



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner's on Haiti with the Participation of the Independent Expert on the Human Rights Situation in Haiti

(UNHRC Resolution 55/24)

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OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. William O'NEILL, Independent Expert (IE) on the Human Rights Situation in Haiti

The IE draws the Council's attention to the situation in Haiti as it requires immediate and decisive action. There is not another day to waste. The IE visited Haiti from 2 to 8 March 2025 on his fourth official visit as the designated expert. He has lived and worked in Haiti periodically since the first UN human rights mission there in 1993. Human rights violations have reached a scale and intensity that the IE has never seen before in Haiti. The fear is palpable in people's eyes and in their voices the capital is almost entirely controlled and surrounded by gangs, making **Port-au-Prince a large open-air prison**. There is no safe way to enter or leave the capital except by helicopter. Gangs are invading previously safe neighbourhoods killing, raping, and burning houses, businesses, churches, and schools. The IE saw steel barriers on roads leading into the few safe neighbourhoods remaining. Armed men guard these gates and control who leaves and enters in some cases they kill and burn the bodies of people they suspect of being gang members.



The **price paid by children** remains enormous. Millions of them have witnessed violence that no child should ever have to see. Hundreds of thousands of them have not been able to go to school safely. The new school year has been disrupted and children have suffered further delays. Young girls who have survived sexual violence have told the IE of the horrors they suffered at the hands of gangs. However, like for many Haitians, they have not been broken by the gangs. A survivor told the IE that she dreamed of becoming a psychologist to be able to help other survivors of sexual violence. This is what gives hope to the IE.

Despite the catastrophic situation and the horrific statistics on the human rights abuses, the Haitian people remain unbowed they will not give up and neither should we. The crisis in Haiti is challenging but it can and it must be addressed. The solutions are straightforward and well known. The nations of the world must provide the **Multinational Support Mission led by Kenya** what it needs to succeed in buttressing the Haitian National Police that means more personnel and helicopters, more and better vehicles, better protective gear and night-vision goggles.

The **sanctions regime** authorised by the UN Security Council must be ramped up quickly. The financial political backers of the gangs must pay a price for their crimes. Freeze bank accounts, seize assets, annul visas. They must face justice and be held accountable. Private sector actors have told the IE that the powerful elites benefiting from the violence fear these sanctions the international community must do more to help **stop the flow of weapons and ammunitions** into Haiti. The gangs could not survive very long without them.

The IE welcomes the recent seizures in the Dominican Republic of several large shipments of guns and bullets destined for Haiti and also the recent conviction in US federal courts of several arms traffickers involved in shipments to Haiti. But we need more vigorous action. Therefore, the IE urges the UNHRC to mobilise all available resources to contribute to the **humanitarian appeal for Haiti** which remains underfunded. Fewer and fewer Haitians enjoy access to the rights to education, adequate shelter, health care, safe water and food. There is a human rights emergency in Haiti. The time for action is now. If we wait much longer, there could be precious little left of Haiti to save.

PRESENTATION OF THE ORAL UPDATE AND REPORT

Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The High Commissioner (HC) deplores that the human rights situation in Haiti has reached another crisis point. When the HC last visited Haiti, he heard communities calling out for help, exhausted and frightened from **years of violence, insecurity, and unbearable precarity**. In the two years since then, the situation has dramatically worsened. Their plea must be heard.

Gangs are spreading into what were once gang free areas in Port-au-Prince and its outskirts and are capturing key territory and infrastructure. Gangs have united to launch coordinated attacks armed with powerful weapons and in some cases outnumbering and overpowering national security forces. Gangs are killing ordinary people brutally punishing those who defy their rules or are suspected of collaborating with the police or self-defence groups. The **usual description of gang violence does not at all capture the amount of unbearable suffering** that has been inflicted on the Haitian people.



The HC's report details how the **use of traffic firearms** and different forms of ammunition are fuelling a destructive cycle of violence leading to severe human rights violations and abuses. Reports estimate that between **270,000 and 500,000 firearms are circulating illegally** in Haiti, with most weapons in the hands of gangs. These weapons which are increasingly sophisticated are not manufactured in Haiti, but consistently flowing from elsewhere. Full implementation of the Security Council's **arms embargo** as well as its targeted asset freeze and travel ban is absolutely critical.

During the reporting period between 1 July 2024 and 28 February 2025, **4,239 people were killed and 1,356 injured**. OHCHR estimates that 90% of the casualties resulted from the use of firearms. Several mass killings were documented. For example, during five days in early December, at least 207 people were killed by gangs controlling the wharf Jeremie neighbourhood of Cité Soleil that the *Vivre Ensemble* gang coalition and others have destroyed. Public institutions including schools, orphanages, healthcare centres and courts attacked. Media outlets and humanitarian actors and ransacked businesses.

The ubiquitous presence of guns is central to their use of violence. Sexual violence, including **collective rape and sexual exploitation is increasingly used** by gangs as a tool to coerce communities and assert their dominance under the threat of arms. Many victims were attacked in homes while others were abducted, raped in public spaces, or seized while travelling on public transport. Several victims were shot dead after being raped. Services for survivors remain extremely scarce. OHCHR has also documented the **forced recruitment, exploitation and trafficking of children** by gangs. OHCHR has documented more than 700 kidnappings. All were carried out by people with guns. Those who attempted to resist abduction were often shot dead.

Gangs are implementing their own form of governance in the areas under their control. Despite significant efforts by the Haitian National Police, gang attacks are challenging the state's control over remaining territory and its ability to regain territories from the gangs. During the reporting period, more than **2,000 people were killed or injured in law enforcement operations** against gangs - a sixty percent increase compared to the previous six months period. Almost one third of those killed were hit when they were not involved in acts of violence, often struck by stray bullets while in the streets or at home.

