



**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING:
AGENDA ITEM ON "THE QUESTION CONCERNING HAITI"**

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE,

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
(CARICOM)**

MONDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2023

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and am grateful for this opportunity to speak to the support that the international community must provide to Haiti at this most difficult time.

I congratulate you, Mr President, on Brazil's assumption of the presidency of the UNSC at this pivotal time. I also wish to thank the pen-holders of this important resolution, the United States and Ecuador, for the tireless work and commitment that has brought us to this point here this afternoon. This urgency of this moment cannot be overstated.

The blatant criminality perpetrated by powerful gangs and the resulting high levels of insecurity for the average Haitian citizen are well documented, with women and girls being particularly affected and targeted. One of the direct consequences of this insecurity is that nearly half of the Haitian population is today in desperate need of humanitarian aid, with the situation worsening daily. This is the backdrop against which we are called to act to help restore security and contribute to a stable political, social and economic environment to foster Haiti's sustainable development.

The first step towards Haitian-led and Haitian-owned solutions to the multi-dimensional, multi-faceted crises facing the country, must be to alleviate the insecurity that has rendered impossible the normal functions of a civilized society. CARICOM therefore welcomes and reiterates its support for a Multinational Security Support Mission authorized by a United Nations Security Council Chapter 7 resolution, to provide urgent security assistance to the Haitian National Police. We commend Kenya's steadfast commitment to lead the MNSS. In a strong demonstration of regional solidarity, several CARICOM countries will also contribute personnel and other support to this cause, and we thank all the other countries from around the region and the globe that have made commitments of support, pending the adoption of the UNSC resolution. We urge more Member States to commit to contributing security personnel, logistical and financial support to this vital effort. We also call on Member States to pledge to the Security Basket Fund aimed at funding the needs of the Haitian National Police as well as to contribute to the Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti.

As we move forward now to address the insecurity challenges frontally, CARICOM remains committed to collaboration at both the regional and international levels towards restoring peace and stability and to supporting a long-term development strategy for Haiti. CARICOM's Eminent Persons Group continues to engage the

Haitian government and stakeholders in a mediation role in an effort to resolve the political impasse in Haiti and re-establish political stability.

CARICOM therefore looks forward with clear but hopeful eyes to the early deployment of the MNSS, which we consider to be a *sine qua non* for a Haitian recovery, as we reiterate our commitment to ensure that the mission on which we will now embark will be effective in delivering peace and stability for the people of Haiti.

It is our fervent wish that Haiti – the first independent black republic – will soon be able to deliver, for its people, the prosperity they have always deserved.