



Security Council Briefing on Haiti 22 January 2025

Greece's Statement delivered
by HE Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris,
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Special Representative Ms Salvador, as well as the Executive Director of UNODC Ms. Waly for their briefings. I would also like to welcome to our meeting the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti, as well as the Foreign Ministers of the Dominican Republic and Colombia.

Greece stands in solidarity with the Haitian people, feeling that it is our duty to honor the special historical bond that we share with this proud island nation, which was the first to recognize Greece's independence 200 years ago.

Haiti continues to grapple with a multitude of crises, from natural disasters, epidemics and food insecurity, to internal displacement that has reached unprecedented levels, affecting more than one million Haitians, according to the latest IOM data. This critical humanitarian situation is further exacerbated by extreme gang violence aimed at destabilizing the government. Greece condemns the indiscriminate attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, such as the international airport, as well as the targeting of schools and hospitals that deprive Haitians of access to basic education and healthcare services. We also denounce the human rights violations perpetrated by criminal groups, including homicides, abductions, the recruitment and use of children as fighters, as well as rapes and sexual violence against women and girls. In this respect, providing support to the victims is of key

importance. We also deplore the attacks against journalists that threaten the freedom of speech and democracy in Haiti.

Mr. President,

Greece supports an inclusive and sustainable Haitian-led political transition, aimed at restoring the rule of law and stability in the country and ensuring as a matter of priority the safety of the friendly Haitian people. In this regard, we welcome the commitment of the new Prime Minister Mr. Fils-Aime to work closely with the Transitional Presidential Council to improve security and governance, while emphasizing the imperative of promoting accountability within the TPC. Moreover, we commend the completion of the composition of the Provisional Electoral Council, which will pave the way to free, fair, participatory, peaceful and inclusive elections, and we support the constitutional reform process that is underway, with the active participation of women and youth.

The political transition cannot proceed effectively while security conditions remain precarious. In this regard, we commend the Multinational Security Support Mission and Kenya for its leadership, as well as all contributing countries, for their support to Haiti's National Police. There have been some relevant positive developments in the recent months, such as the graduation of over 700 new police officers of the Haitian National Police on January 10, with 30% of them being women. We are looking forward to the Secretary General's recommendations on the potential transformation of the MSS and we stand ready to assess all options and work constructively with our fellow Security Council members and the Haitian Government to determine the most effective path forward.

Mr. President,

The Haitian crisis also has significant regional implications that we cannot overlook, such as migration and illicit arms and drug trafficking. In this regard, we support our partners in the region and we welcome the efforts by CARICOM to foster stability, security and a peaceful transition of power in Haiti. We also acknowledge the valuable contributions of UNODC, in particular the training delivered to the Haitian Coast Guard, which can significantly enhance maritime security in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to express Greece's unwavering support to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and to the Special Representative of the Secretary General in their engagement with all national stakeholders. We believe that only political will and national unity can break the cycle of violence and help Haiti and its friendly people to finally move towards the stability, peace and development they deserve.

I thank you.