OHCHR has documented at least **219 cases of summary executions** by specialist police force units during the reporting period, which is a substantial increase from 33 in 23. Lynching of gang members by self-defence groups and spontaneous angry mobs sometimes facilitated or witnessed by Haitian police officers have increased over the past few months. As the Haitian National Police and the Multinational Security Support Mission are overwhelmed and lack resources, the HC urges states quickly to advance the deployment of this Mission. UNHCR is providing advice to the Mission in relation to the development and implementation of human rights compliance mechanisms requested by the Security Council.

Corruption continues to be widespread in state institutions, including the judiciary and the police, which impedes their efficiency and the delivery of crucial services and impunity for human rights violations deeply erodes public trust. The **catastrophic humanitarian situation** is deepening. More than 1 million people have been displaced in Haiti many multiple times. 40,000 of whom have been forced to move in the past few weeks alone. One in every two Haitians - **5.5**



million people - face acute food insecurity. 2 million people face emergency levels of hunger. Nearly 6,000 displaced people are living in famine like conditions.

The **impact on children** is particularly devastating. Over half a million children are displaced - 50% more than in September 2024. Nearly one in four children in Haiti suffers from stunting due to malnutrition which will impact them for life. Only half of health facilities are fully operational in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, with 31% forced to close due to insecurity over the years. Amidst all of this, the political transition which held so much hope is hanging by a thread.

There is a solution to this disaster. It will be possible to do that if there is ongoing support and political determination both by the authorities of the country and the entire international community. **Restoring security** is vital and the root causes of the crisis need to be tackled. Corruption and insecurity went a long way to fuelling this crisis. That is why the international community must support the transitional authorities in **eradicating corruption** within state bodies and institutions as that has been the cancer that led to this crisis.

We also need to **tackle impunity** because impunity is just a perfect breeding ground for crime so steps need to be taken to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes, including crimes against humanity, are held accountable. The HC welcomes the recent decision of the transitional Haitian authorities to set up two specialised judicial units to deal with cases of serious violations of human rights and possible crimes against humanity, including sexual violence and financial crimes.

There is of course still a long way to go to guarantee justice and to put an end to the cycle of senseless violence. The HC urges the authorities of Haiti to work together to ensure that the political transition can prosper to the benefit of all Haitians. The illicit flow of arms into the country must be halted. Without **sustained action** on the factors that are perpetuating this chaos, any gains in security or stability will be temporary. The HC calls on each and every stakeholder, including the media, to put the spotlight on this crisis, so that the intolerable suffering and destruction can end. The Haitian people cannot be forgotten.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Witnessing a further deterioration in the conditions in Haiti, **Mr. Volker TÜRK** calls on the international community to pay greater attention to the situation in the country and do not allow it to go off the radar. Haiti was home to one of the key revolutions in human history. The Haitian revolution more than 200 years ago brought about a shift in our approach to humanity as a country that enjoys a **cultural and historical wealth and heritage**. These are encapsulated and incorporated by its people, which are vital and valuable to the entire world. We all have a stake in Haitians' well-being. When the HC sees people suffering to the extent that Haitians are suffering and who are so incredible in the way they respond to that, this should wake us up and stir the international community to aid the people of Haiti in confronting the challenges with which they are faced. The UN Security Council was abundantly and crystal clear on this point. First of all, it is important that the **sanctions regime is fully implemented** and upheld, but also that that goes hand-in-hand with processes that provide for regular updating and regular reporting on those individuals. The gangs must be held accountable.



Secondly, the **arms embargo which must be respected** to the letter. Upholding the arms embargo takes several different guises. There are several measures that need to be enacted to that end, but this needs to be a priority, particularly for neighbouring countries as well as for those countries who are behind this illegal trafficking of guns, that is where these illegal weapons are sent from, particularly given the fact that access to these weapons via this illicit means really boosts the power of the gangs who have access to very modern weapons. The **gangs outgun the local Haitian police** because they have access to guns and weapons that the Haitian police can only dream of. The ongoing flow of weapons into the country and weapon smuggling contributes to the deterioration of the situation. Tackling, curbing and cutting off these arms flow must be a priority for the international community and for all countries, either as a source country as a country of transit. The international community must be resolute in curbing of this illicit flow of weapons.

Thirdly, it is imperative to **strengthen the Haitian police**. Capacity-building for the Haitian police is essential. This takes the guise of technical cooperation, but it also needs to entail training, monitoring and follow-up of capacity needs and shortcomings to ensure that they are met. Fourthly, the international community needs to continue to **provide adequate support and funding**. On this point, the HC pauses to pay special tribute to Kenya for having subsidised and supported the operations in Haiti through the deployment of Kenyan police in Haiti. In an attempt to strengthen and bolster security and safety in Haiti, other countries have also contributed. The HC believes there is **more that can and should be done by all of us** to ensure that adequate financing is in place so that everyone can do their job - both locals and international operations in Haiti supporting local police operations. We need to do our utmost to ensure that all the challenges can be met and overcome. There is a **work plan** that we can fine-tune, but the main question that we need to respond to is when are we going to implement this work plan in a way that is commensurate with the seriousness of the situation and when we actually going to put it into action and implement. The HC launches an appeal to all of us - from himself, his Office, the UNHRC and the international community, to take the steps to actually implement the work plan to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by the State Concerned

The delegation of **Haiti** conveys its gratitude to the HC for the comprehensive report and pays tribute to the constant and unwavering dedication of the IE as he seeks to promote the cause of human rights in Haiti. The HC's rigorous and clear-sighted report pulls no punches. It confronts us with a painful reality. It testifies to the courageous work of documenting what is occurring, extremely challenging circumstances. The content of the report goes beyond a dry description of the indicators of a crisis and shed lights on a **nation subject to multiple forms of suffering**. The people of Haiti have been deeply afflicted but nonetheless continue to fight, to uphold their dignity and their survival.

