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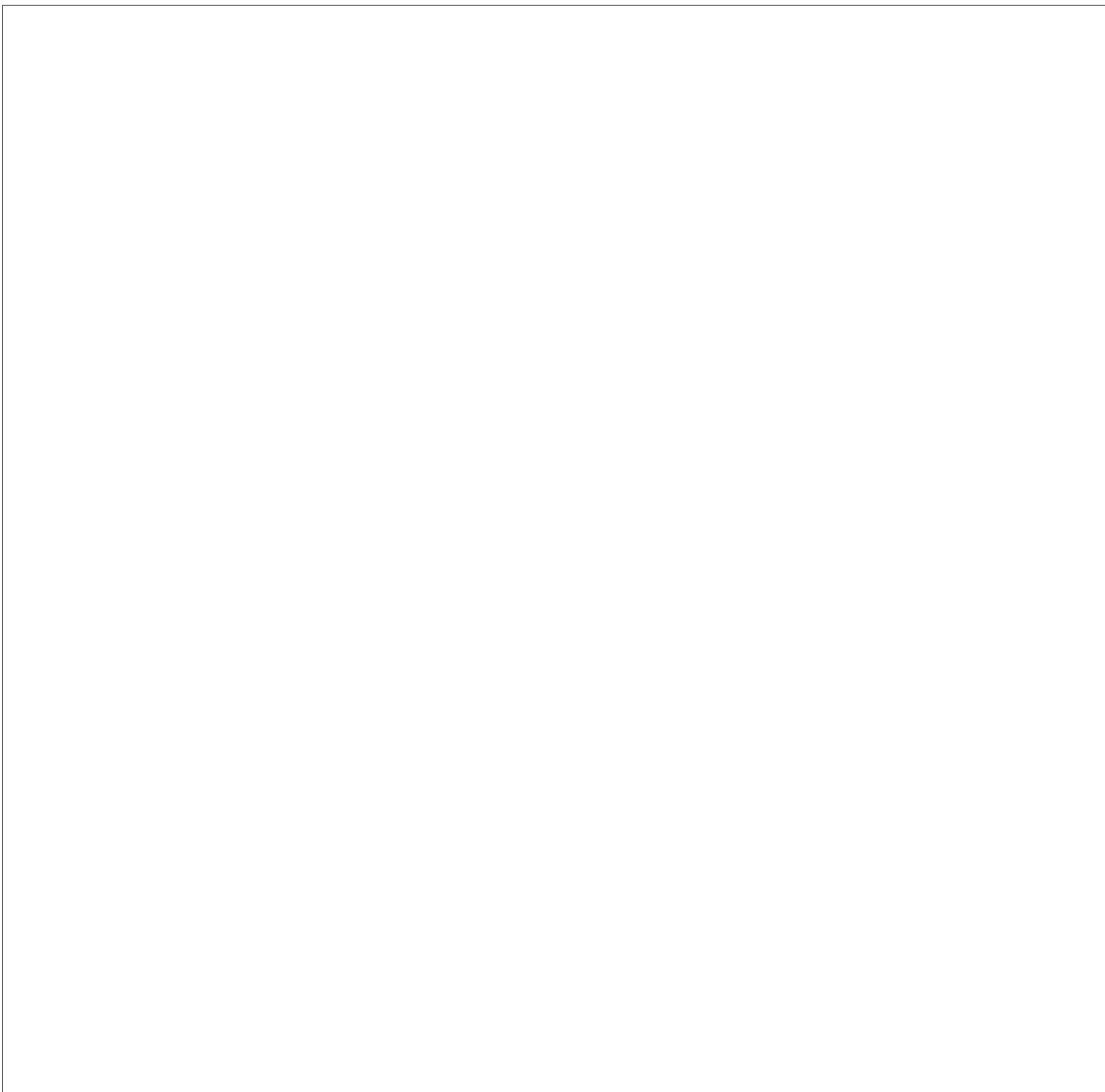
January 24, 2010

**INFORMATION MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY**

**From: C – Cheryl Mills**

**Re: Creation of a Multidonor Reconstruction Fund (MDF) for Haiti**

This memo provides a summary of key issues related to the creation of a multidonor reconstruction fund for Haiti (MDF), incorporating lessons learned from reconstruction efforts following the 2004 tsunami.



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**Lessons from Aceh:**

- **MDFs encourage greater donor participation:** Smaller donors joined the Aceh fund because they wished to support reconstruction efforts but lacked independent capacity and often did not have strong views on how to pursue reconstruction. They wanted the Bank to assume fiduciary responsibilities for the funds in a high-risk environment, and also to take a lead in ensuring that the funds go to prioritized activities.
- **Develop an outreach strategy:** The Aceh MDF Secretariat developed an Outreach Strategy that includes regular radio talk shows, field visits to meet and discuss with beneficiaries, and communication through advertisements as well as a telephone hotline.
- **Engage the government in dialogue:** The Aceh MDF received praise for engaging the GoI in policy dialogue. The MDF was an entry point for engaging on conditions for sustainability, relevance and impact.
- **Appointment on Envoy:** The appointment of a high-profile UN Special Envoy (former President Clinton) increased the availability of funding

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and willingness of international agencies to try new approaches. It also could provide one forum for coordination among donors, if the Envoy's office is adequately supported.

- **Disaster prevention:** The tsunami underscored the critical role of disaster prevention in “building back better.” It is difficult to overemphasize the importance of embedding risk reduction into recovery, especially in Haiti, where natural disasters have caused enormous human suffering.
- **Coordinate proliferating aid agencies:** Large numbers of both public and private aid agencies are likely be active in Haiti for some time. It is important to develop effective coordinating mechanisms and work to ensure that agencies bring actual expertise to the country, reduce turnover of international staff, and seek staff with appropriate language skills.
- **Authoritative Assessment:** Authoritative joint assessments involving the UN, the Red Cross, and national governments could have a beneficial impact on the decision making process and ensure broad buy-in.

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