

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Statement by

H. E. Mr Philippe Kridelka, Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

Security Council meeting on Haiti - BINUH

New York, 5/10/2020

Excellencies, Colleagues,

I would like to thank **SRSB La Lime** for her briefing and her tireless efforts to create an atmosphere of trust and responsibility in Haiti.

I would like to speak about three aspects today: (1) the importance of elections, stability and political accountability; (2) the need to promote human rights and combat impunity and insecurity; and (3) the role of BINUH.

Firstly, the **political climate** remains extremely polarised and a common political agenda is lacking. Uncertainty over the electoral calendar, the composition of a new Provisional Electoral Council and the necessary constitutional reform remain factors of instability. We are concerned about the consolidation of violent gangs and their impact on State institutions. For the legitimacy of the political system, there is an urgent need to achieve a realistic timetable for the organisation of elections. It will be essential to involve women at all stages of the electoral process.

Secondly, **human rights, the fight against impunity and insecurity**. We strongly condemn the shocking assassination of Monferrier Dorval, a highly respected jurist. The active participation of civil society is particularly crucial in our view. It cannot be silenced. We urge the authorities to make every effort to bring the perpetrators to justice. We remain deeply concerned that the perpetrators of large-scale massacres are still at large and that there are continuing allegations of collusion between gangs and State officials. In this regard, we welcome the measures to expand the operational capacity of the General Inspectorate of the National Police. The police should remain a primary concern for BINUH and major donors, which have invested heavily, including during MINUJUSTH, to achieve a more professional and reliable Haitian National Police. The achievements in this area cannot be lost, especially on the eve of politically sensitive deadlines for the country.

The pandemic has highlighted protection challenges, especially for women and girls, who face increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence. The UN-EU Gender Spotlight initiative supports the national response in this area.

The **new penal code** brings Haiti's legal framework more in line with international legal and human rights standards. It is hoped that in particular this will lead to a more humane approach to law enforcement, help reduce prison overcrowding and better protect the LGBTI community.

Lastly, Belgium fully supports the **work of BINUH** to facilitate political dialogue in Haiti. Given the high level of polarisation, it is more important than ever to address the lack of trust and promote a more favourable political environment. We welcome the close collaboration between BINUH and the United Nations country team in implementing the integrated strategic framework. We encourage the Haitian authorities to approve the establishment of an independent OHCHR office in the country, which can help it to address the various challenges that I have discussed today.

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.