

Americas

17. The question concerning Haiti

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 12 meetings, including 2 closed meetings with troop-contributing countries,³³⁰ on the question concerning Haiti. Following the earthquake of 12 January 2010, the Council focused on issues of immediate humanitarian assistance, recovery, security and coordination of the work of relief agencies, and expressed its support for the political process. The Council held a high-level meeting on 6 April 2011, following the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Council twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).³³¹ It also increased the force level of MINUSTAH twice in 2010.³³² In addition, the mandate of MINUSTAH was adjusted to provide electoral support, security and recovery in Haiti.³³³ In 2011, the Council authorized a drawdown of the surge capacity of MINUSTAH.³³⁴

19 January to 4 June 2010: response to earthquake of 12 January 2010 and increase in number of police in MINUSTAH

Following the earthquake of 12 January 2010, in resolution [1908 \(2010\)](#) of 19 January 2010, the Council authorized an increase in the military and police components of MINUSTAH to carry out an expanded mandate that included supporting the immediate recovery, reconstruction and stability efforts in Haiti.³³⁵

On 19 February 2010, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Council on his assessment of the humanitarian needs following his trip to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He stated that although the humanitarian situation was improving, he was under no illusion about the scale of the challenges still ahead for the next weeks and

months. He noted that the cluster approach, developed since the Asian tsunami five years earlier, was proving its worth in improving coordination and the effectiveness of the response of the international humanitarian community.³³⁶ The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported that since the earthquake, MINUSTAH had focused on three main objectives: supporting and facilitating relief operations; ensuring law and order and security; and restoring the capacities of the Mission. In particular, he noted that the security situation in Haiti was stable but potentially fragile, since the deterioration in living conditions had led to an increase in crime. He stressed the importance of both improving physical security and addressing the question of political stability in the country.³³⁷ The representative of Haiti expressed his concern regarding the increase in incidents of crime around the country and emphasized that the Haitian National Police were working with MINUSTAH to apprehend those responsible.³³⁸

On 28 April 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH reported that while the humanitarian crisis was far from over, Haiti had made significant progress in assisting the most vulnerable, including displaced persons in Port-au-Prince living in areas at risk of flooding and mudslides. He highlighted the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General³³⁹ that MINUSTAH undertake a surge of effort across five areas of work: fostering political stability; coordinating and enabling the post-earthquake relief effort; maintaining a secure and stable environment, and strengthening police and judicial institutions; supporting the Government in the implementation of its vision for strengthened State capacity and decentralization; and helping Haiti begin building its human capital through promotion of a balanced social agenda.³⁴⁰ The Prime Minister of Haiti stated that a temporary adjustment of the mandate of MINUSTAH would be desirable to ensure that support

³³⁰ See [S/PV.6380](#) and [S/PV.6615](#).

³³¹ Resolutions [1944 \(2010\)](#) and [2012 \(2011\)](#).

³³² Resolutions [1908 \(2010\)](#) and [1927 \(2010\)](#).

³³³ Resolution [1927 \(2010\)](#).

³³⁴ Resolution [2012 \(2011\)](#).

³³⁵ See also [S/PV.6261](#).

³³⁶ [S/PV.6274](#), pp. 2-4.

³³⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

³³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

³³⁹ [S/2010/200](#).

³⁴⁰ [S/PV.6303](#), pp. 2-5.

for the Government would, in the short term, more efficiently and directly meet the needs of the post-disaster situation.³⁴¹ The Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) stated that its role was focused in three areas: governance; the strengthening and modernizing of State institutions; and capacity-building.³⁴² He stressed, *inter alia*, the role of OAS in supporting the electoral process. The representative of the European Union, while welcoming the integrated approach adopted by MINUSTAH, emphasized that a more expansive view needed to be taken to find the balance between the immediate priorities identified in the report of the Secretary-General and the medium- and long-term priorities set out by the Government of Haiti in its Action Plan for National Recovery and Development.³⁴³

Council members generally agreed with the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the role of MINUSTAH. A number of speakers explicitly supported an increase in the police contingent of the Mission,³⁴⁴ while others called for further comprehensive consideration by the Council before additional personnel were authorized.³⁴⁵ The representative of the Russian Federation stated his concern over the involvement of MINUSTAH in social issues, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General. He suggested that MINUSTAH might not have the necessary knowledge and experience in this field, which lay within the competence of other specialized bodies.³⁴⁶

On 4 June 2010, the Council adopted resolution 1927 (2010), in which it decided to authorize the deployment of an additional 680 police as a temporary surge capacity with clearly defined objectives, with a particular focus on building the capacity of the Haitian National Police. In the resolution the Council, *inter alia*, also recognized the need for MINUSTAH to assist the Government of Haiti in providing adequate protection of the population, and requested that the Mission continue to support the humanitarian and recovery efforts.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

³⁴² *Ibid.*, pp. 23-25.

