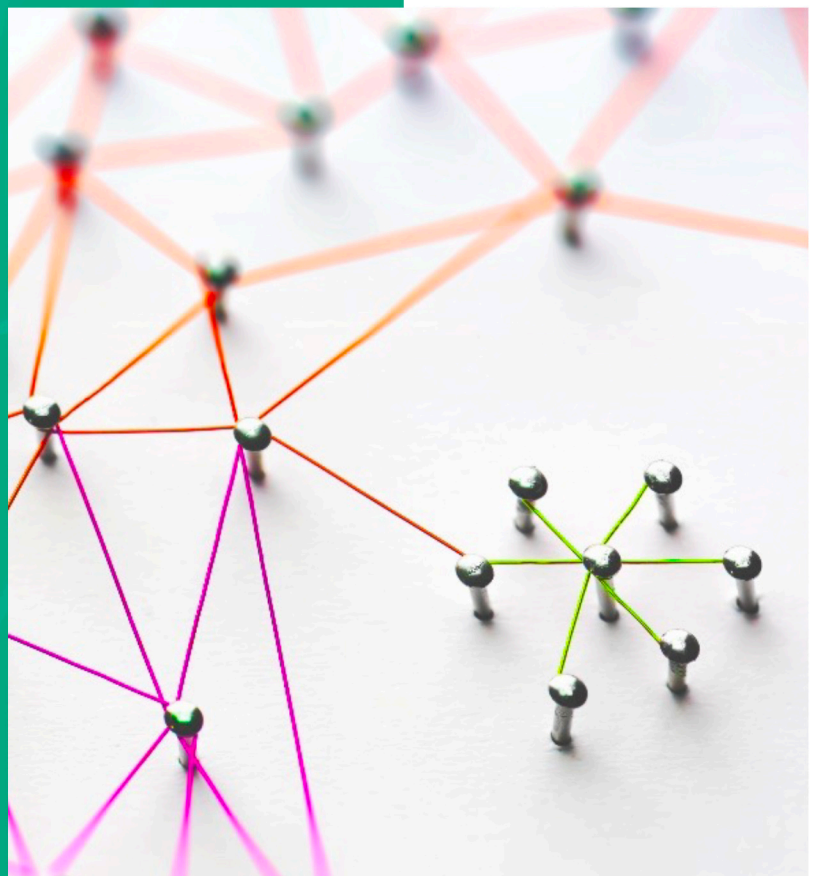


MANIFESTO FOR AN INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE



TOWARD A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO A DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS HAITIAN SOCIETY



OCAPH





PREAMBLE

The nation's founders formulated a straightforward project for Haiti: a land of freedom against oppression and dehumanization. A land of freedom open to all people who are looking for a welcoming land or the means of self-determination.

Today this project is threatened! Haiti is no longer a land of freedom for its inhabitants. Instead, they live in precariousness, insecurity, and incivility under the threat of disasters made more dangerous by environmental degradation. The traditional structures of mutual aid and solidarity have been strained, even as Haitians living abroad contribute about \$ B 3.5 to the national economy annually through their remittances. Many brothers and sisters have chosen to migrate elsewhere for better opportunities or security.

The drive for recovery can only come from the sons and daughters of Haiti, whether they reside on its territory or elsewhere. The purpose for recovery can only come from the realization that it is time to talk to each other as equals, with mutual respect, and finally, to focus on our common cause: the preservation of our Motherland, the strengthening of its institutions and, above all, adopting inclusive dialogue mechanisms to maintain peace and prosperity for the diverse communities that constitute our Nation.

To do this, the signatories of this manifesto declare their intention to combine their efforts and the actions of the organizations they represent to:

Promote, facilitate, and lead an inclusive dialogue between all social, political, and economic sectors of Haiti to foster the emergence of a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Haiti.



VALUES

The initiative is based on values shared by the various stakeholders. These values serve as a reference for the actions to be taken, indicators of our identity, and evaluation criteria of our efforts.

Equality: Without distinction, Haiti's sons and daughters are equal before the law. This founding principle is part of the motto of our Republic: Liberty-Equality-Fraternity. This value must constantly be promoted and underlined.

