

ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE

Intervention de

S.E.M. Marc Pecsteen, Représentant Permanent de la Belgique
auprès des Nations Unies

Réunion du Conseil de Sécurité sur Haïti - BINUH

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Excellencies, colleagues,

I thank SRSB La Lime as well as Mr. Jacques Létang from the Haitian Bar Federation for their briefings.

Belgium fully supports **BINUH's** work to facilitate political dialogue in Haiti. All parties need to commit to an inclusive dialogue to face the country's political, social, economic and humanitarian crisis.

Since our last briefing only four months ago, the world seems to have changed several times over. Just as the cholera epidemic seemed eradicated, Haiti has been hit hard by **COVID-19**, adding an additional layer to the country's many vulnerabilities. We support the UN's role in assisting the country to respond to this pandemic. With the EU we are also working hard to refocus and prioritize our support to fight this pandemic. We are concerned by reports of stigmatization and discrimination of people who allegedly have COVID-19, including through lynching and destruction of property.

We encourage political actors to seize the momentum of the COVID-response to build trust and work together to **address the root causes** of Haiti's instability. We welcome President Moïse's announcement to organize elections and call for clarity on the electoral calendar. Constitutional reform is necessary to address the extreme levels of political instability and polarization.

The widespread sentiment of **impunity and unsafety** remains one of the main sources of frustration among the Haitian population. We call for renewed efforts to reform the justice sector, fight corruption and strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights. The high level of abductions and killings by gangs are particularly worrisome. In this regard, the finalization of the national strategy on DDR/CVR (disarmament, dismantlement, reintegration and community violence reduction) is encouraging, as is the reactivation of the Haitian National Police's roundtable with civil society. To address these challenges, it is clear the HNP needs a credible budget.

Concerning **human rights** we urge for progress in ensuring accountability for the violence in Grand Ravine, La Saline, Bel Air and more recently Village-de-Dieu. Perpetrators continue to escape justice. The progress demonstrated by the National Human Rights Institution and the General Inspectorate of the HNP is encouraging. We call for the National Human Rights Plan to be endorsed and implemented. We are also concerned about the right to food of the most vulnerable.

Haiti cannot face its challenges alone. **Together with our EU partners** we are providing financial, technical and political support and we call on all international partners to follow suit.

Thank you.