

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the "International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti" at the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 31 March 2010

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

The Government and the people of India were shocked and deeply grieved at the loss of human life and damage that resulted from the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010. India is familiar with the consequences of natural disasters and therefore understands very well the trauma and the suffering that Haitians are living through.

Immediately following the earthquake, the President and Prime Minister of India conveyed to Haitian leaders our condolences and solemn pledges to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their moment of sorrow. The Government and the people of India also paid homage to men and women of the United Nations family, including one of our own, who were struck down at their posts.

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the excellent work done by the UN family under the leadership of the Secretary-General in coordinating the international response to the humanitarian and other needs in Haiti. In this context it is important to recognize the sterling efforts of MINUSTAH, both on its civil side as well as on the military and police side, despite the tremendous losses that they themselves faced. We also welcome the appointment of Mr. Edmond Mulet as the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Haiti.

We are particularly pleased that the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was put to good use in the earliest stages of recovery work and we commend the Secretary-General for this important decision. India attaches importance to this facility to which we have made significant contributions since its inception and to which we are committed to contribute US \$ 500,000/- each over three year period till 2011.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Soon after the earthquake, India announced a cash contribution of US \$ 5 million towards relief measures as a token of solidarity with the people of Haiti and transferred the entire amount to the Government of Haiti on 2 February, 2010.

Moreover, in response to a request for additional peacekeepers following adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1908 in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, India is sending two additional Formed Police Units to Haiti to strengthen MINUSTAH.

We have also joined Brazil and South Africa in deciding to expand our IBSA, the India-Brazil-South Africa Trust Fund, waste management project in Haiti, both in its area of coverage and its scope of handling different types of waste. IBSA plans to spend over US\$ 2 million in this effort and for reconstruction of a community health centre in Haiti this year.

The Government of India is in touch with the representatives of the Government of Haiti to explore the possibility of reconstructing one of the main Government building in Haiti destroyed by the earthquake. We look forward to coordinating the details with the Haitian authorities and will be guided by their wisdom and advice.

We have no doubt that the people of Haiti have the strength and resilience to overcome this natural disaster and build a stronger Haiti. The Government and people of India will do what we can to help in this major national effort.

Thank you.

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