



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**REMARKS BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR PEDRO COMISSÁRIO
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBIQUE
TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
ON BEHALF OF THE A3
AT
THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
HAITI**

NEW YORK, 24 JANUARY 2023

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the members of the A3, namely, Gabon, Ghana and my own country, Mozambique.
2. As A3, we wish to collectively pay our profound tribute to the deceased Foreign Minister of the Republic of Gabon, who devoted his entire life to the service of Africa and the international community and to the cause of peace and security. We join our colleagues in expressing our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the people of our sisterly country of Gabon, for this loss.
3. We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Helen La Lime, for her rich briefing on developments in Haiti over the past few months. We welcome the presence of H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez Gil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic as well as the presence of Permanent Representatives of Haiti and Canada and Belize.
4. Today's briefing by SRSG, Ms. La Lime, touches on several familiar notes about the situation in

Haiti and the grim realities ordinary Haitians continue to face.

5. A Haitian-led political agreement that can restore democratic and institutional governance is yet to be reached. Violence perpetrated by gangs have reached unprecedented levels. Food insecurity is on the rise. These increasing levels of insecurity continue to put the existence of an already fragile country in grave jeopardy.
6. As the A3 has consistently emphasized, the prevailing situation in Haiti demands urgent action. In keeping with our responsibilities as a Council, we have sought to accompany Haiti in that process over the past years. However, much work remains to be done to match the scale and dimension of the present crises and also to help Haiti to build the much-needed resilience to forestall recurrence. The engagement of the international community in Haiti must drive results for the people of Haiti. The A3 trusts that more ambitious action that factors in the needs of Haiti, and which can help address the root causes of the country's crises, will continue and must continue to be explored.
7. To that end, the A3 would like to welcome the ongoing consultations and the intensive efforts to broaden support for the National Consensus

document, and the consequent establishment of the High Council for the Transition. We are cautiously optimistic about these developments on the political landscape. We do recognize that an inclusive and credible political process, based on constructive dialogue, can create the conditions necessary for compromises and an agreement on the country's political future. We therefore encourage all sectors of the Haitian society to deepen their engagements in support of the National Consensus Agreement.

8. The clarity about the political process, is necessary in rebuilding Haiti's democratically elected institutions, in strengthening its governance institutions and criminal justice systems and in putting the country back on the path of recovery. We see this agreement as an important step in establishing the needed confidence and creating conditions conducive to address the insecurity and political instability Haiti has been going through for so many years.
9. With respect to the security situation, the A3 remains deeply concerned with the aggravation of the security situation in the country. Gang violence and other criminal activities, including sexual and gender-based violence, kidnappings, homicides, as well as the impunity of the perpetrators of these acts undermine peace,

stability and security of Haiti and worsens the already dire economic and social conditions of the Haitian people. The disproportionate impact of gang violence on women and girls is particularly disturbing. We join the Secretary-General in condemning in the strongest terms the use of sexual violence by armed gangs as a weapon to instill fear in communities.

10. In reiterating our concern about gangs and their activities in Haiti, we cannot help but recall the interrelated nature of Haiti's multidimensional and complex challenges. The lack of economic opportunities for young people in the neighborhoods of Haiti serves as a significant factor for gang membership. It is apparent that unless we intensify our bilateral and multilateral efforts that can improve livelihoods in Haiti, extreme poverty and unemployment will continue to drive the young people into gangs, and with it, the recurrent cycle of insecurity the country has been witnessing.

11. In addition, it is vital for us to continue to support the Haitian National Police in their quest to counter the gang phenomenon. We must not relent in our ongoing efforts to reinforce the operational capacity of the Haitian National Police through training and provision of equipment. In this regard, we commend the international

partners of Haiti for their generous contributions in support of the Haitian police. We encourage further contributions in support of Haiti.

12. The A3 encourages the ongoing consultations for the establishment and deployment of an international force to fight the gangs that sow terror in Haiti.

13. We recognize that such actions must continue to be complemented by measures to address the proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition to gangs in Haiti. And here, the progress made by the UNODC over the reporting period is noteworthy. The international community's commitment to support Haiti in the implementation of its national action plan pertaining to the Caribbean Community Road Map on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition will also be instrumental.

14. Concerning sanctions, we are encouraged by the generally positive reaction of the Haitian public to the Council's adoption of targeted sanctions measures that have contributed to positive developments on the ground. The sanctions regime must serve the purpose for which it was established, including depriving criminal networks of sources of funding. It must therefore target those whose links with gang networks are

clearly established and avoid creating a climate of suspicion.

Mr. President,

15. The humanitarian situation in Haiti is also deeply concerning for the A3, with worsening food insecurity, compounded by a cholera outbreak, and millions of people without access to basic needs. We wish to re-echo the call for urgent assistance to respond to the growing humanitarian needs and help stem the cholera outbreak. We call on other donors to increase support during this critical period for Haiti and urge the countries of the region to show greater sense of solidarity. Haiti needs help from the international community, and even more so from its immediate neighbors.

Mr. President,

16. We cannot conclude without reaffirming our support for the work of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti under the leadership of SRSG, madame La Lime.

17. We will continue to do our best to act in the interest of the Haitian people in this difficult moment. As the first black nation to gain independence from colonialism and slavery,

Haitians, whom we consider as Africa's 6th region, have, despite the recurring challenges of violence, demonstrated their remarkable resilience as a people. We call on them to manifest this resilience even now in this period of crises, as we know that with the support of the international community, they would advance onto the path of stability, sustainable development and unity.

I thank you!