The HC's report refers to more than a million displaced persons. Children are unable to go to school. Women and girls are the victims of unspeakable violence. The healthcare system is on the brink of collapse. It is a powerful reminder of the fact that in Haiti the most fundamental human rights - the rights to life, security, safety, health, education and justice - are today being



sorely tested. For several months now, Haiti has been caught up in a **multi-dimensional crisis** covering the security, humanitarian, and institutional dimensions. At an unprecedented magnitude, armed gangs working together in coalitions control entire swathes of Haiti's territory attack institutions, block access to essential services and spread terror. Between July of 2024 and February of 2025, more than **4,200 people were killed**, of whom 600 were women and 150 were children. Despite this, Haiti is holding firm. Haiti is holding the line. Haiti is resisting.

Since the establishment of the transitional Government, Haiti has spearheaded several different actions, including training for new police officers, a third of whom are women. Among these actions, the delegation mentions the reopening on a partial basis of some state institutions; the establishment of a Committee responsible for defining a new national strategy to tackle and eradicate corruption; the reopening of the Court of First Instance in Port-au-Prince; and the creation of specialised judicial units. The progressive **deployment of the UN Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM)** in Haiti, although currently limited, does nonetheless send a very clear and strong message. Haiti is not alone.

The delegation of Haiti welcomes the work of the HC for which Haiti is grateful and takes note of it with a commitment to act on the recommendations contained in the report. The latter will constitute a very useful basis for strengthening and bolstering its actions. Haiti hopes to continue its close collaboration with the UN, its specialised agencies and bilateral partners to ensure the effective implementation of the said recommendations. Whether it is a question of strengthening the capacity of Haiti's police, providing specific training in human rights, setting up specialised judicial units or rolling out mechanisms for the protection of the most vulnerable in society, none of this can Haiti do alone.

For this reason, Haiti launches an appeal for a **structured, coherent, consistent and sustainable humanitarian partnership** to support Haiti. Haiti needs strong and robust support in order to ensure it can guarantee secure access to humanitarian aid to the most affected regions of the country. Such a humanitarian partnership would allow Haiti to respond to the urgent needs such as access to healthcare, safe drinking water, food and accommodation for displaced persons. This would also enable Haiti to protect children from being recruited forcibly by armed groups or from being exploited. This would allow Haiti to provide support to the victims of sexual violence and trauma and to establish the minimum conditions for the resumption of educational and economic services. Haiti calls upon UN agencies such as WFP, UNICEF, WHO, IOM and the UNHCR as well as other organisations present in Haiti to expand their presence and to coordinate their actions and efforts with the Haitian authorities.

Moreover, the delegation of Haiti underscores the pressing need for strengthened international support and **commitment to curb the illicit trafficking in weapons**. Haiti is not a manufacturer of weapons. However, tens of thousands of weapons and firearms are circulating in Haiti. Therefore, the latter calls upon all states to rigorously apply the embargo ordered by the UN Security Council; to strengthen their control and oversight over their supply chains; and to act in a coordinated way to curb the flow of arms which fuels the violence in Haiti.

The delegation of Haiti has heard the criticisms raised and has taken them on board. Haiti is in no way complacent, but the calls for greater rigour need to go hand-in-hand with genuine support from partners, because human rights are defended on the ground and to do this, Haiti needs



resources, partnerships and shared determination. Haiti is now at a crossroads in its history. The way ahead of Haiti is a long one, but its determination remains in place and is in no way diluted. The people of Haiti are bloodied but unbowed. Haiti's institutions are being rebuilt. The Government of Haiti is absolutely determined to restore the rule of law and justice and to respond to the essential needs of its people. The delegation of Haiti calls for joint action to restore for Haitians their fundamental right of living in security and safety, in dignity and in hope.

Views Expressed by State Delegations

On behalf of the **Nordic-Baltic countries, Latvia** thanks the HC for the report and affirms its support to rebuilding, security, stability and justice in Haiti. The Nordic-Baltic countries are deeply concerned about unprecedented violence and the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in the country. Widespread despair, hunger forced displacement, corruption, attacks on healthcare, violations against children including forced recruitment of children to armed groups, sexual and gender-based violence. Each passing day, the suffering of Haitians is reaching new extremes. The Nordic-Baltic countries urge all Haitian actors to return to rule of law and full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They call on the Haitian authorities to intensify their efforts to combat impunity and gang violence and to pursue an inclusive national dialogue in order to find a lasting solution to the crisis, including through free and fair elections.

Taking the floor on behalf of the **CARICOM Group, the Bahamas** remains profoundly concerned by the escalating human rights and humanitarian crisis in Haiti which continues to be exacerbated by unregulated or illicit arms transfers that continue to empower gangs displacing over a million Haitians and exposing women and children to horrific sexual violence and forced recruitment. CARICOM agrees with the IE in calling for urgent international action to stop the weapons trend trade, fuelling instability within Haiti and the region. More broadly, the UNSG at the opening of this UNHRC's session highlighted the fact that sustainable solutions require addressing root causes, including conflict prevention, peacebuilding and strengthening the rule of law. The UNSG is committed to presenting specific proposals to the UN Security Council to effectively support the MSSM and Haiti's National Police. CARICOM fully supports its initiatives and at the Heads of Government meeting held last month strongly reaffirmed that urgent international attention on Haiti is essential. Ultimately, lasting stability requires genuine Haitian-led political dialogue and democratic elections. CARICOM remains steadfastly committed to supporting such processes and will relentlessly reinforce its unwavering solidarity with Haiti, thereby urging renewed international partnerships built on accountability.

