

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  
*General Secretariat*



Ref: **CL 187**

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Contact: **Cosmas ZAVAZAVA**

To ITU Member States and Sector Members

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Subject: **Haiti Earthquake Appeal**

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Haiti earthquakes have brought a nation to its knees. The suffering has been, and continues to be, immense; the damage to infrastructure, unprecedented.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of all is that this disaster has hit a country so ill-equipped to deal with it. Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, and it has already faced tremendous damage from successive natural disasters over the past few years.

As you know, ITU regularly contributes emergency telecommunications assistance in the wake of humanitarian disasters, and this is no exception. We have already deployed 100 satellite phone systems, US\$ 1 million in aid, and experts on the ground to help restore communications networks as fast as possible.

ITU is proud of the contributions of our partners – Inmarsat, Iridium, Qualcomm, Vizada, Wireless Reach. We are also proud of the generosity you, our members, have always shown in providing assistance and support.

At this time of exceptional hardship for Haitian people, ITU has launched an urgent call for action (<http://www.itu.int/emergencytelecoms/>) by all our members. We urge you to give generously to our Haiti appeal, which will raise funds for emergency restoration of vital communication links.

But this alone is not enough. In the wake of terrible devastation, we must also look beyond this immediate emergency to the medium- and long-term.

ITU believes a state-of-the-art broadband infrastructure is the key transformational mechanism that will lift Haiti out of chronic poverty.

The 'intelligent island' vision pursued by other small island states such as Singapore has yielded enormous economic and social benefits.

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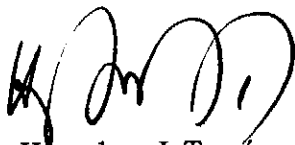
With its small size and proximity to major global markets, Haiti is ideally positioned to transform itself through the power of advanced ICTs. A world-class broadband network will not only attract companies seeking offshoring opportunities, it will deliver the critical services – from education to health care to communications – that will wipe away the shadow of poverty that has too long haunted the faces of the Haitian people.

ITU Sector Members have the technologies and know-how. ITU Member States have the experience in successfully implementing national broadband visions.

Together, we can transform the future for those children who today stand amid the ruins of their lives. We can give them not just new hope, but the tools with which to build a dramatically different tomorrow.

I will be contacting ITU Members personally over the coming days to discuss how, working together, we can realize this vision and create the world's Most Wired Community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Touré', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Hamadou I. Touré,  
Secretary-General