Americas

22. The question concerning Haiti

Decision of 26 February 2004 (4917th meeting): statement by the President

By a letter dated 23 February 2004, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council for the purpose of considering the situation concerning Haiti in the light of the steadily deteriorating situation, which affected peace and security in the region.¹

At its 4917th meeting, on 26 February 2004, held in response to the request contained in the abovementioned letter, the Council included the letter in its agenda.² In addition, the President drew attention to a letter dated 25 February 2004 from the representative of France addressed to the President of the Council,3 transmitting a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France on the situation in Haiti advocating the establishment of a transitional government of national unity in Haiti and promising the support of France, should that Government decide to proceed with elections before the summer of that year. In addition, France proposed an initiative that broadened an earlier plan by CARICOM and included the following: the immediate establishment of a civilian peacekeeping force to guarantee the return to public order; international assistance for preparing the presidential election; the delivery of international humanitarian aid; the dispatch of human rights observers; and a long-term commitment to providing international aid for the economic and social reconstruction of the country. Those proposals would have to be legitimized and implemented by the international community and could involve regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and

CARICOM as well as the various United Nations bodies and the European Union. In addition, the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that the spiral of violence had to be stopped; that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide bore heavy responsibility for the situation; and that it was up to him to accept the consequences while respecting the rule of law.

Statements were made by all members of the 7Council, as well as by the representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas,⁴ Bolivia, Canada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala,⁵ Haiti, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union),⁶ Jamaica (on behalf of CARICOM),⁷ Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela and the Permanent Observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie.⁸

The representative of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of CARICOM, sought to call the urgent attention of the international community to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Haiti, which had reached crisis proportions given the continuing breakdown in law and order, the rising insurgency and conditions of sheer anarchy and chaos, and the worsening humanitarian crisis, causing displacement of the population and increasing numbers of refugees crossing the border. He reported that during the past weeks the political upheaval in Haiti had escalated, with heavily armed groups extending their control over parts of the country. The groups controlled all cities in the northern part of the country and would seek to advance on the capital. The weakened and

¹ S/2004/143.

² During this period, in addition to the meetings covered in this section, the Council held a number of meetings in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001). The meetings were held on 24 November 2004 (5087th), 23 May 2005 (5183rd), 9 February 2006 (5367th), 8 August 2006 (5506th), 29 January 2007 (5625th) and 10 October 2007 (5755th).
³ S/2004/145.

⁴ The Bahamas was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Public Service.

⁵ The representative of Guatemala intervened in his capacity as President Pro-tempore of the Central American Integration System, on behalf of Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

⁶ Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey aligned themselves with the statement.

⁷ Jamaica was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

⁸ The Secretary-General was present at the meeting but did not make a statement.

outnumbered Haitian National Police had in part been forced to abandon its posts, and some 70 persons had so far been killed. He held that the prevailing situation within Haiti could no longer be viewed as an internal matter and posed a serious threat to regional peace and security, given the outflow of refugees, which threatened to overwhelm the resources of States in the region. He also reported that the country was now locked in a political stalemate as a result of the steadfast refusal of the opposition to engage in the process of dialogue mandated by the CARICOM action plan. He pointed out that CARICOM had maintained that adherence to the following principles was critical: full application of democracy in Haiti; non-acceptance of a coup d'état in any form; and any change in Haiti had to be in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti. He held that regional organizations, in keeping with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, were often the first recourse in addressing threats to peace and security. He recalled that CARICOM had negotiated an action plan, which included measures to improve the security climate and build confidence, including compliance with previous OAS resolutions, negotiation of rules for demonstrations, the release of detainees, disarmament of strong-arm groups, the strengthening of the police force and the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms. The plan had also envisaged the establishment of an electoral commission, the formation of a council of eminent persons, the appointment of a neutral and independent prime minister and the formation of a new government through a process of consultations between the Prime Minister, the President and the council of eminent persons. The plan had been accepted by President Aristide but rejected by the opposition. The representative held that the situation now was completely different in that it had turned from a political impasse over the exercise of rights and the role of opposition groups to a violent situation with incursions by heavily armed rebel forces from the north. He recalled that the Government of President Aristide had requested the international community to assist in the restoration of security, order and the rule of law within the country. He held that the United Nations had a special responsibility in assisting Haiti, given its past involvement in Haiti, and emphasized that its past role had been deemed relatively successful in stemming the downward spiral and in bringing the parties to the negotiating table. He emphasized that the volatile situation in Haiti and the potential for further chaos were not only a threat to the peace and security of the region but were also of great concern to the international

