



Security Council Briefing on “The question concerning Haiti,” 26 April 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Francesca Gatt
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Thank you,

I would like to thank Special Representative Salvador for her briefing, and welcome you to the Chamber for the first time in your new role. I also thank UNODC for their briefing, and welcome the participation of the Foreign Ministers of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and the Permanent Representative of Canada.

Malta remains deeply concerned for the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Haiti.

As detailed in the Secretary General’s Report, violence, including sexual violence, and homicides continue to escalate. Acts of kidnapping continue to intensify, and hunger is at an all-time high, with nearly half of all Haitians experiencing acute food insecurity.

The Haitian people continue to suffer at the hands of armed gangs as they compete to expand their territorial control, displacing over one hundred thousand people.

The international community must do all it can to support the Haitian National Police and their efforts to bring security and the rule of law to Haiti.



Malta believes the sanctions regime, established by the Council in resolution 2653, is an important tool for targeting and deterring those who engage or support financial and criminal activities, including the forced recruitment of children, and sexual and gender-based violence. The Council should look to update the list of those designated for sanctions as soon as possible, as well as ensure the full implementation of these measures.

As highlighted by UNODC in their report in March - and again today - this includes strengthening border controls and customs authorities to combat the illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, and people, and transnational organised crime.

Malta remains deeply concerned by the political crisis in Haiti.

We urge the Haitian authorities to engage with civil society groups to build the broadest possible consensus on a roadmap for the necessary political and security conditions that would allow for free and fair elections.

This should be a Haitian-led and -owned political process, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and young people. This will require continued investment in capacity building for women and youth leaders.

It must be a priority of the international community to strengthen Haiti's judicial system to fight corruption and impunity that feed the cycle of violence and insecurity. Those responsible for perpetuating this crisis must be held accountable.



The people of Haiti are suffering from a catastrophic human rights crisis.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, which is being used as a tool by gangs to terrorise, punish and subjugate communities. These actions are utterly reprehensible, and Malta condemns this violence in the strongest possible terms.

Children also suffer some of the most serious abuse in this crisis, being targeted by armed groups for kidnapping, sexual violence as well as recruitment into their criminal gangs. As we have just heard from the SRSG, hundreds of thousands of children struggle to access education, with many schools becoming hotspots for abduction or forced to close.

The protection of children and women must be of paramount importance for the international community, and we must urgently step up to ensure they are shielded from violence.

We recognise the efforts of humanitarian actors on the ground who continue to work to alleviate the suffering of people in Haiti. As we have heard of the many access challenges in which humanitarians face throughout the country, Malta reiterates our calls on all parties to facilitate rapid, safe, and unimpeded humanitarian access to all people in need. In addition, we remind parties of their obligations under international law with regard to the safety and protection afforded to medical and humanitarian personnel and assets.



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In conclusion, the situation in Haiti must remain a priority for this Council, as the country continues to suffer from a multidimensional emergency. We reaffirm our solidarity with Haiti, and pledge our collective commitment to support the Haitian people.

Thank you.