

**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

Statement by

H. E. Mr Marc Pecsteen, Permanent Representative of Belgium  
to the United Nations

**Security Council meeting on Haiti - MINUJUSTH**

New York, 15/10/2019

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Mr President, Your Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

Like others, I would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, for his speech.

Today is a special day for the **UN presence** in Haiti, as the end of the MINUJUSTH mandate marks the end of a chapter, one of 15 years of UN peacekeeping. A new chapter is now being written, a new phase of our engagement with the country to continue the work carried out by MINUJUSTH and MINUSTAH.

This historic transition is taking place in **difficult conditions**. Haiti is facing a large number of challenges in terms of governance, the rule of law, the national police, the fight against corruption and the promotion of human rights. The humanitarian situation and food security are only serving to increase the urgency of an adequate response by the Haiti authorities. Belgium condemns the recent violence and calls on all the parties to refrain from violence and express their opinion through peaceful means. We particularly deplore the recent violence against journalists.

There is an urgent need to launch an **inclusive national dialogue** to overcome the country's political, social and economic challenges. The Haitian government has the primary responsibility for tackling the factors causing instability and inequality. National ownership and responsible political leadership are vital during this period.

**Feelings of impunity and insecurity** are the main sources of frustration for the population of Haiti. The reform of the judicial system, the eradication of corruption and the protection and promotion of human rights will be essential for restoring the trust of Haitian citizens in their authorities. In this respect, Belgium is paying particular attention to the legal monitoring of the extremely violent events that took place in La Saline last year. We regret the fact that no legal proceedings have been brought following the murders committed in the Grand Ravine and that the legal proceedings for embezzlement have not yet brought justice to the victims.

Belgium also regrets the fact that the **elections** planned for October cannot take place within the deadline. This could be an additional source of frustration for the population.

For the future, I would like to reiterate our full support for the new **BINUH political mission**, which will start work tomorrow. BINUH must be given the personnel and resources it needs to perform its

mandate. The benchmarks proposed by the Secretary-General will be valuable tools in monitoring how the country progresses in the key areas of the mission's mandate. We congratulate the UN and its partners for preparing these benchmarks. Strong collaboration between BINUH and the country team will be vital for the durability and success of the mission.

Mr President,

In conclusion, I would like to stress Belgium's **sincere gratitude** towards the men and women who have served under the United Nations flag in Haiti over the last 15 years. The circumstances have been difficult, but their efforts and devotion have made a positive difference. Those who lost their lives in Haiti will remain in our thoughts.

In this time of uncertainty and transition, Belgium reiterates its unwavering **commitment** to working with the Haitian people and government to create a democratic, peaceful and secure future.

Thank you, Mr President.