

Statement on behalf of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

by H.E. Robert Rae, Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Canada to the United Nations and Chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

UN Security Council briefing on BINUH

New York, 3 July 2024

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council.

The Advisory Group comprises 24 Member States that are committed to accompanying Haiti's long-term socioeconomic development. We are friends, neighbours and partners of Haiti.

I wish to underscore five key points:

First, we welcome the positive steps taken by Haitian actors to establish an inclusive transition government. We are committed to accompanying the Haitian government as it addresses the needs of the Haitian population, re-establishes democracy and accelerates the country's sustainable development.

Second, we must support Haiti to urgently address the immediate humanitarian needs of the Haitian population set out in the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan – less than 24 per cent of which is funded.

Third, we welcome the arrival of the Multinational Security Support mission, led by Kenya, to Port-au-Prince last week and we encourage Member States to contribute to making the mission a success.

We are hopeful that the deployment of the mission will bolster the capacity of the Haitian National Police to restore security. Haitians require security to safely leave their homes without fear of being killed, kidnapped or raped; ensure that the most vulnerable can access essential services; allow businesses to resume commerce; safeguard schools and academic institutions for children and youth; and create the space for free and fair elections.

Fourth, we encourage Haitian institutions to address the root causes of the country's vulnerability and instability – including extreme poverty, corruption, impunity, and collusion between the political and economic spheres. And we need to be prepared to accompany these efforts in the long-term.

Our consultations with stakeholders have identified a host of areas on which Haitian capacities require strengthening:

- providing security for and protect the human rights of the population;
- delivering essential services, in particular education and health;
- building resilient food systems;
- curbing the flow of arms and ammunitions to the gangs;
- dismantling gangs and reducing violence at the community-level;
- empowering women and girls and addressing sexual and gender-based violence;
- investing in education and vocational opportunities for youth;
- promoting inclusive economic growth and job creation;
- strengthening the rule of law; and
- building the country's resilience to the disruptive impacts of disasters and climate change.

Lastly, considering Haiti's multi-dimensional crisis, the active support and expertise of the United Nations across all of these areas is essential in advancing Haitian-led solutions and working together in coordination with other partners, including regional organizations and the international financial institutions.

We strongly urge this Council to renew the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) for twelve months. Given the gravity of the situation in Haiti, we urge the Security Council to ensure that BINUH is adequately equipped, in terms of personnel and resources, to engage with Haitian stakeholders and to effectively assist Haiti through this crisis.

Now is the time for us to reaffirm our solidarity with Haitian people and mobilize our support for Haiti.