

With the notable and praiseworthy exceptions of expelling notorious drug trafficker Jacques Ketant, establishing a trusted unit of anti-drug agents, and increasing the number of anti-drug police including coast guardsmen, the GOH has not met all of the objectives or obtained the results laid out by the United States Government in its demarche to the GOH this past year.

The GOH did not: 1) deposit an instrument of ratification of the OAS anti-corruption convention; 2) draft and introduce anti-corruption legislation; 3) enforce existing anti-money-laundering legislation; 4) increase budgetary support for the Haitian Coast Guard; 5) ensure that asset forfeiture is an integral part of criminal prosecutions; 6) provide comprehensive training to judges, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel; 7) waive the right to exercise prosecutorial jurisdiction in cases of non-Haitian vessels interdicted by U.S. Coast Guard, and authorize enforcement of U.S. law against the vessels, cargo and persons on board; or 8) ratify the 1971 U.N. Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

While Haiti has demonstrably failed, according to the President's standards for counternarcotics performance, the U.S. vital national interests require that U.S. assistance to Haiti continue. As the hemisphere's poorest country, Haiti has a continued need for assistance to programs that increase access to education, combat environmental degradation, fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, reduce trafficking of women and children, and foster the creation of legitimate business and employment opportunities. In the long term, these programs can contribute to democratic development in Haiti and a reduction in illegal migration. Continuing these types of programs will also address the root causes of poverty and hopelessness, factors that contribute to Haitian involvement in the international drug trade. Suspension of assistance to Haiti could hamper U.S. efforts to ensure implementation of OAS Resolution 822, which commits the Government of Haiti to a series of actions that would promote a climate of security and confidence for free and fair legislative elections to be held in 2003.