



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations – New York
Security Council - 2021-2022

VOTE ON THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED OFFICE IN HAITI
(BINUH) MANDATE

FRIDAY, 15 JULY 2022 (5.00PM)

EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you Mr. President,

Kenya thanks Mexico and the United States for their dedicated efforts to prepare and present this resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti for 12 months.

Kenya voted in the affirmative for the resolution, and is glad that it has enjoyed unanimous support in the Council.

The changes in the mandate have been informed by the Independent Assessment Report, and the desire by most delegations for BINUH to be more supportive of Haiti during this difficult period.

We look forward to the Secretary General's report by the 15th of October on how better to combat the 'high levels of gang violence'. In the meantime, we join the rest of the Council in urging member states of the UN, and regional organisations, to do their utmost to support Haiti in combating illicit financial and arms flows.

While Kenya appreciates the strengthening of BINUH, we are all too aware of what it is not equipped or able to achieve as a mission.

The people of Haiti are facing profoundly serious challenges. The most immediate and apparent is the increasing threat of gangs to the lives and livelihoods of Haitians. They are impeding the movement of the people, the flow of humanitarian aid, and adding an even greater burden to an already strained-to-breaking economy.

The solutions to these challenges require stable government based on strong institutions. However, this is what Haiti lacks. The reasons are complex but underlying them is a lack of unity based on an inclusive vision of Haiti's future.

We, as Kenyans, as Africans, understand just how difficult it is to sustain competent and stable government while trying to overcome poverty, foreign interventions and transnational criminality that has a political dimension.

We do not pretend to know the day-to-day realities of Haiti, but we have experience in pulling our countries back from the brink of collapse. And using dialogue to arrive at a vision of the future. In building governments of national unity. Undertaking fundamental legal and constitutional reforms, and holding successful democratic elections.

We are ready to share our experiences with Haiti. We are ready not because it is a favour or charity, but because we have an obligation to Haiti and its people.

To the people of Haiti.

Your magnificent revolution of 1791 struck the first critical blow to the ending of the mass enslavement of African peoples, to colonial tyranny and the violent and unjust racism that it was based on. Because the people of Haiti stood tall, we Africans are standing tall today.

Your revolutionary war against slavery and domination was echoed in our own war against colonialism.

Today, Haiti is part of the Sixth Region of the African Union according to our Constitutive Act. Africa owes you every support. Kenya is ready to act on this obligation.

We are proud to have been guided by the spirit of Pan African solidarity in our engagement with the Haiti file while in the Security Council.

We thank the other members of the A3, and we cannot forget the +1 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for our common stand for Haiti. Gabon, Ghana, Niger, and Tunisia have all stood by Haiti, and I am sure the future members of the A3 will continue to do the same.

In this regard, we welcome and support the recent initiatives by CARICOM in support of Haiti. And we urge the African Union to do the same.

Kenya is determined to do the utmost to find a way to implement the pledge H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta made last October, during our Presidency of the Council, for the training of Haitian professionals in our public service colleges and schools. And we stand ready to do everything in our power to walk with you.

Kenya has needed mediation. We have offered it. We urge the leaders and people of Haiti to give themselves the gift of dialogue, mediation and reconciliation.

We believe that every solution to your challenges must be Haitian-led and Haitian-owned. And despite the divergent views today, we are confident that Haitian political leaders have the will and the capacity to build consensus and chart a viable way forward.

We urge the International Community, UN personnel, and all states engaged with Haiti to always be guided by the conviction that Haiti has the ability to attain stability and from there lasting peace and prosperity. It is such faith in the people of Haiti that will lead to the right kinds of support for their efforts.

I reaffirm Kenya's unwavering solidarity and respect for the sovereignty and political independence of Haiti and its people.

I thank you.