



Opening Statement by H.E. Bob Rae (Canada)

President of the Economic and Social Council

Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission

11 June 2025

Je suis très heureux de pouvoir présider avec mon collègue d'Allemagne cette session importante et aussi nous avons la participation du président de l'Assemblée générale. Nous sommes honorés de sa présence aujourd'hui.

Le président du Conseil de sécurité,
Le président de la Commission de consolidation de la paix,
Excellences,
Invités distingués,
Tout le monde,

Je suis très heureux de pouvoir, avec mon collègue de la Commission de consolidation de la paix, vous souhaiter la bienvenue à cette réunion conjointe du Conseil économique et social et de la Commission de consolidation de la paix sur le thème « Construire et maintenir la paix en Haïti ».

Cette année marque une étape importante dans notre collaboration, puisque nous commémorons les 15 ans de la première réunion conjointe du Conseil économique et social et de la Commission de consolidation de la paix, qui s'est tenue en 2010. En cette occasion spéciale, nous sommes honorés d'être rejoints par le président de l'Assemblée générale et le président du Conseil de sécurité pour le mois de juin.

Il s'agit non seulement d'une déclaration sur l'engagement des Nations unies à soutenir Haïti, mais aussi d'une occasion importante de s'appuyer sur les engagements pris lors du Sommet de l'avenir, qui a appelé à une collaboration renforcée entre les organes de la Charte des Nations unies et la Commission de consolidation de la paix.

L'examen de l'architecture de consolidation de la paix et l'examen prochain du Conseil économique et social par la 80e session de l'Assemblée générale sont d'autres occasions importantes de poursuivre sur la lancée du Pacte pour l'avenir.

Excellencies,



In welcoming all of you, there are some somber things that need to be said. It will be in July, just in a few weeks, four years since the assassination of Haiti's democratically elected President Jovenel Moïse – which we have to understand was a turning point that led the country into a spiral of violence and increased insecurity, as well as profound economic and humanitarian instability.

Just yesterday, the IOM announced that its latest review of the data with respect to what has happened is that the number of displaced people in Haiti is now over 1.3 million people, principally from the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Our focus today is to reflect on the urgent peacebuilding needs that the country has, as well as the profound needs for sustainable development. The utmost priority is the security situation in the country, which still requires, in our view, swift action by the Security Council, as well as increased assistance from the international community.

At the same time, we need urgent support to address the immediate humanitarian and protection needs, along with all of the efforts to achieve the SDGs.

We need to understand that here we are, half-way through 2025, and we are only 9%, yes 9%, towards the achievement of the goals for the humanitarian funds in the country.

We've already had a series of Special meetings and other ways of trying to draw attention and increase the amount of activity and action from Member States. Last December, Haitian children and youth were the focus of our meeting on the ongoing crisis and facing uncertain futures. It is my deepest regret that I have to tell you that since that time, the situation in Haiti has gotten worse and not better, and we need to understand that. The prevention of the recruitment of children by armed gangs and their safe exit from gangs has been a priority for all of us. We need to understand that this is not only a matter of increasing our security capacity, but it's a matter of addressing what does it take to get a young kid from deciding to join a gang, what are the opportunities that have to be presented, and how do we entice the young people who are in these gangs that they are facing a future that will be, quite simply, a future without a future unless they choose a path that is truly sustainable which is a path that avoids this dead-end of criminality.

So we need to build up what is happening at the community-level and we need to reduce violence, things that have been built into the methodology of the UN for a long time but we



need to put them to work in Haiti. We need to understand the extent to which women and young people are particularly important partners in all of these efforts.

Our speakers today are going to address this and we look forward to hearing what they have to say.

The Economic and Social Council is committed to supporting Haitian efforts for stability and for sustainable development. To this end, the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, which Canada happens to chair, will continue its efforts to engage partners to mobilize urgent action to help alleviate the suffering of the Haitian population.

The Advisory Group is open to membership if there are others who would like to join who have not been members before. You are most welcome to come.

We are going to continue our ongoing collaboration with the PBC and receive all the valuable insights on the most effective path forward to supporting Haiti.

Haiti cannot wait!
Haïti ne peut pas attendre !
Ayiti pa kapab tann!

We must act now. We have no choice. There is no other viable path for all of us to take.

Merci beaucoup. Thank you.