

**International Republican Institute  
Agency for International Development  
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Quarterly Report  
April - June, 2005**

**HAITI POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT**

**Project Dates: September 28, 2001 – September 30, 2006  
Total Budget: \$3,575,000 Expenses to date: \$1,618,231  
Project # 8079**

**I. SUMMARY**

In its third quarter, the International Republican Institute opened an in-country office and launched all companion programming related to IRI's re-engagement on the ground. This includes 1) training and strengthening political parties, 2) mobilizing women, 3) engaging youth, including developing a sub-grant relationship with a local non-governmental organization, 4) implementing the creation of a credible Haitian political polling institution, 5) conducting the first meetings of the Haiti International Assessment Committee, a high-level bipartisan and international delegation committed to surveying Haiti's current political environment, and 6) initiating the reformatting of [haitigetinvolved.com](http://haitigetinvolved.com), a website dedicated to providing information on Haiti's political environment.

To accomplish its rigorous programming agenda, IRI built up a new team in both Washington, D.C. and Haiti. IRI's Haiti program staff now includes a program director, one program officer and a program assistant based in Washington, D.C., as well as a resident country director, resident assistant program officer and two political consultants in Haiti.

**II. BACKGROUND**

This fall, Haitians will elect a new government. However, while the electoral calendar – as established by the Provisional Electoral Council – is driving Haiti toward transition, many are hesitant to assert that these elections will bring about a change in Haiti's political fortune. In addition to critical concerns about the security and stability of the nation in general, apprehension is fueled by the weakness of the country's political infrastructure.

At present, concerns related to violence and insecurity fuel anxiety related to the elections. In recent weeks, the U.N. peacekeeping force, MINUSTAH, and the Haitian National Police have begun to actively disarm rebel leaders and militants. Nevertheless, a climate of uncertainty clouds electoral prospects.

Over the course of a two-year programming initiative, IRI is working to strengthen Haiti's democratic political infrastructure and the likelihood of a successful, democratic election in late 2005. Through its various programming initiatives, IRI will help accomplish this goal by supporting the development of a credible, competitive, and transparent political environment.

**III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

## **1. Political Party Strengthening**

IRI launched its political party strengthening program by meeting with the leaders of both major and smaller political parties to conduct initial baseline assessments. These individuals and parties included:

- Luc Mesadieu and Fritz Clerveau Pierre of MOCHRENA
- Gerald Gilles, Rudy Hériveaux, Jean Marie Louiner and Fleuranvil St-Glagys of Fanmi Lavalas (FL)
- Enold Joseph and André Michel Democratic Initiative Committee (KID)
- Marc Bazin of the Movement to Install Democracy in Haiti (MIDH)
- Edgard Leblanc and Ary Marsan of the Organization of the People in Struggle (OPL)
- Serge Gilles and Micha Gaillard of Fusion Party of Social Democrats (PFSD)
- Hubert Deronceray of the Great Center Right Front (GFCD)
- Chavannes Jeune and Claude Germain of UNCRH
- Daniel Supplice and Boris Montes of Popular Party for Haitian Renewal (PPRH)
- Democratic Action to Build Haiti
- Patriotic National movement of November 28

In these meetings, IRI sought to gauge party strengths, weaknesses and possibilities of coalitions or electoral alliances with other parties. Interestingly, there was a great deal of willingness on the part of all parties to team up with MOCHRENA and UNCRH in some kind of coalition or electoral alliance. Although it is never too early to start negotiations, the parties are not yet in the frame of mind to pursue the question of coalitions and/or electoral alliances. IRI will continue to push the question in future meetings with party leaders.

To further encourage coalition building, IRI organized multi-party trainings and meetings related to election organization concerns and updates.

### ***Voter Communication - Voter Registration Outreach Trainings***

The issue of low voter registration has raised many concerns regarding the possibility of successful elections in October and November. A tense security situation, slow organization of registration centers by national authorities and international agencies, a worsening economic situation, and a lack of popular enthusiasm towards those vying for power has resulted in popular apathy and low registration turnout to date. As of the drafting of this report, fewer than 10% of the country's 4.3 million eligible voters have registered, with about six weeks left to do so.

