



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
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AT THE

SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE QUESTION CONCERNING HAITI

NEW YORK, 18 MARCH 2015

Mr. President,

Malaysia joins other Council members in thanking Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Sandra Honore for the briefing which we have heard with much interest. I wish to also thank the Secretary-General for the report on the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2180 of 2014.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia notes that the political and security situation in Haiti remains fragile, due in large part to the expectation and anticipation among the people that the long-delayed legislative, municipal and local elections would be held. We note that since the 49th legislature's mandate ended on 12 January, a key element of the country's political and institutional framework to check and balance executive power has been rendered ineffective.

3. We remain concerned that continued political uncertainty could lead to possible deterioration of the security situation in the country. It is imperative for the Government to address the people's grievances and allay their fears, including concerns over the economy as well as on unpaid salaries. In light of the brisk economic growth currently being experienced, Malaysia believes that the Government is in a position to address such concerns.

Mr. President,

4. Since the Council's recent visit to Haiti last January, there have been, in Malaysia's view, a number of gradual and important steps taken by the Government towards paving the way for elections to be held later this year.

5. Malaysia is encouraged by the steps taken thus far, including the establishment of the transitional government and the installation of a new Provisional Electoral Council, the promulgation and subsequent adoption of the new electoral law as well as the Government's recently proposed elections calendar, among others. We take the view that these and other steps taken to date demonstrate the Government's commitment to ensure that free, inclusive and transparent elections could take place this year.

6. Malaysia¹ joins other Security Council members in urging Haiti's political actors to work together constructively towards ensuring that the scheduled elections could take place according to schedule.

Mr. President,

7. Malaysia notes that due to various factors, including a series of natural disasters coupled with long period of political impasse and related violence, the humanitarian and human rights situation in Haiti remains precarious. Nevertheless, we remain optimistic and are encouraged to note the resilience of the Haitian people in striving to overcome such challenges.

8. We encourage the Government to consider further deepening respect for human rights in the country, including the rights of women and children, the rights to health and education and to take the necessary steps to establish accountability and impunity, including for human rights violations committed in the past. We stress that such processes should be Haitian owned and led.

9. On a related note, we are encouraged by steps taken, including towards eliminating the still prevailing cholera epidemic; ongoing efforts towards resettling, relocating and integrating IDPs; continuing efforts to include women in the political process and development of the 5-year National Strategy for Child Protection, among others.

Mr. President,

10. With regard to the security situation, Malaysia notes that overall, the safety and security situation remains stable. Nevertheless, the Government should continue prioritizing its responses particularly in addressing violent crime including murder, rape, gang violence and abduction, among others.

11. Malaysia notes and commends the continuing support provided by MINUSTAH's police and military components to the Haitian National Police (HNP) including through technical advice and operational support for crowd control operations and incidents of violent public unrest in Haiti. We are encouraged to note that the HNP is increasingly capable of managing such situations on its own.

12. We further note and support the Government's proposed plans to build and improve HNP's capacities and capabilities. We believe that efforts aimed at increasing the competency and professionalism of HNP would go a long way towards building public confidence in such a key national institution.

13. Additionally, the Government's ongoing efforts in cooperation with MINUSTAH and other partners and stakeholders in strengthening the legal and judicial frameworks are positive and noteworthy steps towards strengthening of the rule of law in the country.

14. In light of the upcoming elections, Malaysia is of the view that MINUSTAH's possible reconfiguration should take into account among others, the need for retaining rapid response capabilities, among others. In this regard, we note the ongoing consultations under the framework of the joint UN-Government Steering Committee. We further wish to underline that such discussion should be geared towards facilitating Haiti's transition and future development.

15. On the issue of MINUSTAH's consolidation, Malaysia notes the progress achieved in areas falling under the four stabilization benchmarks namely police development, electoral capacity-building, rule of law and human rights and key governance issues, and look forward to further updates.

16. I take this opportunity to reiterate Malaysia's appreciation and to reaffirm our support for MINUSTAH's mandate as well as for its leadership and the entire MINUSTAH team for their sustained and exemplary contributions in support of the Government of Haiti, particularly as it steps up to its responsibilities for the maintenance of stability and security in the country.

Mr. President,

17. To conclude, Malaysia believes that 2015 will present enormous opportunities for Haiti and Haitians to fulfill their aspirations.

18. Working alongside other Council members, MINUSTAH, the wider UN family, institutional donors and other partners and stakeholders, Malaysia will continue to support the ongoing transition and nation-building processes currently underway in Haiti towards achieving the goals of stability, security and development.

I thank you Mr. President.