On behalf of the **Group of Francophone Ambassadors, Belgium** reiterates its solidarity within its commitment to Haiti and its people. Caught up as they are in the grip of new outbreaks of gang violence which have been expanding and intensifying and have included and continue to include sexual violence, Belgium hails the commitment of the High Commissioner and of the Independent Expert who recently returned to Haiti. The Group expresses its deep-rooted concern at the exacerbating and deteriorating security context. More than a million people have been displaced at last count. Half of the population are facing a severe food insecurity crisis, exacerbated by an unprecedented humanitarian crisis fuelled by impunity, the forced recruitment of children, and the recent attacks on media, hospitals, and humanitarian facilities. The Group calls upon international partners to ensure increased mobilisation and support and to



work together to implement lasting and inclusive solutions to tackle the root causes of this crisis fully in line with IHRL and IHL obligations. The Group also call upon all the leadership of the nation, the political and social communities to work jointly in a spirit of dialogue to restore security; to tackle impunity and corruption; and to organise the next elections. The Group will remain active and mobilised in light of the exacerbating and deteriorating conflict situation around the world and reiterates its tireless determination to ensure the respect for IHRL which is the cornerstone of peaceful societies.

Sierra Leone expresses its deep concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Haiti and commends the HC for his continued commitment, including fulfilled missions, to assess the situation. Sierra Leone welcomes the HC's commitment to support the development and implementation of the compliance mechanism called for by the Security Council. The testimonies of victims underscores the extreme suffering, violence, and instability faced by the Haitian people. This situation requires urgent and decisive action by national and international actors. The escalating control of violent gangs in Haiti, particularly in the capital, remains of great concern, as well as the insecurity and worsening conditions for IDPs. Sierra Leone acknowledges the efforts of the Haitian National Police and the MSSM and welcomes the extension of the mandate. Sierra Leone calls for adequate resources and support to ensure the effectiveness of the MSSM. Sierra Leone welcomes the interim Government's commitment to human rights and its efforts to combat corruption and impunity through specialised judicial units dealing with mass crimes, sexual violence and financial crimes. Sierra Leone calls on the entire community to fully support its commitment, in particular to enforce the sanctions regime and the arms embargo and to ensure a substantial enforcement of the MSSM. Sierra Leone stands in full solidarity with the people of Haiti and calls for sustained technical assistance and capacity-building efforts to support the stability, development and resilience of the country.

Mexico expresses its gratitude for the report on the situation in Haiti. Mexico condemns in the strongest possible terms the gang violence which in 2024 alone cost the lives of more than 5,600 persons and displaced a further million. Mexico launches an urgent appeal for an investigation into these acts and the punishment of the perpetrators as well as steps to be taken to guarantee the rights of victims. It is vital that measures be adopted to protect children adolescents from forced recruitment by gangs and this via access to essential public services. Mexico welcomes the creation of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Commission, and calls for it to be endowed with these sufficient resources. Mexico also calls for the drawing-up of an effective DDR plan with a human rights focus which will in particular address the needs of women and girls, to ensure that they can be fully reintegrated into society. Mexico voices its alarm at the increase in summary executions and calls on the authorities to refrain from practises which would undermine state confidence. It calls for the strengthening of the rule of law - which is vital to eradicate violence - and an adequate financing of the justice system. Finally, Mexico underscores the importance of pursuing actions that will facilitate a successful police transition policy with the objective ensuring the elected Government can take up the reins of power by the February 2026 of the latest and calls upon all political stakeholders to commit to pursuing that common goal.

Spain voices its full backing for the work of OHCHR and the IE. Spain shares its concern in light of the devastating impact of weapons which continue to make their way into the hands of criminal



gangs, fuelling a spiral of violence, and this despite the arms embargo that is in place and should be respected. A point made by the IE and the HC is that all of this fuels a spiral of insecurity and undermines human rights. A million people have been displaced and the humanitarian situation has gone from bad to worse. Spain is deeply alarmed by the escalation of acts of sexual and gender-based violence which have a traumatising effect on children lacking access to essential services. Many children end up under the control of criminal gangs and their present has been smashed. The Haitian authorities must redouble efforts to tackle corruption and impunity which are at the heart of this deep-rooted crisis. Spain issues an appeal for all of us to recall that the international community needs to continue supporting Haiti, including by assistance delivered by the UNHRC. Spain continues to be committed to the political and social stabilisation of Haiti entirely via the MSSM. Spain's support for the Haitian people has been long-standing delivered by the Spanish cooperation agency which has been working in the country on an uninterrupted basis since 1991.

Malta thanks the HC for the report and remains seriously concerned by the human rights situation in Haiti driven by escalating gang violence and extensive humanitarian distress. Criminal gangs are exercising control over large areas, perpetrating killings, kidnappings and sexual violence. Civilians, particularly women and children, bear the brunt of these actions. Reports of children being used as gang members are alarming and highlight their increased vulnerability to abuse and exploitation. The humanitarian situation is dire, with food insecurity affecting nearly half the population. The displacement crisis continues to worsen with thousands forced from their homes due to gang violence. Journalists, human rights defenders and civil society actors face increasing threats, undermining freedom of expression and civic space. Malta condemns in the strongest terms this extreme violence and reiterates that those committing human rights violations must be held accountable for their crimes. Malta remains supportive of the efforts of all UN structures working in Haiti, including the MSSM, and expresses its condolences for the death of the Kenyan UN multinational force member who was killed on duty in Haiti on 23 February 2025.

Thanking the HC and the IE for their presentations, **Chile** underscores that Haiti is confronted with a crisis which goes beyond what is humanly tolerable. The levels of armed violence exercised by criminal gangs have plunged at Haiti into an unprecedented crisis where more than 1 million people have been displaced, more than half of children, many of whom have born direct eyewitness to violence, abductions, kidnappings or sexual violence or have been the victims thereof. Many schools have been closed which has affected large swathes of population who no longer have access to education, adequate food or healthcare. These actions need to be condemned. In particular, Malta condemns sexual violence as a tactic of war, control of territory and collective punishment particularly targeting women and girls who are extremely vulnerable. The impunity with which this abuse is exercised is a serious violation of IHRL and IHL. Faced with the scenario of soaring sexual violence, Malta stresses it is abundantly clear that there can be no sustainable future without the rebuilding of the Haitian state. This needs to take the guise of rebuilding Haitian institutions and ensuring free, fair and independent elections. Chile calls upon the HC and the international community to redouble their support to Haiti, fully committed to peace, the rule of law, the well-being and the dignity of the Haitian people.



