

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The Situation in Haiti

Student Officer: Elif Seçkin

Position: President Chair

Introduction



Located in the Caribbean Sea on the western third of the island of Hispaniola, Haiti is currently undergoing an unprecedented and multifaceted crisis characterized by the collapse of state institutions and a descent into utmost turmoil. Despite the influence of prior motivators, the period of extreme instability was significantly accelerated by the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, which left a profound political vacuum that is still present, as presidential elections have not been held for a decade (Dickinson). Today, armed criminal groups that are majorly allied under the Viv Ansanm coalition exert control over more than 90% of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and are

aggressively expanding their influence into rural locations while blocking vital transport routes. These groups establish authority mainly through relentless violence, including massacres, ransom kidnappings, and the systematic use of sexual violence and abuse to terrorize communities (“Haiti’s criminal”). The resulting humanitarian catastrophe is staggering, with 5.7 million people facing acute food insecurity and 1.4 million individuals internally displaced as of late 2025. Furthermore, fundamental social services fail to serve the needs of the population since more than 1,600 schools have closed due to ongoing violence, and the healthcare system is unresponsive as hospitals remain non-operational or inaccessible to a significant portion of the population (“MINUSTAH”). While the international community has responded by putting together a multinational security mission led by Kenya, which is transitioning into a larger and more organized “Gang Suppression Force” (GSF), this intervention is currently struggling due to severe funding and staffing shortages (“An Overview”). Ultimately, it would be accurate to consider Haiti stuck in a vicious cycle of chronic insecurity and political paralysis that prevents the restoration of the rule of law and the delivery of essential aid to a population in desperate need, driving a prolonged humanitarian conflict in the region.

Definition of Key Terms

Guerilla: A member of an unofficial military group that aims to overthrow or change the current

regime by making sudden, unexpected attacks on the official army forces (“Guerilla”).

Viv Ansanm: A powerful coalition of guerrilla groups that have seized control in more than 90% of the capital Port-au-Prince (Macleod).

Peyi Lok: A term that translates “locked country” to English, which refers to the intense protests beginning in 2018 that paralyzed the nation’s social and economic running. (Macleod)

Task Force: A group of people who are brought together to do a particular job, or a large military group with a military aim to achieve (“Task Force”).

Internal Displacement: When individuals are forced to flee or leave their places of habitual residence due to armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, or natural/artificial disasters (“Internal Displacement”).

Systematic Sexual Violence: The repetitive cases of collective rape and other types of armed groups as a deliberate tool to terrorize and assert control over communities (“Haiti”)

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity refers to the cases in which individuals have little to no access safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life (“Food insecurity”).

General Overview

International Security and Peacekeeping Missions

Haiti’s contemporary crisis is rooted in a long history of institutional weakness and political instability. As the world’s first independent Black republic, the country emerged from resistance against colonial rule, yet its post-independence history has been marked by fragile governance and recurring authoritarianism (Dickinson). Following the end of the U.S. occupation in 1934, Haiti experienced a period of relative stability and economic activity, often referred to as the era of the “Pearl of the Antilles” (Center for Preventive Action). This stability deteriorated with the rise of François “Papa Doc” Duvalier in 1957. Duvalier consolidated power through authoritarian rule and the paramilitary force known as the Tonton Macoutes. The succession of power to his son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier, in 1971 entrenched corruption and repression while further weakening state institutions. The regime’s reliance on armed groups as tools of control contributed to the later emergence of autonomous criminal actors (“Haiti’s criminal”).

Gang Dominance and Security Breakdown

Haiti’s current security environment is characterized by the expansion of armed groups that now exercise territorial control in parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Initially mobilized as political militias later evolved into organized criminal networks and larger coalitions (“Haiti”). These groups

sustain their influence through systematic extortion, participation in drug trafficking networks, and control over strategic infrastructure such as transportation routes and fuel terminals (“United Nations Peacekeeping”). The state’s inability to ensure public security has also led to the emergence of civilian vigilante movements, including the “Bwa Kale” movement (Anthem). While reflecting widespread frustration, these actions further undermine the rule of law.

Humanitarian Crises

The collapse of state authority has produced a severe humanitarian emergency. Millions face food insecurity, displacement, and limited access to education and healthcare (Anthem). Women and children are particularly vulnerable to violence, including sexual abuse and forced recruitment by armed groups (“Haiti’s criminal”). These conditions have also contributed to increased migration throughout the region.

