



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to  
the United Nations – New York

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON HAITI

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2024 (12.05 PM)

**Thank you, Madam. President,**

1. I welcome the remarks and the leadership by His Excellency, Hon Jean Victor Génés, His Excellency Roberto Álvarez Gil, and Her Excellency Ambassador Menissa Rambally on behalf of the Caribbean Community.
2. I thank SRSB Maria Isabel Salvador for her dedication and assessments. I also thank the other distinguished briefers for their insights and efforts on behalf of Haiti.
3. Most importantly, I commend the efforts being made by the government and people of Haiti to tackle their own challenges. In relation to their political initiatives, we recognise, with gratitude, the CARICOM Eminent Persons Group and its facilitation of negotiations among Haitian stakeholders.

**Madam President,**

4. Kenya, as a member of the United Nations, urgently concerned with protecting international peace and security, thanks the Security Council for passing resolution 2699 authorising the deployment of a Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to Haiti. You responded to the appeals for urgent intervention by Haitians, CARICOM and the UN Secretary-General, and by doing so affirmed your support for Haiti's profound desire for peace.
5. The mandate of the mission is to collaborate closely with the Haitian National Police in re-establishing security, especially in countering gangs. At a time when traditional peacekeeping faces notable and dangerous challenges, this mission is guided by a critical insight: that our utmost effort should be to deploy in

alignment with initiatives led by the people and government of the country needing support.

6. It is vital to reinforce and extend the state's capabilities in a manner that strengthens the social contract, avoiding missions that almost replace the role of the state. In this regard, the MSS represents an innovation by the Security Council and should be embraced as a focal point for member states, the UN's funds, programs, and specialised agencies, as well as Haitian and international civil society, and all actors of goodwill.
7. Kenya has fulfilled its role and will continue to do so. We have responded to the urgent calls of the Haitian people, in alignment with the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its emphasis on strengthening ties with the continent's diaspora. This response recognises that while Haiti may currently be facing emergencies, its heroic history stands as a testament to a people whose fierce love for freedom paved the way for the independence and sovereignty of billions worldwide, including the people of Kenya.

**Madam President,**

8. We are proud to have offered to lead this mission and remain committed to its successful deployment and implementation of the mandate.
9. Kenya has made significant progress in the preparatory phase. We extend our gratitude to other Member States joining the mission through their contributions of personnel, equipment, and funds. Following the adoption of resolution 2699 in October last year, Kenya promptly began the constitutionally mandated administrative

and legal processes to authorise the deployment of formed police units. On 13th October, our National Security Council and Cabinet approved and ratified the deployment. Subsequently, on 16th November, a joint session of the National Assembly and Senate approved the deployment of 1,000 National Police Service personnel.

10. We are currently awaiting the ruling of the Kenya High Court, scheduled for tomorrow, Friday 26th January, in response to a private citizen's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of deploying Kenyan police to Haiti.
11. Without prejudice to the outcome of the court case, the Government of Kenya has made significant progress in preparation for the deployment of the MSS mission including:
  - a. We undertook assessment missions to Haiti, engaging with its leadership, other stakeholders, and partners. Additionally, we engaged with critical actors on the ground in Haiti. These engagements have provided us with a thorough understanding of the context and issues that will shape and impact the mission.
  - b. We have engaged with Haitian authorities, members of CARICOM, and other partners on pertinent preparatory activities.
  - c. We prepared the base documents that will guide the mission's operations, namely the Concept of Operations (CONOPS), Status of Force Agreement (SOFA), Use of Force Agreement,

Code of Conduct and Discipline, Training Curriculum, and the MSS Structure.

- d. We are also involved in selecting, vetting, and training personnel who will be part of Kenya's contingent.
- e. Risk assessment and Oversight Mechanisms are currently being developed, in close consultation with relevant UN agencies, to ensure the mission aligns with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.
- f. A pre-planning meeting, that included Haitian security leadership, was held in Nairobi in December, which discussed the parameters of the MSS, and we are now preparing for the Planning Conference with other Police Contributing Countries in mid-February 2024.

**Madam President,**

- 12. The MSS will require dedicated resources for sustained impact. In this context, we commend the Secretary-General for the progress made in the establishment of the Trust Fund to support the mission.
- 13. We appeal to all member states to urgently commit to and support the mission by addressing the substantial resource gap. This is especially the case with contributions of funds, equipment, and logistical support. Securing the widest possible support base is essential for making the mission truly multinational.
- 14. Currently, we are engaging with partners to prepare for a Round Table Pledging Conference. This conference aims to mobilise the

required resources (funds, equipment, and logistics) for the mission. We hope that this initiative will enable deployment without delay.

**Madam President,**

15. UN funds, programmes, and specialised agencies, along with other enabled actors, need to rally in support of Haiti. This is the second, and critical part of the innovation required. While the MSS is an important intervention, the success for Haiti will only emerge from a multi-pronged and multi-sectoral surge of support.
16. This support must be coordinated and aligned with the on-the-ground needs, as well as the capabilities and efforts of the Haitian government and people. Security is certainly a pressing concern, but it is just one of many interrelated major challenges that need to be tackled through coordinated sequencing.
17. The UN has the knowledge and experience. For instance, its development-aligned stabilisation work in different countries, and its lessons learned in peacekeeping deployments and humanitarian relief, carried out by multiple agencies, must be leveraged. BINUH and the UN country team must have the personnel, the resources and the coordination to do their part.
18. From supporting livelihoods, responding to victims of violence, and in particular sexual and gender-based violence, to supporting and extending the government's urgent criminal justice reforms, we need dedicated efforts. In this regard, we are especially appreciative of the sustained attention that solutions for, and with, the people of Haiti are receiving from ECOSOC's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

19. We are pleased to observe the impact of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council to curb the proliferation of arms in Haiti. We urge the international community to continue supporting the implementation of this sanctions regime, particularly in ensuring that weapons do not fall into the hands of gangs. We also commend the UN Office on Drugs and Crime for its assistance to the Haitian authorities in this and other areas within its mandate.

**Madam President,**

20. As I close, so that we can have clarity, allow me to briefly reiterate the urgent actions that must be undertaken in a coordinated and clearly sequenced way for this mission to succeed on behalf of Haiti:
  - a. Strong multinational support for the MSS, ensuring adequate resources in terms of funds, equipment, and logistics.
  - b. The determination of Haiti's leaders and political stakeholders to use this time before and after deployment to unite and advance a political process intended to deliver credible and inclusive elections in a reasonable period of time. In relation to this, continued regional ownership as exemplified by the sustained and determined efforts by CARICOM is critical.
  - c. A coordinated multi-pronged effort between the government, security operations and UN agencies to support livelihoods and strengthen inclusive economic growth in the most insecure neighbourhoods. In the medium-term, efforts to

include Haiti's specific needs should be made part of international financial reform.

- d. Strong public diplomacy and communications to engage Haitian civil society, the business community and other critical stakeholders to build trust.
- e. Stemming the flow of arms, curtailing drug smuggling and trade, and cutting off financial support to criminal gangs and their sponsors in Haiti.
- f. Supporting the state's capabilities in the delivery of basic services to the most vulnerable Haitians as key to building trust and reinforcing the social contract.
- g. Continued strengthening of the criminal justice system.
- h. Managing spoilers both within and outside Haiti.

**Madam. President**

- 21. It would be remiss of us not to emphasise the urgency of this matter and the imperative for action. Since the adoption of resolution 2699, three months have passed. We urge Member States to treat this matter with the urgency it demands. **Thank you**