To recruit political parties in the effort to get as many Haitians as possible registered to vote, IRI organized a series of training seminars in June for political party leaders on the issue of voter registration. The idea was to encourage parties to constructively engage in this important phase of election organization, and to help them understand that unless voters register, there will be few people for them to bring to the polls.

Forty-three party representatives attended the first full-day training seminar on June 14. Pauris Jean Baptiste from the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) opened the event with an overview of CEP elections preparations and voter registration to date. He sent a strong message to political parties to play an active role in voter registration efforts to contribute to the organization of successful elections. United Nations (UN) Chief of Electoral Assistance Gerardo LeChevalier and Organization of American States (OAS) General Coordinator Elizabeth Spehar followed with a joint presentation on voter registration set-up and a breakdown of those who had registered to date by gender and location.

IRI international trainer Mary Pendleton then discussed the critical role of political parties in election organization and assisted parties in developing strategies to get involved in the registration process. By focusing on non-partisan message development, Ms. Pendleton encouraged party representatives to work together in the effort to register as many voters as possible. By communicating a nonpartisan message, party members would work to undermine voter apathy and fatigue as citizens face more urgent personal security and employment concerns.

IRI followed-up with a second training seminar on June 30, to “check in” with the parties and assist them in refining messages to counter voter apathy. Trainer Mary Pendleton returned to conduct a one-day training for 17 party representatives. Although IRI was disappointed with a lower turnout than in the previous training, all present were enthusiastic and illustrated a strong understanding of the importance for the parties to work together in efforts to register voters.

Ms. Pendleton opened the session with a presentation on the role of political parties during an election cycle, reinforcing the need for parties to communicate nonpartisan messages to motivate supporters, and all eligible voters in general, to register. She then worked with the parties to develop strategies and talking points to use when trying to encourage voters to register, and possible responses to counter indifference generated by personal security concerns and voter dissatisfaction with the government and political parties. She encouraged all parties to develop information handouts with voter registration locations, and hand these out in areas where Haitians gather, including markets, churches, and schools, as well as in door-to-door outreach efforts. To provide participants with opportunities to practice strategies and refine messages, she divided everyone into smaller groups to engage in role-playing exercises based on various scenarios (see Appendix #1).

Throughout her presentation, Ms. Pendleton stressed the importance of nonpartisan communication, as it is generally understood that there is a lack of popular enthusiasm for Haitian political parties. She also encouraged parties to organize a multi-party Get-Out-the-Registration drive, to illustrate to eligible voters that Haitian political parties are working together to rebuild the country’s democracy and promote peaceful, fair and successful elections.

Participants left the seminar motivated to work together on the issue, but continued to express concerns that efforts won’t be fruitful unless overall security issues are improved. There remained a general perception that until Haitians are not overly concerned with being kidnapped for ransom, they will never be enthused about upcoming elections and the need to register to vote, regardless of how valuable the registration card will be in the future. Participants expressed

interest in a multi-party registration drive, for which they would attempt to work closely with the media to build awareness and participation. IRI will reach out to the seminar participants to encourage them to follow-through on the idea.

### ***Party Strengthening at the Local Level***

On Friday, July 1, IRI teamed with CONOSPOL to sponsor a seminar for local-level party leaders in Croix de Bouquet. Over 130 local party activists attended the event. CONOSPOL, headed by Fednel Monchery, provides training for party leaders and members at the grassroots level. The July 1 event, conducted in Creole, focused on election organization, including descriptions of all local level posts, voter registration, campaign organization and message development. Participants expressed thanks to CONOSPOL and IRI for organizing the event, as training seminars of this kind rarely occur outside of Port-au-Prince.