³⁴³ *Ibid.*, pp. 25-26.

³⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7 (Brazil); p. 9 (Mexico); p. 10 (United States); p. 18 (Nigeria); p. 19 (Austria); p. 20 (Turkey); p. 21 (Uganda); p. 22 (Japan); p. 28 (Canada); p. 29 (Colombia); and p. 34 (Norway).

³⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 12 (China); and p. 14 (Russian Federation).

³⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

13 September 2010 to 14 October 2011: extension of mandate and reduction in troop and personnel levels of MINUSTAH

On 13 September 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti reported that progress had been made in moving the political process forward, maintaining the security gains of recent years and supporting humanitarian and recovery efforts. While welcoming the decision by the Government of Haiti to hold legislative and presidential elections on 28 November 2010, he pointed to both the short-term and long-term challenges facing the Government of Haiti, including the organization of the elections, maintaining order in camps, reconstruction and the relocation of displaced persons.³⁴⁷ The representative of Haiti requested donor countries to fulfil their pledges to avoid a delay in reconstruction and an outbreak of violence due to a failure to meet the population's legitimate expectations of better conditions.³⁴⁸

Most speakers agreed that ensuring credible, free, fair and peaceful elections was essential for achieving long-term stability in Haiti, and pointed to the critical role that MINUSTAH played in providing logistical, security and technical support towards the electoral processes. Many speakers also emphasized their concerns regarding the situation of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the internally displaced person camps. A number of speakers highlighted security issues related to organized crimes, such as gang violence and the flow of drugs and weapons into the country, which necessitated the capacity-building of security and rule of law institutions, in particular the Haitian National Police.³⁴⁹ Regarding recovery and reconstruction, several speakers stressed the importance of meeting the pledges that had been made and coordinating among donors and all actors on the ground.³⁵⁰ The representative of the United Kingdom emphasized that while the Council had authorized additional engineering contingents for MINUSTAH, the primary focus of the Mission should remain the provision and maintenance of a peaceful and secure environment, and that

³⁴⁷ S/PV.6382, pp. 2-5.

³⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

³⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7 (United States); p. 7 (Brazil); pp. 11-12 (Nigeria); p. 14 (Japan); p. 16 (Lebanon); pp. 17-18 (Uganda); and pp. 18-19 (Turkey).

³⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8 (Brazil); pp. 8-9 (France); pp. 9-10 (Gabon); p. 16 (Lebanon); p. 19 (Turkey); and pp. 19-20 (Uruguay, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti).

peacekeeping missions should not make a long-term commitment to reconstruction work.³⁵¹ Regarding the issue of the drawdown of the surge capacity of MINUSTAH, several speakers stated that the current level should be maintained and that the security conditions on the ground, the completion of the elections and the peaceful transfer of power should be the basis for any further discussion of capacity drawdown.³⁵²

On 14 October 2010, the Council adopted resolution 1944 (2010), in which it extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 October 2011, while maintaining its current force levels. In the resolution the Council, *inter alia*, called upon MINUSTAH to ensure the holding of credible and legitimate presidential and legislative elections, due to take place on 28 November 2010.

On 16 September 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported that the presidential election had been concluded successfully, and that while challenges to the political process remained, a reduction and reconfiguration in the force levels of MINUSTAH could now be considered. While endorsing the recommendations of the Secretary-General for a reduction in the military component of MINUSTAH by 1,600 military and 1,150 police personnel, he stressed a further deterioration in the security situation was possible should the efforts of MINUSTAH in the area of reconstruction and development be reduced. He urged Council members as well as the international community to help stimulate investment and development efforts and make resources available to that end.³⁵³

Most speakers supported the renewal of the mandate of MINUSTAH and a gradual reduction of its personnel, provided that such a reduction would not endanger the ability of the Mission to fulfil its mandate or the stability and security of the country. Several speakers mentioned the alleged sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, and took note of the

public commitment by Uruguay to conduct a full investigation in cooperation with the United Nations.³⁵⁴

On 14 October 2011, the Council adopted resolution 2012 (2011), in which it extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 October 2012, decided to reduce the military component to 7,340 troops and the police component to 3,241 police, and affirmed that future adjustments to its force configuration should be based on the overall security situation on the ground. The Council also requested that MINUSTAH, *inter alia*, continue to provide support to the efforts by the Government of Haiti to build institutional capacity in security and rule of law at all levels.

