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## **New Grant to Enhance Haitian-Dominican Border Development**

**Washington, D.C., July 11, 2008** – An innovative program to increase economic growth and cooperation along the Haitian-Dominican border received a major boost through funding from the U.S. government and the Organization of American States (OAS), the [Pan American Development Foundation](#) announced today.

“This unique program is working to move this border relationship toward greater cooperation and development that will ultimately benefit both countries,” says OAS Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin.

Myriad issues – including poverty, unemployment, lack of infrastructure, misunderstandings about the potential of border development – have plagued the 193-mile frontier between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The U.S. State Department provided a \$500,000, one-year grant to PADF through the [OAS](#), for project implementation. PADF is working with 43 civil society organizations on both sides of the border, as well as with local and national governments, to support their efforts to improve bilateral relations, strengthen border institutions, and foster conditions for more productive investments and greater development.

The program, called “*Fwontye Nou / Nuestra Frontera*” in Creole and Spanish (“Our Border” in English), provides training, technical assistance, and cross-border projects that have created economic solutions, confidence and a framework for future opportunities for local communities.

The two countries opened bilateral trade only 20 years ago with the hope of creating economic integration. Trade and migration have increased significantly, and now the two nations have begun to establish systems and structures to manage this relationship.

“Haiti and the Dominican Republic stand at an important crossroads in the history of their shared island,” says John Sanbrailo, PADF’s Executive Director. “For the first time, they are moving forward to improve cross border cooperation and convert this region into an instrument of development for both countries. The OAS through PADF is there to help support their initiatives.”

## **About PADF**

The Pan American Development Foundation was founded in 1962 as a non-profit affiliate of the Organization of American States. PADF works with civil society, the private sector, and governments to create opportunities and improve lives for the disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean. With a commitment to local capacity and the Inter-American spirit of cooperation, PADF builds programs that create jobs, enhance education, build skills, foster community participation, and strengthen resiliency through the power of people, local solutions, and partnerships.