



## Press release

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Paris, 31 March 2010

### **La Francophonie presents its proposals for action to the International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti**

**New-York, UN head office, 31 March 2010**

Invited by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the American Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, at the request of the Haitian government and in cooperation with Brazil, Canada, Spain, France and the European Union, La Francophonie presented its proposals for action for the reconstruction of Haiti to the International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti, at the United Nations head office in New York on 31 March 2010. The Secretary General of La Francophonie appointed Clément Duhaime, Director of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) to deliver this message.

La Francophonie's proposals for action cover two priority fields of intervention identified in the "Action Plan for the Recovery and Development of Haiti" presented by the Government of the Republic of Haiti to the International Donors' Conference:

- **social reform:** La Francophonie proposes to work towards a root-and-branch reform of the education system, from nursery to higher education
- **institutional reform:** the proposed actions focus on reforming the justice system and the rule of law.

The actions of La Francophonie are intended to fit with an overall framework based on complementarity and coordination of actions with the bilateral and multilateral partners associated with the reconstruction and development of the country.

Multilateral francophone cooperation on the ground in Haiti has been in existence for some 20 years through the OIF, which acts in coordination with the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF) and La Francophonie's specialised operators: The University Agency of La Francophonie (AUF), which has also been active on the ground for over 20 years, the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), TV5Monde and the Université Senghor.

The contribution of La Francophonie to strengthening the capacities of institutions will be focusing on reconstruction of the justice system, the interior ministry and the legislative power, together with local authority management. The idea is to capitalise on and supplement the expertise already acquired by La Francophonie in Haiti. For the education system, which is the cornerstone of sustainable development, La Francophonie is keen to assist the Haitian government by intervening both in emergency reconstruction and the need for a root-and-branch reform of the system, from nursery school to university level. A medium- and long-term strategy will be developed, with the French and Creole languages placed at the centre of this reform.

Keen to bring real added value and to capitalise on its specific know-how and acknowledged expertise, La Francophonie will act in close cooperation with the international community on projects deployed on the ground to implement the decisions taken by the International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti.

**For more information:** [www.francophonie.org](http://www.francophonie.org) and [www.haiticonference.org/french](http://www.haiticonference.org/french)

**The OIF brings together 56 Member States and Governments and 14 countries with observer status**

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