



## Press Statement by the ECOSOC President on Haiti

1 July 2025 - The following press statement was issued today by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae (Canada), President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

The situation in Haiti is deteriorating at an alarming rate with significant impacts on the Haitian population and on the region. The Haitian population is being exploited, raped, kidnapped, and recruited by armed gangs. They are malnourished and facing famine conditions. They are fleeing their homes in record numbers due to violence. We must act.

As President of ECOSOC, I convened a Special Meeting of ECOSOC on the critical situation of children and youth in Haiti on 2 December 2024 as well as a joint meeting of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission on building and sustaining peace in Haiti on 11 June 2025. I also have the honour of chairing the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group which engages with Haitian interlocutors and the country's partners.

I have heard repeated calls from Haitian authorities and civil society representatives to the international community to urgently step up assistance to Haitian institutions to restore security and political stability, protect the population from violence and exploitation, rebuild essential services, and ensure that women and young people contribute fully to Haiti's recovery. I have also heard calls for the United Nations (UN) to play a strong role in support of Haitian-led and Haitian-owned solutions alongside other partners.

I urge the Security Council to quickly heed Haiti's request for robust security assistance. A UN stabilization mission should be seriously considered. In the short-term, a significant UN support package to the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission is critical.

I commend Kenya for its leadership of the MSS mission in support of the Haitian National Police and thank countries that are contributing with personnel, equipment and logistical resources. We need to respond positively to President Ruto's request for clarity and ongoing support to the mission.

The illicit flow of arms and financial flows to armed gangs must be halted. Individuals and entities who are supporting the gangs, fuelling violence and responsible for heinous crimes must be held accountable.

At the same time, we must continue to encourage Haitian transitional authorities to put the interests of the country first and work in an inclusive and transparent manner to build confidence, fight corruption, ensure accountability, and organize credible elections.

I strongly urge the Security Council to ensure an active UN presence on the ground. Given the severity of the situation in Haiti, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) must be adequately equipped, in terms of personnel and resources, to engage with Haitian stakeholders and to effectively assist Haiti through this crisis.

The UN must also be enabled to urgently address the critical protection and humanitarian needs of the Haitian population set out in the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan – only 8 per cent of which is funded. We should also commit to scaling up investments in sustainable development and peacebuilding in Haiti.

The ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti will continue to engage with partners to mobilize urgent action and encourage a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of the multi-dimensional crisis affecting Haiti.

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