

**ECLAC inputs for the Secretary-General's Reports on the implementation of the  
Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries  
January 2006**

Haiti is the only Least Developed Country in Latin America and the Caribbean, so most of the ECLAC activities in the implementation on the Brussels's POA are carried out by its Subregional Headquarters in Mexico and in Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the most important activities in this regard have been those related to the implementation, between August 2002 and August 2005 of a Project for a Non-conventional Strategy of Economic Development for Haiti centered on Poverty Alleviation, with joint funding from ECLAC and the Kellogg Foundation. The objective of the project was to identify the components of a strategy for promoting development and combating poverty, with emphasis on the options and opportunities, as well as the efforts being made by the poor communities themselves. Currently, ECLAC is in the process of applying for financial support from the Kellogg Foundation to launch a second phase of this project, focused on providing technical assistance on special topics of economic and social development.

As outcomes of the project several reports and issues papers were published covering different issues of development such as microfinance; employment; social capital and rural organizations; survival strategies in shanty towns; and macroeconomic performance. With funding from the same sources, two other studies were prepared to examine residential-sector fuel substitution and to calculate competitive supplier prices for LPG and kerosene. At the request of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), ECLAC produced a study on "Haiti's short and long term development issues". This issues paper, published in 2005, served to foster dialogue among political actors and the civil society on such issues. All studies were prepared taking into consideration relevant national counterparts and representatives of the ICF sector groups.

These reports have been distributed in Haiti, and have helped to strengthen the technical capacity of political parties and other relevant agents on the obstacles and alternative strategies to promote Haiti's long-term social and economic development. They are all published by ECLAC and are available in its website.

Another important contribution of the Project has been the organization of seminars on specific development issues. As part of this effort, two seminars were held in Port-au-Prince: one on water and sanitation, on 10-11 May 2005 and the other on food security, on 12-13 May 2005. The papers discussed at these seminars were prepared in coordination with national representatives of the relevant groups of the Haiti Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) and the United Nations system. ECLAC work in the field of food security has continued up to now, in response to specific requests from the Director of the Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA).

In December 2005 a joint UNDP/ECLAC mission to Haiti was executed to provide technical assistance in the areas of poverty reduction strategies (PRS) and economic development.

ECLAC has continued preparing two annual reports on the economy of Haiti. One of these reports, issued each December, provides a preliminary overview of the country's economic performance during the preceding year and presents an outlook for the immediate future. The other report, published by mid-year, presents a more in-depth analysis of the country's economic performance and prospects, based on more fully processed data.

Likewise, ECLAC continues with its activities on the assessment of the impact of natural disasters. These have included not only the assessment of the social and economic impacts of Tropical Storm, Jeanne, in December 2004, but building capacity through the organization of a training course on the disaster assessment methodology, in July 2003. The UNDP has put forward a project proposal to work jointly with ECLAC to train experts in Haiti in the use of ECLAC methodology to move forward towards a long-term strategy for disaster prevention

In October 2003, authorities of Haiti presented their "National Strategy to Strengthen Trade Related Capacities". The document was prepared with ECLAC technical support and "aims to facilitate Haiti's participation in the Hemispheric Cooperation Program (HCP) in the framework of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations through the systematization of a national strategy to strengthen trade-related capacities".

**Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries  
by ECLAC  
January 2006**

Texts in red are abstracts of original guidelines as presented in “Framework of partnership...”

No	Goals and targets <sup>1</sup>	Adopted policies and undertaken measures	Details on Measures and Comments <sup>2</sup>
<b>Commitment 1. Fostering a people-centred policy framework</b>			
	<p>“Supporting initiatives that help empower people living in poverty, especially women, and promoting their capacities to enable them to improve their access to and better utilize available opportunities, basic social and other types of services, as well as productive resources”</p>	<p>1) ECLAC Mexico office undertook an extra budgetary project funded by Kellogg’s Foundation on “Non traditional strategy for development in Haiti” from September 2002 to August 2005. A second phase of the Project, to start in early 2006 is being negotiated between ECLAC and the Kellogg Foundation</p> <p>2) ECLAC celebrated different meetings with the officers from the Women Ministry in Haiti during 2004-05 to try to identify areas and ways to provide technical cooperation help on gender</p>	<p>1) From September 2002 to August 2005 ECLAC Mexico was involved in a extra-budgetary project on “Non-conventional Strategy of Economic Development for Haiti centered on Poverty Alleviation”. The objective of the project was to contribute to identify the main obstacles to reduce poverty and to promote long-term development in Haiti. Through this endeavor ECLAC helped to point out the key guidelines of a non conventional development strategy for Haiti with emphasis on improving the living conditions of the poor. This project was</p>

<sup>1</sup> See the list of goals and targets in annex 2

<sup>2</sup> Please, include in this column the following information: development changes resulted from the adopted policies and measures, obstacles and constraints, further actions to be taken, emerging challenges and issues, lessons learned and good practices.

