



## **The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre and the Chilean Joint Centre for Peace Operations to explore future training opportunities in Haiti**

OTTAWA, CANADA (May 13, 2009) - The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) and the Centro Conjunto Para Operaciones de Paz de Chile (CECOPAC) are hosting a joint seminar entitled Initiatives and Challenges to Integrated Training for MINUSTAH Regional Contributors, on May 13 and 14, in Santiago, Chile.

Funded by the Government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, the seminar brings together approximately 40 participants to discuss ways on improving peace operations training within the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH.) The purpose of the seminar is to enhance the ability of MINUSTAH troop and police contributing countries to respond effectively to increasingly complex situations.

"Given the changing nature of the roles and responsibilities of peacekeepers on the ground, it is important to understand the contribution of civilian, military and police in modern-day peace operations," says Suzanne Monaghan, President of the PPC. "The seminar provides an opportunity to look at the gaps and discuss integrated training programs that could help MINUSTAH peacekeepers fulfill their mission mandate."

Participants will examine the relationship between military and police within the context of MINUSTAH and how they work together. They will also examine the link between police training and larger justice matters within the context of Haiti's legal system.

There is an important connection between Haiti and MINUSTAH," says Colonel Valentín Segura, Director of the Centro Conjunto Para Operaciones de Paz de Chile (CECOPAC). "We hope to identify a set of strategic guidelines, training opportunities and potential activities to support troop and police contributing countries. Also, this important seminar provides a unique opportunity for the Directors of the different Regional Peacekeeping Centres to discuss and improve the cooperation as part of the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Centres, known as ALCOPAZ."

Representatives from Canada, the United States, Latin American training centres, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the UN mission in Haiti, civil society, as well as officials of the Government of Haiti are in attendance.

The seminar is built on the findings and recommendations of a previous seminar entitled, MINUSTAH: Supporting its Institutional Memory, held in Brazil in April 2007.

The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre is a Canadian institution dedicated to making international peace operations more effective through research, education and training, and capacity building.

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