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## Billions pledged at donors' conference as Ban calls for wholesale rebuilding of Haiti



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opens donors' conference for Haiti. To his right is US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

31 March 2010 – Dozens of nations and organizations have pledged more than \$5 billion so far today to assist Haiti following the recent devastating earthquake, just hours after Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened a day-long donors' conference by calling for the wholesale rebuilding of the country.

In his opening [address](#) this morning to the conference at UN Headquarters in New York, Mr. Ban appealed to donors to provide \$11.5 billion over the next 10 years for the reconstruction of the Caribbean nation.

"What we envision, today, is wholesale national renewal... a sweeping exercise in national-building on a scale and scope not seen in generations," he told delegates from more than 130 nations attending the high-level meeting aimed at securing the financial resources necessary to help Haiti recover and rebuild after the 12 January quake.

Some \$3.9 billion of the \$11.5 billion being sought will be channelled into specific projects through a newly-created Interim Haiti Recovery Commission during the next 18 months.

Mr. Ban said reconstruction work must move in tandem with emergency relief and urged donors to provide further support to the revised humanitarian appeal for Haiti. That appeal is calling for \$1.4 billion, but is currently only 50 per cent funded.

"The rainy season is fast approaching. Some camps for displaced persons are at risk of flooding. Health and sanitation issues are growing more serious," Mr. Ban said.

Haiti's President René Prével, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and UN Special Envoy for Haiti Bill Clinton are also co-hosting the conference, entitled *Towards a New Future in Haiti*.

They noted the courage and solidarity shown by the Haitians in the midst of the unprecedented suffering resulting from the quake and the outpouring of generosity and support from the country's international partners. At the same time, they underscored that Haiti's road to recovery will be a long one and one which will require continued global support.

The conference is co-chaired by Brazil, Canada, the European Union, France, and Spain as leading donors to Haiti, which was already the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere before the disaster.

The 12 January quake struck close to the capital, Port-au-Prince, and resulted in the deaths of more than 200,000 people. It also left one third of the country's 9 million people in need of aid.

The total value of damage and losses sustained has been calculated at approximately \$7 billion, according to the UN Development Programme ([UNDP](#)).

Its Administrator, Helen Clark, voiced hope that today's conference "will pave the way for building back better in Haiti. With sufficient resources, the vision presented today by the Government of Haiti on behalf of Haitian people can become reality."

She also emphasized the need for Haitian ownership of the recovery process, with international assistance being aligned with the country's priorities.

"With the necessary resources, we can assist the Government to develop effective social protection to combat extreme poverty; we can help improve access to education, health services, and clean water and sanitation; and we can help promote food security and nutrition," Miss Clark said.

Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive presented the country's needs and its plans for recovery. Countries, international organizations, and other partners at the meeting will be able to pledge resources, to coordinate in support of Haiti's long-term recovery and to commit to a sustained effort to support the country.

General Assembly President Ali Treki urged participants at today's meeting to further support reconstruction efforts, and hoped that the pledges made by the international community "would be commensurate with the needs of the people and Government of Haiti and firmly pave the way to a brighter future," his spokesperson stated.

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