community. Against that background, CARICOM member States sought the direct and immediate intervention of the United Nations in Haiti within the context of the Charter. He called for the Council to authorize the urgent deployment of a multinational force to assist in the restoration of law and order, to facilitate a return to stability and to create an environment in which the continuing efforts to find a solution to the political crisis could be pursued. He underlined the willingness of some CARICOM members to contribute to such a force. He also called upon the Council to endorse urgent action by the international community to address the growing humanitarian crisis and to provide neighbouring States, affected by the growing surge of refugees, with the requisite resources for the provision of relief and humanitarian assistance to the refugees.9

The representative of Haiti warned that the situation in his country was urgent and serious and required the attention of the international community. He reported that since 5 February 2004, the country had been engulfed in an armed insurrection committed by armed groups made up of former members of a repressive paramilitary force designated as the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH), which, according to his account, committed atrocities during the coup d'état of 1991, as well as of former members of the armed forces that had been dissolved in 1995, and of convicts who had escaped from prison. He held that the attacks of the armed groups jeopardized the stability of the country's institutions and noted that the humanitarian situation was alarming. He also noted that President Aristide had welcomed and consented to the plan for a solution to the crisis that was presented by the international community while the political opposition had rejected that plan. He reiterated the Government's call to the opposition to contribute to restoring peace and dialogue in order to find a negotiated political settlement, and expressed the Government's faith in the democratic future of Haiti. He stated that the Government of Haiti fully associated itself with the position of CARICOM, which requested that the Council remain seized of the matter concerning Haiti, and that it do its utmost to send urgently an international force to help restore peace, while conforming to the provisions of the Charter. He emphasized that the Government of Haiti wanted the Council to reiterate its condemnation of the acts of violence, indicate its refusal to accept any form of Government resulting from an

⁹ S/PV.4917, pp. 3-5.

anti-democratic and anti-constitutional process, and demand that the opposition accept a political compromise to resolve the crisis. He welcomed the appointment of a special adviser to the Secretary-General and the initiative to establish, in the country, an office of the Commission on Human Rights. He also anticipated international technical cooperation to professionalize the police, strengthen democratic institutions — in particular judicial institutions — to disarm armed groups and to provide security for elections.¹⁰

In their statements, most speakers condemned the acts of violence and underscored the deterioration of the economic, political and humanitarian situation in Haiti. Many speakers supported the efforts of CARICOM and OAS. A number of speakers urged the opposition to reconsider their negative response to the plan proposed by CARICOM and OAS. Most speakers also welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Adviser on Haiti. They underlined the need for urgent international assistance and urged all actors to facilitate the work of international agencies involved in humanitarian assistance.

Many speakers urged a broader engagement of the international community. The representative of Spain supported the dispatch of a civilian peacekeeping force, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, to guarantee security for humanitarian missions and for OAS and CARICOM mediation missions.¹¹ The representatives of Algeria and Brazil also held that the Council should urgently consider the deployment of an international force in Haiti in accordance with the Charter.¹² The representative of the Philippines proposed the deployment of an international civilian police presence to restore order on the ground. He further supported the possible deployment of a coalition of the willing to arrest continued violence and the breakdown of law and order.13 The representative of Angola expressed his readiness to support the deployment of an international force to support a political settlement.¹⁴ The representative of Benin called for robust measures to be employed.¹⁵ The representative of Germany held that the Council should

