A Strategic U.S.-Haiti Partnership for Stability and Prosperity

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Institut Macaya: A Haitian-Led Vision for Economic Self-Reliance and Sustainable Growth

Institut Macaya is a private-sector think tank founded in 2022 by mid-career Haitian entrepreneurs who believe Haiti's crisis is rooted in decades of political instability, government mismanagement, and economic imbalances.

We are convinced that Haiti's turnaround is possible if built on principles essential for governance, stability, and prosperity:

- Commitment to democratic principles and meritocracy, with a strong emphasis on peaceful political alternance through free and fair elections.
- Efficient, effective, transparent and accountable governance at the service of citizens
- Macroeconomic stability to drive investment, growth, and job creation
- Security and strong law enforcement to maintain peace and stability and reinforce investor confidence
- Public-private partnerships to prioritize business-friendly policies, ensure a level playing field for businesses, attract private investment, and generate sustainable government revenue.
- Inclusive and equitable growth-oriented economic policies within the framework of a market economy that create opportunities for all Haitians, promote social progress and reduce inequalities

We believe that Haitians must take ownership of their country's rebuilding and development, gradually reducing its reliance on foreign aid by unlocking its untapped potential and vast opportunities.

We are committed to advancing Haiti's transformation by fostering strong partnerships with local and international stakeholders, including the country's vibrant diaspora. Our work centers on collaborating with the private sector and civil society organizations to drive initiatives that enhance Haiti's stability and sustainable socio-economic growth.

We recognize that taking on a leadership role in this journey requires exemplary conduct and a strong sense of responsibility—commitments we are fully prepared to uphold.

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Haiti's Crisis: An Urgent Challenge with Regional Implications

Haiti is facing the most severe crisis in its history—a multifaceted collapse that has eroded governance, decimated institutions, and left millions trapped in poverty, violence, insecurity, and dependence on foreign aid.

Today, the Haitian state can no longer fulfill its sovereign responsibilities. Lawlessness has overtaken the country, with criminal gangs expanding their control, forcibly displacing over 700,000 people, and crippling economic activity. The nation's GDP has contracted 14.6% since 2019, while inflation has eroded purchasing power (186.4% since 2017), and widespread food insecurity has reached catastrophic proportions.

This crisis extends beyond Haiti's borders. Uncontrolled migration, drug trafficking, and transnational criminal networks operating in Haiti threaten U.S. security interests. The United States is already facing record numbers of Haitian migrants at its southern border, adding pressure to U.S. immigration enforcement, social services, and national security operations.

While Haitians are responsible for their own hardship and must take ownership of their own future, decades of US foreign aid have failed to generate meaningful, lasting improvement in the majority of the population's livelihoods.

The Trump administration has made it clear that a new era of foreign policy must be based on shared economic and security interests—not indefinite aid. This moment presents an opportunity for the U.S. to engage Haiti in a results-oriented and purposeful partnership that strengthens regional security, supports American economic interests at home and in the region, and helps Haiti move toward self-sufficiency.

Rather than a cycle of dependency, Haiti should be seen as a strategic partner in the Western Hemisphere—one that can contribute to regional stability, economic growth, and supply chain security if given the right incentives.

A Strategic Opportunity for U.S. Engagement & Key Areas for U.S.-Haiti Collaboration

The United States has a clear economic and security interest in stabilizing Haiti. While US military intervention may not be the primary solution, support for decisive and urgent security operations (private security services, local security forces or multinational mission) to neutralize armed groups remains an immediate priority. However, sustainable peace requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses governance, economic growth, and institutional reforms. Strategic law enforcement cooperation, border control support, and private-sector investment incentives can shift Haiti from being a burden to an asset for the U.S.

Haiti has the opportunity to bypass traditional development obstacles by leveraging and embracing modern technologies such as AI-driven tools and e-government solutions that improve efficiency in public administration and the private sector.

Below is a list of possible areas of collaboration between Haiti and U.S. governments and private sectors.

