



THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta  
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL

## Security Council briefing consultations on the question concerning Haiti (BINUH), 25 January 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, President,

I also thank Special Representative Salvador, Executive Director Waly of UNODC, and Executive Director Hassan of Human Rights Watch for their briefings. I welcome the participation of Haiti, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, and Kenya in this meeting.

Malta continues to be alarmed by the deteriorating security, political, human rights, and humanitarian situations in Haiti, comprehensively highlighted by all briefers.

In October, this Council passed a resolution to mandate a multinational security support mission to Haiti to assist the Haitian National Police in restoring security.



We commend all Member States who have pledged their support to this Mission, and we hope to see the rapid deployment of the MSS in the coming weeks. This Mission must act with the highest standards of conduct and discipline, based on clear human rights protocols, and with effective oversight, as required by resolution 2699.

However, the MSS alone will not be the solution to Haiti's multidimensional crisis, and there must be greater progress on the political front.

We call on all Haitian stakeholders to set aside their differences to build the necessary broad consensus around a lasting, inclusive, and Haitian-owned political roadmap. This is fundamental to bring credible, participatory, and inclusive elections, once security conditions are met. In this regard, we commend the active support of regional organisations, particularly the Caribbean Community.



In December, this Council was able to add new names to Haiti's sanctions list, a further effort to achieve security in the country. We continue to support this Council in its efforts to stop those individuals and entities who are responsible for, and profit from, Haiti's insecurity. Member States must also make sure that sanctions are fully implemented, particularly in stemming the illicit flow of arms.

President,

Gangs have further expanded their territorial control in Haiti, and gang-related violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, homicide and kidnapping have increased, forcing hundreds of thousands to abandon their homes.

In 2023, nearly five thousand people have been reported killed, well-over double the numbers witnessed in 2022. Cases of kidnapping have also nearly doubled, highlighting a distressing trend.



As we've heard today, human rights abuses continue to intensify, with children bearing the brunt of this suffering. Reports detail children are being killed indiscriminately in their homes or on the streets, are victims of sexual abuse and kidnapping, as well as being vulnerable to recruitment by gangs.

Gangs continue to systematically use sexual violence as a weapon to consolidate control over the population, with reports of women and girls being ambushed and collectively raped in broad daylight. Survivors urgently need holistic and survivor-centred services, including medical care and psychosocial support.

Haiti must swiftly strengthen its community violence reduction and arms control efforts. We welcome regional assistance to combat the illicit proliferation of weapons and ammunition which fuel these abhorrent crimes.



Strengthening the judiciary and corrections system is particularly crucial to combat impunity, also in light of the arrival of the MSS, which is anticipated to lead to an increase in arrests and detentions of suspected gang members. Overcrowding in prisons must also be rapidly reduced.

The Haitian government, the UN and the international community must also support disarmament, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes that will contribute to reconciliation and preventive efforts to put an end to the cycle of violence in Haiti.

The humanitarian situation remains dire, with humanitarian assistance being hindered by persistent violence. Haiti's food crisis is one of the worst in the world, with nearly 4.5 million people suffering from acute levels of food insecurity. Priority must also be given to ensuring access to clean water and hygiene to prevent the ongoing cholera outbreak from worsening.



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In conclusion, 2024 must be the turning point for Haiti. We call on the international community to scale-up its support to humanitarian and development assistance, and appeal to Haitian stakeholders to agree on a political roadmap to restore Haiti's democratic institutions.

I thank you.