20 January 2011: briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

On 20 January 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported on major political developments since the first round of voting in Haiti's presidential elections in November 2010. He stated that since the announcement of the preliminary results of the elections on 7 December, Haiti had been paralysed by political uncertainty, and efforts had been made by the joint OAS-Caribbean Community electoral observation mission to end the crisis.³⁵⁵ The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator reported on the progress achieved during the past year in responding to post-earthquake humanitarian needs. She highlighted the efforts made to combat the ongoing cholera epidemic, emphasizing the need for stability and freedom of movement of aid workers and supplies and for quickly scaling up the response to the 2011 humanitarian appeal.³⁵⁶ The representative of Haiti called upon donor countries to make all pledged funds available, and requested the panel investigating the origin of the cholera pandemic to make their conclusion known soon in order to end speculation.³⁵⁷

During the debate that followed, Council members underlined the need for transparent and credible electoral processes as the basis for solving the political paralysis. Council members also recognized the importance of continued humanitarian assistance, with

³⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

³⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 7 (United States); pp. 10-11 (Mexico); p. 13 (Russian Federation); pp. 19-20 (Uruguay, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti); p. 22 (Canada); p. 24 (Colombia); and p. 26 (Argentina).

³⁵³ S/PV.6618, pp. 2-6.

³⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 10 (South Africa); p. 16 (United States); pp. 27-29 (Uruguay, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti); and p. 30 (European Union).

³⁵⁵ S/PV.6471, pp. 2-3.

³⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

special attention paid to mitigating the consequences of the cholera outbreak. Several speakers called upon donors to coordinate their activities and fulfil their pledges, stressing the importance of national ownership in the process of recovery and reconstruction as well as underlining the need to strengthen State institutions and capacities.³⁵⁸ Speakers also expressed concerns over the security situation, emphasizing the importance of protecting vulnerable segments of the population.

6 April 2011: high-level meeting concerning Haiti

On 6 April 2011, the Council held a high-level meeting following the second round of presidential and parliamentary elections in March 2011. The Secretary-General briefed the Council on achievements and challenges in the areas of ensuring political election and stability, assisting the judicial system, providing security, advancing recovery and reconstruction, and combating the cholera epidemic.³⁵⁹ The United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti reported on the achievements and challenges of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission and on a variety of partnerships aimed at the recovery and reconstruction of the country. He presented several recommendations in such areas as national capacity-building, disbursement of funds and expenditure, and involvement of non-governmental organizations.³⁶⁰ The President of Haiti called on the future executive and legislative leaders of Haiti to govern in a spirit of peace, openness, inclusion, dialogue and respect for the rights of association and expression. He urged donors to hasten disbursements, while emphasizing that drug trafficking, a source of political instability in his country, needed to be tackled globally.³⁶¹ The Secretary-General of OAS reported that the post-election challenges had divided the executive and legislative branches in the country, and stressed the need for ongoing political dialogue among all relevant actors. He also noted that there was an apparent shift in the approach of donors that was aimed more towards bilateral planning and use of resources than towards multilateral coordination. He called on the international donor community to provide the funds that were pledged to the Reconstruction Fund, and to harmonize their

bilateral activities.³⁶² The President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) highlighted its role in the development of education programmes, assistance with infrastructure building and development of the private sector.³⁶³ The Special Representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for Haiti emphasized that strong, robust and flexible institutional capacity was a sine qua non for sustainable development, good governance and security. He emphasized the need for coordination to fulfil the urgent needs of the population.³⁶⁴ The representative of the European Union urged the national authorities and political stakeholders to make further efforts towards achieving political stability. He also emphasized the issue of security and expressed support for MINUSTAH and the work of the Haitian National Police in guaranteeing the rule of law. He further pledged European assistance in development and called for coordination of international assistance while stressing national leadership in reconstruction efforts.³⁶⁵

