

Americas

23. The question concerning Haiti

Decision of 15 March 2000: statement by the President

At its 4112th meeting, on 15 March 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti.¹ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the transition from the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) to the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) was under way, and that MIPONUH was expected to be liquidated by 30 June 2000. MICAH, established by the General Assembly on 18 February 2000,² was expected to consolidate the results achieved by MIPONUH and the International Civilian Mission in Haiti and previous United Nations missions in terms of respect for human rights, reinforcement of the effectiveness of the police and the judiciary and coordination of the international community's dialogue with political and social actors in Haiti, thus facilitating the passage from security to development priorities. The Secretary-General underlined that institutional, social and economic development must be addressed in an integrated manner in order to consolidate democracy and peace. In this regard, he encouraged Member States to continue to assist the transition process from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and contribute to the Trust Fund established for MICAH. With regard to the political situation, the Secretary-General observed that the political climate in Haiti had been dominated by pre-electoral activities and that despite many obstacles the evolution of the electoral process was encouraging and conditions seemed to be in place for the holding of presidential and legislative elections on schedule on 19 March 2000. Obstacles had included some electoral violence, logistical problems in the registration process and the blocking of the voter registration process in one province. The Secretary-General observed that all political leaders had an obligation to ensure that their supporters refrained from any violence that could put the holding and fairness of the elections at risk. With

regard to MIPONUH, he noted that the Mission had continued to deploy its civilian police elements throughout Haiti's nine departments and had made great progress in training the Haitian National Police, with an emphasis on community policing, the maintenance of law and order, the fight against capital crime and drug trafficking, and the reinforcement of police administration and logistics. The situation of the Haitian police had improved in the reporting period, as the number of capital crimes against police officers and the number of police officers accused of human rights violations had declined considerably and as several successful operations had been undertaken in the fight against delinquency and drug trafficking. He reported that the Government, the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral donors were collaborating to prepare the assistance to judicial reform in the context of MICAH.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the meeting. The President (Bangladesh) made a statement on behalf of the Council,³ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Commended the Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti, the International Civilian Mission in Haiti and all the previous missions deployed in Haiti for assisting the Haitian Government in supporting the professionalization of the Haitian National Police force, consolidating the system of justice and other national institutions of Haiti, and promoting human rights.

Commended the Secretary-General for ensuring a phased transition to the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti, and recognized that economic rehabilitation and reconstruction constituted a major task facing the Government and people of Haiti and that significant international assistance was indispensable for the sustainable development of Haiti.

Welcomed the initiative of the Economic and Social Council to develop a strategic framework and a comprehensive approach for a long-term United Nations programme of support for Haiti, and underlined the vital link between national stability and economic and social development.

³ S/PRST/2000/8.

¹ S/2000/150, submitted pursuant to resolution 1277 (1999).

² Resolution 54/193.