



Statement by H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council to the High-Level Meeting of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti with Caribbean Partners

New York, 21 September 2022

Excellencies,

It is an honor and a privilege to participate in this High-Level Meeting in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council.

Since 1999, the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti has been providing advice on the long-term development of Haiti. Its work remains as timely as ever.

The Group has advocated for Haiti to remain on the international radar and to mobilize support for the country's efforts towards long-term stability and sustainable development.

Today, we are here to identify practical ways to help the Haitian people, in partnership with the Caribbean region.

In a world of competing crises, we cannot risk leaving Haitians behind. More than half of the country's population lives below the poverty line. People lack access to affordable and quality education, essential health services, and jobs. A staggering 85 per cent of educated young women and men leave the country due to the lack of opportunities.

Equally worrying is that nearly 1 in 2 Haitians do not have enough to eat. Almost half of the population currently need humanitarian assistance, including 2.1 million children. Too many children are out of school due to school closures, compromising Haiti's future. Standards of living are dropping precipitously.

The annual reports of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group have stressed the interlinkages between the political crisis and insecurity with poverty, social exclusion, economic inequalities, human rights violations, weak governance, impunity and corruption. Their recommendations to Haiti and the international community remain relevant in the current context.



I close with two key messages. First, the use of violence to achieve economic and political objectives is not and should never be acceptable. Second, only by tackling the root causes of underdevelopment and violence can the complex challenges facing Haiti be meaningfully addressed. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be the guide and roadmap.

While the Haitian Government has the primary responsibility to promote Haiti's development, the coordinated support of the international community is essential. This is the time to show international solidarity for Haiti and work hand-in-hand with Haitian society towards creating new pathways for sustainable development.

Thank you.