

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI,
JUDE A. PATRICK SALOMON
ON PERTINENT INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE COMPETITIVENESS**

**AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY AT
THE FORUM ON COMPETITIVENESS IN THE AMERICAS
Mexico, September 13, 2017**

- Madam Undersecretary for Competitiveness and Business Regulation of the Mexican Government,
- Ladies, Gentlemen High Representatives of the countries of the Hemisphere,
- Ladies, Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt sympathy to the Mexican people and to our other friends of the region who, like Haiti, have been struck by recent natural catastrophes. These events bear witness, in particular, of the need to work together to mitigate risks and fortify the resilience of our populations.

Secondly, allow me to convey how I am honored to represent the Republic of Haiti at this prestigious meeting on Competitiveness in the Americas. On behalf of the President, His Excellency Mr. Jovenel Moise and also of the Government, I would like to voice the warm greetings of the Haitian people.

I must also congratulate the host country as well as the regional organization for this forum which demonstrates an acknowledgment of the importance of positioning the region while setting goals as nation-states. As nations, it is our responsibility to foster the well-being and social cohesion of our peoples, through shared economic progress. We understand that we can accomplish

this together, through cooperation and competition, thereby enabling each one to find his place and to prosper.

It is also our observation that we face great challenges that cannot be overcome in isolation but must be tackled in consultation and sometimes jointly. Such is the case of climate challenges, and challenges relating to the mastering of science, technology and knowledge.

We are convinced that the Inter American Network on Competitiveness (RIAC) will help the region avoid certain failings of globalization, by focusing on building foundations of competitiveness which must enable the progress of each, in a globalized economy. RIAC has identified well the fields of competitiveness. We must endeavor to develop and strengthen them, and then share our experience with other countries. Such a pragmatic approach should promote both internal cohesion and regional integration.

The Government of the Republic of Haiti wishes to ground a sustainable growth process. To that end, after only six (6) months of responsibility, it is working on setting bases for competitiveness through many initiatives:

First of all, a development program for strategic infrastructure. Priority is awarded to infrastructure which can guarantee higher productivity in the agriculture and agro industrial sector in order to battle food insecurity and develop strategies for short term substitution to imports and in the medium term, increase our exportable supply. Thus we unfold the scheme of a Caravan for Change which calls for institutions to pursue true decentralization and to focus on still neglected parts of the country and help hone means of production. We are also referring to communication infrastructure (roads, ports, railroads, ICTs), as well as energy that is clean, accessible, competitive, for which appropriate resources must be generated.

A national policy on innovation is currently being drafted and consultations are under way with the economic and academic sectors, civil society and the population.

Regarding structural reforms, work has been in progress for a number of years to modernize the legal and institutional framework for business; said work will be hastened and collaboration intensified with Parliament. Research on value chains and markets should guide a policy on competition. In the energy sector,

Haiti has just established a new legal framework and is creating conditions to boost an opening of the market and increase supply.

The Government wishes to **particularly emphasize entrepreneurship support and promotion** through the implementation of an Enterprise Assistance Unit, the founding of a National Agency for the Development of Entrepreneurship (ANDE), the drafting of a public policy for SMEs, the development of a financial inclusion policy and an improved access to credit.

The will to reinforce the dialogue between the Public and the private sectors gives way to numerous proceedings. From the 20th to the 22nd of September 2017, the first Forum on Competitiveness and Investment (FCI) will be held in Haiti, with the participation of prominent experts such as Michael Porter and Daniel Isenberg. This Forum is to be a collaboration mechanism between the Public and Private sectors on the future competitiveness of our economy. It must lead to a realistic FIVE-YEAR action plan for Competitiveness and Investment (PACI). A follow-up secretariat for this plan shall be one instrument for institutionalization of the Public-Private Dialogue.

In this context of three consecutive years of decrease of the GDP per capita, the Government's vision is to positively spur the economy to rapidly create sustainable employment while constructing the foundation for competitiveness through reforms and strategic investments. To realize this, the working channels with the technical and financial partners must shift to take into account the urgency as well as the necessity to do things differently in order to restore hope and improve the living conditions of the population. These are the mandatory conditions to stop the brain drain and the outflow of our productive force. Therefore, it is crucial to mobilize the appropriate resources and invest better, as a means to political stability and economic competitiveness.

The Haitian Government congratulates you once again for organizing this Forum and expresses its gratitude for the invitation to participate in the foregoing meeting on Competitiveness in the Americas and truly hopes that on this platform, partnerships can arise and success stories can be replicated to advance competitiveness in our countries and in our region.

Thank you all for your attention.