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	<p>Extending substantial and more effective support for LDCs' efforts in areas of empowering people living in poverty and ensuring their access to basic social services</p>	<p>issues. A formal technical agreement hasn't been concentered yet.</p>	<p>scheduled originally for one year, but socio political conditions in Haiti led to a number of extensions, and was concluded on August 31, 2005.</p> <p>Among the topics that received special attention in the execution of the project were the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Poverty, the productive structure and macroeconomic performance</i></li> <li>b) <i>The role of grassroots organizations in poor rural communities</i></li> <li>c) <i>The urban perspective on poverty</i></li> <li>d) <i>Informal employment and poverty</i></li> <li>e) <i>Microfinance institutions: a tool for economic improvement of the poor</i></li> <li>f) <i>Water and sanitation.</i></li> <li>g) <i>Food security</i></li> <li>h) <i>Use of energy in households</i></li> </ul> <p>Institutional limitations in Haiti, and the unstable socio political situation in the country were considered in the course of the project as the "core external restrictions" that can significantly affect the potential success or failure of any actions or technical cooperation activities to promote development in the country.</p> <p>Major ECLAC publications are in Spanish</p>
	<p>"Promoting a comprehensive and integrated information base, including through strengthening of national</p>		

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<p>No</p> <p>statistical systems”</p>	<p>3) ECLAC undertakes biannual economic analytical reports on Haiti. Outstanding documents on economic and social topics and policies are always offered to the national counterparts: public institutions (IHSI, BRH, MEF, etc.), academic and civil society organizations. Moreover, all current cooperation activities are undertaken with reference to the framework established by the CCI.</p>	<p>(or English), and the language constraint has been an obstacle for a larger diffusion policy of pour work in Haiti. However, every year one of the annual economic reports on Haiti is translated into French. Special care was put on ensuring that all the reports and studies produced within the project partially funded by the Kellogg Foundation were available in French, and a few significant ones in Creole. In particular, the study (conducted by Mr. Gert Rosenthal, former Executive Secretary of ECLAC) “Haiti: medium and long-term development issues” was published in French, English and Creole.</p>
<p><b>Commitment 2. Good governance at national and international levels</b></p>		
<p>“Providing adequate and appropriate response, including financial and technical assistance, to requests of LDCs for human and institutional capacity building for governance functions”</p>	<p>1) In September 2004 the Transitional Government of Haiti requested ECLAC to prepare a study on “long term development strategies” jointly with MINUSTAH. This study was conducted by Mr.Gert Rosenthal, former Executive Secretary of ECLAC. It was published in 2005 under the title: “Haiti: medium and long-term development issues”, and has served to, on the one hand, help raise the level of the current</p>	<p>The Inter American Development Bank (IADB) offered to consider the provision of funding for this cooperation activity. A preliminary table of contents, workplan and budget were discussed by Mr J.L. Machinea and Mr E. Iglesias in 2005, and an updated version was commented with the new authorities of the IADB. In addition, with the involvement of Mr. Gert Rosenthal -</p>

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	<p>“Providing appropriate assistance in response to a request by a LDC Government, and in accordance with the UN Charter, to help the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as supporting confidence-building, post-conflict peace-building, reintegration and reconstruction, thus paving the way for durable peace and sustainable development”</p>	<p>debate in Haiti on the challenges and possible solutions that the country faces in its quest to enter a path of high and persistent economic expansion. On the other hand, it may hopefully also serve as a key input in the planning tasks of the future government to identify an economic strategy to boost long term development. In addition, ECLAC and representatives of national authorities have put forward a precise outline of the topics to be covered in another study oriented to put forward an in-depth analysis of the economic perspectives of Haiti and a strategy to promote long-term sustainable development and poverty reduction. A project proposal has been presented for funding to the IADB.</p> <p>2) In response to Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) follow up, ECLAC has attended several meetings that were held in Haiti. ECLAC has offered its expertise to 8 out of the 19 main topics (namely : Economic Governance; Electricity; Rural Development , agriculture and food security; Environment; Water; Urban Development, Social Protection; Gender)</p>	<p>former Executive Secretary of ECLAC- the office produced in June 2005 a report “Haiti: short and long-term development issues”, to respond to a specific request of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, with the primary purpose of helping to nurture the domestic debate on long-term development issues. The document, written in three languages, was formally presented to MINUSTAH, and distributed to the CCI and representatives of the international community and of local political parties and civil society.</p>
<b>Commitment 3. Building human and institutional capacities</b>			
	<b><u>D. Health, nutrition and sanitation</u></b>		

