



Organization of
American States

2010 COMPILATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS

*Compilation of civil society recommendations presented to the Organization of American States
on issues pertaining to the Inter-American Agenda*

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I. HEMISPHERIC ROUNDTABLE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE SECOND INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – NOVEMBER 17, 2010

Declaration of the Participating Civil Society Organizations

We thank you for the opportunity to share with you our recommendations and we urge you to consider and include in the Declaration of Santo Domingo the following:

First, it is crucial that governments design, fund and implement concrete actions regarding the commitments you will now take under the Declaration of Santo Domingo.

We, representatives of civil society organizations from the entire region, are willing and committed to collaborate with you in the implementation of this Declaration. With regards to climate change and disaster risk management, it is of utmost importance to work closely with local communities, indigenous communities, women and youth.

For this purpose, it is fundamental to ensure citizen and public access to information, as well as participation in the decision-making process of the aforementioned topics.

The first phase would involve educational media campaigns to increase awareness among citizens, as well as related activities, particularly aimed at local communities. Indigenous knowledge on these topics should be included. Particular attention should be placed on the relation between gender and climate change.

Governmental partnership with the media and civil society is required to ensure a massive outreach. We need people to be informed so they can assume the role of active stakeholders in climate change and disaster risk management.

We consider it important to highlight the situation of Haiti. It is necessary to implement an information, sensitization and education campaign for the Haitian people with regards to climate change, disasters and sanitation, particularly at the local and regional levels. At this time, we would like to express our solidarity with the people of Haiti at this critical moment.

We urge the governments to request the OAS to develop the Inter-American Sustainable Development Program 2010-2014 that incorporates the following elements:

- Draft and approve legislation that promotes economic incentives for the care of natural resources, for example, payments for environmental services and clear incentives for the decrease in carbon emissions. It is also important to ensure the application of the principle of non-regression in environmental norms.
- Implement and utilize strategic management tools, such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Land Use Planning. Develop and update land use plans that incorporate the need to maintain a balance between tourism development and agriculture, assuring the protection of archaeological, cultural and environmental heritage.

- Formulate and develop energy public policies with emphasis on renewable energies, and with the participation of the different social sectors as a mechanism that contributes to the reduction in the impacts of climatic change and natural disasters.
- Effectively apply Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration on the promotion of the internalization of environmental costs to production and trade, promoting change in the patterns of production and consumption and incorporate sustainability criteria in purchases and public contracts.
- Strengthen planning, national, regional and local coordination so that there is unification in the action strategies against climate change, with civil society participation. Promote dialogue on the impacts of the climatic change with a focus of national safety and incorporating the need to protect environmental refugees.
- For risk management, it is essential to contain an integral definition that considers the natural disasters cycle, for which implementing regulatory frameworks that obligate the formulation of strategic plans for risk management is required.
- Construct multidisciplinary systems for addressing risk management, prevention and information that permits an improved coordination among the highest-level governmental authorities in the region:
 - Establish national disaster management offices that work in coordination with the citizenry with the objective of establishing local emergency plans that should develop and strengthen training programs to improve capacities.
 - Translate technical and scientific information to an understandable language for authorities and communities, in order to effectively achieve the prevention of risks to natural disasters.

II. CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY FROM SOUTH AMERICA “TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS” – BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA – AUGUST 19, 2010

Follow-up to the Declaration of Santa Cruz +10 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) 2006-2009

- Review the progress of the PIDS 2006 – 2009, defining the areas that should be strengthened.
- Maintain the PIDS as a continental strategy of development promotion. Update, enrich, and strengthen its implementation in Member States.
- Establish baselines of the elements to prioritize in order to define indicators and targets.
- Urge governments that the content of the agreements and declarations to which they subscribe are effectively incorporated into national policies.
- Foster the development of human resources directed towards climate change, natural disasters, and risk management.
- Promote education as a central theme of environmental issues.
- Create conditions for greater and effective enforcement of environmental regulations.
- Urge governments to apply the principle of non-regression in environmental regulations, with the goal that any change does not involve a decline in environmental standards.
- Urge governments to work together in the sustainable use of shared resources, considering the impacts that poor management and the use of those resources by another country can have on others.
- Encourage actions aimed at preventing the environmental impact on the most vulnerable sectors.
- Promote effective public participation and access to information by the sectors most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and disasters.

- Urge governments to explore the use of all renewable energies such as wind, solar thermal, as all those are more effective and generate less impact on the environment.

Vulnerability in the Context of Sustainable Development

- Promote reflection by governments regarding the scope of sustainable development to find a coherent action in the implementation of multisectorial policies that target the objectives of sustainable development.
- Implement the necessary institutions and bodies to ensure the exercise of rights of access to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters, placing special attention on creating conditions for vulnerable communities to exercise these rights.
- Obtain the commitment of governments to develop and implement environmental training programs, both at the formal and informal education levels, with the aim of ensuring the effective exercise of the right to participation and promote sustainable development.
- Integrate citizen participation horizontally to all the components of the PIDS and ensure the implementation of participatory forums and dialogues between communities and the private sector to create equal conditions for all parties.
- Consider the impacts of extractive industries and generate public planning policies and civil society participation.
- Implement and use strategic management tools such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Land Use Planning, designed as a continuous public management process of technical regulatory procedures that are transparent, systematic, inclusive, and easily understood by the public.
- Analyze the impact of biofuels and developing policies to encourage the use of renewable energy.
- Strengthen the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity between the different levels of government to achieve a greater efficiency in the implementation of policies, plans, and programs associated with sustainable development.
- Establish easily measured and comparable benchmarks or minimum indicators across countries that will allow identification of levels of progress, setbacks, and pending challenges in the implementation of a sustainable development model on the continent. Aiming to have the same criteria for assessing and communicating results.
- Prepare technical studies for building bases for the development of public policies and investment of resources in programs and projects that facilitate their establishment.

Risk Management and Planning

- Involve the media in every stage of planning for risk management.
- Contribute to the promotion of a culture of prevention through the mass media.
- Create spaces for dialogue to reach consensus on basic protocols of communications strategies.
- Include in the documents the holistic and integral definition of “risk management” in the wake of the disaster cycle.
- Understand the vulnerability to disaster as a transversal set of economic, social, political, and environmental situations.
- Recognize the role of citizens through informal and ancestral knowledge, as they are the protagonists of their own resilience.
- Rethink the legal institution of civil liability based on risk and not just the result of damage.