be ready to assist in the stabilization efforts in all possible ways.¹⁶ The representative of the United States held that if a sustainable political agreement was reached, his Government would support efforts to deploy an international force to support its implementation. In addition, he proposed that the OAS special mission in Haiti could serve as the foundation for an expanded international presence to professionalize the Haitian National Police, promote the rule of law, disarm gangs and encourage a climate of security conducive to democratic activity.¹⁷ The representative of France envisaged a civilian peacekeeping force that would not be a United Nations force, but would be authorized by the Council and based upon a Council mandate. He held that such a force could be an important complement to a political solution, in that it would be established immediately to support a government of national unity and could help to re-establish public order and support the humanitarian and human rights actions of the international community on the ground. He indicated that France would be prepared to contribute to such a force, supplementing contingents from the countries of the region.¹⁸ The representative of Chile held that the negotiation process should be conducted by the regional and subregional organs that were currently involved, but that the Council should not discard a more robust action should it become necessary. He cautioned, however, that any formula used in the consideration of dispatching a police or civilian force should be used to support the political agreement, once it was attained.¹⁹ The representatives of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and Romania acknowledged the call for international involvement in Haiti and expressed their readiness to consider proposals for an enhanced role of the international community.²⁰ The representative of China expressed his willingness to participate in the efforts of the international community to help to ease the current situation in Haiti and to attain lasting peace, stability and development in that country.²¹ The representative of Pakistan expressed his willingness to consider broader international engagement in support of a political solution in accordance with the Charter.²² The

²⁰ Ibid., p. 9 (Russian Federation); p. 10 (United

²¹ Ibid., p. 18.

¹⁰ Ibid., pp. 5-7.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 8.

¹² Ibid., pp. 8-9 (Algeria); and p. 18 (Brazil).

¹³ Ibid., p. 11.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 12.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 12.

¹⁶ Ibid., p. 13.

¹⁷ Ibid., pp. 14-15.

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 15.

¹⁹ Ibid., pp. 10-11.

Kingdom); and p. 16 (Romania).

²² Ibid., p. 14.

representative of Ireland, on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the urgent initiative of the Government of France to invite representatives of the Government of Haiti, the opposition and civil society to talks in Paris and called on all parties to refrain from any harmful action while those discussions were ongoing.²³

In addition, the representative of France held that it was important to insist on the proposals of the two regional organizations relating to the establishment of a transitional government of national unity and, supported by the representative of Romania, proposed to supplement this by accelerating the timetable for presidential and general elections.²⁴

A number of delegations emphasized that the crisis in Haiti should be resolved peacefully and through constitutional means. The representatives of Brazil and Venezuela expressed their support for the constitutional Government of President Aristide, with Venezuela rejecting all attempts to overthrow the Constitution of that country or make any changes in it concerning the fixed terms for the election of authorities.²⁵ The representative of Nicaragua held that his Government fully supported President Aristide in the quest for a solution consistent with the Haitian constitutional order and the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.²⁶ The representative of Cuba held that his Government would adhere strictly to its principled position of non-interference in the internal affairs of any country, including Haiti.²⁷

Many speakers emphasized the importance of the economic, social and institutional development of Haiti, and underlined that a solution to the political and humanitarian crises without addressing the economic issue would not suffice in the long-term. The representative of Pakistan held that earlier United Nations involvements in Haiti had not addressed many of the root causes and reminded the Council that his delegation had frequently advised against the premature disengagement of the United Nations in any conflict situation. He called for a more comprehensive approach, involving not just the Security Council, but also the General Assembly and the Economic and

²⁴ Ibid., p. 15 (France); and p. 16 (Romania).