No	Goals and targets <sup>1</sup>	Adopted policies and undertaken measures	Details on Measures and Comments <sup>2</sup>
<p>14. Reducing by half by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water:</p>	<p><b>E. Social integration</b></p> <p>“Supporting civil society, including traditional and community organizations, in efforts to invest in building social capital and social networks, particularly for the poor and marginalized”</p> <p>“Establishing and strengthening microcredit institutions in view of their capacity to make available credit, mobilize savings and provide related financial and business services for an increasing number of people living in poverty, particularly</p>	<p>In a way, water can be considered as an “entry point” to strengthen a large scope of actions towards most vulnerable population in LDC’s countries. Therefore, the ECLAC project with Kellogg carried out a preliminary evaluation of the situation and the “state of the art” conditions in Haiti for Water and Sanitation in Haiti. This commitment was stated by ECLAC at ICF “water and sanitation” group meeting last December in Haiti.</p> <p>ECLAC extra budgetary project on “Non conventional strategy for development” was originally oriented with a bottom-up perspective. However, given the post-Aristide new political context and the most significant U.N. participation in Haiti, the project added a top-down perspective with definitively more involvement with the transitional government.</p> <p>Some of the topics fulfilled in this analysis are closely linked to the LDC goals in this matter: rural grassroots organizations (social capital); micro financing; survival strategies of marginal groups in urban areas.</p>	<p>ECLAC carried out in May 2005 at Port-au-Prince a workshop with the participation of an ample gamut of stakeholders (local and foreign, from the civil society and the academia and government officers) on, water and sanitation matters in Haiti.</p>

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	women**		

**Commitment 4. Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs**

**D. Energy**

- (a) Facilitating the availability of affordable energy, including through the introduction and promotion of innovative financing schemes in rural areas, such as micro-financing and cooperative arrangements for credit and licensing agreements, in order to encourage the involvement of the private sector in providing energy services;
- (b) Enhancing capacities in energy production, trade, and distribution;
- (c) Promoting renewable energy development by putting in place an enabling policy environment, with appropriate institutional arrangements;
- (d) Promoting policies that address energy requirements and, in this context, giving as appropriate preference to cost-effective energy sources, including fossil and renewable energy development;
- (e) Encouraging regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation in research and development, as well as

ECLAC expertise in energy matters –in particular in the subregional area of Central America- gave rise to the commitment of our office to the corresponding sector in ICF activities. Two studies on this topic were produced and published by ECLAC within the context of the Kellogg project.

ECLAC –within the framework of the project being executed with the support of the W.K.Kellogg Foundation- carried out two studies on energy matters in Haiti. Based on their results, ECLAC may organize a joint workshop with different stakeholders on energy matters in Haiti during 2006.

No	Goals and targets	Adopted policies and undertaken measures	Details on Measures and Comments <sup>2</sup>
	<p>investment to increase the production and consumption of both renewable and clean fossil fuels and to encourage the interconnection of energy grids;</p> <p>(f) <u>Attracting domestic and foreign investments to increase energy infrastructure by creating a predictable and transparent framework of rules and regulations.</u></p> <p><u>H. Rural development and food security</u></p> <p>“Reviewing and revising, as appropriate, their national plans, programmes and strategies with a view to achieving food security and rural development”</p> <p>“Supporting and encouraging grassroots development activities, rural cooperatives and peasants’ initiatives”</p>	<p>Food security has been considered as a priority in the Kellogg funded project. Various meetings with the National Coordination for Food Security of Haiti (CNSA) were conducted to express our interest in this topic and led the joint organization of a workshop in Haiti in May 2005 on Food Security.</p> <p>An ECLAC staff member, in response to a specific request from the CNSA, is helping them to prepare the economic chapter for their report on National Food Security.</p> <p>Certain grassroots organizations were surveyed as part of the study funded by Kellogg Foundation (see above).</p>	<p>An ECLAC staff member attended a workshop on related matters December 2004 in Haiti, and is providing technical cooperation to the National Coordination Office on Food Security (CNSA) on the macroeconomic aspects of this issue..</p> <p>ECLAC organized, jointly with CNSA, a workshop on Food Security in Haiti with different actors on this matter which was carried out in Port-au-Prince in May 2005.</p>