- Consider the precautionary principle approach in the formulation of laws regarding risk management to establish long-term policies.
- Effectively disseminate among populations affected by disasters the necessary care measures to take into account the process of post-emergency.
- Build multidisciplinary systems to address risk management, coordinated by officials at the highest levels of government.

Institutional and Governance Issues in Climate Change Adaptation

- Coordinate adaptation policies at the highest level considering their cross-cutting aspects (for example, through councils or presidential advisors that promote institutional and governance aspects in climate change adaptation).
- Promote the use and interpretation of the law to strengthen adaptation to climate change, complying with the current regulations at all levels (local, national, and international).
- Complement international agendas, preventing them from conflicting while promoting policies which reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- Reinforce standards and promote respect to the principle of non-regression of laws and regulations.
- Identify economic, environmental, and social vulnerabilities in relation to the effects of climate change and encourage cooperation between countries with regards to common and border areas.
- Create initiatives or measures capable of reducing vulnerabilities of natural and social systems in relation to current and expected effects of climate change.
- Generate specific and common policies for environmental refugees in relation to the effects and impacts of climate change.
- Promote the exchange of experiences and information between countries to formulate and implement climate change adaptation policies.
- Promote dialogue on the impacts of climate change with a focus on national security.
- Address the issue through education to create a greater awareness of needs and adaptation measures.
- Recognize the value of the environment and the cost of both mitigation and adaptation to climate change by encouraging the use of cost-benefit analysis across all levels: local, national, regional, and international.
- Effectively implement Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and promote the internalization of the environmental costs in production and trade.
- Promote changes in the production and consumption patterns to make them more sustainable and incorporate sustainability criteria in public purchases and contracts.
- Support the mobilization of resources necessary for policy and adaptation measures.

III. CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY FROM CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC “TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS” – SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA – AUGUST 19, 2010

Follow-up to the Declaration of Santa Cruz +10 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) 2006 – 2009

- Strengthen environmental groups and associations and promote alliances with environmental NGOs and technical governmental agencies.
- Include recognition of environmental groups or associations in legislation.

- Raise awareness and training in integrated resource management, particularly integrated water resources management (IWRM), exchanging experiences and developing regional partnerships.
- It is necessary to strengthen community capacity to participate, influence, and decide on the use of resources.
- Create and/or strengthen national institutions for better management of assets.
- Encourage mechanisms that can enable the efficiency of natural resource management programs – the decentralization of local programs.
- Give attention to the aspects related to accountability, as well as the evaluations of natural resource management plans.
- Promote the empowerment of society and its communities. Youth must be a player in this process.
- Encourage the cooperation of international institutions, as well as developed countries, in each of the themes of environmental conservation; this in order to have interoperability and make good use of best practices.
- Strengthen legislation in countries to ensure access to water and natural resources in an institutional manner, so as to broadly ensure the thoughts and input from civil society in the agendas of the decision makers of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico.
- In terms of governance, it is necessary to have open spaces for young people and different sectors of society to take part in the decision-making process.
- Establish clear links between the government and civil society with the goal of generating intelligent negotiations, taking into account conservation priorities and resource management.
- Take into consideration the mandates of the Summit of Rio and the Summit of Santa Cruz, where it was emphasized that environmental management should be done through social participation. To advance in the proposal of citizen participation.
- Promote legislation that considers economic incentives for the protection and preservation of the environment, such as taxes, high interest and credit rates, and administrative management where the environment is seen as highly vulnerable.
- Encourage awareness and valuing of natural resources.
- Diminish the polarization of political and economic interests within environmental decision-making.

Vulnerability in the Context of Sustainable Development

- Ensure that institutions act as compact organs that are so interconnected in each of their action areas that form a set of layers that is highly resilient to phenomena that generate risk in our countries.
- It is necessary to initiate a quantification of vulnerability to be able to measure the effects and materialize these as tangible in the long term, therefore, we must move from the qualitative to the quantitative.
- Give more support to governmental risk management institutions, since it is evident that their budgets do not increase on the same scale as disasters or countries' level of exposure to risk.
- It is necessary that the interactions between different actors in society have a comprehensive approach to sustainable development and particularly in the case of Latin American and Caribbean civil society where there exist great challenges in their relationships with OAS Member States.
- The comprehensive land management for the reduction of vulnerability must be sustainable. This will increase security and quality of life. It implies concerted development planning and land use, the sustainable management of natural resources, and the utilization of opportunities for local economic development.

- It is imperative to establish action plans that incorporate the relationship between water resources and fluvial dynamics in relation to climate change. The river network is a basic element of the natural environment.
- Aim for decision makers to be informed on the vulnerability of their territories during decision-making, with the purpose of preventing urbanization in areas that increase future vulnerability.
- Give attention to the importance of disaster recovery, close the gap between immediate disaster response and recovery, this to reduce and/or prevent losses.
- Invite government to continue guaranteeing public policies focused on social spending, principally health, education, and basic sanitation. Climate change makes societies more vulnerable in social areas.
- The government must help the mobilization of highly vulnerable populations to prevent disasters such as the ones that have occurred in the region throughout the years. This is termed “territorial security” which is composed of environmental, social, economic, judicial, institutional, and food security.
- Promote land use management in countries of the region as a fundamental component to reduce vulnerability of the population in the face of climate change.
- Increase the resilience of ecosystems to carry and confront constant changes generated by nature.
- Promote the development of renewable energies and secure that these practices are environmentally sustainable.
- Emphasize the need for national mechanisms to confront vulnerability and climate change adaptation.

Risk Management and Planning

- Encourage countries to decree strategic plans for risk management by law through environmental authorities of the Americas.
- Follow-up on existing development plans, which call for the institutionalization of land use and risk management.
- Promote the linearity between local, regional, and national risk management plans with national development plans as a whole.
- Before predicted threats, make governments of the Americas note that systems, mechanisms, indicators, reasoning, and programs are required for risk management.
- Establish information bridges and dialogue between risk specialists and the government and business decision-makers.
- Address the national need at the country level to work in a cross-cutting way, taking gender into account. Also, we must work in a uniform way at the economic, social, and environmental level. The challenges at the gender level are many.
- Call upon the governments of the Americas to implement public awareness campaigns on the subject of prevention and reduction of risk management vulnerability.
- National environmental agencies should consider the role of gender in mechanisms to combat climate change, involve them in elements of prevention, mitigation, and adaptation.
- Respect, accept, and take into account the thousand-year-old environmental management mechanisms, as used by indigenous populations and Afro-descendants since ancient times.