Social Council, to address all the underlying issues in such complex situations. He held that if the United Nations became involved once again, it should do so with a sustained commitment to stay the course.²⁸ The representative of Brazil also held that the means adopted in earlier involvements of the Security Council had not brought about the envisaged results and that the root causes, including poverty, instability and institutional weakness, had yet to be addressed.²⁹ The representative of Cuba linked the current situation in Haiti with colonialism, exploitation, and the unjust and exclusionary international economic order.³⁰

Speakers condemned human rights abuses and called on all parties to respect human rights and humanitarian law. The representative of Peru called on the Council to send a clear signal that it was ready to take action and that it was monitoring respect for human rights in Haiti. In that regard, he put all political and social forces in the country on notice that the international community would not permit any violation of human rights to go unpunished.³¹

The representative of the Dominican Republic reiterated his Government's offer of good offices.³²

The representative of Mexico called upon the Secretary-General to deploy the necessary media forces to ensure that the presidential statement of the Council was heard, and considered that the statement was an initial tool to facilitate the immediate cessation of violence and the start of political negotiations.³³

The representative of Nicaragua underscored the threat posed to the region by the possible flow of refugees from the conflict.³⁴

The President (China) made a statement on behalf of the Council,³⁵ by which the Council, inter alia:

Expressed deep concern in regard to the deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian environment in Haiti;

Supported the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States as they continued to work towards a peaceful and constitutional solution to the current impasse;

²⁸ Ibid., p. 14.

³² Ibid., p. 25.

³⁴ Ibid., p. 27.

²³ Ibid., p. 19.

²⁵ Ibid.,, p. 17 (Brazil); and pp. 22-23 (Venezuela).

²⁶ Ibid., pp. 27-28.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 19.

²⁹ Ibid., p. 18.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 19

³¹ Ibid., p. 25.

³³ Ibid., p. 26.

³⁵ S/PRST/2004/4.

Called upon the parties to act responsibly by choosing negotiation instead of confrontation;

Acknowledged the call for international involvement in Haiti;

Would consider urgently options for international engagement, including that of an international force in support of a political settlement in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

Called upon all sides in Haiti's conflict to facilitate the distribution of food and medicine and ensure the protection of civilians;

Called upon the Government and all other parties to respect human rights and to cease the use of violence to advance political goals;

Supported the Secretary-General's decision to name a Special Adviser for Haiti.

Decision of 29 February 2004 (4919th meeting): resolution 1529 (2004)

At the 4919th meeting, on 29 February 2004, the President drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 29 February 2004,³⁶ from the representative of Haiti addressed to the President of the Council. In that letter, the President of Haiti called on Governments of friendly countries to support with all urgency the peaceful and constitutional process that had begun in Haiti and, to that end, authorized security forces to enter and operate in Haiti to conduct activities designed to bring about a climate of security and stability, which would support the political process under way, facilitate humanitarian assistance, and in general help the people of Haiti.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion.³⁷ The President (China) then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;³⁸ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1529 (2004), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Called upon Member States to support the constitutional succession and political process then under way in Haiti and the promotion of a peaceful and lasting solution to the current crisis;

Authorized the immediate deployment of a Multinational Interim Force for a period of not more than three months; Authorized the Member States participating in the Multinational Interim Force to take all necessary measures to fulfil its mandate;

Requested the leadership of the Multinational Interim Force to report periodically to the Council, through the Secretary-General, on the implementation of its mandate;

Called upon the international community, in particular the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, to work with the people of Haiti in a long-term effort to promote the rebuilding of democratic institutions and to assist in the development of a strategy to promote social and economic development and to combat poverty.

