



## **JOINT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

**Building and Sustaining Peace in Haiti**

**Wednesday 11 June 2025, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM**  
ECOSOC Chamber

### **Objectives**

This joint meeting of the ECOSOC and PBC presents an opportunity to examine Haiti's urgent peacebuilding and sustainable development needs, with a particular focus on measures to address community-level peacebuilding and violence reduction, including the role of women and youth. The meeting will identify ways to support Haitian efforts through the lens of a comprehensive package of non-military interventions to address the security situation and help advance peacebuilding priorities.

### **Background**

Haiti is approaching the fifth year of a fragile political transition, since the assassination of then-President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, marked by institutional instability, unprecedented levels of gang violence coupled with severe protection challenges, and an alarming humanitarian situation. Progress on completing the roadmap for elections and the restoration of democratic institutions by February 2026, as foreseen in the Political Agreement for a Peaceful and Orderly Transition, has been mixed.

The protracted political transition has created space for armed gangs to further challenge State authority and commit widespread violence against the population. In 2024, gang-related violence killed at least 5,601 people, while rates of sexual violence and mutilation have been alarmingly high. Territory and infrastructure in the Centre, North and West departments are increasingly under gang control, or are damaged or destroyed. Port-au-Prince has grown increasingly isolated since the suspension of commercial flights in and out of the city since November 2024. All main roads into and out of the capital are controlled by armed gangs. More than a million Haitians have been displaced and only a third of healthcare facilities remain operational, while school closures and displacements hamper access to education for an estimated 160,000 children. Haiti's instability is a growing security concern for the region.

Three measures are currently authorised by the Security Council to support political stability and security in Haiti: the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), a special political mission created in 2019; a sanctions regime established in 2022; and the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) in Haiti, authorized in October 2023. The first MSS contingents were deployed in June 2024.

In response to a request from the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General, in his February letter, offered recommendations for the Council’s consideration. These consist of a “dual-track strategy” that would involve, chiefly, United Nations logistical and operational support to the MSS and further enablement of BINUH to better implement its mandate and assume new responsibilities.

The Secretary-General also proposed that Member States consider mandating BINUH to develop and implement “defection and safe exit programmes.” Such efforts would target gangs exhibiting internal tensions or disillusionment through community-based interventions. The ECOSOC and PBC could play a pivotal role in advocating for political and financial support to operationalize this model, focusing on the urgent DDR and CVR efforts.

The Peacebuilding Fund currently has an active portfolio of \$33.6 million, with projects focused on reducing community violence, building inclusive infrastructures for peace, and fostering civic space and the active engagement of women and youth. Haiti is moreover among the first partner countries receiving assessed contributions from the Peacebuilding Fund in 2025, to be programmed according to priorities set by the Government.<sup>1</sup>

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) continues to address Haiti’s long-term development, including through the work of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (AHAGH).<sup>2</sup> The ECOSOC AHAGH regularly engages with Haitian authorities, UN agencies, international financial institutions and other stakeholders to promote a comprehensive approach to addressing complex challenges facing the country. The Group has underscored the importance of developing and implementing plans for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of young gang members, including through non-military measures such as Community Violence Reduction (CVR) and Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM), along with mobilizing the necessary resources.

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<sup>1</sup> New programming in 2025 includes support to consolidate peace and strengthen social cohesion in the Artibonite department by enhancing the socio-economic resilience of vulnerable populations. Programming will also look to prevention and reduction of violence, rebuilding trust in institutions and fostering the emergence of civic space.

<sup>2</sup> See [here](#) for details about the ECOSOC AHAGH on Haiti.

In May 2024, the Government launched a Rapid Crisis Impact Assessment (RCIA), with support from the World Bank, United Nations, European Union, and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to define priority needs for recovery in Port-au-Prince and the metropolitan area. The RCIA report was published in October 2024. It presents investment needs for the period of 2024 to 2026 and delineates a joint institutional framework to oversee implementation, recognizing the need for an iterative approach to mapping priorities. The RCIA indicates the need for investment of approximately \$1.34 billion from 2024 to 2026; at present, a funding gap of \$989 million remains. The RCIA identifies CVR as one priority action, including through WAM; economic recovery and community capacity-building; community mobilization and civic engagement; and protection.

### **Guiding questions**

Delegations may wish to consider the following guiding questions:

- What can the international community do now to help accelerate Haiti’s efforts for community-level peacebuilding and violence reduction?
- What mechanisms can be effective in empowering civil society, including women and young people, in the context of CVR efforts?
- What measures must be instituted to prevent the recruitment of children by armed gangs and to facilitate their safe exit from gangs?
- How could the ECOSOC and PBC support the realization of “defection and safe exit programmes” in the near term, as recommended by the Secretary-General? What advice may the ECOSOC and PBC have for the United Nations System, regarding support to Haiti for its peacebuilding and sustaining peace needs?
- What preventative measures can communities in Haiti implement to prepare attacks of gangs and resist their control?
- How cooperation in curbing weapons trafficking be strengthened?

### **Follow-up**

Following the meeting, a joint informal summary by the ECOSOC President and PBC Chair will be circulated to help inform peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts in Haiti by the country’s international partners. The summary would also serve as recommendations to the UN system and international financial institutions.

ECOSOC AHAGH and the PBC could further support the Haitian Government’s implementation of community-level peacebuilding and violence reduction through subsequent joint consultations with the UN and other partners, including international financial institutions, and potentially through the facilitation of South-South exchanges, drawing on lessons learned from other contexts. PBC complementarity could potentially be initiated through focusing on the DDR/CVR issue, including consideration of PBF

support that could help to pilot or seed-fund initiatives that could be further upscaled over time.

### **List of speakers**

There will be no advance inscription. Requests to speak should be made by pressing the button on the microphone console when the presiding officer opens the floor during the meeting. In view of the limited time available, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than three minutes. Group statements will be permitted five minutes. Contributions by delegations that are focused on the guiding questions and follow-up proposals are strongly encouraged, for a productive exchange.

### **Reference material**

- [Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti \(April 2025\), S/2025/226.](#)
- [Report of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, E/2025/59 \(April 2025\).](#)
- [Letter dated 24 February 2025 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2025/122.](#)
- [Informal Summary – ECOSOC Special Meeting on “Haiti’s Children Cannot Wait: Supporting Stability, Resilience and Prosperity in Haiti” \(2 December 2024\) and ECOSOC President’s Call to Action.](#)
- [Haiti Rapid Crisis Impact Assessment \(October 2024\).](#)
- [Chair’s Summary – High-level Meeting of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti \(23 September 2024\).](#)