Excellency,

As you are aware, a catastrophic earthquake has struck Haiti. Immense loss of life and widespread damage are feared as more reports pour in. This is a tragedy of immense proportions for the people of Haiti. The United Nations is already in motion in order to provide emergency rescue and relief assistance to the people of Haiti. We need to mobilize all the resources of the international community and to coordinate all our efforts to respond urgently and effectively to the situation.

In consultation with the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, I am convening an urgent informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly this afternoon, at 4 p.m. in Conference Room 1 to hear a briefing by the Secretary General and to discuss the situation.

(Emmo Monthe)
Acting President

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations New York.