



JOINT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

“Building and Sustaining Peace in Haiti”

11 June 2025

Informal Summary by the President and Chair

On 11 June 2025, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held their joint annual meeting, on building and sustaining peace in Haiti. Panelists and participants underscored the need for comprehensive approaches rooted in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, stressed the importance of inclusive community violence reduction (CVR) measures, called for the reinforcement of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, urged enforcement of the sanctions regime and arms embargo, expressed firm support for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), and encouraged the ECOSOC, including its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, and the PBC to remain seized of the situation in Haiti.

1. In his opening remarks, **H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada, President of the Economic and Social Council**, noted that this meeting was demonstrative of the UN’s commitment to supporting Haiti and that it also marked an important opportunity to build on the Pact for the Future, which calls for stronger cooperation between the ECOSOC and PBC. The President recalled that it has been four years since the assassination of Haiti’s democratically elected president, which marked a turning point that has led the country into a spiral of violence with profound economic and humanitarian consequences. Citing data from the IOM, he said that 1.3 million people have been displaced, principally from Port-au-Prince. He urged Member States to reflect on the country’s urgent peacebuilding and sustainable development needs. The President further emphasized that the utmost priority is the security situation, which requires swift action by the Security Council and increased international assistance; he noted with regret that only 8% of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan has been funded. The President stressed the importance of local-level CVR measures and ensuring that women and young people have a strong role in these efforts. The President further remarked that the ECOSOC’s Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, which Canada chairs, will continue to engage with partners to mobilize urgent action and will seek to collaborate with the PBC in this regard.
2. **H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly (PGA)**, underlined that the scale of suffering in Haiti is escalating and that it requires urgent action. Citing data from

UNICEF, he said that sexual violence against children has increased by 1,000% between 2023 and 2024, and that children make up more than half of all gang members. He also noted that the ongoing violence has displaced nearly a tenth of Haiti's population and that over half of displaced people are women and children. The PGA applauded the MSS mission, commending Kenya for its leadership, and noted that this effort is indicative of the important role that Africa can, and does, play in international peace and security. He further drew attention to the impact of illicit trafficking and diversion of arms and ammunition to gangs in Haiti, and the vital importance of getting weapons off the streets. He remarked that a gender-responsive approach to arms control policies and to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes is essential.

3. **H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana, President of the Security Council for the month of June 2025**, emphasized the urgent need for CVR efforts in Haiti. She highlighted the severity of the crisis, marked by rising gang violence, political instability, economic hardship, and a breakdown of essential services, and noted that women and children are affected disproportionately. She underscored the fragility of the political transition and the growing threat of armed gangs, particularly in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. She commended the measures authorized by the Security Council, including sanctions, an arms embargo, and the MSS mission, while underlining the magnitude of the challenges, including the complexity of gang structures, weak state institutions, and limited resources. She called for a comprehensive, Haitian-led approach involving national, regional, and international stakeholders to restore governance and address the root causes of violence. She concluded by urging continued international support and cooperation, noting that Haiti's crisis has far-reaching implications beyond its borders.

4. **Mr. Dorville Morency, Municipal Commissioner of the Haitian National Police**, expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the Haitian Government for the ECOSOC and PBC's initiative to help address the crisis in Haiti. He emphasized the severe impact of gang violence, which has destabilized families and disproportionately affected women and children. He said that over a million people have been displaced and thousands killed, while hundreds of schools have been destroyed, with nearly 60,000 children having lost access to education. Despite these challenges, the Commissioner said, Haitian authorities are striving to modernize the police, reclaim gang-controlled areas, and support displaced families. He highlighted the Government's focus on community policing and non-kinetic measures to peacebuilding, including programmes on youth reintegration, women's empowerment, vocational training, and psychosocial support. He stressed the importance of international cooperation in helping Haiti prevent child recruitment into gangs and build a viable path towards peace and development.

5. **The civil society representative** spoke about the essential role of civil society, including women and youth, in peacebuilding. She described the profound impact of Haiti's crisis on daily life, including repeated displacement and the inability to move freely due to insecurity. She

highlighted how women live in constant fear for their children, who face risks of violence and recruitment by armed gangs. Despite these hardships, she said, civil society remains active and determined. She underscored that women and youth are central to social transformation and are working in close coordination with national and international partners. She noted that women are often the first to rebuild in the aftermath of conflict, playing key roles in care, education, and protection. She said that, to enable women to contribute fully to peacebuilding, they should have support through training, economic empowerment, safe mobility, and access to psychosocial services. The representative also stressed that, without access to education and mentorship, young people are at risk exploitation by violent actors.

