

CONVENING GROUP OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN HAITI

Following with grave concern the aftermath of the quake and expressing its deepest condolences to the people of Haiti,

Highly commending the ongoing recovery efforts of international institutions, governments and generosity of individuals, and underlining the leading role of the United Nations which will co-host the International Donors' Conference "Towards a New Future for Haiti" in New York on March 31, 2010,

The Convening Group of the Community of Democracies emphasizes the necessity for multidimensional assistance for Haiti. While immediate rescue must come in shelters, food and water supplies, there exist - among others - absolute need for long-term support to Haiti in the form of economic, technical assistance missions of international experts targeted on rebuilding stability, democracy and civil society according to the requirements of the Haitian Government.

Recalling the Community of Democracies 2005 Santiago Ministerial Commitment and 2007 Bamako Ministerial Consensus,

It calls on their signatories to actively engage in long-term actions aimed at economic and social assistance to the people of Haiti and suggests the Community of Democracies in cooperation with regional organizations, to participate at the process to assist to prepare a long-term strategy for poverty reduction and institution building in Haiti.

Asserting that countries that abide by the rule of law, seek to eliminate poverty and actively invest in their people are in a position to better promote aid effectiveness,

Members of the Convening Group feel that the knowledge and experience of democratic countries are their greatest value and acknowledge the importance of their commitment in helping to show the people of Haiti how to restore peace, assure security and step onto the path of democratization and economic development.