

Haiti faces development and security challenges of great magnitude, but it can count on the firm support of its friends from all over the continent. While we all recognize that the new Haitian government must lead on the development agenda, this seminar is concrete proof that countries are committed to working with the United Nations, other key donors and the Haitian government to ensure that peace and security provide the needed conditions for development.

During her visit to Haiti in 2006, Canada's Governor General, Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, said, "... for Haitians, hope has always been a golden rule of life, even when it was only held together by a thread. Let's take this thread and trace a new starting point for Haiti."

Indeed, let's take this thread and weave a new future for Haiti. This undertaking began with close collaborative work to provide the opportunity for the Haitian people to choose their leaders in free and transparent elections. It is to these leaders that the international community—and Haitians, of course—are now looking to provide leadership in determining the way forward for the country. This undertaking now requires the full support of the international community, support that is to a significant extent channelled via the United Nations and its mission in Haiti.

As part of our engagement, Canada, through its Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force, will provide \$5 million to MINUSTAH/UNDP [United Nations Development Programme] to support the Haitian National Police in its reform program. In addition, I am announcing that Canada will also provide \$5 million to support the important work done with the National Commission for Disarmament, Dismantlement and Reintegration through the Community Security, Violence Prevention and Small Arms Control Initiative. In particular, this latter initiative will build upon the success achieved by the Brazilian command of MINUSTAH's military component in tackling gang violence in Port-au-Prince's worst neighbourhoods and restoring confidence within the population. Canada hopes that these two initiatives will contribute to Haiti's peace and security and reconstruction efforts.

In a complex post-conflict reconstruction effort, restoring peace and security are the ultimate goals. Priorities are many and they all deserve to come first. To succeed, a concerted effort is required by all those involved. UN agencies, civilian police and military forces—acting under a Security Council mandate—bilateral cooperation agencies, and other national and international reconstruction actors must define their work on the basis of an encompassing spirit of coordination, communication, and cooperation.

This applies equally to all mission priorities: institutional reform, disaster and humanitarian relief efforts, promoting human rights and democratic institutions, supporting electoral processes, or robustly supporting the enforcement of the rule of law. Indeed, those involved in reconstruction and humanitarian projects in Haiti need to