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THE HAITIAN APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

Presented by the Haitian Delegation



## THE HAITIAN APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

### 1. General Data on Haiti

The Republic of Haiti located in the eastern part of the island of Haiti which it shares with the Dominican Republic covers an area of 27,700 sq. kilometres. In 1976, the population was estimated at 4.7 million inhabitants with an annual rate of increase of 1.7 per cent from 1971 to 1976. The density in relation to the total area is of 168 inhabitants per square kilometre and in relation to the arable land is 393 inhabitants per square kilometre.

The Gross Domestic Product for the year 1977 has been estimated at 1,177.7 million dollars US, that is to say a per capita income of US\$ 232. This corresponds to a very positive evolution of the economic activity. In fact, from 1960-1967 the rate of increase of GNP represented 0,1 per cent in constant prices as compared to 1,9 per cent in 1967-1972 and reached more than 4 per cent during the period 1972-1977.

In general, the Haitian economy is characterized by a predominance of the primary sector which is responsible for approximately 45 per cent of the GNP and absorbs more than 70 per cent of the economically active population.

The average size of the agricultural farms is 1,4 hectares and the number of plots covering less than 1 hectare 3 represents 71 per cent of the total.

From the beginning of the 1970 decade one observes an expansion of the secondary sector and a transfer of the manpower from the agricultural sector to the industrial one, especially in the assembly industries for exportation.

During the years 1975-1977 the exports of Haiti comprised principally primary products such as, coffee, representing 24 per cent of the total, bauxite 8 per cent, and the output of the assembly industries 51 per cent.

## 2. Haitian Approach to Development

The development sought is the one which aims at offering equal chances to all for the flourishing of all their individual and social faculties. This development is perceived in the light of the following general goals.

- The durable and profound betterment of the average level of living and of the quality of life in the Haitian milieu.

- The diminution of commercial dependency by increasing production, reducing non-essential imports and increasing and diversifying exports.

- The flourishing of creative technological, scientific, national culture, through an educational system adapted to our own cultural values and our deep identity.

- Enhancing of national human resources in order to overcome the negative effects of enemployment, under-productivity, and internal and external migration.

- Protection of the environment and reconstruction of the national landscape in order to maximize the benefit from the rational exploitation of resources - natural, agricultural, mineral and energy.

- The establishment of equitable participatory regime which multiplies the opportunities for all, gives wider access to collective services and which increases the capacity for decision-making and for the determination of objectives at regional and local levels.

### 3. Implementational Strategy: Planning

The type of society to be created implies a constant effort at rationalization which can only be obtained through planning: Therefore, the Nation has chosen Planning, the Logical Strategy towards Development.

The Five-Year Plan 1976-1981 defines as follows the main targets of the problems of be solved in the medium term within framework of the gradual process of guided transformation of the Haitian society:

- The first priority remains the primary sector since it is necessary to feed a rapidly increasing population, to better the income of the farmers and to provide inputs to the agro-industries in order to make us less dependent on foreign countries.

- The second priority is the construction of a decentralized infrastructure so that industrial growth could have an impact on the cities of the Republic chosen as growth poles, and in order to prevent an unbalanced concentration in the metropolitan zone.

- The third priority is education and professional training since it is vital for the economic policy of the country to set up an educational system closely linked to the growth objectives of the economic sectors.

- The fourth priority is the strengthening of the institutional structures geared toward the functional adaptation of the institutions and the modernized organization of the Public Services.

4. The objectives of the five Year 1976/1981 Plan

During the five year period 1976/1981, the GNP must increase in real value at a rate of 5 per cent per annum and the production of the agricultural sector at an annual average rate of 3 per cent higher than the rate of the population increase.

5. Present system of Planning

The publication of the second 5 year plan 1976/1981 and of the Ordonnance of 30 October 1978 creating the State Planning Ministry, in lieu of the National Council of Planning and Development (CONADEP), represent an important stage in the evolutive and continued process of betterment of the Planning system in Haiti.

The system is organized as follows:

I. The State Planning Ministry under the direction of a Minister of State and comprising: the office of the Minister, a General Directorate, and five technical directorates, namely:

- The Directorate for Economic and Social Programming,
- The Directorate of Physical Planning and Protection of the Environment,
- The Directorate for Project Promotion,
- The Directorate for External Co-operation,
- The Directorate for Control and Evaluation;

A Directorate for external services and an Administrative Directorate.