Decision of 30 April 2004 (4961st meeting): resolution 1542 (2004)

On 16 April 2004, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council a report on Haiti.³⁹ In his report, the Secretary-General recalled the resignation of President Aristide in February 2004 following contested elections in 2000, mediation between the political opposition and the Government by CARICOM and the OAS and the outbreak of armed conflict in February 2004. He noted the creation of a Transitional Government led by a Prime Minister and also noted the signature of the Consensus on the Political Transition Pact on 4 April 2004. Through the Pact, signatories agreed on the holding of municipal, parliamentary and presidential elections in 2005 and on discussions with the United Nations on the status of the Multilateral Interim Force and the follow-on peacekeeping operation. Fanmi Lavalas, the party of former President Aristide, had denounced the Pact. The Secretary-General stressed the need for a process of nationwide reconciliation, embracing all segments of society accompanied by a genuine effort to put an end to the prevailing climate of impunity and enforce individual accountability, and for a better involvement of the Haitian people in the development of policies. He also highlighted the suggestion from the Transitional Government that the international community should supervise rather than observe the elections.

³⁶ S/2004/163.

³⁷ The Secretary-General was present at the meeting but did not make a statement.

³⁸ S/2004/164.

³⁹ S/2004/300, submitted pursuant to resolution 1529 (2004).

With regard to the security situation, the Secretary-General reported that while the situation had calmed down with the deployment of the Multinational Interim Force, and Haiti seemed to have overcome the worst of the crisis, the restricted resources and geographic areas of operation of the Multinational Interim Force, as well as limited disarmament activities, had constrained its ability to address aspects of the insecurity. He reported that the situation on the ground remained complex with a variety of armed groups, local security arrangements and local gangs coexisting. In that regard, he observed that a comprehensive approach would be required for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups and for a successful restoration of the rule of law and public security.

The Secretary-General also expressed concern at the numerous human rights violations in Haiti and proposed that the international community support efforts made by the Transitional Government to re-establish the rule of law and promote a culture of individual accountability for human rights abuses, including sexual violence against women and gender issues. He also reported that Haiti was still facing an immediate emergency humanitarian situation and called upon donors and international financial institutions to support the efforts of the United Nations to address the urgent needs of the population.

In accordance with the request of the Council, he recommended the establishment of a multidimensional stabilization operation consisting of up to 6,700 troops and 1,622 civilian police as well as civilian staff for an initial period of 24 months. He recommended that the mandate of the operation should, inter alia, support the constitutional and political process under way in Haiti, ensure a secure and stable environment, assist in maintaining public safety and public order, support the police and judicial system, support the Transitional Government in extending State authority throughout Haiti, provide support for a broad-based national dialogue, facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, assist with the restoration of basic public services and support employment-generating activities as well as monitor the human rights situation and strength capacity for the protection of human rights to ensure individual accountability for human rights abuses. The Secretary-General welcomed the participation of regional organizations, in particular OAS and CARICOM, and of the agencies, funds and

programmes of the United Nations system within the Mission.

At its 4961st meeting, on 30 April 2004, the Council included in its agenda the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.⁴⁰ At the meeting, in which the representative of Haiti was invited to participate, the President (Germany) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution.⁴¹ It was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1542 (2004), by which the Council, noting the existence of challenges to the political, social and economic stability of Haiti and determining that the situation in Haiti continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region, inter alia:

Decided to establish the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the stabilization force called for in resolution 1529 (2004), for an initial period of six months, with the intention to renew for further periods; and requested that authority be transferred from the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti to MINUSTAH on 1 June 2004;

Authorized remaining elements of the Multinational Interim Force to continue carrying out its mandate under resolution 1529 (2004) within the means available for a transition period not exceeding thirty days from 1 June 2004, as required and requested by MINUSTAH;

Requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for Haiti, who would have overall authority on the ground for the coordination and conduct of all the activities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Haiti;

Decided that MINUSTAH would consist of a civilian and a military component, in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General on Haiti, the civilian component to include a maximum of 1,622 civilian police, including advisers and formed units, and the military component to include up to 6,700 troops of all ranks, and requested further that the military component report directly to the Special Representative through the Force Commander;

And, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations:

Decided that MINUSTAH should have the following mandate: to ensure a secure and stable environment; to support the political process; and to promote and protect human rights; and decided further that MINUSTAH should coordinate and cooperate with the Transitional Government as well as with their international partners;

Urged all the above-mentioned stakeholders, in particular the United Nations organs, bodies and agencies, to assist the

⁴⁰ S/2004/300.