Institutional Aspects and Governance in Climate Change Adaptation

- Strengthen instances of planning, national, regional, and local coordination so as to allow for the unification of action strategies against climate change.
- Strategies that guarantee interoperability and cooperation between the different institutions at the local, regional, national, and international levels are needed. These strategies should seek to reduce the social, environmental, and economic impacts, as well as take advantage of opportunities.
- Promote the formulation and implementation of climate-change strategies with the participation of civil society and incorporate these strategies into national development plans.
- Encourage governments and environmental authorities to exert pressure on large industries that affect the environment.
- There is a need for informational mechanisms in society and its varying levels to make the decision-making process more efficient and with more lasting effects. The systemization and the analysis of information the adequate decision-making is fundamental to the process of building resistance.
- Ensure that the governments of the region include clear incentives for the reduction of emissions that affect the environment in their climate change legislation.
- Promote conservation plans in a collective, as opposed to an individualist, manner.
- Create and/or support integral information systems for decision-making in terms of climate change; take into account community and local government needs.
- To achieve human sustainable development and adaptation to climate change, the existence of new institutionalism and good governance is required, for which the following will be important: a rereading of the territory (regional, national, local) and of institutionalism; active participation of civil society and its organizations; the capacity of the community and civil society organizations to achieve a relatively stable balance among political, economic, social, culture, etc. systems (participation, inclusion, and equity).
- New institutional policies are needed to regulate and mitigate the effects of climate change. It is necessary to improve the distribution, analysis, and creation of environmental information systems to strengthen the pillars of new decisions that will rule new governmental practices.
- It is necessary that the measures and actions taken to reduce the vulnerability and adaptability to climate change allow for public matters to be conducted in a transparent and quality way, as well as in a fair, harmonious, effective and efficient way so as to benefit the well-being of all.

IV. CARIBBEAN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM “TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS” – CASTRIES, SAINT LUCIA – JULY 5, 2010

Follow up to the Declaration of Santa Cruz and Implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) 2006-2009

- Ensure equity in concessions and incentives granted for local and foreign development projects.
- If development projects should involve state-owned property or require concessions, Governments should consider such inputs as equity in such projects.
- Strengthen the development planning process generally but more especially as it relates to tourism.
- Assess the potential impact of climate change (especially sea level rise) on tourism as many tourism properties and activities are located on the coasts of Caribbean countries.
- Take effective steps to preserve ecosystems for the benefit of future generations.
- Dedicate resources to acquiring and utilizing technical applications and equipment for the purposes of mapping and developing data sets which can then be made available for use in research and planning by government, civil society and academia.

- Promote and strongly focus on the advancement and implementation where feasible, of renewable energy through research, testing and pilot projects, to move away from our detrimental dependence on fossil fuels.
- Establish a more participatory approach in developing and implementing energy policies.
- Ensure greater involvement and representation of civil society in decision-making processes, and effectively implement the rule of law, policies and good governance at all levels.
- Follow through with and develop implementation strategies to fulfill the promises made in the Santa Cruz +10 Declaration.
- Carefully identify and nurture the capabilities of women who can be potential leaders within the community, in order to create a critical mass of able female leaders who will address the differential needs of men and women in broader development processes.
- Understand the root causes that hinder women from participating in search and rescue Disaster Management Training.
- In the Disaster Management Training course, work closely with project's gender advisor in the training of facilitators and speakers to ensure that all modules have a clear gender perspective and that the sessions are delivered in a gender-sensitive way. To further ensure the integration of gender in the training, the local gender focal points of the countries of the hemisphere should participate in the course.
- Establish a Gender Constituency on Climate Change within the hemisphere.
- Place greater focus on and mainstream cross-cutting issues in all sectors and programs to reduce or avoid the duplication of work and efforts; and reduce unnecessary spending so that all stakeholders are aware of each other's roles, plans and activities.
- Stimulate development in rural cottage industries throughout the hemisphere.
- Bring national attention to food systems development.
- Highlight the contribution of rural communities to national economic development.
- Promote economic opportunities through the sustainable use of local fruit and produce.
- Value the input of local communities and indigenous knowledge in all planning and policy development processes, and strengthen the capacity of these communities to contribute to these processes.
- Ensure effective public education on sustainable development issues by dedicating adequate resources to ensure dissemination through various media (live, print, social networks).

Vulnerability in the Context of Sustainable Development

- Adopt a balanced approach to the development of tourism and agriculture, as there seems to be a heavier focus on the development of tourism in the region while the agriculture sector is experiencing decline.
- Ensure that physical development does not encroach on the natural environment and coastal bays and that archeological sites and ecosystems are preserved.
- Reduce the timeline between research and the use of its findings in the implementation of policy.
- Require all developers to include in their development plans adequate measures to mitigate land-based pollution, and generally to reduce adverse impacts of tier development projects on human health and the health of the environment.

Risk Management and Planning

- Implement mechanisms that allow communities to contribute to disaster prevention (for example communicating information about deteriorating bridges which would result in timely repairs).
- Require National Disaster/Emergency Management offices to meet with community leaders to exchange ideas about best practices on risk management. The outcome of these discussions should then be presented to the community and stored in central database.
- Establish a plan that addresses the re-allocation of earth-moving equipment to strategic positions around the country for use in emergency situations.
- Facilitate the establishment of emergency action groups in each community to manage pre- and post-disaster response.
- Continually assess the big picture.
- Apply indigenous knowledge in disaster management and planning.
- Provide training in disaster risk reduction and management for government and non-government sectors.
- Require research and development centres to translate scientific and technical information for understanding by decision-makers, and community adoption.

Institutional Aspects in Climate Change Management

- Communicate to constituents the threat of climate change on their livelihoods by disseminating information via print and electronic media.
- Increase public education and awareness by ensuring that concepts are understood by all. Focus on issues such as sea level rise, more intense and frequent hurricanes, depletion of fish stocks, scarcity of fresh water as opposed to focusing on climate change.
- Pay closer attention to the policy development process of government and advocate for the inclusion of community or civil society groups.

V. DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE HEADS OF DELEGATION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE THEME OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY “PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE AMERICAS” – LIMA, PERU – JUNE 6, 2010

The representative of the XXVIII Model General Assembly of the Organization of American States (MOAS) that took place at the University of San Martin de Porres in Lima, Peru from May 12 to 15, 2010 and brought together approximately 500 students from 43 universities from around the Americas stated that during the simulation, the student participants were able to come to agreements despite their countries’ differences, demonstrating how through dialogue we can shape common positions.

