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November 15, 2016

**Statement by Mr. Rojas Ramirez, Mr. Pacheco, and Mr. Zavarce on Haiti  
(Preliminary)  
Executive Board Meeting  
November 18, 2016**

**We express our sincere sympathy to the people of Haiti for the loss of lives and severe damages caused by Hurricane Matthew and stress the urgent balance-of-payment needs to assist the affected population and the reconstruction efforts.** The hurricane worsened the already difficult social and political environment stemming from the legacy of previous natural disasters, current severe flooding, the supply shock in the agricultural sector, and a challenging political situation.

**Against this background, we strongly support Haiti's request for emergency financial assistance under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF),** amounting to 18.75 percent of quota or SDR 30.71 million. We are confident that the facility will help to catalyze resources from development partners and donors and open the option for other Upper Credit Tranche (UCT) program once the electoral cycle is complete. We encourage a strong coordination between different government agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors, and call for timely disbursements of resources. We note the authorities' intention to ask for a Staff-Monitored Program (SMP) within three months which would be key to build a strong policy record.

**Some positive outturns reinforce Fund's support.** Most of the exports were not affected by the hurricane; thus, if complemented by development partners with a prudent management of international reserves would finance the imports needed for reconstruction during FY 2016/17. We are encouraged by the authorities' determination to keep the nonfinancial public sector deficit near the ECF's program targets and the no monetization of the fiscal deficit while achieving a relatively healthy reserve position and managing to mitigate exchange rate pressures. We also note that even though the debt sustainability analysis concludes the country is now at high risk of debt distress, the debt load remains in a reasonable trajectory over the medium term which reinforces Haiti's capacity to repay the Fund.