### ***Peace Committees***

IRI-Haiti discussed with political party leaders the initiative to organize Peace Committees, with the objective of creating a forum in which political leaders could resolve inter- and intra-party conflict in a peaceful and constructive way. Many political party leaders thought the idea was an excellent one. However, they did not engage in discussions with IRI to identify concrete ways to get the initiative off the ground. Instead, they turned conversations to focus more on party strengthening and elections.

IRI understands the importance of elections for the country, and will therefore work with political party leaders on those issues, including platform development and constituent outreach, leading up to October and November elections. At the same time, IRI will continue to organize multi-party training seminars and meetings, so as to continue strengthening relations between the parties.

In the meantime, IRI is attempting to identify mid-level and grassroots-level party representatives to engage in the organization of Peace Committees, possibly at the departmental level, depending on interest.

## **2. Engaging Women**

Ms. Pendleton's voter registration trainings conducted for political parties were repeated for women political and civic leaders on July 1. Over 60 women political and civic leaders attended the seminar to develop strategies to increase voter registration rates. Participants understood immediately the importance of the registration period for overall success of October and November elections.

Furthermore, IRI-Haiti communicated with COHFEL to identify ways to support efforts to promote women in Haitian politics. COHFEL is currently discussing internally the possibility of becoming a well-known non-profit association dedicated to promoting women's political participation. However, with upcoming elections, many of the network's leaders are considering

the possibility of running for elections. IRI is therefore working to identify upcoming leaders within the network to work with to develop a longer term project with COHFEL. This may include capacity building training for Haitian women interested in becoming more active in politics, or strategic development support to assist COHFEL in its efforts to develop into an association.

### **3. Mobilizing Youth**

Throughout the quarter, IRI-Haiti worked with Hans Tippenhauer of Fondation Espoir to develop a skills-building project for youth in parties, in particular those running for office. IRI has come to an agreement with Espoir on a project to fund, and is in the process of issuing a subgrant. The project includes a selective nomination and review process, to guarantee that qualified candidates, and not just a privileged few, are able to participate. Training seminars focus on the nuts-and-bolts of campaign organization and public speaking. Training seminars will take place both in Port-au-Prince as well as in the departments, with an emphasis on the rural areas, to encourage the development of new leaders at the grassroots level. IRI expects to issue the sub-grant sometime during the next quarter.

### **4. Polling Project**

During this quarter, IRI made great advances in the effort to develop an indigenous polling organization that would generate credible data on the desires and demands of the Haitian people. Following numerous conversations and consultation meetings with Haitian and international experts, IRI solicited proposals from both universities and private firms with polling and statistical analysis experience to establish a polling center.

From June 26-30, IRI brought to Haiti US polling expert Bruce Barcelo, to meet with interested parties and participate in the proposal review process. Mr. Barcelo has assisted IRI on similar initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe.

IRI has decided to move forward with the University of Notre Dame-Haiti (UNDH) for a number of reasons. First, the UNDH leadership illustrated a better understanding of IRI's project vision, to establish a permanent polling organization, as opposed to a short term project leading up to elections. Secondly, the University has campuses throughout the country, facilitating the gathering of data at the departmental level. Third, UNDH is committed to preparing their students to serve as data collectors, and to guaranteeing the integrity of the data collection methodology, always a sensitive subject with newer organizations.

At the end of June, IRI and UNDH had come to an agreement for a five-month initial project. UNDH is preparing the requisite documentation in order for IRI to award a sub-grant and, should everything remain on track, to begin conducting polling prior to elections.

### **5. Haiti International Assessment Committee**

Throughout the quarter, IRI invested in the development of the Haiti International Assessment Committee. The committee is scheduled to undertake four missions to Haiti over

the next 9 months, with the last mission purposely designed to occur after the inauguration of a democratically elected officials in February 2006.

HIAC's members include former U.S. Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), former U.S. Senator Bob Graham (D-FL), former Canadian Minister of External Affairs Barbara McDougall, and former Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States Ambassador Christopher Thomas of Trinidad & Tobago. Clovis Brigagão, a Brazilian previously confirmed to participate in the committee, has since withdrawn for personal reasons. IRI is currently working to find an appropriate replacement, also from Brazil.

