



PROUD AFFILIATE OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **PADF AND OAS MOBILIZE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR STORM RELIEF IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**Washington, D.C. (November 2, 2007)**—The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) and the Organization of American States (OAS) announce their immediate action in response to the devastation caused this week by Tropical Storm Noel in the Dominican Republic. Dominican President Leonel Fernández declared a state of emergency when more than 62,500 citizens fled their homes. As of today, heavy rains have caused an estimated \$30 million in damages to rice, plantain, and cacao crops, and floods and landslides have claimed at least 66 lives. With combined contributions from PADF, OAS, and Chevron Corporation, relief will begin arriving in the country this weekend.

“PADF is pleased to respond to First Lady Cedeño de Fernández’s earnest appeal for assistance and solidarity to those affected by this tragedy,” said Michelet Fontaine, PADF’s Director of Caribbean Programs. “Through our Disaster Management Emergency Response Program, In-Kind Donation initiatives, and partnership with the private sector, we are providing direct relief efforts quickly and effectively.” During this year alone, PADF has worked with the OAS and others to respond to disasters in Peru, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Dominica.

Albert R. Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS added, “I offer my sympathy to the people of the Dominican Republic, especially the victims of this storm. The OAS will continue to support the country during its rehabilitation, and to help PADF facilitate the contributions of their private sector partners, such as Chevron.”

Chevron has contributed a \$20,000 Disaster Relief Shelter Package, which will arrive in the country this Sunday. Under its Texaco brand in Latin America, Chevron is a key private sector partner and founding member of the Disaster Management Emergency Response Program (DMERP), PADF’s program for relief efforts following natural disasters. “We joined PADF as the first member of their Response Program because we knew that our contributions would be facilitated with maximum impact,” said Rosanna Grullon, Chevron’s Retail District Manager for the Dominican Republic. We are confident that PADF will direct the relief where it is needed most in the Dominican Republic.”

The Disaster Relief Shelter Package – an essential part of PADF’s In-Kind Donation Program – provides emergency supplies, including tents, blankets, plastic sheeting, water purification supplies, bottled water, hygienic kits, building supplies, and other urgently needed items. Aeropost International Services, Inc., a mail and package forwarding service for the Caribbean and Latin America, will facilitate shipment of the package. James Fendell, President of the Miami-based shipping company states, “Aeropost is pleased to be a part of PADF’s rapid response process and we stand ready to work closely with the organization in whatever capacity we can.”

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**The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)** is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1962 through a unique partnership between the Organization of American States and private enterprise to promote, facilitate, and implement social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean through innovative partnerships and integrated involvement of the private and public sectors. As the oldest and largest non-profit affiliated with the OAS, PADF serves as its disaster relief arm in response to earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and other tragic events.

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