6. **Ms. María Isabel Salvador, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti**, highlighted the severity of the crisis in Haiti, characterized by escalating violence, mass displacement, and institutional collapse. She said that women and children remain the most affected, while noting that the Haitian people continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination. She outlined the structural drivers of conflict, including political fragility, poverty, inequality, impunity, environmental degradation, and the trafficking of arms and drugs. She said that these factors have eroded trust, weakened institutions, and fractured social cohesion. The SRSG stressed that securitized responses alone are insufficient; she underlined that comprehensive approaches are needed, aligned with local priorities and supported internationally, and informed also by the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas. She called for scaling up CVR programmes through education, economic opportunity, psychosocial support, and civic engagement. She equally called for the strengthening of the Haitian National Police. The SRSG further emphasized that sustainable recovery depends on economic inclusion and local ownership. She said that funding should prioritize community-led initiatives and peace infrastructures. She stressed that no child should be bearing arms and that children must have opportunities for safety, learning, and dignity. The SRSG urged international financial institutions and partners to back national DDR efforts and strengthen regional cooperation to curb arms trafficking. She reaffirmed BINUH's support for Haiti's pursuit of peace, dignity, and prosperity.

7. **Ms. Corinne Cathala, Country Director for Haiti at the Inter-American Development Bank**, provided an update on the IDB's engagement in response to Haiti's deepening crisis. She noted that the country remains in a state of prolonged instability, facing its sixth consecutive year of economic contraction. She noted that over 5.7 million Haitians are currently affected by acute food insecurity, with more than 8,000 experiencing catastrophic hunger. She said that the IDB received a request from Haiti last March to coordinate a medium-term recovery plan for 2025–2030, in partnership with the World Bank, United Nations, and European Union. She noted that the medium-term plan complements the Rapid Crisis Impact Assessment (RCIA), which is focused on Port-au-Prince and the metropolitan area. She outlined that the recovery plan will adopt a territorial approach, aligned with national priorities, and focus on economic revitalization, delivery

of basic services, and improved governance and rule of law. The Country Director stressed the importance of coordinated international support, flexible implementation, and tailored interventions. She highlighted the IDB's ongoing efforts to adapt its operations by working with specialized agencies and local NGOs to ensure relevance and effectiveness. She concluded by reaffirming the Bank's commitment to Haiti, noting that the medium-term plan offers a sound path forward—provided that there be sustained, collective engagement from partners and stakeholders.

8. In their interventions and observations during the interactive discussion, **Member States and Observers:**

- Deplored the severity of the security and humanitarian situation in Haiti, marked by high levels of casualties, displacements, and human rights abuses, alarming rates of sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment of children into gangs, food insecurity, the absence of access to basic services, and prohibitive obstacles to the conduct of socioeconomic and livelihood activities.
- Stressed that the international community's response to the situation in Haiti is inadequate and should be intensified.
- Recognized the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women, young people and children, and stressed the need for adequate medical and psychosocial support for victims and survivors.
- Expressed concern about the fragility of the political transition process and called for inclusive national dialogue ahead of the anticipated constitutional referendum and elections.
- Underscored the interlinkages between humanitarian action, peace and security, and sustainable development, in recognition of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- Stressed the importance of comprehensive approaches to the crisis rooted in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, with a view in particular to addressing the root causes of violence, including the lack of socioeconomic opportunities for young people which could otherwise steer them away from gang involvement.
- Stressed the importance of implementing CVR and local-level peacebuilding measures, with the full participation of civil society, including women and youth, especially efforts to support disarmament, defections and safe exits from armed gangs, and reintegration, including through efforts to reduce stigma and build social cohesion.
- Encouraged Haiti to reactivate its National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration.
- Expressed appreciation for the roles of the ECOSOC, including its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, and the PBC in addressing the interlinkages between peace and security and sustainable development, and in supporting the mobilization of resources needed to promote durable peace.
- Expressed concern at the severe lack of funding for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Haiti, calling for substantial resources.

