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**INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY:  
CONCEPT NOTE FOR OECD DAC SLM HAITI PANEL DISCUSSION "BUILDING BACK BETTER"**

**Room Document 4**

**DAC Meeting, 16 March 2010**

*This Concept Note is submitted to the DAC for APPROVAL under item 7 of the Draft Annotated Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2010)3].*

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**CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE PANEL DISCUSSION ON HAITI AT THE OECD DAC SENIOR LEVEL MEETING (14 APRIL 2010)**

**ARE WE ON TRACK TO “BUILD BACK BETTER”?**

**1. Background**

- Haiti was progressively back on the road to recovery (elected government, improved security, return of investors) before a 7.0-Magnitude earthquake resulted in the deaths of at least 200,000 people in and around Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 12 January 2010. Over 3.5 million people have been affected in some way by the natural disaster.
- The immediate humanitarian response to the trauma has been fraught with challenges, including logistic, security, capacity and coordination challenges.
- The massive amounts of aid channelled to Haiti (over USD 3.2bn pledged or committed as of 15 February 2010<sup>1</sup>) provide an opportunity to rebuild better infrastructure, but also to promote better accountability, better institutions and better resilience. Meeting in Montreal on 25 January, the international community expressed its will to support the Haitian government to ‘build back better’ and acknowledged that a decade-long engagement would be required to help reconstruct Haiti. Decisions are currently being taken regarding aid scope and modalities in the lead up to a technical meeting on 16-17 March 2010 in the Dominican Republic and a donor conference on 31 March in New York.

**2. Objective and focus of the panel**

1. Responding to relief and recovery needs will present enormous challenges to the government and citizens of Haiti, as well as to the international community.
2. The SLM panel will take place three months after the disaster and two weeks after the New York donor conference. Building on the results of the OECD INCAF Director level working dinner of Haiti, which took place on 23 February, the SLM will address the following objective:

Ensuring that OECD principles and good practices are implemented by DAC donors active in Haiti together with their Haitian and international partners.

<sup>1</sup> [www.haitispecialenvoy.org](http://www.haitispecialenvoy.org)

3. In responding to the SLM question, recognised OECD DAC good practice principles should be taken into account including i) the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship, ii) the principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, iii) relevant OECD principles and good practice relating to peace and security, and iv) the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

4. In supporting application of OECD DAC principles and good practices to the Haitian context, panelists will be asked to address the following questions:

1. Is the international response as currently planned properly set up to “get the job done”?
2. Are donors working in a coherent and coordinated manner, taking advantage of their different skill sets, while ensuring Haitian leadership and oversight?
3. Has the international community properly taken into account the need to stay engaged over the next decade? What can be done to ensure such attention?

### **3. Format**

5. The panel will be chaired by a leading expert in the field and the secretariat will put together a high calibre panel made up of key actors that are active in Haiti. Rather than requesting participation of a Haiti official in Port-au-Prince, given the heavy agenda on the ground, a representative of the Haitian embassy to France will be invited to speak on the panel.

**Annex: The OECD's contribution: advising on good practice and guidance, promoting dialogue and tracking results**

As invited by the Government of Haiti (GoH), the OECD will make a number of strategic contributions to support the effort in Haiti:

1. The OECD will **track DAC members' aid pledges and commitments to Haiti**. The OECD successfully undertook this vital service following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which helped to build confidence in the aid effort.

2. The OECD, through the DAC, will act as a mechanism to **ensure that donor co-ordination, national leadership and national accountability are prioritised** in line with the DAC-endorsed Principles for Good Humanitarian Donorship, the OECD Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The pressure to "get the job done" should not, to the extent possible, undermine sustainable development outcomes.

- The DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) **Fragile States Survey in Haiti** (approved by the Haitian government, CSOs and international actors) offers evidence from the ground on challenges that predate the earthquake, notably: a disconnect between the political and economic elites and ordinary citizens; an excessive focus on the so-called "Republic of Port-au-Prince" and the marginalization of rural populations.
- The OECD, through the DAC's Network on Development Evaluation, will ensure that donor actions are informed by **lessons from past efforts in recovery** by drawing on the findings of relevant evaluations.

3. The OECD-hosted Partnership for Democratic Governance (PDG) in partnership with the Public Governance Committee (PGC) and the Territorial Development and Policy Committee (TDPC) will promote a **Service Delivery Guidance** to explore and advise on modalities for effective public governance and public-private partnerships in Haiti, focusing on matching needs with private and non-governmental service providers.

4. The OECD will support the design and implementation of **private sector development**. It will help with building capacities for long-term planning, analysing opportunities for growth, defining priorities for public investment, designing institutions and governance schemes, and providing good practices on appropriate budget tools.