The strategic objectives of HIAC are two-fold: First, to indicate through the bipartisan and international composition of the committee and its schedule of repeated missions, a broad and deep commitment to Haiti's democratization process by the international community. Second, to provide an expert committee with outreach capabilities to key actors in Haiti and in the hemisphere that will provide support, offer assessments, highlight issues and express concerns if necessary, all in a constructive and direct manner that characterizes the nature of this Committee.

The committee's activity culminated this quarter on June 23-24 with an "orientation" gathering in Washington, D.C.. The orientation comprised a series of high-level meetings with U.S. Congress, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The committee also spoke with Ambassador James Foley via conference call. Principals in each meeting included the following;

- **U.S. Congress:** Senator Mike DeWine and key congressional staff including representatives of the offices of Senator Richard Lugar, Representative Dan Burton, and Representative Henry Hyde. Also invited were representatives of the offices of Senator Mel Martinez, Senator Christopher Dodd, Representative Tom Lantos, and Representative Charlie Rangel. Jim Swigert of the National Democratic Institute was also in attendance.
- **OAS:** Secretary General Insulza, Assistant Secretary General Luigi Einaudi, Assistant Secretary General-Elect, Albert Ramdin.
- **IADB:** Hector Morales, US Executive Director; Lionel Nicol, Deputy Manager Regional Operations Department 2; Ericq Pierre, Haiti Analyst
- **State Department:** Jim Derham, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and; Brian Nichols, Director of Caribbean Affairs, State Department
- **USAID:** Adolfo Franco, Assistant Administrator; Cecily Mango

The orientation gave committee members the opportunity to ask questions of policy makers most intimately involved with Haiti before undertaking their first mission. Although originally scheduled to travel to Haiti immediately following its orientation, IRI decided to postpone the

committee's first assessment mission temporarily. The first mission to Haiti will now occur on July 23-24.

Following its orientation, the committee produced a set of "findings and recommendations" (see Appendix #2). The committee will produce a similar document following each of its four missions to Haiti.

## **6. [www.haitigetinvolved.com](http://www.haitigetinvolved.com)**

IRI is currently working to re-format the website it hosts, which is designed to encourage broader access to accurate information about Haiti's political environment. The website serves as an information clearinghouse for Haitians and the Haitian Diaspora. Its current structure is overly comprehensive. New formatting efforts will streamline the website's content to primarily include information related to Haiti's current electoral process. The website will direct users to additional information sources, including reports, news articles, and training manuals.

## **IV. EVALUATION**

### **Result 1.**

Haitian democratic political parties become more democratic, more transparent, and in the process, more efficient in achieving objectives.

Indicators:

1. Democratic parties will establish national and departmental structures nationwide.  
*Nothing new to report.*
2. Mechanisms for input on party policy from municipal and regional coordinators will be put into place.  
*Nothing new to report.*
3. Parties will publish a party platform with specific proposals in the areas of education, security, Health, justice, agriculture, credit, corruption, international relations, job creation, taxes, trade, etc.  
*Nothing new to report.*
4. Parties will undertake a public relations campaign to communicate to the voters the ideas in their platform.  
*Nothing new to report.*

### **Result 2.**

Political parties develop the skills needed to negotiate and resolve contentious issues that create intra- and inter-party conflict.

Indicators:

1. Political parties will create frameworks and initiate inter-party forums at the national and departmental levels in order to identify and resolve inter-party issues.

*IRI is working to promote inter-party dialogue by convening party leaders for discussions and trainings regarding the upcoming elections cycle. Parties are actively discussing potential coalitions and alliances, indicating a general increase in trust between party leaders.*

2. Political parties will sign inter-party agreements that foster a more cooperative political environment by specifically creating pledges of non-violence.

