



Security Council briefing on BINUH, 6 July 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Darren Camilleri
Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President and I also thank Special Representative Salvador and Ms. Gilles for their briefings. We also welcome the briefings by Prime Minister Holness of Jamaica on behalf of CARICOM, and Ambassador Biang in his capacity as Chair of the 2653 Committee. I further welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Foreign Minister Álvarez of the Dominican Republic, and the Permanent Representative of Barbados.

President

Malta remains gravely concerned about the security and humanitarian situation in Haiti.

The suffering of the civilian population continues to escalate, with the situation on the ground having reached levels comparable to an armed conflict.

As detailed in the Secretary-General's Report, gang violence has continued to escalate and spread in Port-au-Prince and beyond. Murders and kidnappings rose for the fifth consecutive year, with well over two-thousand homicides registered by the national police since the beginning of 2023.



We are deeply concerned with the new cycle of violence that began in recent months between gangs and vigilante justice groups, and fear further escalation through mobilisation, arming and recruitment.

It is clear that the current situation demands urgent international attention and support. Local authorities are overstretched and require assistance in dealing with the huge security challenges they are facing.

The Council must use all its influence to address the underlying drivers and root causes of instability and insecurity. Updating the list of those sanctioned through the 2653 Committee constitutes an important step towards achieving concrete results on the ground.

As members of this Council, we must also work to prevent the illegal flow of arms into Haiti, and identify and prosecute those facilitating and benefitting from this situation.

We recognise the request made by the Haitian Authorities, and the recommendation by the Secretary-General, for the need of an international specialised force to complement and strengthen the Haitian National Police. The international community must work together to find innovative, sustainable, and safe solutions for Haiti's security crisis.



Any such initiative must have clear, fully defined objectives and mandate which are both achievable and measurable. Furthermore, principled humanitarian programming must remain separate from any such initiative.

President

The dire humanitarian situation continues to be exacerbated by multiple factors.

Nearly five million Haitians, or half the population, are acutely food insecure, and well-over one hundred thousand children are expected to suffer severe wasting from malnutrition.

Gang control over critical road networks has disrupted the distribution of food, curtailed the population's freedom of movement, and prevented access to essential services.

Humanitarian actors must be given safe, rapid, and unimpeded access to those in need, and armed gangs must make sure that basic humanitarian standards are met. The number of targeted attacks against medical staff in Haiti over the past number of months is alarming. We call on Member States to support the scaling-up of humanitarian organisations on the ground, and for further contributions to Haiti's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Malta is greatly disturbed by the reports of conflict related sexual violence



Sexual violence against women and girls by armed gangs is abhorrent and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. The international community should also enhance the capacity of Haitian institutions to prevent and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence, and ensure the punishment of perpetrators and reparations for victims.

Malta is also deeply concerned by the grave violations against children, as noted in the latest annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict.

Children continue to suffer extreme abuse at the hands of gangs, including kidnapping, sexual violence, injury, death, and forced recruitment.

The international community must work to build a safe environment for children, removing them from harm's way and back into schools.

President

In conclusion, we reaffirm our support in the efforts to overcome this multidimensional crisis.

We echo the Secretary-General's call during his recent visit to Haiti for new, integrated approaches, combining various priorities.

Haitian authorities must build an inclusive and broad roadmap to strengthen institutions and the rule of law to allow for a successful democratic transition and an inclusive electoral framework.



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We reiterate our support to Special Representative Salvador and BINUH, and we will continue to work with the Security Council for a timely renewal of the Mission's mandate. I thank you.