

**DRAFT STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

**ON THE**

**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA  
MEETING ON HAITI**

**TITLED**

***"BEYOND THE INCONVENIENT TRUTHS ABOUT  
UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN HAITI: SEEKING PAN-AFRICAN  
SOLUTIONS/PATHWAYS AND SUPPORTING NATIONAL  
DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION"***

**15 OCTOBER 2021  
15:00-17:00  
VIRTUAL, NEW YORK**

*Please check against delivery*

**Hon. Ariel Henry, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti;**

**Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines;**

**Excellencies;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

- 1.** It is a great honor for me to address this Arria-Formula meeting of the Security Council on Haiti, in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- 2.** At the outset, I express my profound appreciation to the Co-Chairs of this very timely meeting, H.E. Rhonda King, PR of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in your Capacity as a Member of the A3+1 Group; and H.E Martin Kimani, PR of Kenya, in your capacity as President of the Council for the month of October.
- 3.** As you would be aware, Haiti has been on the agendas of both the Security Council and ECOSOC for several years. It is in this regard, that I welcome this Arria Formula Meeting as an opportunity to rekindle our collaboration in working together to ensure that the combined interventions of the two UN Charter-based Principal Organs have multiplier impacts on the development agenda of Haiti.
- 4.** As you may be aware, the item on Haiti was incorporated in ECOSOC's agenda in response to a Security Council request to provide recommendations on the long-term development of the country. In this connection, the creation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, was an innovation at the time and shows the creativity of ECOSOC to contribute in finding a permanent solution to the situation the country faces.

## Co-Chairs,

5. I, therefore, welcome the theme for this Meeting, titled: ***"Beyond the inconvenient truths about underdevelopment in Haiti: seeking pan-African solutions/pathways and supporting national dialogue and reconciliation"***.
6. As others have noted, Haiti is not only facing political and security crisis but also significant socio-economic, humanitarian, environmental as well as human rights and rule of law challenges.
7. As the country also grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, it also faces a number of structural impediments to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. I am sure you are all too well familiar with some of those very stark figures, that highlight what is at stake for Haiti in the short- and longer-term. For instance:
  - **7 out of 11 million people** in Haiti live below the poverty line.
  - **One-third of children between 6 and 11 years of age** in rural areas are not in school, while less than **1 per cent** pursues higher education.
  - Of those who graduate from university, **a staggering 86 per cent** leave the country to pursue better prospects abroad.
  - Humanitarian needs have more than tripled since 2018, **from 1.3 million to over 4.4 million people** requiring life-saving assistance.

9. The list of challenges goes on, with Haiti further bearing the most devastating impacts of climate change. **More than 96 per cent** of the population is exposed to natural disasters that include floods, hurricanes and earthquakes.

**Co-Chairs,**

10. The multidimensional crises facing Haiti -- and their interconnected nature -- demands harmonized solutions on different fronts. Efforts to promote political stability and enhance security must go hand-in-hand with measures to address the root causes and drivers of existing problems.
11. I, therefore, wish to reiterate that, helping the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would greatly contribute to finding lasting solutions to violence and instability. And we do have great knowledge at our disposal.
12. We also have the tools: through the repositioned United Nations Development System; a new generation of country teams under the leadership of strengthened resident coordinators, are increasingly providing a whole-of-system support to the countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development.
13. I am of the view that we must not miss the opportunity to ensure that the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and the United Nations country team continue to increasingly work together across humanitarian-development-peace pillars to help achieve a successful transition.

- 14.** But this is not enough, as Haiti needs better and greater engagement from the broader international community. It needs adequate, predictable and flexible funding towards transition, risk reduction, recovery and poverty reduction as well as resilient peacebuilding programmes.
- 15.** South-South and Triangular Cooperation are tools that could also be used to provide technical advice and assistance on how to modernize in particular the agricultural sector -- on which **60 per cent of Haitians** depend directly or indirectly on for their living.
- 16.** Haiti can also draw lessons from other countries -- including from African region and the other Caribbean -- how to improve its education system and better develop its tourism sector as key drivers for economic growth and sustainable development.

**Chair,**

- 17.** Let me in conclusion by noting that Haiti's successful fight to end slavery was an inspiration to many in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and to other enslaved communities seeking liberty and racial equality for all. We therefore, owe it to the Haitian people to help the country achieve its aspirations to regain its past glory.
- 18.** I would like to reiterate that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will continue to play an advisory role -- again as it did in 1999 -- as provided for in Article 65 of the UN Charter, on how best to support just, peaceful and strong institutions in Haiti as it seeks to achieve sustainable development.

**19.** I would be very interested in engaging with the partners and Friends of Haiti to follow up on some of the concrete proposals from this meeting, working with the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

**I thank you.**