on budgetary implications of international support in order to promote predictability of resources and avoid unsustainable patterns.

46. In the last year, the Government has taken steps to renew its partnership with non-governmental organizations. On 8 October 2013, the Prime Minister opened the National NGO Forum, following a commitment made a year before at a meeting held in the margins of the UN General Assembly, to discuss the role of NGOs in the development process. Over 500 NGOs are now registered and legally recognized by the Ministry of Planning. The Group, who has always met representatives of civil society during its visits, is encouraged by these developments. It praises the United Nations in Haiti for its efforts to promote civil society participation in aid coordination mechanisms, including the sectoral tables (*tables*

sectorielles), although the actual contribution of NGOs has been uneven. There continues to be a need to clarify and streamline procedures and regulations for NGOs working in Haiti, and the Group encourages further work on the draft legislation prepared on the matter, through an open and participatory process, with a view to renewing the collaborative relations between the Government and NGOs.

47. Mechanisms for major qualitative improvement in aid effectiveness are in place in Haiti. They should now be fully used to promote accountability and engage the country in a new phase of its relations with the donor community. The Government is in the driving seat and has elaborated relevant instruments to guide the whole development process. It should collectively promote them to donors in such a way as to ensure their alignment with the work of the various Ministries. Follow-up to the road map developed in the context of the CAED should be strengthened, including through a bigger involvement of Haitian leaders. The contribution of all partners, whether traditional or south-south cooperation actors, is also essential for the relevance of the process. The Group calls on the Government of Haiti and all its partners to give high priority to this exercise.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

48. **The Ad Hoc Advisory Group has witnessed continued progress in the economic and social situation in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of January 2010. While in the past, it expressed concern as to a lack of vision of Haiti's medium to long term development, the Group is now encouraged by the existence of planning tools which articulate an ambitious agenda for Haiti and concrete development objectives. The Group also welcomes tangible progress made on the ground on the economic and social**

front and congratulates all Haitian development actors for their hard work to take Haiti to a next step of its history.

49. As concrete as this progress can be, the Group continues to have concerns as to the sustainability of the development process in current political circumstances. At the time of reporting, the holding of elections, which are long overdue, is uncertain and political tensions continue without the willingness to find agreeable solutions. These political disputes echo the weaknesses of regulatory institutions, including the justice system and corrections, and reveal how fragile the rule of law remains in Haiti. The willingness to abide by well-defined written norms and to build the administrative and judicial structures to enforce them does not seem to have yet taken hold; hence the need for continued mentoring of and support to Haitian institutions. The Group is of the view that the capacity to provide assistance to Haitian institutions should be scaled up as the United Nations peace-keeping presence is being downscaled, with an important role being given to both MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team. Such UN support is crucial to sustain development gains and move the positive momentum that exists on the ground to a next step.

50. Given Haiti's continued fragility, and the economic and social needs associated with being a least developed country, Haiti's development partners should stay engaged with the Government and to do so in true partnership where dialogue and transparency prevail on both sides. The Group encourages the Government and its partners to move forward in this direction and to consider elaborating a compact through which the expectations of each part will be defined and medium term goals set. For ease of reference, the main recommendations contained in the body of the report are

summarized below for the consideration of all relevant actors and for that of the Council.

51. In order to sustain the development process, the group encourages Haiti's development partners to:

- (a) Take an active part in the donor coordination mechanisms, in particular the *Cadre de coordination de l'aide externe au développement d'Haiti (CAED)*, and work towards the implementation of joint commitments together with traditional donors and southern partners;
- (b) Make proactive steps to ensure that support is in line with the priorities and programmes set by the Government of Haiti, as contained in the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, the Triennial Development Plan and other follow-up documents, and liaise with the relevant sectoral Ministries to that end;
- (c) Support the development of productive capacities of Haiti in key sectors, such as tourism, agriculture and manufacturing as per decisions made by the Government;
- (d) Continue to simplify disbursement procedures in order to accelerate project implementation;
- (e) Consider providing direct budgetary support, using as much as possible Government channels and systematically include capacity-building components in their activities;
- (f) Increase development support in the provinces, including in rural communities, and involve local authorities and civil society in these activities;

- (g) Provide continued support to the Haitian National Police and its development plan for the period 2012-2016 while increasing assistance to the judiciary and other key institutions for the rule of law;**
- (h) Respond to the calls made by United Nations entities to fund humanitarian activities addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including those still living in camps, as well as calls to provide food assistance and to improve the sanitation and health sectors;**
- (i) Support capacity building activities carried out by the United Nations Country Team and MINUSTAH, and provide them with the means to sustain such activities on the medium to long term.**

