

## **UN Security Council briefing on the situation in Haiti**

Statement on behalf of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

New York, 6 July 2023

Madam President,

I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of ECOSOC. The Advisory Group comprises 22 Member States that are committed to accompanying Haiti's long-term socioeconomic development.

We are friends, neighbours and partners of Haiti. Our group has expanded over the past year to include Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Kenya, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. We hope to welcome Jamaica to the group very soon.

On behalf of the Advisory Group, I wish to underscore four points:

First, the international community must move without further delay to support Haiti restore security. Haitians require security to safely leave their homes without fear of being killed, kidnapped or raped; enable children to safely get to school; ensure the most vulnerable can access essential services; allow businesses to resume commerce; and create the space for free and fair elections.

This requires curbing the flow of arms and ammunition, strengthening the Haitian National Police, the justice system and the rule of law; protecting human rights; addressing sexual and gender-based violence; working at the community level to reduce violence; and putting direct pressure on those who foment violence and instability through the implementation of sanctions.

Second, adopting a comprehensive approach that includes urgent measures regarding security, humanitarian aid and development is critical for Haiti.

Immediate actions to assist Haiti restore security must be accompanied by efforts to address the root causes of violence in the country: extreme poverty, corruption, impunity, and collusion between the political and economic spheres.

Madam President,

We recently heard from Haitian youth who described their daily struggle to eat. A 17 year-old living in Cité Soleil told us that it is easier to get a gun than it is to find a meal.

Humanitarian needs have doubled in the last year. Despite its considerable agricultural potential and the fact that until recently it was able to produce most of the rice it consumed, Haiti is now among the countries with one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world.

We need to urgently address the immediate humanitarian needs of Haitians set out in the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan – less than 23 per cent of which is funded.

At the same time, we must invest in Haiti's sustainable development to strengthen its resilience, including the resilience of Haiti's food systems.

Third, the December 21 political accord and the establishment of the Haut Conseil de la Transition are steps to build a national consensus for an inclusive transition and transparent elections. We continue to encourage intensified efforts among Haitian stakeholders to ensure a broad and inclusive national political dialogue, including women and youth, to chart a way forward to re-establish democracy and accelerate the country's sustainable development.

Fourth, at this critical time, the active support and expertise of the UN across all of these areas is essential.

We strongly urge this Council to renew the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) for twelve months. Given the severity and the deterioration of the situation in Haiti, we urge the Security Council to ensure that BINUH is adequately equipped, in terms of personnel and resources, to engage with Haitian stakeholders and to effectively assist Haiti through this crisis.

Madam President,

Haiti is experiencing a complex, multidimensional and extremely serious crisis – a crisis that continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. The significant impact that this crisis is having on the young people of Haiti is comprising the country's future.

Let us not only speak of solidarity with Haiti – we must also urgently step up our coordinated support.

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The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti is composed of Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Canada (Chair), Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, and Uruguay. The President of ECOSOC is an ex officio member of the Group. It was initially formed in 1999 and its mandate is to follow closely and provide advice on the long-term development strategy of the country.