Mirroring the Fortieth OAS General Assembly’s theme of “Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Americas,” he shared that the students debated and approved resolutions on the prevention of political crises, the participation of women in political, social, and economic decision-making, transparency in the acquisition of arms, the role of civil society in handling environmental issues, and changes in the methodologies for paying quotas in the OAS. The MOAS representative stressed that the youth who participated in the simulation felt more united and better prepared as future leaders. After presenting the resolutions of the XXVIII MOAS to Minister Vilchez and the Assistant Secretary General, he closed by emphasizing the important role that young people can play in the implementation of programs that promote peace and democracy.

The representative of the youth network thanked to the OAS General Secretariat for facilitating a youth dialogue on June 4, 2010 in the framework of the XL OAS General Assembly, which allowed young

people to have a voice in the decision-making process to promote the development of the hemisphere. He stated that young people are grateful to the OAS for the chance to demonstrate their capacity as leaders. He also expressed his wish for the youth to be considered separately as a group distinct from the civil society sector and commented that the young people are preparing themselves for the Sixth Summit of the Americas that will take place in Colombia in 2012. Finally, the youth representative emphasized that the National Secretariats for Youth could be strategic partners in carrying out awareness campaigns to motivate youth in social entrepreneurship.

On behalf of the civil society organizations that work on the fight against corruption, a civil society representative spoke on the role of civil society within the framework of the OAS. She established three concrete recommendations: First, she called for a rejection of a proposed resolution that would put conditions on the participation of civil society organizations in the OAS based on national legislation. Secondly, she affirmed that access to information allows citizens to be educated participants in the democratic process and advocated for the passing of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Information. Thirdly, the civil society representative stated that it is time to move from recognizing the right to participate to an effective participation by civil society guaranteed through permanent consultation mechanisms in the OAS. To this end, she urged Member States to approve the "Draft Strategy for Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Activities of the Organization of American States.

The civil society representative who spoke on behalf of organizations working on the theme of democracy centered his intervention on the status of democracy in the Americas, indicating that we are facing great challenges since in many countries the existence of a true democracy is questioned. He made reference to the coup d'état in Honduras, recommending that Honduras should not be permitted to return to the OAS until there is a clear path to restore democracy in the country, respect and protection of human rights, guarantees of an independent judicial branch, and a process of demilitarization. He highlighted the importance of strengthening the enforcement and implementation mechanisms of the elements of the Inter-American Democratic Charter in order to avoid another disruption to democratic order in the region.

The civil society representative recommended the creation of a special rapporteurship on democracy within the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) with the purpose of observing and evaluating the implementation of the elements established in article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and to develop indicators for their measurement that would be reported to the bodies of the Inter-American System. The Member States should extend an open invitation to the rapporteurship to enter into their countries and should create a special fund to ensure its financing. The representative of also proposed strengthening the role of the Secretary General within the framework of article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter to exercise a more active role in the prevention of crises and strengthening democracy.

The representative of organizations working in the area of peace indicated that peace must be tightly linked with social equality, human security, the administration of justice and full access to opportunities. In order to foster a culture of peace, the Member States must avoid an arms race, expressions and importation of military conflicts, and the use of the military for territorial disputes.

To achieve these goals, he suggested that the Member States and the OAS prioritize the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, preserve the pacific solution of conflict through political and diplomatic means, and avoid any call to war. The representative stressed that to establish a culture of

peace between the States and intergovernmental organizations, it is necessary to use multilateral approaches and work with civil society to overcome the obstacles to creating a culture of peace, such as narcotrafficking, illegal arms trade, and other forms of crime that finance illegal organized groups that weaken democratic institutions and peace. He also commented it is necessary to contribute to the political, non-military approach to the internal armed conflict in Colombia, prevent its internationalization, preserve peace on the borders and incentivize multilateral cooperation that fosters a culture of peace.

The representative of civil society organizations that work in the area of representing human rights and security expressed the importance that all security policy must fundamentally have a respect and guarantee for human rights through effective and timely access to decent living conditions, without exclusion. In this regard, civil society considers that the opposite of this are policies that prioritize security of the State. This is reflected in the growing initiatives and implementation of plans of militarization as the only solution to social conflicts, as well as the criminalization of young offenders and the exclusion of large sectors of the population to access to rights related to health, education and life.

The representative of human rights and security organizations highlighted the lack of developments, actions and initiatives that recognize and protect older persons and indigenous peoples. In this regard, he recalled that the OAS has tools from its own political bodies. He cited the example of the 2002 report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on terrorism and human rights, whose recommendations have not been reflected in the security initiatives currently promoted in the region. He also recalled that the Permanent Council gave a mandate to the IACHR to verify the situation of human rights defenders, from which several recommendations were issued that were not sufficiently answered by the States, but which certainly demand a timely and binding compliance mechanism.

The civil society representative on women's rights affirmed that the current oppression suffered by individuals affects their ability to make a free choice regarding their sexual orientation, abortion, and contraceptive methods. She affirmed that in the majority of countries in the region, this type of oppression occurs in homes, schools, and work places and is reflected in gender violence, machismo and human trafficking. In this regard, the representative indicated that the right of people to freely choose without discrimination is imperative; emphasizing that only through our differences will we attain the peace we desire. She added that the elements that make up peace are "our bodies, lives, and territories" and peace can not be built through the oppression of individuals.

The civil society representative who spoke on behalf of disability organizations of the Americas began by noting that there are 104 million people with disabilities in the Americas and that 80% of them live in poverty and extreme poverty; more than 90% of school-aged children do not attend school; and 80% of people with disabilities are unemployed. Also, he presented a proposal to Member States to raise the issue of disability within the Declaration of Lima, in which it requests that the OAS finance, from its regular fund, the activities of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and to provide resources to the technical secretariat in relation with the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

He expressed that there are three international treaties in this area, for which civil society calls for compliance by Member States in accordance with national and international norms. He also stressed the need for public investment in education, health, rehabilitation, employment and accessibility, in proportion to the population that people with disabilities represent in the context of inclusive

development. The representative of people with disabilities cited the example that Peru registered an economic growth over the last number of months that is not reflected in the conditions of the disabled, offering the example that of the 900,000 school-aged children with disabilities, only 48,000 attend school.

