



Statement

By

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On Behalf of The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

The Question Concerning Haiti

United Nations Security Council

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Helen La Lime for her briefing and appreciate BINUH's efforts in Haiti's stabilization process.

Mr. President,

CARICOM remains extremely concerned about the situation in our sister nation Haiti. Peace, security, stability and prosperity are legitimate aspirations of all peoples, and they are long overdue for the Haitian people.

However, there can be no lasting stability in Haiti without a long-term strategy for sustainable development which seeks to strengthen the country's institutions and its economy. Unquestionably, a crucial aspect of stability is security, and in Haiti gang violence, sexual and gender-based violence and kidnappings continue unabated, eroding the security landscape, plunging the country into lawlessness, claiming hundreds of Haitian lives, and disrupting the proper functioning of Haitian society.

CARICOM firmly condemns the incessant warfare and actions of the gangs that have essentially paralysed the country, and we emphasize the critical need to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian National Police in a concerted effort to fully restore security and enable the rule of law to prevail. In this connection, Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community have taken note of the appeal by Prime Minister Henry for the urgent assistance of Haiti's international partners for short term assistance to address the security and humanitarian crises. CARICOM Heads of Government are therefore undertaking internal consultations to determine how best to respond to the call from Prime Minister Henry for assistance.

Strengthening the state's security apparatus must also extend to and include measures to combat corruption, illicit financial flows, and illicit weapons flows. The amalgamation of these scourges

is a direct threat to the people of Haiti and can have a dangerous destabilising spill over effect on neighbouring states in the region.

CARICOM is deeply alarmed by the ongoing gang blockade of fuel, that is prohibiting access to essential services such as healthcare, safe reliable drinking water and proper sanitation, which are basic human rights, indispensable to sustaining lives and maintaining dignity. They are also critical to thwart the wider spread of cholera that has regrettably resurfaced in the country. This issue must be confronted immediately to prevent a repetition of the tremendous suffering experienced by Haitians in years gone by.

Growing food insecurity is also of grave concern. Millions are facing acute hunger and the situation is now exacerbated by global food prices and soaring inflation. Vulnerabilities are high as Haiti struggles with multiple crises at once.

Mr. President,

We consider it urgent for all national stakeholders to engage in meaningful and constructive, political dialogue, guided by a spirit of compromise. Personal and partisan interests must be set aside to bridge the existing political chasm, build confidence, and effectively facilitate the political process.

The Haitian people cannot go it alone. They require meaningful support from various regional, hemispheric and international partners to assist in implementing the way forward. CARICOM, of which Haiti is a valued member, has offered its instruments and tools and is well placed to provide support for the electoral process and a “good offices” role in dialogue with national stakeholders. We also cannot discount the potential role and contributions of CELAC, the Organisation of American States and the African Union in this regard.

Above all, efforts made to tackle the seemingly insurmountable challenges faced by the Haitian people must be Haitian-led and Haitian-owned. As such, an inclusive inter-Haitian dialogue

process, with the full and equal participation of women and youth is critical and must be accompanied by a national reconciliation process.

Mr. President,

We reaffirm our solidarity with the Haitian people in addressing the underlying drivers of the country's instability and insecurity. Haiti's legacy of underdevelopment cannot be divorced from the historic injustices meted out against it through enslavement, colonialism and imperialism. Accordingly, the noble cause of reparatory justice cannot be side-stepped any longer.

"Haiti fatigue" is not a concept that must be allowed to take root in our collective consciousness. We cannot lose compassion in addressing the Haitian crisis. It is our solemn obligation to remain fully engaged on the situation in Haiti, to assist our brothers and sisters who yearn for and deserve a new beginning.

I thank you.