



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

27 July 2018

Dear Mr. Concannon,

I would like to thank you for your recent joint letter of 7 May 2018; we are grateful for your continued focus on and commitment to Haiti.

The Secretary-General, the Special Envoy for Haiti and I have prioritized, and continue to prioritize, Haiti, standing with the Government of the Republic of Haiti and the Haitian people in defeating the scourge of cholera, and partnering to find ways to link the momentum on the cholera front to the bold overall development agenda in the country. Our priorities continue to be the elimination of transmission and support to those most affected.

As you know, our biggest challenge has been to mobilize the support for Track 2 of the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, and we have requested all nations to join into this effort, and we continue to make our appeals. As discussed with your team over the past months, even as we seek to raise funds, we have decided to proceed with community consultations in the earliest affected communities of Mirebalais. We have piloted a community-led, victims-focused approach there, empowering the most affected in local communities to lead a wholly internal and community-driven consultation and decision process.

At the foundation of this process are community platforms, which are formed at the community level, and include among them victims of cholera; local community leaders; women's groups; and all those who have been directly and indirectly affected by cholera. The community platform members are aware from the outset of the challenges of raising funds for these consultations and for any prioritized outcome of the consultations.

In openness and transparency with those involved, especially those who have been affected, there was no other way to proceed with this methodology than to share the reality of the resources available. In each of these pilot areas we have identified US\$150,000 to be invested as they decide, democratically, for individual or community use. The United Nations has not taken a position of the course they choose.

Mr. Brian Concannon Jr., Esq.  
Executive Director  
Institute for Justice  
and Democracy in Haiti  
Boston

The initial five communities have chosen joint community projects that they feel address the legacy of cholera. This initial stage of consultations seems to have yielded early and positive response. And, in the communal sections where consultations have been facilitated, the members of each community platform, including cholera victims, have indicated that the process was appreciated and authentic, and seen and accepted, in line with the apology by the United Nations.

The identification of those communities is based on the aggregated data of the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Haiti on the most affected communities since the 2010 outbreak, not only recent incidence of cholera.

We were very pleased that the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (AHAG) visited with the community-selected members of these platforms and were encouraged that this process indeed appears deeply meaningful to the most affected. We were also glad to learn that the positive impressions of the ECOSOC AHAG recent visit were shared with your colleague in New York by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations upon their return from Haiti.

We certainly hope such experiences can help develop more momentum to raise the funds needed to assess the pilot methodology, and based on those learnings, quickly reach all such areas of Haiti. Now that the pilot phase in Mirebalais is concluding, we intend to review the methodology that was used for the pilot with community and human rights experts to discuss the elements of the consultation methodology and possible ways to improve it, and we would welcome your participation in that review process.

We will continue intensive efforts to find the additional, and robust, funding to end this cholera chapter with dignity. It is important to note that the consultations and projects identified through this process are not an end to Track 2 – they are, we hope, a beginning. As funding becomes more available, we want to expand those investments in the most affected communities, and that is something that we have also shared with the communities in which we are working.

As a next step in engaging more together, the Special Envoy is interested to sit and discuss Track 2 with you in person. It would be important to have your views as we begin to plan for an assessment of the Track 2 methodology, as well as to have your engagement in the assessment itself. The date for this process has not been set yet, but as we start assembling it, the team of the Special Envoy will reach out to your team with those details.

I look forward to continuing to engage with your Organization and to furthering this exchange of important ideas for and with the Haitian people.

A similar letter has been sent to Mr. Mario Joseph, Managing Attorney at the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amina J. Mohammed'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'M'.

Amina J. Mohammed