Bulletin: Formation of the Haiti Seismic Taskforce

A joint Haitian national and international taskforce has been formed under the auspices of the United Nations to analyze the earthquake of January 12th and to provide advice to the government and public to reduce ongoing risks and to guide the recovery process.

A small team has been working since January 13th on analysis and aftershock prediction. This has grown and been formalised with a UN mandate and is in the process of transforming into a larger, more stable team that will hopefully assist Haiti not just for the emergency but for many years to come.

The taskforce currently has over 30 scientists and 10 organisations engaged from 5 countries and is growing daily. Its current priorities are threefold:

• Delivering an authoritative analysis of the event and a preliminary forecast based on existing information. A first report will be delivered in mid February
• Undertaking urgent data collection to enable a more informed analysis and forecast. This report will be delivered end of March.
• Delivering practical advice on a day to day basis to the government and international community to assist both the relief effort and the planning for recovery.

The outputs of the taskforce will be made available to the public on a dedicated website that is under development at present.

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