and of which Canada prides itself as being a member – one country remains in such a state of democratic, economic, and social devastation. Canada should develop a long-term, coherent approach towards Haiti. Although one country alone cannot accomplish the Herculean task ahead, it can surely lead the way in developing a sound strategy for international cooperation in this area.

At the same time, Haiti needs a blitz intervention: tremendous amounts of money in every sector of democratic, economic, and social life. The international community has to release adequate funds and technical assistance. The longer it waits to give the necessary push to development, the more money will be spent in projects that address short-term needs. If appropriate action is taken now, the cost of rescuing Haiti – in the long term – will be much less than simply resuscitating it for many years.

Governance

In the area of Law, Order, and Democracy, Canada should realize from its current activities in Haiti that no measure will bring long-term results if it tackles only one aspect of this sphere of activities. For instance, supporting a newly created police force to maintain a safe and stable environment without concurrently reforming the judicial system will lead nowhere, nor will reforming the judiciary system take hold without concurrently reforming the correctional system.

In the area of the Economy, Strengthening the State, and Democracy, Canada should realize the impact that democratic development has on economic development, and vice versa. No attempt at providing economic growth will be successful without solid democratic institutions in place. Nor will an attempt at strengthening democratic institutions of the State succeed if there is no encouragement of economic development.

In the area of Social Development and Democracy, Canada should note the pitfalls of a strategy that lacks coherence. For instance, financing NGOs and governments in sectors where they become competitors, rather than collaborators, cannot lead to great development results. Canada should favour a consensual approach among all development actors in a given country, which will lead to the harmonization of all its development policies directed to that country.

Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) Ottawa, April 29, 1997