



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RAMLAN IBRAHIM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MINUSTAH

NEW YORK, 17 MARCH 2016

Mr. President,

As noted by earlier speakers, Haiti had seen significant political developments in recent months most notably the holding of legislative, presidential and municipal elections in August and October.

2. I wish to express my appreciation to SRSG Honoré for her briefing which we listened to intently, and to the Secretary-General for his report.

3. Malaysia believes that Council's discussion today is important and crucial in taking stock of developments in Haiti with a view to assisting the country chart a course forward.

Mr. President,

4. While welcoming the holding of elections in Haiti recently, my delegation notes that the exercise was beset by a number of challenges, including the repeated postponement of presidential elections and allegations of fraud and vote manipulation.

5. Other challenges such as the high prevalence of so-called *mandataires*, low voter turnout and the general insecurity felt by the population during the voting exercise and in the period immediately after also threatened to derail the positive momentum.

6. Against that background, we commend the initiative by the *Conseil Electoral Provisoire* (CEP – Provisional Electoral Council) in taking certain corrective measures for the October round of elections, in light of lessons learned from the August round. Former President Martelly's establishment of the Independent Electoral Evaluation Commission is also commendable.

7. Looking ahead, we believe that a revitalized and newly reconstituted CEP – free from allegations of bias or manipulation – could contribute positively to the conclusion of the current electoral cycle.

8. Their ability to organize the next round of elections in a peaceful, transparent and inclusive manner would certainly help to restore public confidence in Haitian state institutions and democracy in the country.

9. Malaysia commends the Haitian National Police for their role in maintaining peace and security during the election process. The fact that that MINUSTAH police and military were only requested to step in on a few occasions is a testament to the HNP's competence.

10. Moving forward, the professionalism and impartiality of the HNP must be further encouraged and enhanced, with a view to cementing the population's trust. We also pay tribute to MINUSTAH, especially its police and military components for its important role in providing the broader security blanket during the tense election period.

11. On this note, we extend our condolences to Ms. Honore and to MINUSTAH as a whole on the killing of two of its police officers on 30 December 2015. We hope that the ongoing investigation could be swiftly concluded in the interest of justice and closure for the victims' families and loved ones.

12. In light of the aforementioned political developments, Malaysia could go along with the SG's recommendation for the strategic assessment on future presence and role of UN in Haiti to commence after the inauguration of the new President.

Mr. President,

13. While sharing regret that presidential elections were not concluded by the 7 February deadline, we are nevertheless optimistic that the provisional government led by President Jocelerme Privert (**Jo-se-ler-me Pree-ver**) and Prime Minister-designate Fritz Alphonse Jean will be able to conclude the third electoral round within the agreed timelines.

14. In reaffirming support for a Haitian-led and owned road map for the swift conclusion of the current electoral cycle, Malaysia believes that both President Privert and PM-designate Alphonse Jean have a critical role in bridging differences and in galvanizing broad support and consensus across the spectrum of the political class and the wider public in moving the political process forward.

15. In noting that a large portion of elections to the legislature has been completed, my delegation is disappointed to note that no women candidates were elected to either chamber of the legislature.

16. We encourage the Government and the Haitian political class to reflect seriously on this and consider taking the appropriate measures to ensure that women's voices are adequately represented.

Mr. President,

17. We are encouraged by ongoing efforts by the Haitian authorities and the UN on the surveillance, rapid alert and coordinated response on the cholera epidemic which has seen the lowest rate since its outbreak in 2010.

18. On a related note and in the interest of achieving closure and justice for the victims, we would encourage greater engagement by the UN Secretariat with those victims particularly on the issue of possible remedies and compensation, where appropriate.

19. It is important for the continuing credibility and respect for the United Nations as a whole that the Secretariat exercises and demonstrates leadership on this issue, including by responding to the Letter of Allegation by the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures.

20. On the human rights situation of children in Haiti, our attention is drawn to the situation of some 200,000 children who are vulnerable to exploitation, physical, emotional and sexual abuse through the practice of '*restavek*'. We call upon the Haitian authorities to address this issue and positively consider and implement the recommendations of the CRC Committee in this regard.

Mr. President,

21. I wish to conclude by acknowledging that Haiti continues to face significant challenges on the political, social and economic fronts.

22. In spite of such challenges, we have seen the Haitian people demonstrate courage and resilience as they seek to peacefully usher in change through the ballot box. Haitian leaders and elites must also recognize this and support, not impede such aspirations. For its part, Malaysia stands ready to support the aspirations of the Haitian people, alongside other Council members.

23. Finally, Malaysia reiterates its appreciation to SRSG Honore, the leadership and the entire MINUSTAH team for their sustained and exemplary contributions in leading the UN and the international community's support for Haiti.

I thank you Mr. President.

