



Security Council briefing on BINUH, 22 April 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

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

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

I begin by thanking Special Representative Salvador, UNODC Executive Director Waly, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principal Advocate for Haiti and UNICEF Executive Director Russell for their briefings. I welcome the Permanent Representative of Haiti and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic to this meeting.

Over the past three months, we have witnessed an alarming and rapid deterioration of the security situation in Haiti. This has led to a surge in human rights violations and humanitarian needs.



On the political front, we welcome the establishment of the Transitional Presidential Council. We urge all Haitian stakeholders to continue making progress in putting in place transitional governance arrangements. We also underscore the importance of ensuring the full, equal, meaningful, and safe representation of women.

We commend CARICOM for facilitating efforts to overcome the stalemate, and reaffirm our support for a Haitian-led and -owned political process. This can be only achieved by holding free, fair, and inclusive elections when security conditions are met.

It is critical that the political and security tracks advance in parallel. We echo the Secretary-General in calling for the swift deployment of the Multinational Security Support Mission to support the Haitian National Police, as mandated by Resolution 2699.



We commend all Member States who have pledged their support, and urge funding to be made available to the UN Trust Fund. This Mission must act with the highest standards of conduct and discipline, based on clear human rights protocols, and with effective oversight.

Malta strongly supports the use of targeted sanctions. The Council should update the list of designated individuals and entities, particularly in relation to those supporting or financing gang activity. The full implementation of the arms embargo to stem the illicit flow of weapons is also key.

The unprecedented levels of human rights abuses committed by gangs are alarming. Violations include targeted killings, collective rapes, kidnappings, and extortion.

The mass recruitment and use of children is also of critical concern. Gangs have reportedly abducted children to be used on the frontlines, while girls are victims of rape and sexual exploitation.

Sexual violence is used as a systematic weapon to spread fear, subjugate, and punish the population, with perpetrators acting with impunity.



We condemn all violations and abuses to human rights in the strongest possible terms. The international community must urgently scale up support for institutions of the State, including the police, judiciary, and penitentiaries.

Civil society space is rapidly shrinking, and social leaders, not least women leaders, risk their lives in performing essential work. Any forms of violence, threats or intimidation against human rights defenders, peacebuilders, and civil society leaders must be strongly condemned.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation remains dire. More than 360,000 have been displaced.

Freedom of movement is severely restricted, with gangs impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid. Many healthcare facilities are being forced to close due to the violence or lack of medical supplies.

Haiti's food security is among the worst in the world. Half the population is expected to suffer acute food insecurity. Increased support for Haiti's Humanitarian Response Plan is of utmost importance.



In conclusion, Haiti urgently needs international solidarity and support to address the political, security, and humanitarian challenges. We commend the efforts of BINUH and humanitarian partners on the ground operating in very challenging circumstances. Democratic institutions and the rule of law must be restored in Haiti to end the cycle of violence and bring lasting and sustainable peace.

I thank you.