

ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti Appeals to the International Financial Institutions to Redouble their Assistance to Haiti

18 December 2023

The ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti¹ undertook a visit to Washington, D.C. on 29 November 2023 for consultations with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and representatives of the Organization of American States (OAS), on the need for strengthened, sustained and coordinated support for Haiti in view of the deteriorating situation in the country. The Advisory Group also met with representatives of the World Bank Group virtually on 21 November 2023.

The Advisory Group's consultations aligned with the Security Council's call, in resolution 2699 (2023), for "Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and agencies, and other international organizations, including international financial institutions, 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".

All of those who briefed the Advisory Group share a deep concern about the escalation of gang violence and its threat to stability and prosperity in Haiti. There is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian National Police to restore security, including through the deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission authorized by the Security Council.

The Advisory Group reiterates that security measures should be complemented by a comprehensive and sustainable long-term strategy, accompanied with resources, to address the drivers of violence, such as political instability, economic and social inequalities, extreme poverty, high unemployment, human rights violations, impunity, corruption, and weak public institutions. Recruitment of children and youth by gangs continues to be of key concern. Despite the challenges of working in the current environment, the Advisory Group encourages the international financial institutions and other partners to quickly scale up their support to strengthen Haitian capacities.

The Advisory Group heard concerns regarding the negative impact of human capital flight (or "brain drain") of skilled workers on all sectors, as well as on international organizations. In this regard, the Advisory Group encourages international financial institutions to enhance their support to Haitian authorities to address the issue of high attrition among public sector employees.

The Advisory Group continues to encourage international financial institutions to increase their support to and collaboration on food security, including through investments in local agriculture, home-grown school feeding programs and initiatives that strengthen the resilience of households.

Haiti's health system is facing collapse, due in part to limited access to fuel for health infrastructure, targeted attacks on hospitals, and a shortage of healthcare workers due to high attrition rates. The health system is also struggling to address maternal and child health, injuries related the ongoing violence, as well as mental health issues. There is a risk of reemergence of diseases such as polio and measles. Increased attention to strengthening Haiti's health sector is critical. Improving access for

¹ The ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti is composed of Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Canada (Chair), Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, and Uruguay. The President of ECOSOC is an ex officio member of the Group. It was initially formed in 1999 and its mandate is to follow closely and provide advice on the long-term development strategy of the country.

children and youth to school and strengthening investments in Haiti's education system are also needed.

The Advisory Group also heard significant concerns regarding the systematic use by gangs of sexual and gender-based violence. Enhanced protection and an effective response for victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence is essential.

The Advisory Group raised with partners in Washington, D.C., its concerns regarding Haiti's judicial and correctional systems, and underscored that further assistance is urgently required to strengthen Haitian capacity in these sectors. Clear and feasible plans for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of gang members, particularly youth, as well as community violence reduction, are also urgently needed.

Addressing the root causes of instability in Haiti requires Haitian-owned political solutions. The Advisory Group continues to urge Haiti's political actors; civil society, including women and youth groups; religious leaders; and the private sector to redouble their efforts to establish an inclusive national political dialogue to pave the way for credible, free, fair and transparent elections. The Advisory Group welcomes the persistent work of CARICOM's Eminent Persons Group to support political dialogue in Haiti.

The Advisory Group continues to stress the importance of coordination and coherence among partners and meaningful engagement of and ownership by Haitians. The Advisory Group welcomes the close collaboration between international financial institutions and United Nations entities. It also encourages continued dialogue between the UN and regional organizations.