

March 31, 2010

Oxfam reacts to the Haiti Conference

Philippe Mathieu, Spokesperson of Oxfam in New York said:

“The \$5bn headline figure is impressively generous and what is needed for Haiti.

“However this must be new not recycled money taken from other humanitarian crises. The poor and vulnerable of other disasters should not be paying for this.

“The amounts pledged today should be made a reality for the tens of thousands of victims as soon as possible. Mechanisms will need to be put in place quickly for the Haitian civil society, the private sector and local authorities to be able to have a say and watch over the spending of these funds.

“The last time the region was hit by a natural disaster of this scale, Hurricane Mitch of 1998, only less than a third of the \$9bn promised materialized. This cannot be allowed to happen this time.

“Almost every country exceeded in its financial obligations to help Haiti. Soon these pledges will need to turn into concrete progress on the ground. This cannot be a VIP pageant of half promises.”