Finally, the representative of organizations that work in the area of disability argued that currently we live in a world in which governance, democracy and pluralism do not mean persons with disabilities necessarily benefit from these elements. The national and international political class led to the situation in which persons with disabilities live "far from development." In this sense, he called for political and citizen participation of persons with disabilities among other issues with electoral quotas.

The representative of the organizations working in the area of rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite, transsexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTTTI) persons, expressed concern that the Declaration of Lima does not relate the theme of peace and security with the protection and promotion for human rights and non-discrimination. She stressed that socio-economic development policies should be linked to human rights. In this regard, she mentioned her concern about the existence of laws that infringe on the rights of people based on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, she stated that peace and security are not possible if individuals are not able to develop a life plan and do not enjoy the full protection of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

She demanded that English-speaking Caribbean countries reject any law that criminalizes consensual relations between same-sex adults; that Member States adopt laws to promote equality between people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; promote laws against domestic violence; and reform education policy, especially in primary education, in order to prevent acts of violence due to gender, sexual orientation and identity. With regard to the XL General Assembly, she requested the approval of the draft resolution presented by Brazil, "Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression," for which she expressed civil society support, as well as the Draft Resolution "Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance." Finally, she mentioned her concern for Member States' inaction and omission in protecting and promoting physical, sexual, psychological and reproductive integrity of the LGBTTTI community and in guaranteeing access to justice and legal security.

The representative of the network of afro-descendant organizations in the region affirmed the commitment of these organizations to actively contribute to strengthen the work of the OAS with regard to the fight against discrimination, racism and intolerance in the hemisphere. She expressed the need for the Member States to make financial contributions to the implementation of United Nations resolution "International Year for People of African Descent" and to advance in the adoption of the Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

Furthermore, the afro-descendant representative stressed the need for Member States to commit to politically and financially supporting the work of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-descendants and against Racial Discrimination of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In this regard, she called for Member States to continue their fight against racism, discrimination and intolerance and to include Afro-descendants as a central theme because this group has been historically excluded from human prosperity in the Americas, which does not allow for peace, security and cooperation in the societies of the region. She noted that public policies and special programs must be implemented with a gender perspective that allows for the improvement of integral health and education systems in order to reduce poverty. She also stated that Member States should fully recognize the economic and social

contributions of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples, and promote the visibility and inclusion of those communities.

VI. CIVIL SOCIETY HEMISPHERIC FORUM IN PREPARATION FOR THE XL REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: "PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE AMERICAS" – WASHINGTON, D.C. – MAY 5-6, 2010

Multidimensional Security in the Americas

- The Draft Declaration of Lima lacks a comprehensive focus on the observation of factors that generate insecurity as possible proposals to the consolidation of peace, the achievement of an environment based on human security and the consolidation of central issues such as inequality and gender. We propose to change the expression that celebrates only the work of the armed forces for another more comprehensive and inclusive, the whole of intergovernmental, state and social efforts in maintaining peace and providing attention to issues such as natural disasters.
- Ensure that the purpose of peace should lead, within the framework of the OAS and in a concerted manner, the Member States to avoid expressions of militarization, the arms race, interference, military treatment or the use of force to solve conflicts and existing territorial or other disputes. Preserve the role of pacific solutions, through political, diplomatic and civilian methods, for the resolution of conflicts. Avoid any call to war and consolidate a climate of cooperation for peace in the region.
- The strengthening of democratic institutions on budget transparency, control, accountability and citizen participation. Urgent need to ensure the modernization of public policies, especially the exercise of political parties and in the electoral campaigns. Regulate and control the procedures involved where there is achieved and strengthened the role of justice, supervisory bodies, eliminating corrupt practices.
- Strengthening justice. Combat, punish those responsible and prevent serious transnational crimes that are often related to drug trafficking, illegal arms trade and trafficking in persons, for sexual labor and sexual exploitation, particularly those involving women and children for child pornography.
- Guarantee access to public information and in particular on issues such as managing budgets in the proceedings of both civil authorities and in relation to the armed forces, police and security agencies.
- Encourage cooperation among States to improve policies and actions. Beyond the cooperation achieved with the assistance of intergovernmental organizations and international entities, among those of importance is the OAS, boost multilateral and bilateral actions taken toward overcoming factors of insecurity.
- Emphasize the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Preserve the pacific solution, through political and diplomatic means and using civilian methods in conflict resolution. Avoid any expression of war and consolidate a climate of cooperation for peace in the continent.
- In the framework of the OAS and other mechanisms of international cooperation, contributing to overcoming conflict, expressions of violence and the burden of drug trafficking and other illegal economies in Colombia and expressions of such phenomena in other countries is important. It is necessary to contribute to the political settlement of the Colombian internal armed conflict as recommended by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations, to prevent its internationalization, preserve peace on the borders and resume diplomatic relations in a comprehensive manner across countries and promoting cooperation oriented to peace and development.

- Review the strategy and counter narcotics policies to achieve effective results. Consider not only the illegal crop eradication and smuggling, but also cocaine use. Assume all the corresponding consequences, condemning in all forms of international and national organized crime, but also solving the social and health problems at its base. This strategy cannot be addressed from a military perspective, but from a comprehensive policy which prioritizes social investment and prevention.
- Solutions to the factors and consequences of insecurity cannot be only those of repressive force by the police, but also comprehensive alternative development and social policies. Prison systems are neither sufficient, nor adequate if there is a lack of policies and programs intended to rehabilitate affected populations, not include them in the criminal population and adequately reintegrate youth and other populations involved in networks of unlawful conduct.
- It must address socio-economic alternatives and prioritize education in very sensitive issues, such as human rights, both in the perspective of responsibility and overcoming impunity and also the habitual practice emphasizing education. In particular, it must be ensured that there is recognition of multiculturalism, rights and languages of indigenous peoples of the Americas and guarantees from authorities in this regard.
- Putting forth prevention strategies. Consider the rehabilitation of people involved with criminal activities. The prevention of use of hallucinogenic drugs is of the pillars for preventing crime and social decomposition, which particularly impacts youth. It is important to make prevention a priority in educational and training systems of the state, to prevent the strengthening of the gang phenomena, overcoming the fear and insecurity of the population, avoid onerous debts with international financial bodies, take proper advantage and control of resources to achieve effective results in the fight against crime.
- Stimulate cooperation between civil society, states and the international community. Take social responsibility and provide funds for the implementation of educational programs and campaigns that are measurable and functional for the prevention, protection, assistance to victims and their rights, prison rehabilitation, social reintegration and recidivism. It is essential to foster a culture of peace, the dissemination of best practices, experiences and constructive observations from civil society and assure that the media is willing to diffuse these efforts.