The functions of the State Planning Ministry are the following:

- To draw, on the basis of the necessary data and information, a diagnosis of present and past situations, which puts in evidence the main economic and social constraints, identifies the potentialities and expresses the basic needs of the Nation;

- To establish forecasts aimed at clarifying the future and at presenting alternatives of growth which will allow the Executive to choose the main options of his Development policy;
- To spell out the perspectives of growth on the basis of selected hypotheses and of directives received from the Executive Power and to define the final framework of the Plan.
- To carry out the synthesis and to ensure the coherence of plans, programmes and projects of the public and private sectors and to evaluate them;
- To recommend economic, financial, administrative and social measures allowing the implementation of programmes, their coherence and their compatibility with the demands of larger macro economic equilibria;
- To participate in the negotiations and decisions related to financial and technical cooperation agreements, of bilateral and multi-lateral character, referring to programmes and projects to be written into the national plans;
- To participate in the negotiations and decision making related to the implementation of large projects involving both the national and the foreign private sectors;
- To formulate norms for the preparation of programmes and projects, to co-ordinate the work of the Units of Sectoral programming and to provide technical assistance in this area.
- To participate in the programming of the financial resources allocated to development and to formulate recommendations geared to increasing them.
- To assist the Office of the Budget, in the preparation of the Development Budget of the Republic;

- To ensure the regular follow up and control in the implementation of programmes and projects of the Plan;
- To evaluate and eventually to review on going programmes and projects;
- To co-ordinate and guide the programmes of foreign financial and technical co-operation, and aiming at the economic and social development of the Country;
- To contribute to the training of the personnel involved in planning;
- To define the general framework for Physical Planning, to guide the organization and distribution of activities within the regions.

## II. Regional Offices of Planning

The system also foresees the creation of offices of planning in the different regions of the Republic. The Regional Office of Planning is closely linked to the State Planning Ministry and maintains contact with the Units of Sectoral Programming.

It will have as main functions to analyse the socio-economic situation of the region, to assess its potentialities, to formulate specific programmes and projects, to evaluate local availabilities and financial and human resources necessary to the implementation of programmes and projects and to identify any other programmes and projects of importance for the State Planning Ministry and the Units of Programming.

## III. Sectoral Programming Units

The sectoral programming unit generally encompasses one sector of socio-economic activity, under the responsibility of a Ministerial Department or of an Autonomous Public Organism.

The Programming Unit has as essential functions:

- a) To complete the propositions of the Five Year Plan and of the Annual Sectoral Plans.
- b) To articulate the regional sector plan.
- c) To programme the measures, projects and budgets for each objective of the sector plan.
- d) To study and evaluate all the sectoral projects.
- e) To contribute to the completion of the development and functional budgets of its sector.

#### IV. Main Organisms related to the Planning activities

The State Planning Ministry, maintains in carrying out its activities, close relations with the following principal organisms:

- The Haitian Statistical Institute which is linked to it,
- The National Bank of the Republic of Haiti,
- The National Office of the Budget.

#### Note:

The forthcoming National Office for Technology will also be linked to the State Planning Ministry.

#### 6. Social Planning in Haiti

##### a) Evolution

Planning in Haiti, was at the outset, oriented towards the economic aspects of development. This approach was justified in view of the fact that at this time the financial resources being clearly insufficient, the small investment that was possible, had to be oriented with priority towards the increase in the production of goods. On the social plain, this situation was characterized by the small amount of expenditure in sectors such as education, health, drinking water, where the average investment represented respectively 5.2%, 6.8% and 4.1% of the total amount of public investments.

This was in contrast to the enormous needs to be satisfied in the social sectors, as indicated by some statistical data of 1970: the rate of infant mortality, 146.1 per thousand, 1 physician for 12.500 inhabitants, one dentist per 50.000 inhabitants, 1 hospital bed for 1.400 inhabitants, 1 teacher for 70 pupils and a rate of illiteracy of 80%. To face this situation, the government began to grant more importance to programming in order to utilize better the available resources and to take more advantage of external co-operation in this field. The programmes implemented in this field have had as a result the decrease in the incidence of gastrointestinal disease, a betterment of the nutritional situation and increase in educational facilities. All these actions represented nevertheless and a sectoral answer to the problem of the increase in the supply of services traditionally provided by the State.

The programming activities becoming more advanced and the CONADEP having been reorganized in 1976, social planning took a new dimension and became more important. In fact, it is from this date that social planning was included in the general development planning and the bases were laid down in order to systematize and coordinate all development activities in the social field. The social dimension of development went beyond the frame of the so called social sectors (health, education, housing) to encompass legally areas such as income and social security.

b) Present position of social planning in global and sectoral planning.

