

**Steering Committee of the UNCTAD-UNDP UN Joint Programme:
Haiti in Crisis: A National Consultation on Reform Priorities and
Financing Options for Accelerated SDG Achievement (Integrated
National Financing Framework, INFF, for Haiti),**

28 February 2023

**Statement by Mr Mussie Deleegn, A/Head of Productive Capacities
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Director-General of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation,
the Director-Generals of the following Ministries: Economy and
Finance, Agriculture, Labour and Social Affairs, Commerce and
Industry,

The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations,

Representative of the UNDP,

Dear Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the
Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation - the national coordinating
entity of the UN Joint Programme *Haiti in Crisis: A National
Consultation on Reform Priorities and Financing Options for Accelerated
SDG Achievement* (in short, Haiti INFF project) – for ensuring the
successful implementation of this UN Joint Programme in Haiti.
Likewise, I wish to congratulate the Ministries of Agriculture, Natural
Resources and Rural Development; Social Affairs and Labour; Economy
and Finance; and Environment, and all other Haitian Ministries and
agencies for their active participation. The INFF Joint Programme for

Haiti, ongoing since 2020, is implemented by two UN agencies, the United Nations Conference on Trade Development (UNCTAD), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UNDP for the fruitful collaboration on the ground.

The implementation of this project would not have been possible without the financial support of the Joint SDG Fund. I therefore extend UNCTAD's sincere thanks to the Joint-SDG Fund for its contribution.

Excellencies, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world economy is at the most challenging times in modern history. The confluences of the global pandemic, environmental degradation, and climate change combined with weak political, security, and socioeconomic landscapes in LDCs – such as Haiti – have caused havoc on their growth and development prospects. The cascade of crises has already wiped out socioeconomic gains of several decades.

Consequently, most of the weaker economies are less likely to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such unprecedented and complex development challenges has made it clear to all of us around the world that the commodity-driven growth model and overdependence on natural resources for development expose economies to systemic risks and structural vulnerability.

There is, therefore, an urgent need for new generation domestic and global policies as the growth paths thus far have failed to deliver promises of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Excellencies, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Haiti is a resourceful country with a young population and a significant history. The country has significant potential in agriculture, fisheries, tourism, different types of services, and other productive sectors. On the other hand, is plagued by political insecurity, gang violence, natural disasters, and high levels of poverty, which explains why it is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Various attempts to reshape Haiti's development strategy and relaunch investment have been impeded or stagnated because of political and security upheavals or quick interventions to address natural disasters.

The Haiti INFF Joint Programme has been working to support the country to build a long-term vision for the country's development since its official launch in 2021 and it is currently Haiti's only significant and ongoing national effort to devise a long-term development strategy and plan.

So far, the Joint Programme has finalised and validated with major stakeholders altogether nine studies and two nationwide surveys on financing for development and development priorities and policies. UNCTAD developed four of the studies, including a National Productive

Capacities Gap Assessment; a study on the Potential of the National Economy and Exports to generate Revenues for SDG funding; two studies on the Potential and Binding Constraints of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors; and a study on Innovative Sources of Finance.

Our studies for Haiti, combined with UNCTAD's global analysis on developing countries, indicate that immediate post-crises policies and strategies must focus on recovery, ensuring security and strong institutions to put in place good governance, as well as socioeconomic resilience-building. They also call for placing the fostering of economywide productive capacities and structural economic transformation at the centre of domestic policies and strategies. What this means in the policy context is that Haiti needs to sustainably tap all its resources for structural transformation. Indeed, Haiti must view its resources as strategically important for economic diversification, job creation, and poverty reduction, while maintaining environmental sustainability.

The Haiti INFF Joint Programme is instrumental in this process, as it helps Haiti to assess financing options for National SDG Strategy achievement and to formulate and implement comprehensive action plans and, where required, policy reforms to mobilize such funding in a way that is best aligned with national SDG Strategy Goals. The proposed extension of the project to enable the completion of activities and further integration of the intervention into national institutions is therefore welcome and essential.

Excellencies, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, despite the difficult operating conditions, which have prompted some of the Joint Programme activities to be delayed and its work plan to be adjusted, the INFF initiative has proven to be resilient in pursuing its objectives, while ensuring strong appropriation by national authorities and stakeholders. We all acknowledge the important efforts of the Haitian Government to stabilize the political situation in the country as a priority. As a next step, in the area of economic policy, it will be important for Haiti to address the key national binding constraints toward structural transformation and strengthen its productive capacities. Official Development Assistance (ODA) jointly with new or innovative sources of development finance are of paramount importance for Haiti and for supporting the strengthening of Haiti's productive capacities in the years to come. Nonetheless, the strengthening of productive capacities is an investment for the future: this will pave the way for Haiti to increasingly support its SDG funding from its domestic resources.

UNCTAD is prepared to continue to support Haiti through its wide-ranging technical assistance. Currently, in a parallel UN Joint Programme with the ILO, we are focusing on developing a comprehensive support programme for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the country.

Collaboration with the Government will be essential in mobilizing funding for this programme.

In this regard, it is important to highlight the strong determination on the part of the Haitian Government to further enhance the contribution of the sectors of economic potential in the years ahead. Indeed, the Government's long-term objective to diversify the Haitian economy and exports is essential and timely.

Thank you for your kind attention.