*In May of 2005, many political party leaders signed a “code of conduct” pact that outlined twelve articles regulating party behavior throughout the electoral process. IRI will monitor party adherence to code of conduct commitments..*

### Result 3.

Political parties and civil society groups create alternatives to the use of violence as a political tool.

Indicators:

1. Political parties and civil society will sign a non-violence pact prohibiting the use of violence for any purposes.

*Nothing new to report.*

2. Youth activists will establish a youth against violence network to help prevent the recruitment of young people for violent acts.

*Nothing new to report.*

### Result 4.

IRI [haitigetinvolved.com](http://haitigetinvolved.com) website becomes an informational resource for Haitians, the Diaspora and the international community.

Indicators:

1. The website will have regularly updated content on the economic, social and political situation in Haiti.

*The current effort to streamline the website will ensure that all pages of the website are updated weekly.*

2. Political parties will use the website to post meeting schedules, agendas, and non-violence pacts.

*An updated list of political parties and their leadership has been created and posted. Additionally, political party leaders have been made aware of the website and have been asked to make available to users information about their parties and issue platforms.*

## Result 5.

Political parties will increase the interaction of women and youth within their membership as well as support women and youth members as candidates for public office.

Indicators:

1. Women and youth sub-committees will be created within political parties.

*IRI hosted a training seminar for women party representatives on July 1. Most parties were able to quickly identify a female participant, indicating an increased awareness of the role of women within their political party structure. IRI will continue to focus trainings on women, thereby underscoring to parties the value of that constituency.*

2. Political parties will adopt platforms that address priority issues for women and youth.

*Nothing new to report.*

## APPENDIX #1

### POLITICAL PARTY SCENARIOS

#### *Scenario 1*

**Your political party is conducting a voter registration ‘blitz’ in a low-income area of Port-au-Prince. You come upon a group of young people who complain that the government has done nothing for them, saying, “Why should we register? Why should we vote? Nothing will ever get better no matter who we vote for.”**

- Q. What do you say to convince these young people to register?
- Q. Explain to these young people the benefits of voting.
- Q. Explain why you are involved in your political party and how it can help citizens.

#### *Scenario 2*

**Your political party has decided to conduct a door-to-door voter registration drive. One of your supporters knocks on the door of a house and one of the house staff asks what he/she wants. After explaining what the party representative is doing, the staff person asks why he should vote and asks about your party.**

- Q. What information about the people who live at this house do you need from the staff person to complete your forms?
- Q. Do you hand out printed information, and if so, what does it look like/say?
- Q. Explain why the political parties, your political party in particular, are involved in the voter registration process.
- Q. What do you say to this person to convince him to register?

#### *Scenario 3*

**Your political party is handing out flyers encouraging voters to register. An elderly woman approaches one of your supporters and asks how she can register; she’s worried about the security situation and is unsure where the voter registration center is.**

- Q. What does your flyer look like/what does it say?
- Q. What do you say to this elderly woman?
- Q. How do you help voters overcome their fear of going to the registration center?
- Q. How do you explain to the woman where the registration center is?

#### *Scenario 4*

**Three different political parties have decided to work together to do a voter registration drive. Develop a plan for a one day voter registration drive; explain what will be done, what materials will be developed, where the drive will be conducted, how the plan will be implemented, and why you have done it this way.**

#### *Scenario 5*

**Your party has been asked to participate in a radio interview about the upcoming elections and the voter registration process. You have been told that the interview will last for 5 minutes and will simply be your party representative and the interviewer in the studio. In addition to other questions, some of the questions to be asked will include:**

Q. Why should citizens register to vote?

Q. Why are these elections important?

*Note: Your group should designate one person who will be on the radio. One of the seminar organizers will be the interviewer.*

*Scenario 6*

**Representatives of three different political parties have been asked to participate in a radio discussion about the elections and the voter registration process. The interviewer will be asking the questions and will decide which party to direct each question to; the other parties may also respond to the questions posed. In addition to other questions, some of the questions to be posed will include:**

