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PERMANENT COUNCIL

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SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN HAITI

(Adopted by the Permanent Council at its regular meeting held on April 3, 2024)

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

AFFIRMING the principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, emphasizing the importance of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, peace, and security in the Americas;

PARTICULARLY CONCERNED by the increasing violence of criminal gangs, more severely affecting women, boys and girls, and persons in situations of vulnerability, which in the last few weeks has resulted in a high number of deaths and internally displaced persons, and exacerbated the pain, hunger and suffering of the Haitian people, as well as their involvement in the destruction of public and private property; and aware of the critical importance of international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice to combat these offenses in a comprehensive and effective manner;

RECALLING that the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as other partners in the international community, can support joint actions to combat these criminal gangs, in a manner consistent with international law, to quickly exchange information and to strengthen cooperation between competent authorities to prevent the movement of criminal gangs to or from their territory, as well as to prevent and combat the illicit trafficking and diversion of conventional small arms, light weapons, and ammunition destined for Haitian criminal gangs engaged in persistent and destabilizing criminal activities, and financing activities in their favor, in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions S/RES/2700 (2023) and S/RES/2653 (2023);

ALARMED BY the multidimensional crisis facing Haiti, exacerbated by political, economic, and social instability, criminal gangs, insecurity, human rights violations and humanitarian challenges making the living conditions of persons in situations of vulnerability even more precarious;

GRAVELY CONCERNED at the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country, including the worsening of the levels of food insecurity and the inability of mitigating a cholera outbreak due to severe water and sanitation problems, and scarcity of medical supplies and food, which is even exacerbated given the difficulties of offloading supplies in the country’s ports;

REAFFIRMING the international community's commitment to supporting Haiti in its efforts to achieve stability, security, and democratic governance, essential conditions for long-term growth, poverty reduction, and sustainable development;

EMPHASIZING that the serious humanitarian crisis being endured by the Haitian civilian population, especially women, boys and girls, and persons in situations of vulnerability demands that the international community and the Hemisphere, in particular, immediately supply food, medicines, and other basic care and assistance items, in coordination with the Haitian authorities, as well as with the international organizations and agencies present on the ground to ensure their appropriate distribution;

TAKING NOTE of the Outcome Declaration of the recent meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, convened on March 11, 2024, by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government with Haitian stakeholders and international partners, to address the crisis in Haiti;

WELCOMING the commitment of Haitianstakeholders to an arrangement for transitional governance aimed at facilitating a peaceful and responsible transition of power, the continuity of governance, and the organization of inclusive, free, fair, and credible elections within a reasonable timeframe, including technical support roles from CARICOM and the OAS; and

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE for the efforts of CARICOM Heads of Government, its Eminent Persons Group, and other facilitators to engage a wide range of stakeholders in Haiti to reach a consensus on the transition process and the way forward towards holding inclusive, free, fair, and credible elections,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage Member States and Permanent Observers consider providing, to the best of their capacity, consistent with applicable national legislation and international law, and pending the implementation of the S/RES/2699 (2023), immediate and adequate support to Haiti's security forces to achieve conditions of peace and stability by dismantling the criminal gangs and allowing for the urgently needed delivery of massive humanitarian assistance, as appropriate.
2. To take note of the decision of Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign, as soon as a transitional presidential council is established and an interim prime minister is appointed, as provided for in the Outcome Declaration of the meetingconvened by CARICOM Heads of Government on March 11, 2024, in Kingston, Jamaica.
3. To call on all stakeholders to respect the terms of the March 11, 2024, Outcome Declaration, and work closely to achieve its objectives in order to restore security, the rule of law, and democracy for the well-being of all Haitians.
4. To commend the commitment of Haitian actors to inclusivity, dialogue, and respect for the Outcome Declaration reached in Kingston, Jamaica, with the support of the international community towards transitional governance, and which recognize the transition process.
5. To welcome the decision to establish a transitional presidential council composed of representatives from various political groups, civil society, and the private sector, tasked with overseeing the transition process, ensuring continuity of governance, and collaborating with international partners, including for the accelerated deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, authorized by United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/2699 (2023) of October 2, 2023, and affirmed by resolution CP/RES. 1237 (2469/23) of the Permanent Council of Organization of American States (OAS).
6. To encourage the transitional presidential council, once established according to the terms of the March 11, 2024 Outcome Declaration, to worktowards the appointment of an interim prime minister and an inclusive council of ministers; to establish selection criteria for a representative, impartial provisional electoral council, so that inclusive, free, fair, and credible legislative and presidential elections can be organized as soon as security conditions in the country so permit; and to take measures to promote stability, peace, security, and the rule of law in Haiti, as well as for the implementation of the UN Security Council the resolution S/RES/2699 (2023) and of the Sanctions Committee resolution S/RES/2653 (2022).
7. To reiterate the importance of support for all Haitian stakeholders, as well as the support of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), to continue to facilitate a Haitian-led and Haitian-owned political process to organize legislative and presidential elections through a credible process with the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women and the involvement of young people, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders.
8. To call on the international community, including the member states and permanent observer of the OAS, to continue supporting Haiti in its democratic transition, including through financial assistance, technical expertise, and contributions to the MSS mission, as well as technical and infrastructure strengthening for the National Identification Office of Haiti, through the OAS Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA), in preparation for the elections, bearing in mind the importance of coordinating these efforts, including through the International Security Assistance Coordination Group (ISACG), in accordance with principles of regional solidarity and international cooperation.
9. To emphasize the need for member states and international organizations, taking into consideration the evolution of the security situation, to redouble their efforts to promote the institutional, social, and economic development of Haiti, in particular for the long-term, in order to achieve and sustain stability and combat poverty.
10. To request the OAS Working Group on Haiti to regularly inform the Permanent Council on the situation in Haiti, and the progress in the implementation of the Outcome Declaration reached in Kingston, Jamaica, including the establishment of the transitional presidential council.
11. To remain actively seized of the situation in Haiti and to continue monitoring developments in support of the country's efforts to achieve stability, security, and democratic governance.

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