



Security Council Briefing on “The question concerning Haiti”, 24 January 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt
Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President

Malta would also like to extend its sincere condolences on the untimely passing of Foreign Minister Moussa to Ambassador Biang, his delegation, and the people of Gabon.

President,

I also thank Special Representative La Lime for her comprehensive and sobering briefing today.

It is deeply regrettable and tragic that Haiti continues to suffer in the grips of numerous crises, with the worst human rights and humanitarian emergency in decades. In gang-controlled areas, people are deprived of their most fundamental rights, including their rights to life, water, food, and healthcare.

Throughout the past year, we have continued to witness a continued downward spiral. According to the Secretary-General’s Report, homicides have increased by over 35%, and kidnappings have more than doubled compared to 2021.

Turf battles between heavily armed gangs in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, as well as in the Artibonite and Northern regions, make the lives



of local populations unbearable, with deliberate killings, maimings, and coordinated acts of sexual violence. The violence has forced children out of school and has made over 150 thousand Haitians internally displaced.

President

The harrowing accounts concerning the widespread instances of sexual violence and collective rape by armed gangs as a strategy for extending their control over communities are shocking and reprehensible.

We condemn these acts without reservation and call for an accountable justice system to take immediate action against the current state of impunity for perpetrators of these crimes.

We also underline the need to strengthen the availability, accessibility, and quality of medical and psychosocial care for survivors of sexual violence and strengthen coordination efforts among relevant units within the Haitian National Police.

President

The humanitarian situation in Haiti continues to deteriorate, particularly with regard to food and nutrition. Four point seven million people are acutely food insecure, with nearly 20 thousand estimated to be living in famine-like conditions.



Cholera has also spread rapidly throughout all ten regions of the country, with 40% of all suspected cases being children. These numbers are likely to rise unless the level of humanitarian assistance increases quickly.

Armed gangs continue to attack ports and block roads, restricting the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and jeopardising the safety of aid workers.

Malta commends national and international humanitarian partners who risk their own safety to deliver life-saving assistance to people in desperate need. More must be done to enable humanitarian access and ensure adequate resources are made available for humanitarian response.

President

Security and stability in Haiti can only be brought about through an inclusive, Haitian-owned political solution. A 'National Consensus' document, signed by the government and other stakeholders in December, is reflective of a possible opening for progress on the political front. We welcome this possibility and urge all political actors in Haiti to set aside differences and come together in compromise for the sake of the Haitian people.

It is apparent from Special Representative La Lime and the Secretary-General's Report, that in order to make progress towards a political solution, the Haitian Government needs urgent support from the United Nations and the international community.



The unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2653, establishing targeted sanctions measures for those engaging in, or supporting, criminal networks and gang violence has been seen to have had positive effects. These sanctions should continue to be used as a tool to impede those seeking to perpetuate chaos and hold the Haitian people to ransom for their own gain.

We call on the international community to enhance support for the Haitian National Police, including those outlined in the Secretary General's recommendations.

President

The people of Haiti need urgent action now, there is no more time to lose. Let this Council lead by example and let 2023 be a year of progress towards the peaceful and prosperous future Haiti's people deserve.

Thank you, President.