International Response

International efforts to stabilize Haiti have included the deployment of the Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to assist the Haitian National Police (“United Nations Peacekeeping”). The United Nations has authorized the expansion of these efforts, though funding limitations and logistical challenges continue to hinder progress. Policy proposals emphasize strengthening the Haitian National Police, restoring economic activity, particularly cross-border trade, and prioritizing domestic security capacity (“Haiti”). Many analysts also stress the importance of solutions led by Haitian institutions and civil society.

Strategic Outlook

Haiti’s recovery requires a comprehensive approach combining security stabilization, institutional reform, and economic development. Planned elections for 2026–2027 may offer an opportunity to restore democratic legitimacy, although persistent insecurity poses significant challenges (Center for Preventive Action). Long-term stability will depend on rebuilding governance structures, strengthening institutions, and addressing the structural causes of political instability

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

The United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)

The United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) serves as the United Nations’ political mission in Haiti. Its mandate focuses on three primary areas addressing the country’s political and security crisis. The main role of BINUH is to conduct human rights monitoring, documenting abuses committed by criminal groups, including sexual violence and the recruitment of children (“An Overview”). Second, it provides electoral assistance to support the organization of national elections. This role is critical given Haiti’s prolonged absence of presidential and legislative elections, with the

objective of restoring elected leadership by early 2027. Lastly, BINUH supports the development of the Haitian National Police, assisting efforts to improve operational capacity and professionalism in response to widespread gang activity (“MINUSTAH”). BINUH’s mandate focuses on political and institutional support. It operates separately from the United Nations Support Office in Haiti (UNSOH), which provides logistical and technical assistance to the multinational Gang Suppression Force (Dickinson).

Kenya

Kenya serves as the lead nation for the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, which first deployed 400 police officers to Port-au-Prince on June 25, 2024, to assist the Haitian National Police in retaking territory from gangs (“MINUSTAH”). By December 2025, the mission had expanded to approximately 980 personnel, though it continued to face significant staffing and funding challenges (“United Nations Peacekeeping”). In September 2025, the UN Security Council authorized the transition of this Kenya-led mission into a larger Gang Suppression Force (GSF), which is designed to eventually include up to 5,550 personnel with the authority to neutralize criminal groups independently (“Haiti’s criminal”). Despite initial international concerns regarding potential misconduct, the UN reported no human rights violations by members of the Kenyan-led mission as of late 2025.

The United States of America

The United States plays a major role in Haiti’s security and political landscape. It has pledged over \$300 million and equipment to support the Kenyan-led security mission and politically supports Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé through sanctions against individuals linked to armed groups. However, the relationship remains contradictory (Anthem). While the U.S. designates gangs such as Viv Ansanm as terrorist organizations, illicit firearms from the United States continue to fuel gang violence, and arms restrictions leave the Haitian National Police under-equipped (“An Overview”). Cuts to U.S. aid and stricter migration policies have also intensified Haiti’s humanitarian challenges.

Timeline of Events

1 June 2004	The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established after President Bertrand Aristide was exiled in the aftermath of an armed conflict spreading to multiple cities.
2018	Peyi Lok (locked country) protest movements begin, marking the initiation of ongoing social and political instability
7 July 2021	The assassination of President Jovenel Moise, which

	catalyzed a political vacuum and a lack of authority in Haiti
January 2023	Haiti lacks a nationally elected official after the final parliamentary mandates expire
24 April 2023	Bwa Kale vigilante movement begins as civil citizens start targeting suspected gang members and executing them
2 October 2023	UNSC authorizes Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission led by Kenya
April 2024	Prime Minister Ariel Henry resigns, a Transitional Presidential Council (TPC) is formed
25 June 2024	The initial deployment of Kenyan police officers arrives in Port-au-Prince
September 2025	UNSC grants the transition of MSS into a more organized “Gang Suppression Force” (GSF)
December 2025	The TPC approved a provisional electoral calendar, scheduling the first round of elections for August 2026
12 February 2026	UNICEF warns that child recruitment by armed groups tripled over the course of the previous year

UN Involvement

Aiming to resolve the situation in Haiti, the United Nations acted as multiple agents, such as an interim figure of authority, a human relief provider, and a peacekeeper. Starting with the establishment of MINUSTAH, the United Nations' involvement was always present in the region. Furthermore, sub-organizations of the United Nations work toward mending the humanitarian conditions in Haiti per the organization's expertise. Specifically, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime frequently publishes regular updates on illicit substances and arms traffic in Haiti. Despite such efforts, the attempts towards achieving stable living conditions in the region remain fruitless since humanitarian relief campaigns and organizations suffer either from being understaffed or budget limitations.