1. Security Assistance & Border Protection

The United States should provide immediate support to dismantle criminal networks in Haiti that pose regional threats, including illegal migration and drug trafficking. Strengthening Haiti's coastline and border security will help block the flow of illicit goods and migrants, protecting both nations' interests. To ensure long-term stability, the Haitian National Police and Armed Forces must be reinforced, with coordinated U.S.-Haiti law enforcement operations to permanently disrupt organized crime and restore order. This effort should be guided by the Global Fragility Act's 10-year strategy for Haiti, with an assessment of its deployment to refine programs and resource allocation for greater impact.

2. Anti-Corruption & Institutional Reform

To combat corruption and restore government credibility, Haiti must modernize its institutions to enhance transparency, reduce inefficiencies, and prevent fraud. The first and most crucial step towards achieving this goal is through an overdue constitutional reform before the next election takes place as soon as the security conditions permit. Implementing e-government systems and digital financial services will improve public service delivery, streamline tax collection, and limit opportunities for mismanagement. Holding corrupt officials accountable is critical, but equally important is the creation of efficient, technology-enabled processes that promote long-term stability and attract foreign investment by ensuring transparent and accountable governance.

3. Economic Development & Investment

- **Industrial Development & Nearshoring:** Haiti has the potential to become a regional hub for nearshoring and manufacturing, offering a cost-effective, strategic alternative for U.S. companies looking to diversify their supply chains and reduce their reliance on other countries. A key component of this is the swift renewal and expansion of the HOPE-HELP trade legislation, which would provide much-needed support for Haiti's industrial sector, incentivizing foreign direct investment and job creation.
- **Tourism & Island Development:** Haiti possesses an unparalleled tourism opportunity, particularly through the development of its offshore islands, some of which are larger than independent Caribbean nations whose economies thrive on tourism. A strategic investment in tourism infrastructure—including luxury resorts, cruise ports, and eco-tourism initiatives—could unlock billions in revenue, create jobs, and position Haiti as a premier travel destination in the Caribbean.
- **Agricultural Development & Food Security:** With a large portion of its workforce engaged in agriculture, Haiti has the potential to modernize its agricultural sector, increase productivity, and improve food security. Investment in irrigation, supply chains,

and agribusiness could help Haiti reduce its reliance on food imports, strengthen rural economies, and create sustainable employment opportunities.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Roads, ports, energy, and telecommunications are essential for supporting industrial and agricultural growth. Private-sector investment should be prioritized over government-run projects to ensure efficiency and sustainability.
- **Mining & Natural Resource Development:** Haiti's vast untapped mineral resources—including gold, copper, and bauxite—represent one of the country's most promising sources of state revenue. If developed responsibly, the mining sector could generate billions in government income, enabling Haiti to finance critical infrastructure, education, and healthcare without relying on foreign aid. A transparent, well-regulated approach to natural resource extraction—aligned with global best practices—would help attract ethical foreign investment while ensuring that revenues benefit the Haitian people.
- **Housing & Urban Development:** Large-scale development of affordable and resilient housing to address displacement and urbanization challenges. A structured approach to the reconstruction of Port-au-Prince and the development of regional economic zones can serve as a catalyst for sustained economic growth. By investing in secondary cities and infrastructure, Haiti can reduce over-reliance on the capital, create employment opportunities, and encourage private sector-led urban renewal.

A New Era for U.S.-Haiti Relations

Haiti's crisis is not just a Haitian problem—it is an American security and economic concern. A failed Haiti leads to illegal migration, criminal networks, and financial strain on U.S. resources.

Haiti must transition away from foreign aid dependency toward a self-sustaining economic model, and the U.S. has a vested interest in ensuring that transition aligns with its regional security and economic goals.

Institut Macaya seeks to engage in a solutions-driven dialogue with the Trump administration to contribute to policies designed to support Haiti's transition from instability to prosperity—not through endless aid, but through security cooperation, private-sector growth, and long-term strategic investment.

U.S. investment in Haiti should not be charity—it should create opportunities for American businesses and workers while strengthening the Western Hemisphere.

We look forward to engaging with members of the Trump administration to discuss this vision, fully aligned with its America First approach.