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<b>Commitment 5. Enhancing the role of trade in development</b>			
	<p><b>A. Trade, commodities and regional trading arrangements</b></p> <p>“Capacity-building in trade policy and related areas such as tariffs, customs, competition, investment and technology, including through the use of the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance for LDCs (IF)”</p> <p>“Assisting LDCs in capacity-building in trade policy and related areas such as tariffs, customs, competition, investment and technology, particularly through the use of the Integrated Framework for Trade-</p>	<p>In October 2003, authorities of Haiti presented their “National Strategy to Strengthen Trade Related Capacities”. The document was prepared with ECLAC (Mexico and Washington offices) technical support and “aims to facilitate Haiti’s participation in the Hemispheric Cooperation Program (HCP) in the framework of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations through the systematization of a national strategy to strengthen trade-related capacities”.</p> <p>ECLAC offered technical support to the Ministry of Industry and Trade for updating the above document and awaiting their response.</p>	<p>Further meetings with national authorities (Ministry of Commerce) in 2004 were undertaken to state the ECLAC’s willingness to follow-up this dossier, according to the new Transitional Government priorities and requirements in the framework of ICC objectives.</p> <p>FTAA negotiations recessed in March 2004, and particularities of political obstacles of Haiti relationship with CARICOM community partners, have put curb on a more active fulfilment of these objectives. To the extent that FTAA negotiations may resume in the future, such technical cooperation activities will be agreed to with the new government.</p>

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	<p>related Technical Assistance for LDCs IF)”</p> <p>“Taking appropriate account in regional integration arrangements of particular constraints that LDCs face as a result of their different level of development and supporting them to enhance their production, supply and trading capacities, as well as their capacity to attract investment”</p>		
<b>Commitment 6. Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment</b>			
	<p><b><u>A. Protecting the environment</u></b></p> <p>(a) Building their capacity in order to be able to respond adequately to existing and new environmental challenges;</p> <p>(b) Identifying the special vulnerabilities and</p>	<p>ECLAC office in Mexico is the “focus point” on natural disasters evaluation for Latin America and the Caribbean. The high vulnerability of Haiti led to a request and provision of a workshop on “socio economic evaluation of disasters” according to ECLAC’s methodology. This activity was carried out in July 2003 –jointly and funded by IADB- to promote an awareness approach of corresponding national authorities.</p>	<p>Capacity building of national counterparts is a potential area for further technical cooperation. The two floods events that affected Haiti during 2004 -May and September – and their catastrophic consequences, in deaths penalties and socio economic impacts, revealed the urgency of integral policies in this topic.</p>

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	<p>possible adaptation measures that need to be fully integrated into the country's development strategies, including development cooperation programmes.</p> <p>(c) Pursuing or intensifying efforts to strengthen national early warning and forecasting mechanisms, implementing preventive measures and sensitizing relevant parts of the population to the benefits of disaster preparedness and prevention</p> <p><b><u>B. Alleviating vulnerability to natural shocks</u></b></p>	<p>Last December 2004, an ECLAC joint team (Mexico, Chile and Trinidad Tobago officers) carried out an evaluation of September's floods impact in Artibonite and Northwest regions of Haiti. The ECLAC mission was</p>	<p>The final report of ECLAC mission was submitted to Haitian counterparts and international organizations in February 2005.</p>

No	Goals and targets <sup>1</sup>	Adopted policies and undertaken measures requested by national authorities and funded by IADB.	Details on Measures and Comments <sup>2</sup>
	<p>relevant parts of the population to the benefits of disaster preparedness and prevention”</p> <p>“Providing assistance for disaster mitigation, at the request of affected countries, as well as for improving the capacity of LDCs to identify mitigation scenarios and establishing protective measures and contingency plans”</p>		
<b>Commitment 7. Mobilizing financial resources</b>			
	<p>“Supporting LDCs’ efforts in designing and implementing nationally-owned development policies and strategies, including, where appropriate, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), with full participation of all stakeholders”.</p>	<p>ECLAC, in cooperation with United Nations Mission of Stabilization in Haiti (MINUSTAH), has been providing technical assistance to the Transitional Government of Haiti to produce a study on matters of long-term economic development (see above 2.1).</p>	<p>A first “issues paper” described above has been finished as well as an outline of the topics to be covered in the study, approved by the Ministry of Finance. As mentioned above, the outline, list of activities and estimated costs were discussed by Mr. J.L. Machinea and Mr. E.Iglesias as part of the process of exploring the possibility of securing funds for it from the IDB. The working arrangements for its execution and provision of funding have been presented to the IADB, now with Mr. Luis Moreno as its</p>

No	Goals and targets <sup>1</sup>	Adopted policies and undertaken measures	Details on Measures and Comments <sup>2</sup> new president, to be under evaluation.
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