Peru thanks the HC for his report and takes this opportunity to voice his deep rooted concern in light of the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the exacerbating crisis in Haiti with its violations of human rights. Peru deeply regrets the massacres that occurred between 6 and 11 of December 2024 in Port-au-Prince, which led to the deaths of around 280 people, including women and children and elderly persons. Peru condemns in the strongest possible terms such acts of extreme violence perpetrated by criminal gangs. These actions seriously undermine the fundamental rights of the Haitian people. Peru reiterates its solidarity with the people and Government of Haiti, and calls upon all stakeholders to put an end to these acts of barbarism. Peru supports the call of the UN Secretary-General for immediate, in-depth and independent investigations in these events. This will allow to identify the perpetrators of these actions and ensure that justice to victims of such violence will be delivered. Peru reiterates its commitment to a safe, democratic and prosperous Haiti and will continue to actively participate in multilateral efforts to support Haiti.

Albania thanks the HC and the IE for the report and reiterates its support for their work. Albania remains concerned by the dire human rights and humanitarian crisis in Haiti which has reached catastrophic level. With mounting gang violence causing forced displacement, severe economic hardship and widespread shortage of basic necessity and medical care, Albania is concerned over the effects that the current situation in Haiti is having on women, children and other vulnerable groups. Sexual violence has become rampant, with survivor having minimal access to healthcare and justice. Hunger and extreme poverty have forced children to join criminal groups where they face abuse, including sexual exploitation. Albania welcomes the establishment of a new transitional Government and the deployment of a new UN-authorized mission with the aim of strengthening security and organising free and fair election. Despite some efforts, the situation continues to deteriorate and the political instability persists. Albania is convinced that an inclusive Haiti-led political transition with international community support is necessary to re-establish democratic institutions, the rule of law and safeguard human rights. It is also imperative to address root cause of the crisis and provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the people of Haiti.

Thanking the HC for his report on the human rights situation Haiti, **Ghana** is deeply concerned about the worsening security situations in the country and its impact on the protection of civilians, particularly children, women and other vulnerable sections of the population. The unprecedented levels of violence by armed gangs has driven many civilians and communities out of their homes, further compounding the already dire humanitarian situation. Ghana deplores the persisting human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, forced displacements and attacks on state institutions. Ghana calls for an end to the impunity and for accountability. It is imperative to intensify global support for the efforts of the Haitian authorities to combat these abuses, restore order, and uphold the rule of law. In this regard, Ghana acknowledges the calls for coordinated international action to support Haiti in addressing these challenges and stresses the need for sustained international engagement and technical assistance to support Haiti's recovery. In conclusion, Ghana stands in solidarity with the people of Haiti in their pursuit of peace and security

Thanks the HC for his report, **Brazil** remains deeply troubled by the situation in Haiti. The incessant gang violence and the widespread insecurity only serve to exacerbate what was already



a terrible humanitarian crisis in the country. In particular, Brazil condemns unreservedly sexual violence against women and girls. It is vital to strengthen international cooperation; to support the efforts of the Haitian transitional Government as they seek to guarantee public safety and security; restore democratic norms and promote all human rights. Brazil is firmly persuaded that, in addition to security measures, Haiti needs to benefit from initiatives and actions that will have an economic and social impact. Any stabilisation exercise in Haiti will be doomed to failure over the long term if the issues of socio-economic development are not grappled with head-on. It is vital to take steps to overcome the deep-rooted social inequalities in Haiti if we wish to put an end to the cycle of recurrent violence

Russia is gravely concerned at the situation in Haiti trapped in a deep crisis affecting not only Haitians, but also the populations of neighbouring states which receive refugees. There continues to be widespread crime. Port-au-Prince is a regional centre of drug trafficking and weapons trafficking tied to the USA. Washington is unable or unwilling to stop these flows which feed the criminal gangs that are operating in Haiti. The tense situation has become the result of the difficult conditions in the country. The Presidential Council set up in April 2024 by the USA and other interested foreign partners is not facing the situation and has lost public confidence. Most of the capital is controlled by armed groups which also have controlled the seaports and have blocked the airport. They have essentially replaced state structures in the regions they control and terrorise the population. It is up to the Haitian political parties to overcome their differences in the interests of Haiti and find constructive interactions. The international community must focus on providing humanitarian assistance without any conditions and without putting on human rights pressure.

Jamaica thanks the HC for his report. Remaining concerned about the reports of the ongoing violence in Haiti, Jamaica condemns these acts committed in full impunity. Recognizing that critical gains have been made in Haiti, Jamaica supports the efforts of the Transitional Presidential Council to restore democracy and the rule of law. The HC's report stressed that the far-reaching and debilitating impact of uncontrolled gang violence has a considerable impact on Haiti's prospects for a timely return to peace and stability. The Government of Jamaica has been paying increased attention to transnational organised crime as an act of terror in its region. Accordingly, the Jamaican Government has amplified the dialogue with regional partners towards a coordinated strategy to tackle the issue. Jamaica welcomes the recent recommendations of the UNSG to the UN Security Council for adequate funding for the MSSM, including structural and logistical expenses, along with the UNSG's proposals to establish a UN support office in Haiti as well as to strengthen the mandate of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti. Jamaica sees an opportunity for the mandate of the IE to be likewise bolstered within this dynamic. Jamaica through the CARICOM has joined the joint task force in Haiti under the MSSM, inclusive of 33 security personnel from Jamaica. The latter will continue to support Haiti and UN efforts.

