



Security Council briefing on BINUH, 23 October 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Vanessa Frazier

Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank Special Representative Salvador, Executive Director Russel, Executive Director Fathi Waly, and Ms. Manigat, for their briefings. We also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic to our discussions today.

As we have heard from our briefers, in the last three months, reports have pointed to an increase in indiscriminate killings, kidnappings, rapes, and attacks on several neighbourhoods previously considered safe. Major crimes are surging at unprecedented rates, primarily in the West and Artibonite departments.

This year alone, nearly three-and-a-half thousand people have been killed, and around 1,800 kidnapped. These include large numbers of women and children.

The adoption of resolution 2699 to authorise a multinational security mission to support the Haitian National Police must be a lifeline for Haiti to stem the escalating violence.

We commend all Member States who have pledged their support. We also echo the Secretary General in stating that the mission must act with the highest standards of conduct and discipline, based on clear human rights



protocols, and incorporate effective oversight mechanisms, as required by the resolution.

President,

Stabilising the security conditions is a crucial step towards addressing Haiti's multidimensional crisis.

A broad political agreement for the restoration of democratic institutions through credible, participatory, and inclusive elections is indispensable to advancing stability, good governance, and the rule of law in Haiti.

We call on Haitian stakeholders to set aside their differences. They need to commit to meaningful dialogue to broaden political consensus towards re-establishing democratic institutions.

We condemn the kidnapping of the Secretary General of the High Transitional Council and call for his immediate and unconditional release.

Stabilising the security situation in Haiti will require significant international support, not only to the national police, but also in the areas of corrections, the justice system, customs control, and border management.

We are pleased by the recent renewal of the Haiti sanctions regime. We hope the Council can better-utilise this tool by updating the sanctions list of those individuals and entities responsible for, and profiting from, Haiti's



instability. Member States must also make sure that sanctions are fully implemented, particularly in stemming the illicit flow of arms.

President

The humanitarian situation remains dire. Gang violence continues to fuel displacement. Over 200,000 were forced to flee their homes. Many are living in deplorable conditions.

Humanitarian access remains constrained. Restrictions to freedom of movement of the population prevents many from accessing essential goods and services. Food insecurity is widespread and alarming, with 4.3 million people facing levels of acute need. We call on the international community to scale-up funding for Haiti's Humanitarian Response Plan, which remains critically under-funded.

Human rights abuses perpetrated by gangs have reached alarming levels. As we have heard, women and girls are increasingly exposed to sexual and gender-based violence by armed gangs.

We welcome the establishment of three networks of women mediators and peacebuilders, and efforts to put in place a National Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Children continue to face horrific abuse, including extreme violence. Recruitment of children into criminal gangs is another critical concern, as gangs exploit the desperate situations faced by young people with no access



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to food, protection, schooling, or economic and social opportunities. Ending this abuse and supporting Haiti's youth must be a priority.

In closing, President, we look forward to seeing progress towards the deployment of the multinational security mission. We hope this will begin to turn the tide of violence and instability, allow for democratic elections, and the peaceful, prosperous future that Haiti deserves.

Thank you.