

# HAITI



DAVID PRICE, CHAIRMAN • VERN BUCHANAN, CO-CHAIR

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## History of Partnership

The House Democracy Partnership<sup>1</sup> (HDP) approved a legislative strengthening partnership with the Haitian National Assembly in September 2006. The partnership has provided technical assistance on committee operations, including the importance of public hearings and oversight of the executive branch. HDP has also provided expertise on the development of ethics rules and appropriate enforcement mechanisms.



Following the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince in January 2010, providing disaster recovery assistance became a key focus of the partnership. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, HDP connected the USAID-funded Parliamentary Support Project with the U.S. embassy in Haiti, which led to the deployment of members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division of the U.S. Army to protect the parliament buildings from looters and to ensure that critical legislative records were preserved.

## HDP Engagement with the Haitian National Assembly

- **MP and Regional Seminars:** Since 2008, members of the Haitian National Assembly have participated in eight MP or regional seminars focused on issues related to committee operations, public hearings, parliamentary oversight, expanding digital outreach, and combatting modern threats to democracy.
- **Staff Delegations and Technical Assistance Consultancies (TACs):** Since 2007, the Haitian National Assembly has participated in five TACs and staff delegations with a focus on budget analysis, ethics, and parliamentary agenda setting.
- **Staff Seminars:** Since 2007, parliamentary staff have participated in 14 staff seminars, the most recent of which considered methods of improving district office communications and promoting broader citizen engagement.

## HDP Congressional Delegations (CODELs)

- HDP has organized four U.S. Congressional delegation visits to Haiti.
  - February 2007
  - May 2009
  - March 2010
  - October 2011

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<sup>1</sup> At the time the partnership was initiated, the House Democracy Partnership was known as the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC). The name was subsequently changed to reflect the nature of HDP as a partnership with partner countries.