China has taken note of the report of the HC. Haiti is trapped in multiple political security development humanitarian crisis with gangs continue to wreak havoc and the economy declining continuously. The population is facing a serious food crisis. Education and health services are regressing. Vulnerable groups such as women and children are facing a difficult situation. The people of Haiti are facing a serious human rights and humanitarian crisis. China strongly condemns kidnappings, murders, sexual violence, trafficking, smuggling and other criminal acts



committed by Haitian gangs. The inflow of weapons is an important factor leading to the growth of the gangs. China calls on all parties to comply with UN Security Council resolution on the arms embargo on Haiti, and urges the countries concerned to effectively strengthen the control of arms and ammunition, stop their illegal inflow into the country, and cut off the supply to the gangs. China believes that the ultimate solution to the question of Haiti lies in the Haitian-led and Haitian-owned political process. At the same time, China calls on the international community to increase its humanitarian assistance and technical assistance in full respect of the will of the people in order to better help Haiti combat gang violence.

Cuba stresses that Haiti is suffering a multi-dimensional crisis leading to social instability caused by neo-colonial forces and foreign intervention. The international community has a great historical debt to the historic nation which was the first to throw off the colonial yoke in the American hemisphere. Haiti's construction is a work in progress. It needs more international solidarity, more assistance and cooperation. It should be allocated at least part of the enormous resources that the UNHRC uses to finance punitive mechanisms. Haiti does not produce weapons, but there are over half a million assault rifles and other weapons in the country. Most of them come from Florida, USA. The USA should stop the arms trade that feeds the violence in Haiti. Cuban doctors and nurses have remained in Haiti and their students continue to come to Cuban universities. Haiti can always count on the support of Cuba.

According to the **United Kingdom**, the ongoing and rapid deterioration of human rights in Haiti is shocking. The Haitian people have long suffered indiscriminate attacks by armed criminal gangs. These have contributed to over a million Haitians being displaced from their homes. Widespread recruitment, exploitation and abuse of children by these gangs is still happening. At the same time, the use of sexual violence as a form of punishment and to spread fear within communities is increasing. Re-establishing security to end the gangs remains essential to Haiti's long-term security and stability. The UK supports the work of the MSSM in Haiti and is providing five million pounds to OHCHR to ensure the MSSM's compliance with international standards on human rights conduct and discipline. The UK will continue to take action against perpetrators of human rights abuses in Haiti through sanctions.

Venezuela states that since the birth of the Haitian revolution, the brave people have been the forerunners of the fight for freedom and equality that spread throughout the Americas, bringing the most precious gift of freedom. For over 200 years, Venezuela and Haiti have had excellent relations in the first Republic of Latin America. Haiti hosted Venezuela's liberator Simon Bolivar when he was fighting for Venezuela's independence. Allowing better access to energy resources, Venezuela and Haiti strengthened their bilateral relations with a positive impact on Haiti. Unfortunately, the UCMs illegally imposed on Venezuela by the USA have had an adverse impact on this cooperation programme. Venezuela regrets that the people of Haiti have had to live through coup d'etat and military interventions leading to instability and violence. Venezuela categorically rejects any interference in Haiti's internal affairs, especially the use of foreign forces. Cooperation and technical assistance are fundamental pillars to address challenges and human rights whenever they enjoy the support of the concerned country, and their only objective is to achieve the full economic and social development of the people of Haiti.



France stresses that the gangs continue to fight bringing more and more violence. Port-au-Prince is on its knees. Civilians women and children are the first victims of this terrible security situation. France stands with the people of Haiti and has contributed the humanitarian response. Technical cooperation with OHCHR and the IE's mandate are essential to give victims a voice and document human rights violations. France continues to call on all political parties in Haiti to work together to combat impunity corruption and uphold human rights. France welcomes the Haitian authority's decisions to propose renewing the relevant Council resolution. International efforts to restore security in Haiti are crucial. The national police plays an essential role and France welcomes its courage. The national police cannot fight alone. However, the support of the MSSM is sorely needed so that security mechanisms do not collapse. France calls for every effort to be made for the arms embargo to produce its full effect.

Thanking the HC for his report highlighting the worsening of gang violence, **Luxembourg** expresses grave concern at the growing insecurity affecting the population. The national police needs ongoing support by the UN-mandated MSSM. Port-au-Prince's endemic violence has led to a rise in attacks on civilians, the closure of essential infrastructure including hospitals and schools because of targeted and incriminate attacks. While welcoming the efforts made by the MSSM, Luxembourg stresses this is not enough, as the international community must not forget Haiti's population. Displaced civilians must have access to food and water. Luxembourg is gravely concerned at the rise in sexual violence against women and children due to insufficient protection in displacement sites, making them hotspots of exploitation and sexual abuse.

Thanking the HC for the updates, the **Dominican Republic** is gravely concerned at the ongoing deterioration of the institutional and security crisis affecting Haiti which constitutes a regional threat. As a neighbouring nation, the Dominican Republic reiterates that the international community must act decisively to avoid the normalisation of the suffering of civilians in Haiti. It is urgent to act with effective initiatives to stop the flow of arms and the financing of the criminal gangs. Democratic institutions must be strengthened. The Dominican Republic will remain strongly committed to these efforts within its own capacities and recalls that only joint international action can stop this terrible crisis affecting the people of Haiti.

Kenya remains deeply concerned about the alarming duration of human rights situation in Haiti and appreciates the IE's crucial effort in monitoring and reporting on this dire situation. Kenya is particularly disturbed by the number of casualties, the evolving dynamic of coordinated armed violence, the proliferation of illicit brutality, the apparent use of sexual violence as a weapon of control, and the severe disruption of essential services. Kenya believes that addressing this crisis requires a multifaceted approach including technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen Haiti and its institutions. Kenya directs its unwavering commitment to supporting Haiti through the MSSM. Kenya acknowledges the profound loss of a Kenyan police officer most recently on 25 March who was serving in the MSSM. Kenya urgently calls upon international community to provide robust financial logistical and technical assistance to the MSSM, empowering it to effectively restore security, protect civilians, and create safe environments for humanitarian aid delivery. Moreover, a comprehensive long-term strategy is essential to address the root cause of gang violence including its undying socioeconomic dimension. Kenya asks the IE what specific mechanisms could be established to enhance coordination between the MSSM, Haitian authorities and international partners, so as to ensure the MSSM receives the necessary



support, including resources, intelligence and local expertise, to effectively address the evolving security situation and build durable stability.