Integrity: As individuals, everyone continually reinvents themselves, reinvent their speech, and value all that nature and other beings on earth bring to them, their communities, and their families.

Inclusion: We each have equal standing as full-fledged sons and daughters of Haiti. Neither our place of birth, our beliefs, our origins, or our gender should constitute barriers to participation in the life and future of our communities. However, belonging to the national community entitles us to our rights, but it also gives us commensurate duties.

Openness: Although different as individuals, we accept to hear and understand each other, and we accept to examine their ideas to react to their actions without prejudice. We agree to change our point of view on an issue when this is warranted.

Mutual Respect: As members of the community of sons and daughters of Haiti, we adhere to mutual respect as a cornerstone of our interactions. Disagreements must be handled in mutual respect.

Valuing our heritage: As sons and daughters of Haiti, we are no more than the temporary stewards of the national heritage, which must be safeguarded to be transmitted to future generations. We develop an awareness and respect for our heritage, whether tangible or intangible.

Interdependence: Our destiny is linked. We can only progress by accepting our complementarity with others. At the social level, the behavior of each of us, individually and as members of social or interest groups, affects all other community members, whether immediately or prospectively. Environmental mutations, which result from global climate changes, affect us all.

Tolerance: As products of different life histories and experiences, we will come across behaviors that are new to us and perhaps that we will reject. As sons and daughters of Haiti, we are ready to accept that the other person is different and that disagreements may exist. Of course, this assumes the common recognition of the intolerable.



WHY « THE MANIFESTO » ?

- The stipulations of the 1987 Constitution or the Amended 1987 Constitution, like those contained in numerous previous liberal-minded constitutions of Haiti, have, at one time or another, been denied or rejected by vested interests groups, which feel threatened by the rule of law, even when their application would benefit the national community.

Haiti has often experienced sudden convulsions of social groups whose members claim their rights, respectively, to essential services, to participate in decisions affecting them, to express their ideas, and to be an integral part of the national community. But these movements have not always had lasting results, having been quickly hijacked by the political forces based mainly in Port-au-Prince, the capital, which are anxious to preserve the vested interests of dominant social and economic groups.

Throughout Haiti's history, the dominant models of government have been authoritarian or even dictatorial. Liberal democracy has always been short-lived, existing tentatively as parenthetical periods. In each generation, there has not been a lasting peaceful exercise of power; there has been no sustained period of provision of essential services to the whole population. Health or education statistics have never revealed that the population's needs have been met. Regarding agricultural commodities, prices have been set to that producers never achieve the minimum profit. The infamous ransom of Independence was paid with the sweat of thousands of farm producers with nary a concern for their wellbeing or the country's national interests. This lack of equitable representation and inadequate provision of essential services have condemned large fractions of the population to a state of misery. Over the past half-century, migration has become the only viable solution to Haiti's bad governance and indifference of its elites. Deficient governance has resulted in a massive exodus of our fellow citizens, scattered all over the Americas, with significant pockets in the Dominican Republic, the U.S.A., the French overseas territories, and, for about a decade, in Brazil and Chile. The unwanted consequence of this migration flight is that Haiti lacks a sufficient cadre of trained professionals for its economic development. Economically, Haitian migrants contribute nearly one-fourth of the country's gross domestic product through remittances.

Politically, these population movements have not favored the emergence of representative organizations which can contribute to the institutional framework of the Democratic Republic stipulated by the Constitution of 1987, which became possible following the revolt of the underprivileged masses. The political parties, far from being reinforced through judicious alliances, have mushroomed beyond their ability to address the yearning of the Haitian people for meaningful change. Politics have become a zero-sum game that has devolved into chronic instability, even anarchy, as even the President of the Republic was assassinated in his bedroom on July 7, 2021.

WHY « THE MANIFESTO » ?






- At the same time, civil society organizations have also proliferated, as no meaningful mechanism of consolidation exists to foster strategic alliances. What could be a valuable source of mediation between public authorities and citizens has thus been weakened and is as fractured as political parties. Civil society organizations mirror the political realm in their atomization and fractured interaction.