Social planning is now considered as important as economic planning in the structure of the central organism responsible for global development planning. The last transformation of CONADEP into the State Planning Ministry in November 1978 has not modified this approach.

In consequence, the aspects related to social planning are the object of special attention and are treated in an integral manner at the same level as the economic aspects of development.

As far as the activities are concerned, social planning is characterized by: an "integrated strategy" approach within which the activities of the State are oriented towards the social aspects and the priority areas for the development of the country (for instance human resources, income distribution, food and nutrition and popular participation) and a sectoral approach within which different policies by sectors such as education, health, housing, social affairs and community development are formulated.

As for the method of work and present functions of social planning at the level of the State Planning Ministry, four different levels can be distinguished:

- i. Global social planning
- ii. Sectoral social planning
- iii. Research and social studies
- iv. Coordination.

With respect to the first level, the efforts are aimed at:

- gathering and organizing systematically the data necessary for elaborating sectoral and global diagnoses.
- preparing a draft of the global social diagnoses which allows for the understanding of the behaviour of the Haitian economy and society, to pinpoint progress achieved and to identify problems which are still persisting. This global social diagnoses will allow not only for the orientation of sectoral studies but also to pinpoint the elements which define the priority aspects which are to be sectorally treated.
- conducting out a prospective study which takes into consideration some hypotheses of evolution of the social situation.
- formulating a strategy for social development.

As far as sectoral planning is concerned, the efforts are closely linked and coordinated with those on the global level, notably with respect to the following:

- the elaboration of sectorial diagnoses,
- the execution of prospective sectoral studies and
- the formulation of a strategy for each sector.

Social research aims at carrying out a certain number of research studies which will facilitate the understanding of Haitian society and the evaluation of the results which are derived from planning in the social field.

Coordination is considered as a fundamental aspect for the correct implementation of planning activities both at the level of the State Planning Ministry and at the level of the technical ministries which are responsible for the execution of the Plan.

#### 7. The Rôle of the Haitian Woman in the Development of Haiti

National history is full of facts that show that the Haitian woman has always played an active role in the political activities of the country. Nevertheless, socio-economic conditions has evolved very slowly through the times. The female population which represents 51.7% of the population of the country has been for a long time in its majority relegated to domestic activities in the urban environment and to agricultural work in the rural zones.

Its contribution to development has been long ignored and even challenged. It is only from 1946 that the conquests of women in the social and economic fields have been affirmed for the purpose of overcoming the traditional frame and attaining certain sectors of economic activities which were reserved up to that moment for males only.

This integration movement has increased its pace even more during the 60's thanks to the efforts deployed by both national and international institutions to raise the awareness of the decision makers and bring them to consider the women as human resources which can usefully serve the development of the country.

The role of women in development is perceived in Haiti with no idea of conflict or fierce opposition between both sexes. Rather, this brings to mind the mobilisation of all the human potential of the country in order to ensure its integral development. This fundamental idea emerges from the second five-year plan 1976-1981 in which the philosophy of government actions is expressed as follows: "The big struggle for the acknowledgement of human dignity to the citizens of the 3rd World is taking place on the Haitian soil according to long term strategic choices spelt out from the distant future to the immediate present, through different plans, programmes and projects aiming at a single immense and multi-faceted project expressing the sacrifices and hopes of an entire nation: the New Haiti capable of offering equal opportunities to all, for the flourishing of all social and individual faculties."

So, the place of the Haitian women in national economic life should be pursued through a global vision which takes into account the entire social and cultural milieu in the midst of which she is evolving and not only through certain aspects of a society which recognizes a given male predominance (legal status of married women who thereby become minors, the de facto acceptance of male polygamy...)

At present, the traditional conception of the division of labour between men and women is overcome. According to this conception only the man should contribute to meet the needs of the family while the women should carry out domestic tasks exclusively.

The evolution of the Haitian educational system which grants equal importance to both sexes is allowing more and more the development of women by facilitating their access to more advanced studies and by allowing the deployment of a less cloistered social life.

Nowadays many women have access to university where they are attracted to all professions, particularly medicine, pharmacy, law, agronomy and the applied sciences. The results of the 1971 population census shows a more equitable participation of both sexes in the different occupational groups as is evidenced by the annexed Table 1. In fact, in the population of those 10 years and over who were working in 1971, women represent 45.4% and for the scientific, technical professions and liberal arts and other professional occupations, the proportion of women in relation to the total reached 37%.