- Underscored the need for sustainable funding for initiatives like the FAO-WFP school feeding programme, which serves 600,000 children in Haiti with meals made entirely from locally-sourced produce.
- Took note with appreciation of the RCIA and its four priority axes, in particular its fourth axis on strengthening rule of law and public security, and urged the provision of financial support for its implementation, including from international financial institutions.
- Underscored the importance of establishing the rule of law, enabling the dispensation of justice, and fighting impunity, and welcomed the establishment of the specialized judicial units to address serious human rights violations and abuses.
- Underlined that the minimal security conditions necessary to enable sustainable development are currently lacking in many parts of Haiti.
- Expressed gratitude and commendation to the MSS mission for its efforts in supporting the Haitian National Police, and to Member States contributing personnel, financial support, and in-kind support, Kenya in particular.
- Expressed concern that the MSS mission remains under-capacitated, nearly a year after it began to deploy, with troop levels at only 40% of the authorized ceiling, and called for the swift provision of additional personnel, as well as material and financial support.
- Condemned the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and called for measures to enhance enforcement of the sanctions regime and arms embargo.
- Expressed concern about consequences of the situation in Haiti that spill over beyond its borders and about the risks that the situation in Haiti may pose to the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Encouraged the Security Council to consider additional measures to address the situation in Haiti, including options laid out by the Secretary-General in his letter dated 24 February 2025.
- Expressed support for reconfiguring the United Nations footprint in Haiti, including to provide logistical and operational support to the MSS mission and reinforce BINUH's mandate.
- Commended BINUH's commitment to fulfilling its mandate, notwithstanding the significant constraints on its operating environment.
- Suggested that BINUH be exempted from personnel reductions foreseen as part of the UN80 Initiative.
- Commended the efforts of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in promoting Haitian-led solutions, as well as the constructive engagement of regional organizations, including the Organization of American States.
- Applauded positive results achieved through projects supported by the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), including the establishment of women's and youth platforms for civic engagement, and welcomed the fact that Haiti is due to receive assessed contributions from the PBF.
- Called on the ECOSOC and PBC to continue consideration of how to support Haiti to advance its peacebuilding and sustainable development priorities.

- Encouraged Haiti to consider engaging with the PBC.
- Encouraged the Security Council to request written advice from the PBC on the renewal of the mandates of the MSS mission and BINUH.
- Called on the PBC to continue serving as a platform for the exchange of best practices, lessons learnt, knowledge, and experiences, such that Haiti and other conflict-affected countries may draw lessons from countries that have undergone successful transitions from conflict to stability.
- Called for predictable resources to support CVR and DDR efforts, including through leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- Affirmed their commitment to supporting Haiti to build and sustain peace, stressing the importance of Haitian-led, Haitian-owned solutions.

9. **Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support**, warned of the risk of State collapse and regional spillover, and urged immediate, coordinated international action. While recognizing the importance of addressing gang violence, she relayed that UN colleagues on the ground emphasize the need to act now on peacebuilding and development priorities, which remain viable and urgent despite insecurity. She drew attention to potential avenues for follow-up, including coordination between the ECOSOC's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and the PBC, to help advance, for example, Haiti's DDR and CVR needs. She also underscored the role of the UN peacebuilding architecture to back Haiti's peacebuilding priorities. She highlighted the PBF's catalytic role, including recent support for CVR, justice reform, and women's and youth empowerment. She further noted that Haiti identified three strategic priorities for the use of assessed contributions from the PBF: civic participation and social cohesion, prevention of armed violence in high-risk areas, and socioeconomic resilience in the Artibonite department.

10. **H.E. Mr. Thomas Zahneisen, Chargé d'affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission**, closed the session noting that there is consensus among Member States that the crisis in Haiti requires immediate and collective action. The Chair expressed hope that the Security Council will respond favourably to Haiti's requests that security support be stepped up. He deplored the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, noting that woman and children are particularly affected, and said that the international community bears a shared obligation to address the lack of financing for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. The Chair expressed gratitude to the civil society representative for their bold testimony. He remarked that, during the meeting, Member States heard about promising projects to protect civic space and buttress institutions. He further recognized that the meeting demonstrated the importance of coordination between the ECOSOC and PBF. He also reiterated that the situation in Haiti is has regional and international implications, with significant repercussions.