



High-Level Meeting of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti with Caribbean Partners

New York, 21 September 2022

Chair's Summary

Introduction

1. The High-Level Meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with Caribbean partners was convened on 21 September 2022 during the High-Level Segment of the 77th session of the General Assembly. The meeting discussed the situation in Haiti and its impact on the socio-economic development of the country as well as ways in which the international community, in partnership with Caribbean countries, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), could support Haiti's stability and sustainable development.

2. The event, which was convened by Canada, as Chair of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, was attended by high-level government officials from Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname (Chair of CARICOM), Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Uruguay as well as the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group.

Summary of discussions

3. Participants recognized the urgency of addressing the multidimensional crisis facing Haiti where the security situation has been rapidly deteriorating, particularly since the assassination of former president Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, with rising violence linked to heavily armed gangs operating in Port-au-Prince and other parts of the country. Concerns were expressed about ever-growing violent crime and gang clashes resulting in deaths and displacement as well as seriously undermining freedom of movement and impacting the social and economic life of Haitians. They stressed the importance of a national dialogue to find a commonly agreed way forward in establishing a Haitian-led framework for a renewed political process which would lead the country to peaceful, free, fair, and credible elections.

4. There was general agreement that it would not be possible to organize polls in the current insecure and volatile context and that major efforts were required to restore security and public order across the country as well as stop the influx of illegal weapons and ammunition. Enhancing the capacity of the Haitian National Police, including through training and the provision of needed supplies and equipment, was stressed as a priority with several leaders noting their willingness to provide technical assistance in this regard.

5. Participants underscored the linkages between insecurity and the political crisis with poverty, social exclusion, economic inequalities, human rights violations, weak governance, dysfunction of institutions, impunity, and corruption. It was noted that, with the economy not growing for the past three years, poverty is on the rise and some 5 million people are now food insecure. Repeated school closures are affecting the education of many children, compromising Haiti's future. Furthermore, standards of living are dropping precipitously and due to the lack of job opportunities as well as violence, many Haitians are leaving the country. Natural disasters and climate events have catastrophic effects on Haiti, regularly driving up humanitarian needs. Almost half of the country's population currently need humanitarian assistance, including 2.1 million children.

6. It was underscored that only by tackling the root causes of underdevelopment and violence can the complex challenges facing Haiti be meaningfully addressed and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remained the roadmap in these efforts. Some leaders highlighted their ongoing efforts as well as the possible support they could extend to Haiti in areas such as education, health, construction, water resources, agriculture, and fisheries.

7. Some participants stressed the importance of financing the Joint Programme in Support of the Haitian National Police, the "Basket Fund", managed by the United Nations Development Programme. CARICOM proposed a meeting of the international community to discuss funding and logistics with a view to preparing a roadmap for re-establishing security. The possible involvement of other regional organizations, including the International Organization of La Francophonie and the African Union was also mentioned.

8. Noting that strengthening the national police will require time, immediate additional measures should be taken to stop violence in Haiti and its possible impact to other countries in the region, particularly through migratory pressures. Some participants suggested the possibility of imposing sanctions to individuals from political and economic elites who use violence to achieve political and economic objectives, particularly through gangs that thrive in an environment of extreme poverty.



9. It was agreed that Haiti's multifaceted challenges can only be addressed through Haitian-led solutions adequately and coherently supported by the international community. The meeting underscored that the international community should enhance the coordination of its efforts in Haiti, working hand in hand with the national authorities and actors towards creating new pathways for stability and sustainable development with the United Nations paying a crucial role, including through the United Nations Country Team and the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH).

Next steps

10. In the follow up to the meeting, the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti will continue mobilizing support for Haiti's efforts towards long-term stability and sustainable development in line with its mandate contained in ECOSOC resolution 2022/20.

More information on the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, including its annual reports, can be found on the website of the Economic and Social Council at: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-ad-hoc-advisory-group-haiti>