Q. Why are the political parties not being active in the voter registration process?

Q. What can political parties do for citizens?

*Note: Your group should designate three people, who will represent three different parties, to be on the radio. One of the seminar organizers will be the interviewer.*

*Scenario 7*

**Your political party has been asked to participate in a debate about the upcoming elections and the voter registration process that will be aired over community radio. The moderator will ask the same questions of the two parties and each party should come prepared to ask the other party two questions. Each responder will have 30 seconds to answer each question. Some of the questions from the moderator will include:**

Q. Why is it important for citizens to register to vote?

Q. What role is your political party playing in the voter registration process?

*Note: Your group should designate two people, who will represent two different parties, to be in the debate. One of the seminar organizers will act as the moderator of the debate.*

## APPENDIX #2

### Haiti International Assessment Committee

#### *Orientation: Findings & Recommendations*

*June 30, 2005*

The efforts of the Haiti International Assessment Committee (HIAC) were launched in Washington June 23-24 with a series of high-level private meetings. The latter included a cross-section of U.S. and international institutional players focusing on Haiti.<sup>1</sup>

HIAC is composed of five members, four of whom participated in the Washington briefings.<sup>2</sup> The committee is scheduled to undertake four missions to Haiti over the next 9 months, with the last mission purposely designed to occur after the inauguration of a democratically elected government in February 2006.

The strategic objectives of HIAC are two-fold: First, to indicate through the bipartisan and international composition of the committee and its schedule of repeated missions, a broad and deep commitment to Haiti's democratization process by the international community. Second, HIAC constitutes an expert committee with outreach capabilities to key actors in Haiti and in the hemisphere. Its members will provide support, offer assessments, highlight issues and express concerns if necessary, all in a constructive and direct manner that characterizes the nature of this Committee.

In addition, HIAC foresees in its assessments an opportunity to review one of the world's longest-standing crisis environments. In the long-term, lessons learned in Haiti may serve as a test-case for future U.N. or international missions elsewhere.

From this initial set of meetings in Washington, HIAC draws the following set of observations and areas of recommended action.

#### **A. FINDINGS**

1. HIAC notes and commends the engagement of the international community on behalf of the Haitian people and their plight to overcome development challenges and to achieve a safer, democratic future. HIAC urges the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, and various agencies of the U.S. and international governments to redouble their efforts in insuring a viable transition to constitutional government in Haiti by early next year.
2. The environment on the ground has deteriorated over the past three months and is approaching a crisis. HIAC is concerned about the pace of response from the international community and the differing levels of urgency assigned by governments and international agencies. While there is general agreement that a greater effort is needed to stave off a complete unraveling in Haiti, HIAC detects less certainty about insuring prompt and targeted action on the ground. The timeline must not be months or years but, at best, several weeks to a few months.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes congressional staff and members, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the State Department Office of Western Hemispheric Affairs and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

<sup>2</sup> These findings and recommendations reflect the thinking of four committee members present in Washington, D.C.. They include former U.S. Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), former U.S. Senator Bob Graham (D-FL), former Canadian Minister of External Affairs Barbara McDougall, and former Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States Ambassador Christopher Thomas of Trinidad & Tobago.

3. Three observations highlight concern about the short-run course of development in Haiti. The first relates to the key security instrument of the international community's efforts in Haiti, MINUSTAH.<sup>3</sup> HIAC is encouraged by the recent UN resolution extending the mandate<sup>4</sup> and expanding its capabilities in the face of troublesome violence. However, HIAC is also left with the impression that MINUSTAH has chosen not to adopt or execute more robust disarmament measures. MINUSTAH's shortcomings cannot be disregarded without undermining the viability of the international community's efforts in the eyes of the Haitian people.

The second observation relates to Haiti's interim government and its apparent inability to come to grips with the legal and political case involving former Prime Minister, Yvon Neptune. The interim government's performance across a range of policy issues under very trying circumstances since 2004 is laudable; however, its failure to resolve the Neptune matter — regardless of the merits of the case — test the interim government's credibility domestically and internationally. This must be addressed promptly.