Strengthening Human Rights and Democracy (Crisis and Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution)

Civil society participation in the Inter-American System and the OAS:

- We urge States to adopt a proposal for civil society participation that is open, inclusive and systematic.
- It is essential to eliminate the right of states to veto civil society organizations from being part of the registry that comply with the conditions established in resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities."
- Guarantee civil society participation, delivering draft declarations and resolutions in advance so as to allow time for their analysis and the development of recommendations.
- Create a fund to ensure the systematic participation of civil society in all OAS processes and that reflects the diversity of civil society.
- The establishment of an observatory that serves as a permanent forum for civil society to influence and track progress and compliance of the commitments made by States in the framework of the Inter-American System.

- Strengthen opportunities for discussion within the OAS and create spaces that encourage a real dialogue and discussion within the States. To request the OAS to open new channels of dialogue between CSOs and governments.
- That Member States accelerate the approval the Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance currently under discussion in the Committee on Political and Juridical Affairs of the OAS.

General Recommendations to the Draft Declaration of Lima (AG/CP/GTDL-1/10 rev. 1):

- Modify the text with a cross-cutting gender and rights perspective. It is not sufficient to mention vulnerable groups; it is necessary that the text as a whole address unequal power relations.
- Clearly state the promotion, defense and guarantee of human rights and non-discrimination.
- Include a reference to the situation in Honduras, clearly stating support for the Honduran people and the need to ensure security, respect for human rights and recognition and participation of victims of human rights violations and their families to create a Truth Commission that is open, independent, and rigorous, in accordance with international standards.
- Include a reference to Haiti, clearly stating support for the victims and a commitment to support the proposed reconstruction plan and job creation, so that it may be a participatory process and respectful of local leadership.
- In the context of the theme of “Peace, Security and Cooperation,” and based on Article 44 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which refers to regional organizations, we encourage the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the General Assembly, so that OAS accession to the Convention may be formally approved.
- Include a paragraph in the Declaration of Lima that addresses the issue of transparency and access to information in relation to political financing and electoral campaigns, understanding that it is essential to prevent financing of campaigns by interest groups that can manipulate, threaten or go against issues related to peace, security and cooperation.

Specific Recommendations to the Draft Declaration

- Paragraph 2: Their conviction that controversies should be settled by peaceful procedures and our respect for international law and compliance with the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. They also express simple, fast and effective mechanisms of access to justice for all people, especially vulnerable groups.
- Paragraph 4: Their commitment to strengthening the Inter-American System and democratic institutions, as well as their commitment to ensuring that the Organization of American States continues to contribute to the overcoming of tensions and solution of crises; and, in addition, to continue supporting bilateral, subregional, and regional efforts, agreements, and mechanisms to prevent conflicts and achievement peaceful settlement of disputes.
- Paragraph 5: Their intention to continue implementing confidence- and security-building measures, as security, peace and cooperation are not achieved with dignity when there are inequalities in education, health and basic social services for vulnerable groups of women and men of our society who are victims of discrimination and violence because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

- Paragraph 6: The need for the organs of the Organization of American States to continue working to promote and strengthen the regional peace and security system in order to address tense situations and all the threats to their states. States also commit to implement the recommendations made in the report of Citizen Security and Human Rights by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- Paragraph 9: The need to develop in greater depth bilateral, subregional, and regional cooperation mechanisms that strengthen the capabilities of member states and enable them to comprehensively address, with full respect for international human rights law, the new threats to the security of their populations, including drug-trafficking, terrorism, trafficking and smuggling of persons, the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, ammunition, and explosives; the consequences of natural disasters; corruption, and other related transnational crimes; and their vulnerability to the impacts of natural disasters.
- Paragraph 10: Their decision to create and promote opportunities for dialogue between governments and civil society, and implement prevention mechanisms, foster a culture of peace and to promote education for peace among the countries of the region that will enable us to devote more resources to the wellbeing of the population and to address the problems generated by violence and the criminal activities that impair the development of our populations and their security.

Proposed New Paragraphs to the Draft Declaration:

- The conviction that there can be no peace and security in situations of inequality, marginalization, vulnerability and lack of social justice.
- Their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, preventing violations of these rights and the safety of human rights defenders.
- The conviction that reconstruction processes must not only be fast but also appropriate and should ensure access to information, participation and justice for citizens, and especially those affected.
- The commitment of Member States to make health care and prevention sustainable, ensuring, in crisis situations, the quality and continuity of antiretroviral treatment for opportunistic infections for people living with HIV and other chronic diseases.
- Their commitment to security, respect for human rights, and non-discrimination of groups, such as children, adolescents, women, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, persons with disability, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered, transsexuals and intersex, migrants and their families, and the elderly.
- Their commitment to combat racism, discrimination and intolerance, including a cross-cutting focus of the discussions on the various sectors that have been traditionally discriminated against and excluded from peace and security; we refer to communities of afro-descendants, indigenous peoples, Roma people, women, youth and children, migrants, refugees, stateless persons, religious minorities, the elderly, or people who face discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.
- The commitment to access to public information in the full sense of the term and the dissemination and implementation by the Member States of the Model Law on Transparency and Access to Information developed by the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression of the OAS.
- The commitment to access to public defense budget information, considering the "harm test," i.e. that the withholding information can cause more harm than the benefit of making the information public.

