



The Bahamas

60th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIFTH COMMITTEE

**AGENDA ITEM 145: "FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
STABILIZATION MISSION IN HAITI (MINUSTAH)"**

**STATEMENT BY FRANK DAVIS
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.**

ON BEHALF OF CARICOM MEMBER STATES

9 JUNE 2006

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Mr. Chairman,

It is my honour to address the committee this morning on agenda item 145 entitled "Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti", on behalf of the States Members of the Caribbean Community that are members of the United Nations.

We wish to thank our distinguished Controller, Mr. Warren Sach, and Mr. Rajat Saha, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for presenting their respective reports (A/60/646, A/60/728, A/60/869).

On 7 February 2006, after two challenging years, the people of Haiti in large numbers demonstrated their yearning to be governed by persons of their choice. To quote the Bahamas Foreign Minister, the Hon. Frederick Mitchell, when he addressed the Security Council on behalf of CARICOM on 27 March 2006, "the tremendous courage, determination, discipline and patience they displayed in exercising their franchise is commendable, and underscores the importance of democracy for the Haitian people".

From the outset, the Caribbean Community indicated its willingness to welcome the return of Haiti to its Councils, once constitutional rule had been restored. On 6 June 2006, only three days ago, Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community issued a statement in which they welcomed the return to constitutional rule in Haiti through the election of a president and of parliamentary representatives in the course of an electoral process deemed by the people of Haiti and the international community as free and fair. The Senate and Lower House have recently ratified the candidacy of Mr. Jacques Edouard Alexis as Prime Minister designated by President René Préval. They have also now approved the Prime Minister's policy statement as well as the composition of his government. The Community looks forward to the election of local and municipal representatives so that the constitutional architecture of representation can be completed.

With the return to constitutional rule in Haiti, and in keeping with the principled position it took following the interruption of the democratic process on 29 February 2004, the Caribbean Community looks forward to Haiti's resumption of its place in its Councils. Accordingly, His Excellency René Préval has been invited to take Haiti's rightful place in the Conference of Heads of Government on the occasion of its Twenty-Seventh Meeting scheduled to be held in St. Kitts and Nevis on 3-6 July 2006. In keeping with the Community's usual practice, as one of the Heads of Government elected since the last meeting of the Conference in February of this year, President Préval has also been invited to address the Opening Ceremony.

The Caribbean Community stands ready to accompany the government and people of Haiti as they confront the many challenges in their quest for the sustained political, economic and social development of their country.

Mr. Chairman,

Stability and security are imperative. Without these essential cornerstones there can be no social and economic progress, there can be no revitalization of the fundamental institutions of governance, the judiciary and police in particular.

The road ahead for Haiti will be long and difficult. Building democracy and creating the conditions for stability and for sustainable social, political, and economic development will require the dedicated engagement of the Haitian government and people. A long-term horizon of commitment and support from the international community will also be of critical importance. In this connection, the support in the field provided to Haiti by the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) must be commended and must be pursued. The Mission's presence and

contribution were key factors in the stabilization of the security environment and in the success of the recent electoral process.

It was therefore with great interest that CARICOM states received the proposed budget for MINUSTAH for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. In particular, we congratulate the Mission for its positive follow-up to the requests and recommendations of both the General Assembly and the ACABQ.

We would like to make the following observations:

We are pleased to note that the Mission is continuing to review its staffing requirements in order to ensure a greater proportion of national staff;

We agree with the ACABQ that vocational training provided to national staff provides an important contribution in building long-term capacity, and we encourage the Mission to continue its efforts in this regard;

We would like to learn more about the reason why the Mission must continue to resort to using consultancy services for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration although posts have been made available by the General Assembly. This information could be provided in writing during the informal consultations;

Similarly we would like more information as to why the Mission is seeking to extend the duration of its responsibility for the implementation of quick-impact projects (A/60/869; paras. 62, 63, 64);

- CARICOM supports the establishment of a United Nations radio station and 10 multimedia centres in Haiti;

We fully support the efforts of MINUSTAH, in cooperation with international agencies, funds and programmes, to build a permanent national election capacity.

A new dawn of hope is rising in Haiti. This opportunity must not be squandered. The people of Haiti, the regional community, and the international community will have to coordinate their respective roles and inputs. Yet, ultimately, the responsibility for coming together, for working together, for transforming hope and expectation into uplifting reality lies with the Haitian people themselves.

Helping Haiti to overcome the difficulties it previously experienced in seeking to become an integral part of the Caribbean Community will constitute a priority for CARICOM in its assistance to Haiti. An important aspect of this effort will involve facilitating the smooth integration of Haiti into the various programmes and institutions that coordinate and underpin the functioning of our Community. CARICOM also looks forward to the forthcoming exchange of views between President Préval and his colleague Heads of State and Government during which he is expected to inform the Community of the precise nature of the assistance he would wish to obtain from the Caribbean Community. CARICOM's contribution will be constrained only by its limited resources and not by a shortage of political will.

thank you, Mr. Chairman.