Another indicator of the evolution of the woman is that in 1950 there were no women at the level of directors and higher administrative posts, and in 1971, one can find approximately 9%. Furthermore, the distribution of the active population by sex in the different branches of economic activity in 1971, put in evidence the contribution of female labour to the development of the country. The agricultural sector absorbs 73.6% of the total active population which is divided into male and female labour force in proportion of 62% and 38% respectively, therefore, male and female peasants work together to produce the agricultural goods necessary for current consumption and for supplying the agro-industries.

In the manufacturing industry, particularly in the assembly type industries, the female workers constitute 57% of the labour force. It is particularly in commerce that the woman plays an essential role by her important contribution to the processes of exchange circuits dealing with goods and services. In fact, the female personnel constitute 89% of all workers in this sector, with a rather important proportion involved in small business with a very low economic productivity.

In conclusion, one notices the presence of the Haitian woman in nearly all activities linked to development as well as in the direction of the household.

Her participation is significant but most of the time women do not receive in an equitable manner, the benefits to which they are entitled. Besides, many programmes and projects in favour of women have been implemented or are in the process of execution, notably mother-child care, family planning, training in domestic science, literacy and nutrition... All these ad hoc and uncoordinated efforts are carried out by public and private institutions in order to place the Haitian women into the main stream of development.

There is need to adopt a more global and systematic approach in order to better integrate into general planning the solutions to the problem of female participation in the economic and social development of the country.

#### 8. The Role of Science and Technology in Development.

The document prepared by the Republic of Haiti for the Vienna Conference on the role of Science and Technology in Development pinpoints the main tendencies of the Government's policy for technology.

It is well known that Science and appropriate Technology in developing countries play a fundamental role and represent an essential instrument of growth and of social and economic planning. In this connection, the five-year plan 1976-1981 includes the area of application of this discipline to be *avant-garde*. In this perspective, several projects expressing the basic values to which the society is aspiring according to development strategy which in turn decides upon the criteria for technological choices, have been formulated in the priority sectors such as agriculture, industry and education, and more specially in the field of professional training.

Programmes, even though modest, of scientific research are being implemented with the result that the Haitian formula for development testifies undoubtedly its concern to preserve and stimulate national culture: and in this way, emerges a tendency towards authenticity capable of enriching itself and increasing production and productivity in the key sectors with the planned support of local forces.

In the case of Haiti, in principle, appropriate technologies are in conformity with the priorities of the second five-year plan and they give way to medium and small scale units with, relatively low, capital intensity using national resources.

It remains undeniable that science and technology are indispensable factors to the success of any economic activity. And it is in order to enforce this idea and consolidate it on a basis of durable and efficient cooperation that we consider the activities of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, (CDCC), in this field as orientations for action which converge toward the harmonization of our efforts, the strengthening of our strategies and in a word, the adoption of the global policy more in accordance with the absorptive capacity, both human and financial, of the countries of the region.

TABLE 1

WORKING POPULATION OF 10 YEARS AND OVER IN 1971  
BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP AND SEX

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS	BOTH SEXES		MALE		FEMALE	
	Absolute Figures	Relative Figures	Absolute Figures	Relative Figures	Absolute Figures	Relative Figures
All occupations	: 1.933.183	: 100.0	: 1.054.889	: 100.0	: 878.294	: 100.0
Professionals, technicians, scientists and similar	: 23.350	: 1.4	: 14.781	: 1.4	: 8.569	: 1.0
Directors and higher administrative personnel	: 259	: 0.0	: 238	: 0.0	: 21	: 0.0
Administrative personnel and similar.	: 11.816	: 0.8	: 8.703	: 0.8	: 3.113	: 0.4
Personnel in commerce and vendors	: 191.658	: 1.8	: 18.974	: 1.8	: 172.684	: 19.6
Specialised workers in road construction	: 119.720	: 3.4	: 36.353	: 3.4	: 83.367	: 9.5
Workers in agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishery and hunting	: 1.417.231	: 83.2	: 876.802	: 83.2	: 540.429	: 61.5
Non-agricultural labour force and transport drivers	: 162.735	: 8.9	: 93.407	: 8.9	: 69.328	: 7.9
Workers n.e.c. and Armed forces	:	:	:	:	:	:

## SOURCE

: Economic Guide of the Republic of Haiti, Page 57, Institut Haitien de Statistiques April 1977.