For the past four years, indiscriminate violence has permeated the cities and countryside of Haiti. Mirroring the economic, social, and political crises, which are characterized by the inability of the respective actors to constitute stable poles of harmonious or balanced functioning of society, Haiti has entered a process of accelerated decomposition. This situation threatens the initial national project: to develop Haiti into a corner of the earth where its citizens live free and prosper through their hard work.

Various reflections on Haiti's economic, political and social aspects have fueled the discussions and the orientations defined here. Whether it is the civil society organization Kafou Lespwa (Crossroad of Hope), with its three possible developments scenarios, the Executive Training and Development Academy (AFPEC, by its French acronym) with its "Twelve years to rebuild Ayiti" perspective, or even, outside of Haiti, the United States Global Fragility Act, which takes into account the root causes of instability of the countries under analysis - including Haiti, in an effort to propose systemic interventions designed to counter challenges in governance that hamper economic development, each, in its own way, underlines the importance of pooling all of Haiti's human resources to address the combined effects of inequalities, injustice and the lack of coordination of the disparate actors on the Haitian scene.

This manifesto invites, thus, the sons and daughters of Haiti, wherever they may reside, to promote, organize, and support a permanent dialogue between the different social groups, organizations, and citizens living in Haiti and abroad. This is crucial to foster the emergence of ideas and decisive actions that can engender a future of peace and prosperity for all.

STRATEGY AND SPRINGBOARD FOR ACTION

-  **Bring together, connect, and intervene to promote new responsible and respectful behavior** among all stakeholders in the national transformation at the local, national or supranational levels.
-  **Bring together, connect, and intervene to promote awareness and commitments for new responsible and respectful behavior** between all actors to foster national transformation.
-  **Identify, recruit or motivate national or foreign personalities** who have relevant experience in reconstructing fragmented societies or those that have suffered traumas. This component is intended to provide social groups working to reclaim opportunities to regain dignity and prosperity to benefit from the contribution of individuals from all over the world who have experienced crises and who can inspire Haitians in their effort to peacefully resolve differences and conflicts that constitute obstacles to achieving peace.
-  **Communicate, inform and disseminate.** The circulation of credible information is a critical component of the actions advocated by this manifesto. That is why all organizations adhering to it agree to provide real spaces or virtual platforms for sharing and circulating information on the progress in the social dialogue and the reconstruction of the national fabric.
-  **Facilitate or promote the implementation of social and economic initiatives** capable of consolidating positive social and affective relationships among members of a same geographic community. Constructive dialogue must revolve around structural aspects of community life. We must reconnect with prosperity to reconnect with hope and new, peaceful relationships within communities. This requires the implementation of economic, social, and cultural initiatives that can foster renewed desire to live together.

STRATEGY AND SPRINGBOARD FOR ACTION

 **Connect with decision-makers or influencers abroad on Haitian affairs.**

Often, Haiti elicits the interest of several states, among them its big neighbor to the north. Foreign interventions in Haiti have often been based on an erroneous or simplistic understanding of its social and political dynamics. The decision-makers and stakeholders in Western capitals may appear committed to working with Haiti, but they tend to see Haitian reality through a distorted prism, frustrating even the best intentions during implementation. Indeed, other nations have their own interests, which are not always compatible with Haitian reality. Through advocacy and information, organizations that have adopted this manifesto undertake to use this perspective on Haiti and Haitians in their partnership with foreign stakeholders.



ORGANIZATION

"Traveler, there is no path, The path is made by walking."

Antonio Machado

Organizations adhering to the MDI will do so according to the emergent model. At the outset, the emergent model sets few rules of the game and adjusts, based on constant communication and self-regulating rules, its operating methods according to the public concerned, the actions to be taken, and the prevailing conditions in a way that remains efficient and not bureaucratic.

Broad coordination works by relying on existing technological tools.

The stakeholders plan to meet during an initial conference scheduled at the end of July 2022 to:

- 1 - become party to this manifesto; and
- 2 - Prepare an action plan outline based on a theory of change to be developed within three months of the initial meeting.

The time for the awakening of the sons and daughters of Haiti and its diaspora has come!

Long live Haiti, our homeland!