Finally, on the basis of various reports from Haiti, the committee is of the view that former President Jean Bertrand Aristide is exerting — through his supporters in Haiti — a negative influence on Haiti's current political process. HIAC is uncertain what the specific evidence is to support this assessment, suggesting a need to probe the exact character of Mr. Aristide's engagement and its purpose.

4. HIAC believes that while financial commitments to Haiti's reconstruction are significant, the process is undermined in major ways. First, it is unclear how funds can be effectively managed by a government lacking administrative capacity. Second, project execution is hampered by the insecure environment. Third, actual disbursement appears slow, so that only limited moneys are getting to Haiti. As an example, the Inter-American Development Bank committed \$400 million through its Fund for Special Operations to Haiti, but as of June 23, had dispersed only \$80 million to its projects. A related concern, underscored recently at the Montreal donor coordination conference, is that outside the U.S. and Canada, funds committed earlier in 2004 have yet to be obligated.
5. The political and electoral process, as measured by the voter registration effort, is off to a very slow start, leading to concern at a possible delay of the fall elections calendar by at least a few weeks. Logistical issues, exacerbated by insecurity, are the most common explanations, although finger-pointing among the UN, the Haitian government, the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), and the OAS is counter-productive.

## **B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The security situation in the Port-au-Prince area is explosive and is corroding the viability of the electoral timetable, let alone efforts at building a base for economic and social development under a democratically elected government early next year. This desperate situation cannot be allowed to endure and suggests urgent corrective action. One or more committee members felt that consideration should be given to the re-deployment of U.S. troops and Canadian police if current Haitian and international security forces are unable to restore order. As the security situation is

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<sup>3</sup> MINUSTAH is the "United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti"

<sup>4</sup> On June 22, 2005, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously, in Resolution 1608, to increase by approximately 1,000 the size of the security force in Haiti. MINUSTAH will consist of a military component of up to 7,500 troops of all ranks and up to 1,897 Civilian Police. The resolution also extended MINUSTAH's mandate through February 15, 2006.

rapidly deteriorating, HIAC also encourages the UN to move expeditiously in deploying to Haiti the additional military troops and police approved in Resolution 1608.

A corollary response should entail a thorough review of MINUSTAH's terms of engagement on the ground, leaning toward a more robust and effective presence. This also includes addressing the intelligence and logistical needs of the force that have weakened its effectiveness so far. If these and related actions are not implemented promptly, HIAC is deeply concerned that more drastic measures by the international community will have to be contemplated sooner rather than later. In the end, the security situation is manageable but requires greater discipline than has been demonstrated thus far.

2. While attention should be focused on the short term pre-election period, the international community is undermining its own chances of success by failing to expend some energy on a mid-term, post-election package of goals. This might include the following ideas: a) insuring that key institutions that frame Haiti's political process (such as the CEP) have operational resources to survive in the wake of elections,<sup>5</sup> b) insuring that legislation supporting Haiti's ability to create jobs and trade with the international community in a reasonably competitive manner is considered by the U.S. Congress in the near term<sup>6</sup>.
3. Although there are salient areas of disagreement between Washington/Ottawa/Paris and the CARICOM governments linked to last year's departure of President Aristide, there is also a consensus suggestive of an important role that the Caribbean's democratic community can play in the construction of democracy in Haiti. CARICOM's historical commitment to democracy and non-violence is a unique asset that if fully deployed in Haiti can also provide the foundations for a long-sought after national political consensus among Haiti's legitimate political forces.

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<sup>5</sup> In the 1990s and again in 2000 the international community's investment in a voter registration process ended up being wasted away because the technical and managerial infrastructure of the CEP was left unsupported.

<sup>6</sup> Under consideration in the US Congress, for example, are versions of trade preference initiatives benefiting Haiti, most notably the Haitian Economic Recovery and Opportunity (HERO) Act, later rewritten as the HOPE Act, and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).