18. The question concerning Haiti

Overview

During the period 2008-2009, the Security Council held eight meetings on the question concerning Haiti, including two private meetings with the troop-contributing countries, and adopted two resolutions and one presidential statement. At the meetings, the Council heard semi-annual briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and a briefing by the newly appointed United Nations Special Envoy to Haiti, who visited the country in July 2009. The Council also considered the work of MINUSTAH, as well as the partial elections for one third of the Senate, international funding and the challenges, particularly...
socioeconomic problems, facing Haiti, which had been struck by a series of hurricanes from mid-August to early September 2008.

The Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, extended the mandate of MINUSTAH twice for periods of one year and adjusted its force configuration in 2009 to better meet requirements on the ground.296

The Council also went on a mission to Haiti from 11 to 14 March 2009.297

8 April and 8 October 2008: progress in the stabilization of Haiti

On 8 April 2008, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General298 and outlined progress in stabilizing Haiti as well as remaining challenges. While encouraged by the significant political, security and institution-building progress and by initial signs of improvement in the socioeconomic situation, he warned that the progress remained extraordinarily fragile and subject to swift reversal. The political consensus was fragile and there had been a rise in anti-Government demonstrations, which required the evacuation of MINUSTAH offices in Les Cayes. The Special Representative drew attention to the increase in the cost of living and said that while socioeconomic problems did not fall directly within the mandated responsibilities of MINUSTAH, it was clear that stability and development were inextricably linked.299

On 8 October 2008, the Council again heard a briefing by the Special Representative. He introduced the report of the Secretary-General, which provided benchmarks and indicators in five areas in which progress must be made to consolidate stability: the political and institutional situation; the extension of State authority, including border management; the strengthening of the security sector; the enhancement of justice and corrections; and economic and social development.300 He added that in a series of hurricanes that had struck Haiti from mid-August to early September, over 800,000 Haitians had lost their homes or had been directly affected. He reported that MINUSTAH gave priority to supporting the response to the catastrophe over the past month in collaboration with national authorities and the United Nations country team. He noted that even though there was at the time a relatively smoothly running process to attend to immediate needs, a clear programme to meet longer-term reconstruction requirements was needed. The Special Representative also highlighted the nomination and confirmation of the new Government after a political standoff between Parliament and Government.301

6 April 2009: statement by the President concerning challenges in the area of social and economic development in Haiti

On 6 April 2009, after hearing a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General,302 the Council discussed progress and challenges regarding the stabilization of Haiti. Speakers noted progress towards the five benchmarks, except in the area of socioeconomic development, as they were alarmed by the marked deterioration in living conditions for the vast majority of Haitians. Many speakers drew attention to the fragile nature of the institutions and security system and the prevailing economic distress. Warning that current poverty levels in Haiti contravened long-term stability, speakers emphasized that lasting stability depended on socioeconomic development. Many speakers saw the forthcoming international donor conference, to be hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank on 14 April 2009, as a unique opportunity to further coordination and identify ways to optimize resources.303

The President then made a statement,304 in which the Council welcomed the progress achieved so far in critical areas for the consolidation of Haiti’s stability. The Council urged the institutions of Haiti to intensify their efforts to meet the Haitian population’s basic needs and to work together to promote dialogue, the rule of law and good governance. The Council also reaffirmed the need for the upcoming elections for the renewal of

296 Resolutions 1840 (2008) and 1892 (2009). For more information, see part X, sect. I, in regard to the mandate of MINUSTAH.
297 For more information, see the present part, sect. 40, in regard to Security Council missions.
299 S/PV.5862, pp. 2-5.
300 S/2008/586.
301 S/PV.5990, pp. 2-5.
303 S/PV.6101 and resumption 1.
one third of the Senate to be inclusive, free and fair, and called on all political actors in Haiti to ensure that the elections were held in a peaceful atmosphere.

9 September 2009: briefings by the Special Envoy to Haiti and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti

On 9 September 2009, the Council heard a briefing by the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General. The Special Envoy stated that in spite of the devastation caused by hurricanes and storms in 2008 and in spite of the absence of basic infrastructure and the inadequacies in health, education and other areas, he was convinced that Haiti had a remarkable opportunity to escape the chains of its past. However, he emphasized that this would not be possible without the help of the Security Council and the United Nations. He urged all who had made commitments at the international donor conference in April to fund them as soon as possible, as out of the $700 million pledged at that event, only $21 million had been disbursed so far. The Special Representative summarized key developments for each of the five benchmarks and highlighted areas where further efforts were required. He considered it vital that further efforts be made to lay the foundations for long-term progress, based around the revival of private-sector activity, and saw a window of opportunity developing over the past year. He also expressed the view that the engagement of the Special Envoy could help create the dynamism and coordination that was required for success.