Cooperation for Development

- Recommend that the OAS convene a meeting bringing together the various working groups on issues of integral development that are held within the Summits of the Americas process, thus providing the opportunity to share ideas and recommendations and to address these issues collectively.
- That Member States promote and strengthen actions through investments that promote inclusive development from a point of view that values cultural diversity and indigenous knowledge.
- Promote, through the OAS, the joint efforts of the State, private companies and civil society to achieve a more visible impact, encouraging partnerships and resource mobilization.
- Strengthen the Draft Declaration of Lima on the issue of international cooperation, as the text only refers to cooperation in matters of security (art. 8 and 9) and excludes an approach to cooperation in matters of integral development.
- Promote, between Member States, the establishment of agreements, exchange of best practices, and knowledge of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as mechanisms for multilateral cooperation.
- Disseminate, more effectively, dialogues, forums, and meetings in order to secure a space about what the OAS is promoting in order to achieve greater coordination between all stakeholders to obtain greater benefits as well as develop better skills so that they become more effective.
- Concerned about the circumstances of vulnerability that are part of our populations and that impede economic and social development, we request Member States to establish budgets and public policies for the development of actions in favor of traditionally excluded groups, including afro descendants, indigenous groups, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with different sexual orientations and diverse gender identities as well as other vulnerable groups, in the areas of education, culture, food and housing, among others.
- Considering that Mutualism is a suitable and effective vehicle to contribute to poverty alleviation in the most vulnerable sectors through the provision of various services, as well as to facilitate access to health and education to those sectors most in need, Member States must adopt policies to promote and boost mutual systems in the continent, in addition to other replicable successful systems.
- That the OAS encourage Member States to honor the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, where developed countries committed to devote 0.7% of GDP for official development assistance.
- Proposed new text for Article 9: add the word “multilateral” to the text.
- That Member States make particular emphasis on the application and compliance of existing legislation in terms of environmental, social and economic sustainability, and seek mechanisms to ensure the continuity of these factors.
- In relation to catastrophes, promote effective and inclusive emergency programs directed at the most vulnerable sectors and people with disabilities.

VII. HAITIAN DIASPORA FORUM: CONTRIBUTING TO A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN HAITI – WASHINGTON, D.C. – MARCH 21-23, 2010

Urgent Humanitarian Needs and Effective Deployment of Foreign Aid

- Collaborate with the international community to ensure that food distribution systems and shelter arrangements take into account social and cultural factors and respect the dignity of people (e.g. establish distribution schedules and community kitchens; keep lines short at distribution points; target vulnerable beneficiaries for special distribution channels including home delivery; uphold regional equity by extending distribution to areas that have welcomed the displaced population; etc.).
- Transform the idle time at the camps into educational opportunities and provide various trainings, including civic education for children, young adolescents and adults. At the same time, strengthen the educational infrastructure outside of Port-au-Prince including at pre-school, primary, secondary, adult, vocational, and higher educational levels. Emphasize teacher training throughout the country.
- Seek the coordination of distribution efforts with all stakeholders, including local governments, international aid agencies, hometown associations and community groups in Haiti and abroad. Additionally, increase transparency and accountability by requiring aid agencies to publicize a detailed accounting of funds expended in Haiti.
- Given the fast-approaching rainy and hurricane season, seek the collaboration of aid agencies and local Haitian organizations to identify and prepare areas outside of Port-au-Prince that are less susceptible to natural disasters. Build seismic and cyclonic resistant temporary housing, such as modular housing and prefabricated homes. In the design of long-term housing and shelter plans, adopt and enforce seismic and cyclonic resistant building codes.
- Increase the effectiveness of humanitarian aid by empowering aid recipients through the extension of work-for-food and cash-for-work programs within the camps and throughout the critical areas, with a focus on the youth and women. Collaborate with aid agencies to assess periodically the humanitarian needs and the effectiveness of aid distribution within and outside of Port-au-Prince, including through feedback from beneficiaries.

Ensuring a Dynamic and Transparent Reconstruction Process

- Increase accountability through greater transparency and oversight of all reconstruction funds (public or private) with the creation of an Inspector General Office. Such Office shall be required to conduct audits and investigations to prevent fraud, waste and abuse, and shall report its findings publicly.
- Make best efforts to ensure that firms that are contracted in Haiti hire Haitian workers and contractors as a priority, including from the Diaspora, as a means to alleviate poverty, enable job training and creation, reverse the brain drain by expanding human capital that will, in turn, attract foreign investment.
- Recognize the importance of the Diaspora in the Haitian economy and, referencing the Plan d'Action pour le Relèvement et le Développement National (March 2010), yield to the Diaspora's strong request for a full voting seat in la Commission Intérimaire pour la Reconstruction d'Haïti.
- Create a Civil Service Corps with the participation of Haitian nationals and the Diaspora, particularly women, to assist in the building process. Donors are encouraged to review their personnel's legal framework with the view of facilitating the transfer or detail of Creole-speaking employees to work on loan in Haiti.

Economic Development

- Set an ambitious but concrete and quantifiable goal for the short and medium run, particularly in terms of GDP growth (6% per year or more) and reduction of poverty.

- Work with donors to formally engage the Diaspora in the implementation and follow up of measures and recommendations for recovery and reconstruction. As such, create a platform for exchanging information and ensuring that (i) the Diaspora is updated on business opportunities as well as other developments and (ii) at the same time that the GOH is aware of resources available in the Diaspora (financial and human).
- Publicize eligibility and selection criteria for donor-funded projects and ensure greater participation of Haitian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Diaspora investors. Moreover, create streamlined/expedited processes for business formation and license applications including a single point of entry for business proposals where investors can get responses from relevant authorities on firm timetables.
- Recognize dual nationality. Although the Diaspora understands that there are no legal impediments to investments, dual nationality will create greater inclusion and incentive.
- Increase accountability, transparency and oversight of all funds with detailed reporting through a public information system and a reformed/strengthened judicial system.
- Have an updated and publicly available inventory of all NGOs operating in the national territory and a mapping of their activities and their sources of funding.
- Promote green (solar, wind, ocean thermal and geothermal) and/or locally produced energy to achieve energy independence and security. Reduce electricity theft through wireless usage meter. Provide training opportunities to sustain a workforce prepared to install and maintain alternative energy solutions.
- Prioritize projects based on their contribution to decentralization, deconcentration, and the participation of women.
- Strengthen the role of the Investment Facilitation Center (Centre de Facilitation des Investments - CFI) and institute self-contained, automated regional branches to facilitate the establishment of corporations and investments directly outside the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Also, amplify the database within CFI of potential partners by sector.
- Create a mechanism to promote Haiti as a tourism destination even in the short term and to address all aspects of tourism security. Provide training opportunities to sustain a workforce prepared to install and maintain a thriving hospitality industry.
- Have a subaccount for the apparel industry within the framework of the Guarantee Fund which is currently being created. Moreover, create a mechanism to make credit readily available for the productive activities, particularly in the agricultural sector.
- Increase productivity by strengthening vocational training and targeting skills demanded by the market, while promoting the employment of women. This would include an assessment of available skills and needs by sector.
- Encourage innovation through the strengthening of intellectual property rights.
- Transform the rural landscape by promoting local farming to better compete with agricultural imports, by aggressively pursuing food security and promoting agro-exports and agro-industry (including vertical integration). Specifically, promote rural units of integrated production including aquaculture, livestock, light manufacturing, services, etc.
- Identify each region's comparative advantage and invest accordingly. Provide for appropriate financing of development activities, particularly through the widening of the tax base.

