

# Dumas M. Siméus

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February 9, 2010

Mr. BAN KI-MOON  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017

## **RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW "GOVERNANCE" STRUCTURE TO REBUILD HAITI**

Dear Mr. Ki-Moon:

As a Haitian American and former Presidential candidate in Haiti in 2005, I am writing as a private citizen to express my views on the more active role the UN should take in building a new Haiti (please see two page attachment). First, let me extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, the United Nations, and various member nations of this prestigious body for having intervened expeditiously to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

Despite the current adversity, I strongly believe that Haiti has a unique opportunity to redefine itself and create a modern, prosperous, 21<sup>st</sup> century country. Since the current system of government has been ineffective in serving the people for the past 200 years, it should step aside immediately. We all must face the harsh reality that the previous governments and their policies have left us the legacy of a failed state. Therefore, bold and innovative action is needed now.

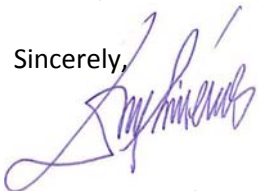
I am recommending that the United Nations, in cooperation with the international community, the Haitian Reformists and the Haitian Diaspora, urgently expand its role and take over the day-to-day and long-term management of the country. Everyday under the status quo is a day of lost opportunity to move the country forward.

As a first step, the current system of government need to be replaced immediately with an international system of *governance*, be it a coalition, a protectorate or a consortium under the leadership of the United Nations. To quote Jeffrey Sachs, "Haiti's rebuilding should be orchestrated by a single powerful entity." I totally support Sachs' approach.

Please find attached my recommendations both for a change in the status quo and a new system of *governance* to move the country forward. It is imperative that Haitian Reformists and the Haitians from the Diaspora be consulted and included in any new *governance* structure set up to manage the affairs of the country for at least the next twenty years.

Please let me know when you are available to meet and discuss these recommendations. In addition to Mr. Clinton, listed below, other interested parties will receive copies of these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Dumas M. Siméus

cc: The Honorable William J. Clinton

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW “GOVERNANCE” STRUCTURE TO REBUILD HAITI (not just Port-au-Prince)

By Dumas M. Siméus

## FIRST, TEAR DOWN THE BARRIERS

The old formulas have never worked. They have only produced bad results. Therefore, it is indisputable that the status quo must go. The three main barriers (of course, there are many more) to socio-economic development and job creation must be eliminated immediately.

### TEAR DOWN BARRIER #1 - ELECTIONS

Haiti needs no more presidential or parliamentary elections at least for the next twenty years. Municipal elections could be considered. Myriad elections in the past 200 years have produced no real leadership or worthwhile sustainable results on behalf of the Haitian people. The Haitian people are arguably not better off now than they were 200 years ago. The Haitian people have suffered too long.

There are those who will argue that this recommendation undermines the sovereignty of Haiti. But, in reality, there is nothing left to undermine. Haiti can fully regain its sovereignty after a 20-year period of transformation and transition to democracy.

### TEAR DOWN BARRIER #2 – THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution has been violated and abused so many times – and continues to be violated – that it can no longer serve as the moral compass and the mother law of the country. It should be set aside immediately until a new, modern constitution is written and ratified by the people.

### TEAR DOWN BARRIER #3 – INTERNATIONAL HANDOUTS AND DONATIONS

Haiti should be very grateful to the international community for their support over the years. But, no country can create wealth and jobs from constant donations and handouts. Haiti must work diligently to stop relying upon handouts and donations. With the right management, Haiti can become a sustainable, self-sufficient country and an important competitive trading partner in the global market. Transfer payments from the Diaspora, while invaluable, cannot and will not contribute to prosperity, economic development or job creation.

## SECOND, CREATE A NEW TYPE OF GOVERNANCE

To create a new Haiti, we need to run Haiti like a business, with a management team empowered by the people. In order to accomplish this most urgent objective:

- a. Haiti needs a new form of representation of the people, by the people, and for the people.
- b. Haiti needs an International Council of Governance (ICG) – not an elected government – similar to a corporate board of directors.
- c. Such Council would be approved by the people through a referendum.

- d. This ICG would be composed of 9-12 members. Membership would be made up of representatives from the United Nations and at least the following countries: Haiti, including the Haitian Diaspora, Canada, Brazil, France and the United States.
- e. The ICG would appoint a Governor or an Administrator to oversee the day-to-day management and long-term reconstruction of Haiti. The Governor/Administrator would report directly to the ICG. Given the challenges and the high energy level required in this position, the Governor/Administrator should be a relatively young but, a seasoned executive with tested leadership and managerial skills, someone who has delivered solid results, preferably in a complex for-profit organization.
- f. At least once every trimester, the ICG would report to its constituents – the Haitian people – through open town hall meetings on its progress of rebuilding the country and creating jobs. There would be full transparency with the media and other interested parties present.
- g. The ICG would be empowered by the people to redefine, create and manage a new Haiti for at least the next generation (20 years or more).

**The Haiti Marshall Plan, as described below, should not be considered until the ICG is voted in by the people.**

### THIRD, HAITI NEEDS A MARSHALL PLAN

- a. The ICG would be responsible for developing a 20-year Marshall Plan and a timetable with milestones.
- b. The ICG would assign responsibilities and monitor actual progress against budgeted dollars under the Best Practices in Management Systems, i.e., What/Who/When. In other words, *What* must be done? *Who* will do it?, and *When* will it be done?
- c. In inflated today's dollars, the European Marshall Plan cost \$120 billion. We estimate that the Haiti Marshall Plan will cost at least \$66 billion over 20 years.
- d. The Marshall Plan will deal with social and infrastructure issues such as water, schools, feeding the school children, hospitals, airports, relocation of the capital city, decentralization of overpopulated cities, job creation, road construction, industrial development (agriculture, tourism, fishing, garment, etc.), irrigation projects, dams, buildings, hydro-electric plants, roads, etc.
- e. The Plan would promote wealth creation by establishing at least four specialized financial institutions: two Venture Capital firms (VCs) and two Private Equity firms (PEs), capitalized at \$25 million each for a total of \$100 million. Funding would come from selected Limited Partners (LPs) such as IDB, the World Bank, USAID, the European Union, France, etc. The primary mission of these four institutions would be to give access to capital – practically nonexistent today – to the average Haitian entrepreneur.

In addition to providing senior financing, mezzanine financing and equity financing to the entrepreneurs, these VCs and PEs would also provide regular incubator services, especially to start up companies. Companies such as Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, Intel, Apple and FedEx, would not exist today without access to capital from VCs and PEs.

- f. Under the Marshall plan, all infrastructure projects would be constructed under 21<sup>st</sup> Century modern building codes and urban planning methods.