⁴¹ S/2004/334.

Transitional Government of Haiti in the design of a long-term development strategy.

Decision of 10 September 2004 (5030th meeting): statement by the President

At its 5030th meeting, on 10 September 2004, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on Haiti.42 In his report, the Secretary-General reported on the formal takeover of authority by MINUSTAH from the Multilateral Interim Force on 1 June 2004. He noted that since then the security situation had improved gradually, but regretted that illegitimate armed groups had continued to exercise official security and administrative functions. He also noted that continued problems in the law enforcement structures contributed to the precariousness of the human rights situation. He underscored the challenges of assisting the Transitional Government with the comprehensive and sustainable disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of all armed groups. He further noted that MINUSTAH would require a number of experts to support Haitian judicial and governmental authorities. On the political situation, he noted that tensions continued between Fanmi Lavalas and the Transitional Government. He pointed out problems and delays in the elections process and reported that a mission to assess the electoral needs and determine the modalities for the assistance of the international community had been sent to Haiti from 8 to 17 June 2004. He welcomed the close cooperation between MINUSTAH and the regional partners of Haiti in the area of electoral support and assistance to the Haitian National Police. He further observed that efforts to ensure a stable environment, support the political process and assist in the upcoming elections must be accompanied by sustainable economic development and income-generating activities.

At the meeting, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. The President (Spain) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁴³ by which, the Council, inter alia:

Underscored the need for the Transitional Government to extend its control and authority throughout the country;

Stressed the urgency of disbanding and disarming all illegal armed groups;

Called upon the Transitional Government to complete without delay the establishment of the required structures and the adoption of the required legal framework for the implementation of a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

Underlined the fact that only a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue in Haiti could lay down the foundations of a peaceful and democratic political environment;

Reiterated that an end to impunity was key to national reconciliation in Haiti;

Reiterated its support for the establishment of a core group to maintain the mobilization of the international community, to increase the consultation among major stakeholders, to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of the assistance for Haiti, and to contribute to the definition of a long-term development strategy aimed at the promotion of lasting peace and stability in that country.

Decision of 29 November 2004 (5090th meeting): resolution 1576 (2004)

At its 5090th meeting, on 29 November 2004, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH.⁴⁴ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the security situation in Haiti had deteriorated, and gave his support to the Transitional Government's efforts to put an end to the violence perpetrated by various armed groups. He noted that the restoration of law and order throughout the country needed to be achieved with regard for basic human rights and the rule of law. He condemned the surge of violence and incidents during demonstrations organized by supporters of former President Aristide, and reported that increased security threats had made it necessary for the MINUSTAH civilian police component to focus mainly on providing operational support to the Haitian National Police. He reported on the humanitarian emergency in Haiti after several natural disasters, and underlined the efforts of MINUSTAH in that area. He welcomed the sustained commitment of the Transitional Government to holding free, fair and credible local, legislative and presidential elections in 2005. He recommended that the Council extend the mandate of MINUSTAH for a further period

Condemned attempts by some illegal armed groups to perform unauthorized law enforcement functions in some Haitian cities;

⁴² S/2004/698, submitted pursuant to resolution

^{1542 (2004).}

⁴³ S/PRST/2000/32.

