



*The*  
***Bahamas***

**58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA ITEM 168: "FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
STABILIZATION MISSION IN HAITI" (MINUSTAH)**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. PAULETTE BETHEL  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

**24 MAY 2004**

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of thirteen members of the Caribbean Community [CARICOM] that are members of the United Nations; namely Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and my own country, The Bahamas, on Agenda Item 168 entitled "Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti" (MINUSTAH).

We wish to thank the Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division, Ms. Catherine Pollard, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), Mr. Vladimir Kusnetzov, for presenting their respective reports to the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM States attach great importance to the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. It was for this reason that on 26 February 2004, the Foreign Ministers of Jamaica and The Bahamas addressed the Security Council on the situation in Haiti, a member of our Community. It was clear to us then that law and order had broken down and that the situation in that country was out of control. It was not possible for those of us in the region to sit by idly while the crisis grew at an alarming rate.

We were and we remain concerned about the human rights situation within Haiti. The insecure environment is exacerbated by the existence of numerous armed gangs, many of which exercise effective control over large sections of Haitian territory, underscoring the need to make disarmament a priority

During the Seventh Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), in April 2004, CARICOM Ministers of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the importance of the restoration of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, and the principles of democracy and good governance as important means of facilitating a return to stability and in opening the way to social and economic development in Haiti.

Mr. Chairman,

We therefore welcomed the Security Council's unanimous adoption, on 30 April 2004, of resolution 1542 (2004) that established MINUSTAH for an initial period of six months, with the intention to renew its mandate for further periods, as appropriate and necessary. In that resolution, the Security Council supported the establishment of a Core Group that would include CARICOM and other regional bodies, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Mission's mandate.

promote interaction with the Haitian authorities, and enhance the effectiveness of the international community's response in Haiti, as outlined in the Secretary General's report (S/2004/300),

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM States also welcome the fact the Stabilization Mission would be multi-dimensional and would seek to assist Haiti in building and strengthening functioning democratic institutions; in supporting the re-establishment of the rule of law; and in promoting social and economic development. We acknowledge that, in order to fulfill its mandate, and in light of the challenging security situation in Haiti, the UN Stabilization Mission would be required to have sufficient capacity to deal with security threats and to set the stage for Haiti's long term development. We urge Member States of the General Assembly to provide MINUSTAH with adequate resources to successfully fulfill all of its mandates.

Mr. Chairman,

It is unfortunate that time constraints do not allow for a detailed examination of the requirements of the MINUSTAH at this stage. We have taken note of the valid comments made by the ACABQ and would like to thank that committee for its recommendations in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

The resolve of the international community to assist Haiti is extremely encouraging to CARICOM States. CARICOM remains committed to participating in the efforts of the international community for the economic, social and institutional development of Haiti, and to this end, re-iterates our intention to participate in MINUSTAH and its various components.

Thank you.