52. In particular, the United Nations system is called on to:

- (a) Review the Integrated Strategic Framework with a view to promoting a “delivering as one” approach in UN development system activities and undertaking consolidated planning, fund raising and programme implementation;**
- (b) Plan for a smooth transition process in relation to the consolidation of MINUSTAH in such a way as to secure continued assistance by the UN system in peacebuilding related areas, such as governance, institutional building and human rights issues, and consider how best the United Nations can support peacebuilding efforts in Haiti, including through a possible involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, if requested by the Government of Haiti;**

- (c) **Ensure that country offices of UN system entities receive appropriate back up and financial support from Headquarters in order to operate adequately in this transition phase;**
 - (d) **Increase development activities outside of Port-au-Prince and take specific steps to strengthen capacities of local authorities and civil society in the provinces;**
 - (e) **Assert its role as a promoter of aid effectiveness through the provision of secretariat support to the G12+ and active participation in the CAED.**
53. **The Group also wishes to draw the attention of the Haitian authorities to the need to:**
- (a) **Take all the necessary steps to ensure that the senatorial, municipal and local elections are held without further delay and to ensure that legitimate, credible and well-functioning local authorities are in place;**
 - (b) **Improve dialogue among the executive and legislative branches of Government on the national budget with a view to its rapid adoption;**
 - (c) **Broaden the tax base and increase capacities to enforce fiscal legislation, among other efforts to strengthen administrative structures both in Ministries and at the decentralized level;**
 - (d) **Fully operationalize the CAED and its mechanisms, as per the road map adopted earlier this year, including through the setting up of planning and study units in key line Ministries and the functioning of thematic and sectoral tables led by Haitian Ministries;**

- (e) Accelerate reforms related to the management of public finances and procurement processes with a view to increase transparency in development support;**
- (f) Pursue the operationalization of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes and enforce the new law against corruption;**
- (g) Deepen dialogue with civil society and accelerate the elaboration of the draft legislation on the status and operations of non-governmental organizations;**
- (h) Continue to invest in social programmes aimed at reducing inequalities and provide humanitarian assistance to those who need it most;**
- (i) Continue to invest in the strengthening of the Haitian National Police, the judiciary, the penitentiary system and institutions geared towards embedding the rule of law in Haiti.**

Annex

Programme of the visits of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in Washington D.C. and Haiti

Visit to Washington D.C., 29 April 2014

10:00 Meeting with representatives of the International
Financial Institutions

Mr. Agustin Aguerre
Manager,
Country Department Haiti
Inter-American Development Bank

Mr. Joseph Ntamatungiro
Senior Economist for Haiti
International Monetary Fund

Ms. Michelle Keane
Lead Country Officer for Haiti
The World Bank

13:00 Working lunch

Guest speaker: Mr. Ian Schwab, Associate Director
of Advocacy, American Jewish World Service

15:00 Meeting with the Organization of American States
(OAS)

Discussion with members of the Core Group of the
OAS on Haiti and OAS Directors

Visit to Haiti, 12-15 May 2014

Monday 12 May

12:00 Arrival at Toussaint Louverture International Airport

12:45 Meeting with Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian
Coordinator a.i.

14:00 Meeting with Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-
General in Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH

16:00 Meeting with Mr. Duly Brutus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti

18:30 Reception hosted by SRSG Honoré

Tuesday 13 May

- 09:00 Visit of Camp Dahomey, a IDP camp managed by IOM
- 11:00 Visit of nursing school and maternity clinic Isaie Jeanty and of a maternal health center
- 15:30 Meeting with the United Nations Country Team
- 19:00 Diner with the G12+ (donor community)

Wednesday 14 May

- 08:00 Breakfast with civil society representatives
- 10:00 Visit of a housing reconstruction project managed by UNOPS at Morne Hercule
- 12:00 Meeting with President Michel Martelly
- 15:30 Meeting with Mr. Simon Dieuseul Desrat, President of the Senate, and other Parliamentarians
- 19:00 Cocktail reception hosted by the Embassy of Canada

Thursday 15 May

09:00 Meeting with Laurent Lamothe, Prime Minister of Haiti and Minister of
Planning and External Cooperation

11:00 Debrief with the Resident Coordinator a.i.

13:00 Departure to New York