

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Intervention by

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

Security Council meeting on Haiti - MINUJUSTH

New York, 3 April 2019

Mr President, Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

Like others, I would like to thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix and the representative of the organisation Zanmi Lasante, for their briefings.

I would like to focus on **three points**: (1) the political situation in the country; (2) existing human rights challenges; and (3) the importance of continuity and a gradual transition from MINUJUSTH to the new mission.

1. Despite the fact that Haiti has experienced weeks of tensions, it is crucial that these do not jeopardise the progress made in recent years. The violent demonstrations that have taken place remind us of the need to continue the **institutional reforms**.

Political instability can only be solved through **inclusive internal dialogue** to address the socio-economic challenges. Democratic governance involves constructive dialogue with the opposition and civil society, particularly on the sensitive issues of the PetroCaribe funds and the fight against corruption.

The renewal of legislative power is a crucial step towards the consolidation of democracy. Belgium reiterates the importance of rapidly adopting the electoral law and updating the electoral lists to pave the way for credible, timely and inclusive elections.

2. Secondly, with regard to **human rights**, we welcome the appointment of a Minister Delegate for Human Rights and Poverty Reduction. Belgium also welcomes the prompt reaction of the Haitian authorities to reports of human rights violations by the Haitian National Police. We also welcome the publication of the first public report by the Office of the National Ombudsman for Human Rights.

We call on the authorities to further strengthen the **capacity of the General Inspectorate** of National Police and to implement its plan in response to the recommendations of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

3. Thirdly, Belgium underlines **the importance of continuity** and a smooth transition during the MINUJUSTH withdrawal phase. We welcome the Secretary-General's recommendations on the future United Nations presence in Haiti and support the choice of a **special political mission**. We believe that a **Chapter VI** mandate is appropriate and note that such an option is favoured by the Haitian authorities who met with the strategic assessment mission.

It is important that **high-level strategic political and advisory capacities** are present to support the Haitian authorities. We support the inclusion of the **following components** in the SRSG office: good offices, police development, justice reform, reduction in community violence, correctional services and the protection and promotion of human rights, including women's rights. We believe it is important not to dissociate the various components of the penal system by keeping the elements of support for the police, justice and prisons together. A holistic approach is needed within an MPS.

Belgium is convinced of the need for a **strong human rights component** in the future mission. Strong emphasis should be placed on promoting the participation of women. The future mandate should also include **mechanisms for regularly evaluating** the objectives and the results achieved, including through specific indicators.

We often talk about a transition to a UN mission, but a range of functions will be transferred mainly to the national authorities. **Responsibility lies with the Haitian government**, including through the adoption and implementation of legislation to consolidate the rule of law.

Mr President,

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for the important work of MINUJUSTH. Belgium will continue to work with the United Nations and with regional and international partners to support the efforts of the Haitian authorities and its people to promote prosperity, consolidate democracy and promote human rights.

Thank you, Mr President.