Relevant UN Documents

The question concerning Haiti - UNSC Meeting Records (12 February 2026, S/PV.10093)

- This document is a transcript of the most recent meeting regarding the situation in Haiti, containing possible solutions and situation updates provided by the delegates of the Member States.

Resolution 2692 adopted by the United Nations Security Council on its 9377th meeting - (14 July 2023, S/RES/2692 (2023))

- A UNSC resolution calling for immediate action to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of Haitians.

Resolution 2793 adopted by the United Nations Security Council on its 10009th meeting (30 September 2025, S/RES/2793 (2025))

- A UNSC resolution suggesting the establishment of GSF and outlining its order of organization.

Resolution 2814 adopted by the United Nations Security Council on its 10099th meeting - (29 January 2026, S/RES/2814 (2026))

- A UNSC resolution concerning immediate measures inviting the Haitian authorities for collaborative action.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

International Security and Peacekeeping Missions

Past attempts at creating task forces such as the Multinational Security Support Mission, Gang Suppression Force, and the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti helped the reconstruction in Haiti after destruction caused by the natural disasters and guerrilla attacks. However, there were an overwhelming number of cases of reported sexual abuse perpetrated by the peacekeepers, making the global media question whether these missions are serving their utmost purpose. Furthermore, funding shortages and personnel shortages prevent these task forces from properly assembling and delivering required humanitarian assistance to the region.

Diplomatic and Humanitarian Efforts

Per the diplomatic efforts, targeted sanctions against specific units, such as gang leaders and former officials, have failed to curb the violence. On the contrary, guerrilla groups such as Viv Ansanm have consolidated regional control despite being designated as terrorist organizations. On the other hand, the United States' embargo on arms has significantly undermined illicit trafficking while simultaneously leaving police forces under-equipped. As for the humanitarian response to the region,

these efforts are severely under-resourced despite the massive funding appeals and are constantly failing to keep up with the crisis's pace. Thus, acute food insecurity continues to be a pressing humanitarian issue in Haiti.

Possible Solutions

Enhancing Regional Cooperation

In order to curb illicit arms trafficking to Haiti and improve living conditions, enhancing regional collaboration among nations is crucial. Reactivating borders with the Dominican Republic to revive trade routes to grant cash flow to Haiti and guarantee locals have access to acute medical care, are important recovery recommendations. Additionally, the active involvement of nearby Caribbean countries in the multinational security mission, such as Barbados, Jamaica, and the Bahamas, accentuates the importance of a shared regional commitment to reestablishing law and order and supporting local law enforcement to alleviate Haiti's catastrophic atmosphere. International calls for neighboring states to implement the 1984 Cartagena Declaration to protect the 1.4 million people displaced due to violence are other examples of the vitality of regional cooperation in managing migration and refugee protection. Lastly, cooperative regional monitoring and interdiction efforts are seen as essential since Haiti is a key hub for illegal arms and drug trafficking connecting South America, the Caribbean, and the United States.

Restructuring Legal Frameworks

Despite previous interim legislative actions, the practical application of the law remains severely hindered by ongoing violence and institutional corruption. Since late 2025, the specialized units have not been operational, and accountability for major human rights violations remains nearly nonexistent, despite the witness accounts. The justice system's dysfunction is further evidenced by the fact that 81 percent of the prison population consists of detainees awaiting trial, many of whom are held in inhumane conditions. Furthermore, accountability for high-profile cases faced a major setback in October 2025, when the Court of Appeal voided a previous ruling in the Jovenel Moïse assassination case, effectively restarting the investigation and overturning the indictments of 51 suspects. Therefore, for the collaborative well-being of both civilians and institutions, restructuring legal frameworks with permanent methods is an important step towards the situation in Haiti's resolution.

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