Romania supports the actions of OHCHR in Haiti and the mandate of the IE. Romania is gravely concerned by the deterioration of the situation in Haiti in terms of security, humanitarian situation and human rights. Despite the actions of the authorities and international support, Romania is concerned by gang violence which terrorises the population forced to displacement, traumatised and living in poverty. Romania calls for an end to sexual violence against women and girls as well as recruitment of children into armed gangs. Romania stands ready to contribute to international efforts to end this crisis and facilitate a return to constitutional order as well as supporting a an easier social and political situation including the organisation of elections we reiterate our support to the multinational mission and our support to capacity building for the mission high commissioner we share your observation regarding the effectiveness of the embargo on weapons and support to the international mission as preconditions for resolving the crisis.

Italy thanks the HC and IE for their updates. Haiti remains in the grip of a severe humanitarian and security crisis exacerbated by political instability and the offensive of criminal gangs. These armed groups target civilians, destroy essential infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, prisons, police stations, and fuel displacement, thereby deepening the suffering of the Haitian people. Italy is particularly alarmed by the use of sexual violence, tragically affecting women's and girls as a weapon of terror and by the recruitment of children by gangs, depriving them of their fundamental rights. The closure of schools due to insecurity further threatens Haiti's future generations. Italy is also deeply concerned at the illicit trafficking of weapons and ammunition which facilitated violence and human rights abuses. Italy reiterates the urgency of a concerted international force to disrupt these flows and support the Haitian authorities in regaining control. The shrinking international presence in the country limits the ability of humanitarian actors to provide essential assistance. Italy calls for reinforced international engagement to address the humanitarian emergency and restore democracy, security, and stability. Italy stands with the Haitian people and reaffirms its commitment to supporting a peaceful and democratic future for the country.

Bolivia welcomes the information presented by the IE on the human rights situation Haiti. Bolivia is gravely concerned at the human rights violations reflected in the report including mass killings and disproportionate violence against women and children. This cannot be accepted, including recruitment and the use of children in armed conflict. The gender perspective must be mainstreamed, with a particular attention to the situation of children. The efforts deployed by the Government must be supported in order to restore security. This complex situation requires the attention of the international community. Given the weapons flowing in the hands of extremely violent organisations, we must help the people of Haiti to overcome this crisis through cooperation and capacity-building. Colombia wishes that the people of Haiti and their institutions may achieve peace and to this end, efforts must be redoubled in terms of assistance and cooperation.

Thanking the HC and the IE for their updates, **New Zealand** voices its alarm at the dire human rights situation, including UN reports according to which over 5 600 people were killed in 2024 as a result of gang violence. New Zealand welcomes efforts by Haiti and the international



community to curb the widespread trafficking of illicit arms that flow into the hands of gangs and exacerbate the crisis. New Zealand shares the deep concern expressed by the HC at the widespread sexual violence, mass killings and the targeting of health facilities and health care workers by gangs. The reported impunity of those involved in committing human rights violations is disturbing. New Zealand welcomes the HC's call to hold accountable all those involved in reported human rights violations.

Colombia shares the HC's concern at the grave multi-dimensional crisis that is affecting Haiti, aggravated by territorial control by armed gangs that despite the embargo continue to receive high calibre weapons. We must urgently identify and dismantle the illicit weapons networks that are feeding this frenzy of violence. The main victims are innocent civilians, including thousands of children who are forcibly recruited, displaced and subjected to sexual violence. Colombia stands in solidarity and supports the people of Haiti. During an official visit to Haiti in January, the Colombian President met with the President of the Transitional Council and signed a memorandum of understanding on security, education, agriculture, environment and trade. Colombia will provide training to the national Haitian police; technical support to agriculture; educational cooperation through the national learning service; and humanitarian assistance. Colombia reaffirms its commitment to Haiti and to effective South-South cooperation based on human rights.

Costa Rica echoes all the concerns previously expressed by countries from all regions, all members, all observers, the P5 and the all political groups. There is consensus on Haiti in the UNHRC. Costa Rica challenges the members of the UNCR and the observers. Let us join forces and work on this to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights does bring stability, security and development. Costa Rica reminds all countries that the international community has a responsibility and we cannot shrug this off. States have to step up to this responsibility.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations

The **European Union** voices its support for both the IE and the HC and welcomes the recent decision by the Haitian authorities to request the extension of the IE's mandate. The IE's work documenting the abuses and violations of human rights is vital, notably given the ever deteriorating situation described. Despite the embargo, weapons and ammunition continue to circulate freely in the country, fueling a never-ending spiral of violence. The sharp increase in the trafficking in weapons and the modernisation of these weapons arsenals have allowed gangs to expand their grip on the country. Despite the efforts of the Haitian National Police as well as efforts undertaken by the Multinational Security Support Mission, the suffering inflicted on the Haitian civilian population is immense. Humanitarian access is limited and food insecurity is acute. Women and girls live under the constant threat of sexual and gender based violence. Children are victims of forced recruitment and attacks on them are very of a very carried out at a very worrying scale. The European Union calls on Haitian authorities to its utmost to tackle the cycle of violence and to attach the highest priority to curbing. It also calls for all political actors in Haiti to set aside their individual interests and to work together to ensure democratic and prosperous future for the country. It is vital that there be security for Haitian people so they can enjoy all of their rights.



Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

The **Centre for Global Non-Killing** states that through human rights, promoting the culture of peace, refusing violence this is not done enough. All over the world, Haiti is one of the places where this lack of refusal of violence expresses itself to the worst. Promoting more over the culture of peace to young men and undertaking an in-depth small arms reduction campaign is the core of any peace and human rights mission. In Haiti, building a functioning democracy is the next best step. Democracy is a basic human right. It belongs to the people and both the authorities and united nations are meant to serve it. The report contains a recommendation to provide a safe and enabling civic space for civil society actors. The CGNK asks to the delegation the expert and the HC to detail how they will implement this recommendation to create a more responsive democracy in Haiti.

