

PRESS RELEASE - URGENT

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Mobilizing for Haiti Rebuilding: Diaspora-Driven Partnership Conference expects to draw a crowd at United Nations Weds 2/24

February 23, 2010 (New York). Registration had to be closed early due to overwhelming response to an announced conference at the United Nations tomorrow. Members of the Haitian Diaspora community, NGOs, UN personnel and members of the business community will be attending **Haiti Re-Building Against All Odds: Fostering Partnerships**, organized by United Nations Association Haiti in conjunction with the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations. The event will take place 2:45-6:20 pm at the United Nations, with a reception/music follows at the Turkish Mission from 6:30-9pm (**for preregistrations only due to space**).

Organized in the scant weeks since the earthquake, the goal of the conference is to provide accurate updates on conditions in Haiti, and to identify powerful new partnerships. The event will serve as a catalyst – matching organizations on the ground with others in a position to accelerate good ideas beyond the "talk" stage.

“While the international community is mobilizing itself, individuals and organizations, both faith based and secular, have reached out, offering their hands, hearts, skills, and time”, said Harvey Dupiton, Secretary General of UNA Haiti. In addition to panels of key individuals with experience partnering and working on the ground in Haiti, the expertise in the audience includes healthcare, community development, education, infrastructure, finance, and the arts. “The talent that will be assembled is world-changing”, said Dupiton.

The conference registration was cut off at 600 people from the Haitian community, the diplomatic corps, celebrities, NGOS, students, business community, donor organizations, and members of the international media. Seating has been reserved for media and invited guests including **William Jefferson Clinton, Ban Ki Moon, Wyclef Jean, and honorees Anderson Cooper and Sanjay Gupta**.

The program will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Leo Merores, Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations. Participating organizations include: **Haitian Americans United For Change, Partners in Health, Fonkoze, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic, Haitian Studies Assn., Global Syndicate, Institute of International Education, Mercy International Assn, Association des Medecins Haitiens a l'Etranger, and Israel's Ministry of Finance.**

UNA-Haiti has announced its collaboration with Global Syndicate on the event. The Global Syndicate, founded by Haitian-American financier Jacques-Philippe Piverger, harnesses massive resources to provide grants to non-profit organizations, both large and small, that have proven capabilities to execute initiatives that positively impact communities in need. The Advisory board includes Ambassador Frank Wisner, Laurence Latimer, and Robert Kennedy III.

For more information: www.unahaiti.org

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About UNA-Haiti

The United Nations Association Haiti (UNA Haiti) was organized in Haiti in August 2004 as a member of a family of associations that enable people everywhere to coordinate their efforts to address critical global issues; including peace and human rights, the spread of democracy, equitable development, and international justice. Accredited by the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in March 2005, UNA Haiti is structured as a membership association open to individuals as well as organizations. By mandate, it does not engage in development activities. It works through partners on the ground. In the wake of the earthquake disaster in Haiti, the Association is being re-organized to better respond to the challenges of rebuilding.

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About WFUNA

The World Federation of the United Nations Associations is a non-governmental organization set up in 1946 as a peoples' movement supporting the United Nations, its principles, and its programs.

www.wfuna.org