

## **Summary of the Informal Briefing on Haiti**

**18 December 2023, Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, NY**

On 18 December 2023, the President of the General Assembly (PGA), H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis convened an informal briefing on Haiti to share with the UN membership his feedback from his official visit to Haiti on 20-21 November 2023. Given the existing mandates of the Security Council and ECOSOC related to peace and security, as well as longer-term development of Haiti, the PGA had invited H.E. Mrs. Paula Narváez Ojeda, President of ECOSOC, and H.E. Mr. José Javier De La Gasca, President of the Security Council in December 2023 to join the informal briefing. Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), Ms. María Isabel Salvador was also invited via video link to share her perspectives with the Member States on the developments on the ground.

At the start of the meeting, the President of the General Assembly underscored the importance of coordinated action between three principal organs of the UN – General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC – as well as collaborative leadership by GRULAC Member States holding the Presidencies of those organs in December 2023 on an issue so critical for the region.

Turning to his visit to Haiti, PGA outlined the objectives of his mission: 1) assure Haitian people that international community has not forgotten them; 2) shed light to the political, security and humanitarian crisis Haiti is gripped by in order to spur further action by the United Nations and international community; 3) engage with key Haitian stakeholders to encourage them to mutual dialogue and take concrete steps towards free, fair, credible and inclusive elections and restoration of democratic institutions. PGA underlined that from the conversations he had with Haiti's political leaders and civil society representatives, it clearly transpired that the lack of security is the most critical and dominant concern for the Haitian people. The deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission authorized by the Security Council on 2 October 2023 is, therefore, awaited with great urgency. In this regard, PGA thanked the Government of Kenya for taking leadership of this mission and emphasised the importance of a coordinated action of the countries involved for an effective outcome. The President recalled that, at the meetings with Haitian stakeholders, he urged for intensified efforts to find a sustainable political solution for the restoration of democratic institutions. PGA had called the Haitian political elite to overcome their differences and prioritize the interest of their people.

In her remarks, President of ECOSOC stressed that Haiti remains a high priority with ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, under the leadership of Canada, having intensified efforts to mobilize attention and action to address the challenges faced by Haiti. The President commended Kenyan leadership for the deployment of the Multinational Security Support Mission and the Group of Eminent Persons of CARICOM for their role in supporting political dialogue in Haiti. President of ECOSOC expressed hope that the informal briefing convened by the PGA will serve as a springboard for concrete and immediate action to create an enabling environment for the success of the MSS Mission. In this context, she put forward five proposals for action: 1) In light of 4 million people in Haiti facing acute food insecurity, there is an urgent need to increase

support for Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti; 2) Support to strengthen Haiti's institutional capacities to boost Haiti's economic, social and environmental resilience; 3) Support the implementation of the Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development for Haiti (2023-2027) in order to address the root causes of crisis facing Haiti; 4) Strengthen support to Haitian youth and their involvement in efforts towards peace, security and sustainable development; 5) Help to mobilize long-term investments from the private sector and civil society to Haiti.

President of the Security Council, speaking in his national capacity, highlighted the unity and persistence of the Security Council in adopting three resolutions on Haiti in 2023, proposed by Ecuador and USA: 1) Resolution 2692 of 14 July 2023 renewed and strengthened the mandate of BINUH; 2) Resolution 2700 of 19 October 2023 renewed Haiti sanctions regime, including arms embargo, and the mandate of the Panel of Experts. President of the SC also pointed to the recent inclusion of four new designations to the sanctions list; 3) Resolution 2699 of 2 October 2023 that authorised the deployment of MSS Mission. While commending Kenya's leadership in the deployment process, the President cautioned against the view that the Mission will solve all the dimensions of the crisis Haiti is facing. In order for the Mission to succeed, it must be accompanied by efforts to restore the rule of law and democratic institutions as well as strengthening border control and measures against illicit trafficking of goods and people.

Secretary-General's Special Representative in Haiti noted that the PGA's visit to Haiti as well as the informal briefing takes place at a pivotal time for Haiti, when the sustained focus and support from the international community is more crucial than ever. She maintained that the security situation in Haiti is worsening and that the deployment of the MSS Mission is urgently awaited. Ahead of the mission's deployment, BINUH has been working with Haitian authorities to support judicial reforms, the implementation of Haiti's national strategy on disarmament, dismantlement, reintegration and community violence reduction, and the political process that could pave the way to elections and the restoration of democratic institutions. SRSG Salvador commended the regional countries' support to Haiti, exemplified by CARICOM's Eminent Persons Group facilitation of inter-Haitian dialogue. She called to increase humanitarian aid contributions to Haiti.

There were 21 interventions from the floor. Delegations expressed appreciation to the PGA for convening the meeting and shedding further light on the multifaceted crisis Haiti is facing. They expressed concern about the political impasse, the dire humanitarian crisis, and the escalation of violence gripping the country. In this regard, the delegations welcomed and expressed support to the deployment of MSS Mission which was authorised by the Security Council resolution 2699 (2023) as a critical first step in helping the national police to restore security in Haiti and allowing the country to move forward. Delegations commended Kenya's willingness to lead the Mission and several delegations pledged to contribute to the Mission with personnel, capacity building and training, or funding. It was equally stressed that in addition to security measures, different structural drivers of the crisis need to be addressed: political, social and economic inequalities, human rights violations, impunity, corruption, poverty. Participants further emphasised the importance of finding a solution to the political impasse in Haiti and restoration of political stability that will put Haiti into a path of recovery. In this context, the critical role and efforts of

the CARICOM Eminent Persons Group and BINUH were noted. Delegations called on Haiti's stakeholders to work together in a spirit of compromise, trust and mutual respect. They expressed support and solidarity to Haiti and called for coordinated action of relevant regional and UN bodies in tackling together the multidimensional crisis in Haiti.

The meeting was concluded by brief remarks by the Presidents of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Security Council, noting that Haitian people cannot be kept awaiting and expressions of support need to be translated into reality without further delay.

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