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to the United Nations - New York
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BRIEFING ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED OFFICE IN HAITI
(BINUH)

FRIDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2022

A3 STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you, Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3: Gabon, Ghana and Kenya.
2. We thank SRSG Helen La Lime for her presentation and welcome H.E. Antonio Rodrigue, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Haiti.
3. To witness the profound challenges that Haiti is experiencing today, we would do well to remember that it has overcome even greater odds in its turbulent history.
4. It is the first free nation to be established by slaves who fiercely cast off their chains to inherit what had been the richest colonial holding in the world. Its

heroic insistence on freedom and dignity marked a resounding defeat of false racist hierarchies that had fed the cruel and evil enterprise of slavery.

5. Humanity, and all people of good conscience, owe Haiti the debt of high regard. We recall that history to remember that liberation has a cost, and that all free peoples should recognise that sacrifice by honouring and uplifting the descendants of those who have gifted us liberty.
6. Haiti has rarely been allowed to overcome the legacy of its glorious revolution which defeated some of the greatest military powers of the eighteenth century. It was blockaded, and forced to pay onerous, prosperity-destroying reparations. It was also colonised. The Haitian people have seemed to be punished from the day their forefathers announced their freedom until the recent past.
7. When we Africans look westwards, we see in Haiti a shining beacon of our claim to equality and our unrelenting demand for respect and dignity. We stand with the people of Haiti, and their enduring quest to enjoy the prosperity and peace that should be the product of liberty.
8. Our task today, is to engage here in the Security Council, and in every forum to support the recovery of Haiti's security, its competent and democratic government, and its securing of shared prosperity.
9. We do so in support of Haitian owned and led initiatives to recover peace and security as foundations for economic development.

Mr. President,

10. The A3 highlight five key issues, namely the political situation, security and the rule of law, the economic and humanitarian situation, and the BINUH mandate.
11. **On the political situation**, the A-3 is concerned that the continued polarisation and divergences between the political class has undermined progress on an agreed way forward.
12. We urge Haiti's political leadership, its professionals, and members of civil society to show they have the will to compromise in forging a strong constitutional model, and, linked to this, to deliver credible elections that produce an inclusive and competent Government. Africa has a strong understanding of forging agreements in complex and embattled circumstances. We urge you to make use of Africa's experiences, and to be open to African efforts to share them. We equally urge the African Union, and African states, to seek to share our knowledge and good offices to the people of Haiti in this moment of need. The Constitutive Act of the African Union recognises the Sixth Region, which Haiti is part of; if we are to live up to the role we must play for this region, then this is the moment.
13. The A3 is deeply concerned by the worsening security situation. We take note of the recent changes undertaken in the police force, but much more needs to be done as the force faces multiple challenges including the lack of appropriate equipment and expertise and low morale. We welcome ongoing efforts by BINUH and other partners to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian National Police with a particular focus on anti-gang operations. We urge for redoubling of these efforts and the need for coordination and synergy between Haitian authorities and all the partners.

14. We underscore the need to incorporate in the support packages, specialised training for protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based abuses. This should include establishment of mechanisms for the provision of psycho-social support especially to victims of such abuse.

15. To restore the rule of law, Haiti needs to resuscitate the justice system. We encourage Haitian authorities to undertake comprehensive justice sector reforms with the aim of addressing prolonged pretrial detentions, establishment of legal aid offices, expediting of court cases and establishment of functioning court registries. These measures are key to fighting impunity and ensuring that those responsible for the perpetration of emblematic crimes, including the assassination of President Jovenal Moïse, are brought to justice.

16. It is critical that the link between politics, gangs and illicit financial flows be broken. We urge the Security Council, and the International Community, to crack down on transnational crime and money laundering that incentivises the continuing influence of criminal cartels on the political life of Haiti. There should be no shelter, anywhere, for the criminal groups and individuals preying on the people of Haiti.

Mr. President,

17. With the pervasive insecurity, political instability, governance challenges compounded by global supply shortages and natural disasters, Haiti's economic situation is in deep distress. The resultant high levels of

unemployment and limited social service delivery is pushing many deeper into poverty and worsening the humanitarian situation.

18. There is an urgent need to address the root causes of poverty and precariousness in order to enable sustainable reconstruction in Haiti. The country continues to lose the precious manpower it needs for its reconstruction. Young Haitians are leaving the country by the thousands to flee a daily life that has become unlivable due to a lack of future prospects.
19. The A3 thanks multilateral and bilateral actors, plus non-governmental organisations, for their actions to meet some of these humanitarian needs. We also thank all those who participated in the 16th February High-Level International Event for the Reconstruction and Recovery of the Southern Peninsula of Haiti. This following the devastating earthquake on 14 August, and Tropical Storm Grace on August 17 last year.
20. We note that Haiti has received 14 billion dollars in the form of international support, including USD 7 billion by the UN since 2004. The bulk of this aid has been aimed at the emergency response. While that is needed, and understandable, the A-3 calls for added assistance to food security, infrastructure development, justice and security sector reform, education, and disaster risk management.

Mr. President,

21. The A3 reaffirm our support for the work of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti. We are keen for its mandate to be reviewed so that it can provide better support. We therefore welcome the appointment of Mr. Mourad Wahba as the lead expert to carry out an independent strategic

assessment of BINUH's mandate. We encourage the expert to consult widely and look forward to considering his report and recommendations.

22. In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to reaffirm our solidarity with the great people of Haiti and our belief in their resilience and ingenuity. A reborn, resurgent Haiti can be won by more determined efforts by Haitian leaders in politics and civil society today if they determine that their obligations are greater than their narrow interests.

I thank you.