

align their priorities with those of the Haitian government and its people in order to ensure that they all become part of a coherent and effective compact. The sustainability of the current Haitian reconstruction process depends on this commitment to coordination, communication, and cooperation.

In that spirit, we are here to support the work of MINUSTAH and to take stock of the progress to date of this integrated mission. I understand that you will explore how this UN integrated mission can address the next set of challenges, guided by the next Security Council mandate for MINUSTAH. Mindful that MINUSTAH's mandate should be renewed in the coming days, your discussions will reflect an imperative to build on past achievements, to strengthen institutional and personal links, and to promote best practices.

Assisting in the reconstruction of a country is indeed a matter of great responsibility, requiring a unique savoir-faire. A great Brazilian and an illustrious UN diplomat, the late Sergio Vieira de Mello, was one of the most seasoned global experts in the formulation and implementation of integrated UN efforts to effectively support reconstruction. His distinguished career of more than 30 years of service exemplifies the laudable work the United Nations has done the world over and the cumulative knowledge gathered during all these operations. Sergio de Mello drafted simple guiding principles for a successful and sustainable integration of international reconstruction, humanitarian assistance and institutional reform efforts in post-conflict societies. One principle was a need to maintain a dialogue with all actors and engage on pre-deployment planning. He also stressed that a mission's Security Council mandate would only be a source of legitimacy for as long as its abstract principles could rapidly translate into tangible improvements for the population in security, peace, and a minimum degree of well-being.

Sergio de Mello's legacy should permeate how the international community continues to face the challenges of this important assignment, and his principles should guide us all. That is why we are here today.

In saluting him, I salute the land of his birth, the work of the United Nations Mission in Haiti, and the dedication of all those committed to Haiti's peace, security and new starting point.

Thank you.