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) jointly with more than 50 organisations condemn the widespread sexual violence, the worsening humanitarian crisis, the exhibition of inequality and the weakening of the prospect of effective peace-building that are currently occurring in Haiti. Haiti needs a decentralised sustainable ecosystem of infrastructure and services that allows people to enjoy their human rights in every corner of the country with strong departments, with their own capacities and expertise able to function independently but also interdependently with other departments. This will enable the people of Haiti to live their lives, enjoy the rights across the country, and the arm gangs will not be able to focus and concentrate control and influence in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas. With regard to migration, all states need to acknowledge that they are continuing to deport and forcibly return people to Haiti. During this time, the return of Haitians to Haiti is an ongoing human right violation. ISHR joins the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination in its statement calling on all states, among others measures, to immediately and all return to Haiti all deportations and collective expulsions.

Interfaith International thanks the IE for his report and his ongoing commitment to the Haitian people. Haiti is suffering unprecedented crisis. Legal and security institutions are inexistent. Armed gangs control the territory with full impunity. The population, women, children, inhabitants of the capital and other areas are living amidst the ongoing terror. Interfaith deplores the inexistence of any warning mechanism, any mechanism to prevent human rights abuses. Activists are silenced, threatened or have to flee. Civil society has been suffocated. Every day's inaction condemns the people of Haiti to carry on living in terror. Interfaith calls for urgent sustainable action, mass support to endangered local structures and international monitoring and responsibility mechanism, and more presence on the ground to protect the population.

Welcoming the updates from the HC and the IE on Haiti, **Amnesty International** makes reference to its recent report documenting the gangs' assault on childhood. In Haiti, children are being killed and injured. In some cases, they are deliberately targeted. Many are recruited to carry weapons, gather intelligence, and assist in criminal activities. Trapped in cycles of violence and exploitation, children associated with gangs are being detained with adults without due process or proper care, in violation of international law and standards. Girls are subjected to rape and sexual exploitation by gang members with limited access to justice and healthcare. Children with disabilities face additional barriers in terms of safety, care and inclusion in humanitarian



response. Amnesty welcomes the Haitian Government's willingness to engage with the UNHRC including through the resolution tabled to renew the mandate of the designated IE. Amnesty encourages the Haitian authorities to develop and implement a comprehensive child protection plan with the participation of Haitian civil society, including ensuring access to essential services and bring perpetrators of human rights violations to justice through fair trials, including through the establishment of specialised judicial chambers. Amnesty urges the international community to encourage and support the Haitian authorities in these efforts as well as to increase technical and financial support to Haiti, including through the UN humanitarian response plan, and to provide inclusive, long-term assistance that strengthens institutions and civil society. Children in Haiti are asking for protection. Amnesty calls on the Haitian authorities and the international community to listen and to act.

RADDHO thanks the IE for the continued commitment to monitoring of the worsening crisis in Haiti. However, armed gangs now control much of Port-au-Prince and swathes of other towns, perpetrating acts of violence, killings, kidnappings and immense increase in sexual violence, especially targeting women girls and children. Today's youth are the tomorrow of the country and snatching their future away by hindering access to education, safety and engaging them into gang and extreme violence is going to fire back on the country's socio-economic future. The capital city is turning into the capital of crime, with thousand being killed by gang violence. The insecurity has caused severe shortages of food and medical care, and has displaced many. The increase of chaos in such a short period of time calls for immediate international attention. RADDHO calls on states to provide coordinated technical assistance and support to Haitian authorities in restoring security, justice, and democracy, especially through institutional reform, in order to fight gang crime. RADDHO asks how the international community could ensure that support goes beyond emergency aid and technical assistance and truly strengthens history into institutions in the short and the long term.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) stresses the Haitian crisis has reached catastrophic levels. The criminal groups carry out large-scale coordinated attacks against the population and infrastructure, thus paralysing much of the country and worsening an already dire humanitarian and human rights situation. Criminal groups continue to commit widespread abuses including rape against women and girls, recruitment of children and other atrocities that have displayed thousands of Haitians. In recent weeks, attacks have intensified in several areas surrounding one of the last zones of Port-au-Prince not yet under control of criminal groups. The latter have also forced the suspension of humanitarian activities and the relocation of government offices, judicial institutions, and embassies from Port-au-Prince to other departments or the Dominican Republic. Meanwhile, the MSSM faces personal and financial constraints and has been unable to fulfil its mandate to restore security in the country. The international community should support a comprehensive rights-based response to address urgent humanitarian needs, restore security and the rule of law, and pave the way for a return to democratic governance. HRW urges members to call on the UN Security Council to transform the MSSM into a full-fledged UN mission with human rights safeguards, monitoring and accountability mechanisms to address past abuses and their future crimes. HRW also calls for the renewal of the IE's mandate and the strengthening of OHCHR's Office in Haiti, whose role remains critical at this juncture.



The **Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE)** explains it works in 110 countries with 68 million pupils. Thanking the IE for the report depicting the severe situation with human rights in Haiti, the Bureau fully supports the continuation of the IE's mandate. The Bureau is gravely concerned by the worsening humanitarian security situation in Haiti, the rise in violence, the terror perpetrated by armed gangs, which deprive Haiti's children of their basic right to food, health, education, housing and employment. The population continues to be displaced and abused by gangs in full impunity, uprooting Indigenous populations and leading to a rise in internally displaced persons, mainly women, children and older persons. At the 56th session of the UNHRC, the Bureau advocated for all partners to be encouraged to support the children suffering this situation in Haiti and reiterates its call for peace in Haiti. The Bureau further calls for strengthening of cooperation with all partners in order to end the violence exercised by gangs on defenceless civilians.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

29 State Delegations

1 Inter-Governmental Organization

7 Non-Governmental Organizations