Strengthening Governance

- Combat impunity and review immunity provisions in order to prosecute to the full extent of the law officials who have been perceived to abuse their privileges.

- Use the expertise of the Diaspora to continue the process of reforming the Constitution, including those provisions related to granting Dual Nationality to members of the Diaspora and facilitate enactment of new measures and legislations at the Executive and Parliamentary levels that will integrate the Haitian Diaspora in Haiti's society.
- Implement provisions of the Constitution with regards to decentralization.
- Adopt a realistic decision on the scheduling of the elections taking into consideration the special circumstances as a result of the earthquake. Collaborate with international partners and Diaspora organizations to put in place a mechanism to encourage greater participation of the Diaspora as electoral observers in all upcoming elections.
- Pursue the transfer of knowledge and expertise to help strengthen capacity through effective mechanisms such as (i) twinning/exchange programs with Diaspora professionals and through online communities and (ii) partnerships with academic centers for the training of civil servants.
- Establish an independent judiciary and accelerate the reform of Haiti's criminal laws and procedures, including the correctional system, and increase the number of judges, prosecutors, police and corrections officers, and other court personnel.
- Reform the country's justice system, and strengthen the capacity of its Ministries, including the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, to support national government institutions operating in local communities, and to develop and train a core of middle managers to assume leadership roles within their organizations.

Sustainable Development, Natural Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

- Strengthen the capacity of the country to react to catastrophes and manage natural disasters through the implementation of a national emergency action plan. Particularly, implement strict building codes.
- Reinforce La Direction de la Protection Civile through formal training of public servants at all levels in disaster-related fields. At the same time, implement programs for disaster preparedness and simulation exercises. For example, implement a web-enabled crisis information management system to provide real-time information sharing to improve the response to disasters.

Social Development

Child Welfare

- Adopt the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention), which aims to prevent the abduction, sale or traffic of children, and prioritize the adoption of children by Haitian families in Haiti and the Diaspora. Further, work with identified partners to develop culturally congruent education and training for those wishing to care for Haitian children in order to minimize additional trauma and maximize adaptive outcomes consistent with Haitian culture and values.
- Support family preservation to prevent child abandonment, by offering support services to families and/or extended families to care for their own children. Moreover, phase out the orphanage system through the re-integration of children into family/extended family like settings (i.e. foster care models).
- Create a central database of all children in out-of-family placement, where progress and services are recorded and tracked – modeled after best practices.

Education

- Implement quality Universal Education For All (EFA) that assures equitable access to all children, including over-aged students and students with disabilities, that offers health and sports program, and civic education, that supplies second-chance education (drop-outs and youths) as well as youth mentoring and adult literacy programs, and that provides free meals (breakfast and lunch), free transportation, potable water, uniforms, and school supplies. Such education will have to be provided in schools built on the basis of safe building codes and fitted with all modern sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- Strengthen the certification process of teachers and administrators, and implement (i) appropriate training structures to ensure their ongoing professional development and (ii) a mentoring and exchange program between Haiti and Diaspora teachers. Similarly, implement a program of adoption of Haiti schools and students by Diaspora schools and students. Such partnership should occur also at the higher learning level, and extended through collaboration with foreign universities. Moreover, provide incentives to teachers and administrators through decent wages and reasonable benefit packages.
- Design school programs that utilize results-based criteria and reflect national standards. Such programs should be culturally relevant (use of Creole), promote differentiated curricula (by age and ability level), foster STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs, uphold technologically friendly tools and conduits (distance learning, media, internet, etc.), and support post-secondary internships for workforce readiness, as well as school readiness programming through a community approach that leads to higher education and vocational training.
- Address the needs of all vulnerable groups (special education, orphans/unaccompanied minors, restavek/children in domesticity, exploited children, disabled youths, etc.). Further, implement psychosocial support services.

Women

- Conduct a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) with a direct focus on women and from a gender perspective, in order to identify specific challenges and good practices. On the basis of this Gender PDNA, allocate an equitable percentage of funding for meeting these documented needs.
- Encourage the Haitian government, civil society and the Diaspora to take gender issues into consideration in the conception, formulation and implementation of policies, structures and programs (affirmative action), and work with the media to support positive reinforcement of the status of women.
- Reinforce security in temporary shelters, food distribution centers and other environments for women and children by increasing the presence of women among security personnel, including both local and foreign troops. In particular, security personnel should be trained to recognize and gender-based violence.
- Adopt and implement a zero tolerance policy towards violence against women and children and implement the necessary measures to make this policy operational, including detention and prosecution of alleged offenders, stricter punishment relating to sexual offences against women and girls and the protection of victims and witnesses.
- Allow Haitian women, more particularly Haitian women living in rural communities, fair consideration and access to funding (in particular micro-credit), which will permit them to purchase land, supplies and equipment that will strengthen their role in agriculture.

Health Development

- Increase Haiti's medical and health care capacities to meet the actual and future needs of the population through a medical assistance program with the Haitian Diaspora where Haitians from abroad will provide their services for two weeks at a time on a year round basis.
- Foster a partnership between Diaspora and local health care professionals to provide intense and modern technology training. Particularly, offer clinical mentorship programs to build technical and practical capacity for the numerous medical students who are no longer in school.
- Partner with universities as well as public and private hospitals to achieve uninterrupted medical service through clinical education. Further, maintain a medical residency and fellowship, focusing on diseases that are endemic to Haiti and the Caribbean (use of current technologies where continued training and support of Haitian doctors and nurses can be done through teleconferencing).
- Create a "mini-fellowship" fund in infectious diseases for local doctors and nurses.
- Strengthen family planning, women's reproductive health and child health organizations, health centers in conjunction with the GOH. Special attention must be given to pregnant women living in precarious conditions in temporary shelters.
- Create mental health clinics to address the various post-earthquake traumas to provide therapy, especially to children and other vulnerable groups. Social workers from the Diaspora can be key in addressing this issue while understanding how culturally sensitive this is.
- Create therapy centers for the rehabilitation of thousands of amputees and for their reintegration in society.
- Urge donor countries to create a program to sponsor a certain number of students (a number to be agreed upon) per accredited medical schools per year during the period of reconstruction.