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**PRESS RELEASE**

***Workshop for the preparation of a Departmental Response Plan to natural disasters in Cap-Haïtien***

***Cap-Haïtien, 28 June 2005*** – On June 28th, the Humanitarian Coordination Section of MINUSTAH, together with UNDP and the Civil Protection Directorate, organized a workshop in Cap-Haitian. The objective was the preparation of the Departmental Response Plan to natural disasters.

The exercise achieved three main issues: it established the Risk and Disaster Management Committee and the Emergency Operation for the North department, and worked out an Emergency Operational Guide that identifies the actions to be undertaken before, during and after a disaster. Thirty five persons attended the workshop, including the Secrétaire Général of the Delegation, the officials from different Departmental Directions, NGOs and MINUSTAH representatives. The responsibilities of each institution/organization have been defined.

This workshop was a crucial step towards the establishment of the response structure and mechanism in case of natural disaster. However, an important work remains. All the participants agreed that by end of July the Departmental Response Plan should be finalized and validated.

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