The representative of Haiti stressed that her Government was committed to creating the preconditions for investments in Haiti, and commended the progress made by MINUSTAH in stabilizing the country. She stated that with the support of the international community, Haiti was ready to move towards sustainable development. Noting that Haiti was at a critical juncture and must avoid a relapse, she cautioned that challenges ahead included the forthcoming elections and the draft constitutional amendment. The Prime Minister highlighted the need to commit to investments; develop infrastructure; ensure job creation; break the vicious cycle of corruption and impunity; arouse the interest of local actors and inspire the youth; and improve the living conditions of the people.

Speakers in general welcomed the appointment of the Special Envoy, and expressed the hope that the increased international attention, including the recent international donor conference, debt cancellation and high-level visits to Haiti, would enable a breakthrough in putting Haiti on the path towards peace, stability and sustainable development. As the situation in Haiti remained fragile despite progress, speakers saw the need for continued international assistance, with some believing that the focus should be on socioeconomic development, and others calling for an increased focus on institution-building and judicial reform in order to better fight corruption and illicit human, drug and arms trafficking. Overall, speakers expressed support for the extension of the Mission’s mandate and the proposed reconfiguration of MINUSTAH to decrease the military component and increase the police component, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report.

13 October 2009: renewal of the mandate of MINUSTAH

On 13 October 2009, the Council adopted resolution 1892 (2009), by which it, inter alia, decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 October 2010, and endorsed the Secretary-General’s recommendation to maintain current Mission overall force levels, while adjusting its force configuration to better meet current requirements on the ground. The Council invited Member States, in coordination with MINUSTAH, to strengthen their engagement with the Government of Haiti to address cross-border illicit trafficking of persons, in particular children, and the trafficking in drugs and arms and other illegal activities, and to contribute to strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police in those areas. The Council also called upon MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team to further enhance their coordination and take steps to help to achieve progress in the area of socioeconomic development, which had been recognized as essential for the stability of Haiti in the consolidation plan of the Secretary-General, and address urgent development problems.

306 S/PV.6186, pp. 2-6.
307 Ibid., pp. 6-9.
308 Ibid., pp. 9-11.
### Meetings: the question concerning Haiti

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*a* Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, United States and Uruguay.  
*b* Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.  
*c* Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).  
*d* President of the Economic and Social Council, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, Director of the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Food Programme, Country Director for the Caribbean of the World Bank, General Manager of the Department of the Caribbean Countries of the Inter-American Development Bank, Deputy Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme, and Mission Chief for Haiti of the International Monetary Fund.  
*e* Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.  
*f* Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Viet Nam.  
*g* Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.

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19. **Letter dated 22 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

#### Initial proceedings

**Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 22 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/487)”. At the meeting, held on 25 September 2009, the representative of Brazil expressed his concern regarding a situation in which the President of Honduras, Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales, had taken shelter at the Embassy of Brazil in Honduras. He also expressed concern about the physical safety of the President and the security of the Embassy and its staff.

**25 September 2009: meeting held at the request of Brazil**

In a letter dated 22 September 2009, the representative of Brazil requested an urgent meeting of the Council to inform Council members of the situation in Honduras, in order to prevent any action that might further aggravate the situation. He explained that President Zelaya had entered Honduras by his own means and had made his way peacefully to the Embassy of Brazil, where he had taken shelter. Although his Government still believed that the Organization of American States was the appropriate forum to find a political solution to the situation, owing to the measures taken against the Embassy and the statements by the “de facto authorities”, the Government of Brazil had decided to bring the matter to the Council.

On 25 September 2009, the representative of Brazil was invited to participate in the meeting. He expressed his grave concern that the “same people who perpetrated the coup d’état” in Honduras might threaten the inviolability of the Embassy in order to forcibly arrest President Zelaya. He stressed that it was imperative to ensure that the regime in Honduras fully respected and complied with the Vienna Convention,