⁴⁴ S/2004/908, submitted pursuant to resolution 1542 (2004).

of 18 months, until 31 May 2006. While a major review of the structure and concept of operations of the Mission was found not feasible at the time, the Secretary-General suggested the following modifications within the general structure of MINUSTAH: to deploy, for an interim period, an additional formed police unit of 125 officers within the present authorized strength of the Mission, to provide enhanced operational support to the Haitian National Police and to strengthen security arrangements in the capital to increase the ability of MINUSTAH to undertake short-term projects that could make an immediate tangible difference in the lives of people; to augment the capacity of MINUSTAH to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration projects in the community; to add one engineering company to the military component of MINUSTAH, within the authorized strength of the Mission; and to modestly the and strengthen humanitarian development coordination pillar of MINUSTAH.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Chile and Spain. The President (United States) then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution.⁴⁵

Speaking before the vote, the representative of Brazil, while welcoming the draft resolution concerning the renewal of the mandate of MINUSTAH, also expressed his belief that, in the future, the mandate for MINUSTAH would need to be more specific and concrete than the one endorsed in resolution 1542 (2004). Warning that the absence of measures to achieve prompt improvement in the living conditions of the Haitian people, including those aimed at job creation, would lead to growing difficulties for the maintenance of public order in the country, he held that more precise language could have been included, for example in operative paragraph 2 of the resolution,⁴⁶ concerning the political reconciliation process; in operative paragraph 4,⁴⁷ regarding economic development measures; and in the corresponding second, third and

fourth preambular paragraphs.⁴⁸ He also held that the Council should issue stronger messages concerning the international community's long-term commitment to Haiti, including through the adoption of a broader multidisciplinary mandate for MINUSTAH, and he expressed his trust that the intention to renew the mandate for further periods would be confirmed.⁴⁹

The draft resolution was subsequently put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1576 (2004), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH, as contained in resolution 1542 (2004), until 1 June 2005, with the intention to renew it for further periods;

Encouraged the Transitional Government to continue to explore actively all possible ways to include in the democratic and electoral process those who currently remain outside the transition process but have rejected violence;

Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General of 18 November 2004 on the Mission, and endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 52 to 57 thereof;

Requested the Secretary-General to provide a report to the Council at least every three months on the implementation by MINUSTAH of its mandate.

Speaking after the vote, the representatives of Chile and Spain expressed their regret at the fact that the mandate of MINUSTAH had been renewed for only six months, instead of the 18-month period proposed by the Secretary-General. They expressed their convictions that only a comprehensive, multi-dimensional and long-term mission would be successful in Haiti.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ S/2004/923.

⁴⁶ Paragraph 2 reads: "*Encourages* the Transitional Government to continue to explore actively all possible ways to include in the democratic and electoral process those who currently remain outside the transition process but have rejected violence".

⁴⁷ Paragraph 4 reads: "Urges relevant international financial institutions and donor countries to disburse promptly the funds pledged at the International Donors Conference on Haiti held in Washington, D.C., on 19 and 20 July 2004".

⁴⁸ The third preambular paragraph reads: "Underlining the fact that political reconciliation and economic reconstruction efforts remain key to the stability and security of Haiti, and, in that regard, stressing that all Member States, especially those in the region, should continue to support the Transitional Government in those efforts"; and the fourth preambular paragraph reads: "Urging the Transitional Government to continue to make progress in the implementation of the Interim Cooperation Framework, including by developing concrete projects for economic development, in close cooperation with, and with the full assistance of, the international community, in particular the United Nations and international financial institutions".

⁴⁹ S/PV.5090, pp. 2-3.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 3 (Chile); and pp. 3-4 (Spain).

Decision of 12 January 2005 (5110th meeting): statement by the President

At its 5110th meeting, on 12 January 2005, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, following which all members of the Council made statements, as well as the representatives of Barbados,⁵¹ Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union),⁵² Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay; and the Acting Secretary General of the Organization of American States and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNESCO).⁵³

