



ECOSOC

Special Meeting on Haiti



#HaitiCantWait

Haiti's Children Cannot Wait: Supporting Stability, Resilience and Prosperity in Haiti

2 DECEMBER 2024

CALL TO ACTION

by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of the Economic and Social Council

As President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), I convened the Special Meeting "*Haiti's Children Cannot Wait: Supporting Stability, Resilience and Prosperity in Haiti*" on 2 December 2024 to underscore the urgency of the situation in Haiti and to mobilize immediate action to address the critical protection and humanitarian needs of Haitians, with a specific focus on children and youth.

Haiti stands at a crossroads and we have a responsibility to act decisively, prioritizing Haitian children and youth, who will shape the country's future. The international community must step up its support to Haiti's efforts, building on progress in both political and security areas. We must act swiftly to support the Haitian population safely resume their daily activities, boost investor confidence in the country, and empower the younger generation to thrive. To that end, I call on all actors to:

- Be actively engaged in countering the widespread insecurity caused by armed gangs. It is important to establish security, protect the children of Haiti, and lay the foundation for holding transparent, inclusive, and credible elections, and restore democratic institutions.
- Heed Haitian transitional authorities' call for urgent and sustained support to restore security, including by immediately providing the necessary financial, logistical and coordinated support for the full deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti, with a particular emphasis on ensuring the safety and well-being of children and the protection of other vulnerable groups.
- Immediately cut off the illicit flow of arms and financial flows to armed gangs in Haiti by fully implementing the UN Security Council sanctions regime.
- Support interventions that prevent recruitment of children by gangs and create safe spaces for children and young people, taking a gender-responsive approach.
- Help create and support reintegration programmes to provide economic and social alternatives to vulnerable youth. These programmes should reintegrate them into society by providing education, including school meals, developing their skills, creating job opportunities, and empowering them to succeed.
- Provide essential support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, ensuring they have access to medical care, including sexual and reproductive health services; mental health and psychosocial support; and justice.



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- Contribute to the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Haiti to close the funding gap and ensure that the urgent protection and humanitarian needs of children and their families are met. The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Haiti, which aims to meet needs for 3.6 million people, remains only 43 percent funded of the required US\$673.8 million. Critical sectors such as education, health and child protection face severe funding shortages.
- Ensure unimpeded humanitarian access by working collaboratively with all stakeholders, to facilitate the delivery of life-saving assistance to all affected populations, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. This is crucial to safeguard neutrality and independence of humanitarian operations and guarantee the safety and security of humanitarian workers.
- Promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons in Haiti, placing their priorities at the center of the humanitarian response and promoting community resilience and reintegration and self-reliance.
- Invest in institutional capacities, in particular education, health and social services, in collaboration with Haitian authorities and international financial institutions to reopen schools, deliver vaccines, and provide essential care for malnourished children.
- Prioritize the rights, protection, and needs of young people in supporting Haitian efforts to recover from this multidimensional crisis, and support sustainable development initiatives that empower youth and future generations as agents of change.
- Support priority needs for the transition period, including economic recovery, infrastructure, basic services, public security and the rule of law, with a focus on advancing the well-being of children of Haiti and its population, and creating a foundation for sustainable development.
- Strengthen the country's capacities through strategic investments in education and vocational training tailored to market needs to retain talent and prevent a brain drain of skilled workers in key sectors, such as agriculture, health, education, infrastructure development, and public administration.
- Empower Haitian youth by promoting meaningful engagement in decision-making processes, enabling them to play an active role in shaping the future and rebuilding the nation.
- Adopt a holistic approach by investing simultaneously in efforts to promote peace and security, humanitarian action, recovery and development in order to address the multidimensional crisis facing the country,

Haiti and its children need our action and solidarity to live free from fear and violence. We have a unique window to step-up the efforts for children and families. We must seize it urgently and decisively. We must act now.