During the debate, speakers focused on how the international community could better contribute towards the reconstruction, security, and development of the country. Speakers urged the political stakeholders in Haiti to step up their efforts so that the electoral process could rapidly reach a successful conclusion. Many speakers emphasized the importance of national ownership of the reconstruction and development efforts through the strengthening of capacity and institution-building. Several speakers stressed the need to address the security situation, especially the protection of vulnerable groups, and expressed continued support for the work of MINUSTAH with the Haitian National Police to ensure law and order.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement in which it, inter alia, stressed the importance of completing the electoral process in a peaceful, credible, and legitimate way. It underlined the connection between development and security, including the strengthening of democratic institutions in Haiti, and expressed its concern at the situation of vulnerable groups. The Council also called upon the donor community to fulfil without delay all pledges and encouraged all reconstruction donors to channel

³⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 7 (United States); p. 11 (Lebanon); p. 15 (South Africa); p. 17 (Nigeria); and p. 19 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

³⁵⁹ S/PV.6510, p. 5.

³⁶⁰ Ibid., pp. 6-9.

³⁶¹ Ibid., pp. 9-11.

³⁶² S/PV.6510 (Resumption 1), pp. 6-8.

³⁶³ Ibid., pp. 8-9.

³⁶⁴ Ibid., pp. 9-11.

³⁶⁵ Ibid., pp. 15-16.

their efforts through the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission.³⁶⁶

³⁶⁶ S/PRST/2011/7.

Meetings: the question concerning Haiti

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6261 19 January 2010		Draft resolution submitted by all Council members and Argentina, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay (S/2010/29) Letter dated 18 January 2010 from Mexico concerning the situation in Haiti following the earthquake (S/2010/27)	Argentina, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Uruguay			Resolution 1908 (2010) 15-0-0
6274 19 February 2010			Haiti	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	All invitees	
6303 28 April 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2010/200)		10 Member States ^a	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members and all invitees ^b	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6330 4 June 2010		Draft resolution submitted by 13 Member States ^c (S/2010/277)	Argentina, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Spain, Uruguay		Haiti	Resolution 1927 (2010) 15-0-0
6382 13 September 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2010/446)		8 Member States ^d	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees ^e	
6399 14 October 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2010/446)	Draft resolution submitted by 13 Member States ^f (S/2010/519)	Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Spain, Uruguay		Haiti	Resolution 1944 (2010) 15-0-0
6471 20 January 2011			Haiti	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members and all invitees	
6510 6 April 2011	Haiti: A renewed commitment by the international community Letter dated 31 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/218)		20 Member States ^g	United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Special Representative of the Caribbean Community for Haiti, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	S/PRST/2011/7

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
	Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2011/183)					
6618 16 September 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2011/540)		Argentina, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Haiti, Spain, Uruguay	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6631 14 October 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2011/540)	Draft resolution submitted by 11 Member States ^h (S/2011/637)	Argentina, Canada, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Spain, Uruguay			Resolution 2012 (2011) 15-0-0

^a Argentina, Canada, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti (Prime Minister), Norway, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.

^b The representative of Uruguay spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti (comprising Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Mexico, Peru, United States and Uruguay).

^c Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Spain, United States and Uruguay.

^d Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Norway, Peru and Uruguay.

^e The representative of Uruguay spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti (comprising Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Mexico, Peru, United States and Uruguay).

^f Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Spain, United States and Uruguay.

^g Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti (President), Honduras, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^h Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Peru, Spain, United States and Uruguay.

Asia

18. The situation in Timor-Leste

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings in connection with the situation in Timor-Leste, including two closed meetings with the troop-contributing countries,³⁶⁷ and adopted two resolutions. On 26 February 2010, in resolution 1912 (2010), the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Mission

in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)³⁶⁸ for one year, and welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, including the findings and recommendations in respect of the phased resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste.³⁶⁹ On 24 February 2011, in resolution 1969 (2011), the Council extended the mandate of UNMIT for one year and, inter alia, requested UNMIT to support, within its current mandate, the preparation of parliamentary and

³⁶⁷ 6275th and 6332nd meetings.

³⁶⁸ For more information on the mandate of UNMIT, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

³⁶⁹ S/2010/85.