



Map by Andriyko\_UA

# Promoting dialogue for democratic reform in Haiti

*A Club de Madrid initiative with the financial support of the European Union\**

Since the 2010 earthquake, Haiti has mainly switched from a humanitarian aid phase to a development phase. However, persistent political instability could jeopardize the progress being made. Haiti faces urgent challenges in the field of governance, such as the holding of elections to renew the Senate and local authorities, the tense relations between the executive and legislative branches, the inability of parliamentary groups to agree on legislative and governmental initiatives. In the medium term, Haiti should adopt and implement democratic reforms ensuring an inclusive and participative approach.



In this context, the Club de Madrid and the European Union have launched a project aiming at supporting Haitian leaders to **overcome the current political challenges** and, at the same time, **promoting dialogue to address Haiti's structural obstacles to democratic reform**.



## Objectives

- ▶ To establish multi-stakeholder areas for dialogue and negotiation so as to bring together the country's key players in order to reflect on commonly identified democratic governance priorities.
- ▶ To accompany Haitian leaders in the management of immediate political challenges and support them in their search for solutions
- ▶ To promote dialogue regarding democratic reforms in the medium and long-term in order to find pragmatic agreements leading to political actions.



## The Initiative

Club de Madrid members will be working directly with Haiti's political leaders (President, Prime Minister and their cabinets, heads of Parliament and opposition political parties) over a period of 18 months, providing **peer-to-peer strategic and independent counsel and support**. This initiative is structured around six high level missions. These will allow Club de Madrid members, in coordination with the European Union, to accompany the Haitian leaders and main stakeholders in their discussions, actions and policies. The aim is to offer relevant support in **designing their own solutions to face key challenges such as social cohesion, state reform, the electoral process, constitutional reform, building an enabling environment for investments and judicial reform**. Project objectives will be achieved through bilateral meetings with Haitian leaders, the facilitation of multi-stakeholder workshops, targeted consultations and working sessions with civil society, academia, the private sector and religious leaders; the development of working documents and briefing papers on specific topics to inform dialogue and negotiations, and public outreach activities such as conferences on democratic governance.

In collaboration with:



\* The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Club de Madrid and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the EU.

## Topics



**Social Cohesion:** Haiti presents extreme inequality in the distribution of income, a high poverty rate, deficient institutional capacities, a lack of economic opportunities and social mobility, endemic unemployment and underemployment and consequently a potential for social violence.



**State reform:** The aim of the ongoing reform is to move towards a modern, efficient State, by developing and enhancing the institution's administrative capacities as well as putting in place transparent and efficient procedures.



**Elections:** The aim is to ensure that the long overdue elections for the renewal of the Senate and the local authorities are carried out, in a fair, transparent and inclusive manner.



**Constitutional reform:** The 1987 Constitution needs to be revised with a view to rationalizing the electoral calendar, clarifying the electoral procedures and streamlining the relevant institutional structures.



**Promotion of investment:** 70% of the Haitian population does not have a formal job. Although employment and investment are government priorities, political instability does not contribute to attracting investors. Public-private partnerships require public policies designed to ensure stability and an enabling environment for businesses.



**Judicial reform:** To make progress towards ensuring the independence of the Judiciary from the political power.



## About the Club de Madrid

The Club de Madrid is an independent non-profit organization composed of more than 90 democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers from more than 60 different countries, constituting the world's largest forum of former Heads of State and Government, who have come together to address the challenge of democratic governance and political conflict as well as that of building functional and inclusive societies, where the leadership experience of our Members is most valuable. [www.clubmadrid.org](http://www.clubmadrid.org)

## Club de Madrid Members Involved

### JORGE FERNANDO QUIROGA

President of Bolivia  
(2001-2002)  
and Vice-President of the Club  
de Madrid

### ALAIN JUPPÉ

Prime Minister of France  
(1995-1997)

### WIM KOK

Prime Minister of the  
Netherlands (1994-2002)

### RICARDO LAGOS

President of Chile  
(2000-2006)

### ANTÓNIO MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO

President of Cape Verde  
(1991-2001)

### MARTÍN TORRIJOS

President of Panama  
(2004 - 2009)

### CASSAM UTEEM

President of the  
Republic of Mauritius  
(1992-1997, 1997- 2002)

### VAIRA VIKE-FREIBERGA

President of Latvia  
(1999-2007) and President of  
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## Project Team

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