In his briefing, the Special Representative highlighted the decrease in the level of violence and insecurity, and reported that MINUSTAH had almost reached full strength and was thus more able to deal with situations that might jeopardize security. He underscored that the security concept guiding MINUSTAH included, on the one hand, the legitimate use of force when necessary or indispensable and, on the other hand, a focus on the most urgent problems that affected the more vulnerable people of Haiti. He noted the success of Operation Liberty in Cité Soleil, through which MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police had succeeded in restoring order and security, and reported that several other attempts by armed groups to destabilize the country were foiled by a prompt and robust response by MINUSTAH. He also reported that MINUSTAH had started to plan and organize a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme but emphasized that the security and political conditions were not yet favourable to the programme's full implementation. He noted that the Mission was closely following the policy of the Transitional Government to grant compensation and severance pay to former members of the armed forces, but held that after the prompt payment of the first part of the promised amount, any further monetary payment must be conditioned on the surrender of military weapons to the Transitional Government. In addition, he stressed the fact that infrastructure work done by MINUSTAH troops around the capital had helped to establish good relations with the population. He reported that the basic technical elements and funding for proceeding with the electoral timetable for 2005 were in place, while progress needed to be made with regard to including those who currently remained outside the transition process. He welcomed the national dialogue promised by the provisional President of Haiti and emphasized that all sectors of society and all political forces of Haiti without exclusion should take part in that process and shoulder their respective historic responsibilities. He noted with concern the human rights violations and crimes committed with an apparent link to the Haitian National Police.54

The representative of Haiti recalled the recommendation of the Secretary-General in his report of 18 November 2004⁵⁵ that the international community make a long-term commitment to Haiti. He regretted the deterioration of the security situation, and held that it had been complicated by the personnel shortage of the Haitian National Police and the delayed deployment of MINUSTAH troops. Pointing to joint efforts of the National Police and MINUSTAH, however, he detected a clear improvement in recent weeks. He hoped that the Government would soon be able to provide all former military personnel with the full amount of money due to them. He held that the current human rights situation represented a wide-ranging legacy of dictatorship and welcomed the recent release of a number of detainees who had been held without charges. He stressed that the interrelated issues of dire poverty, unemployment and illiteracy contributed to the unstable situation and regretted that the lack of resources to fund development activities increasingly compromised the efforts of the international community and the Government to protect human rights and democracy.56

In their statements, most speakers welcomed the positive developments on the ground but noted that further action was required to halt the violence and

⁵¹ At the meeting, Barbados was represented by the Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

⁵² Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey aligned themselves with the statement.

⁵³ At the meeting, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Haiti were represented by their respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs; France was represented by the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs; and the United States was represented by the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

⁵⁴ S/PV.5110, pp. 2-6.

⁵⁵ S/2004/908.

⁵⁶ S/PV.5110, pp. 6-7; S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 25.

improve the situation in Haiti with regard to security, poverty and human rights. Most speakers emphasized the need for the disarmament of armed groups, the reform of the Haitian National Police and the establishment by the Transitional Government of a commission for disarmament. The representative of France supported the full use of the possibilities of the mandate of MINUSTAH to re-establish order and security.57 The representative of Greece utterly condemned all attacks on MINUSTAH and other international personnel.58 The representatives of Chile, the United Kingdom and Algeria underscored the challenge of the reintegration of armed forces into society.59 The representative of Algeria called on the Transitional Government to consider the question of compensation for former member of the armed forces to facilitate their reintegration into society.⁶⁰

Many speakers underscored the importance of the political process, a genuine national reconciliation and the holding of the forthcoming local, legislative and presidential elections. Many speakers also expressed concern about the human rights situation in Haiti. Several speakers underlined the necessity of establishing an effective and respected Haitian National Police force. In that regard, the representative of the United Kingdom stressed that no human rights violators should have a place in the future Government of Haiti.⁶¹ The representative of Canada underscored that the reinsertion of any member of the armed forces into the Haitian National Police should involve strict comprehensive and screening and training procedures.⁶² The representatives of Chile, Barbados, Romania and Luxembourg underscored the need for a reform of the judiciary.⁶³ The representatives of Japan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Philippines and Uruguay condemned arbitrary detentions for political reasons.64

- ⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 13 (Chile); p. 19 (United Kingdom); and p. 27 (Algeria).
- 60 Ibid., p. 27.
- 61 Ibid., p. 19.
- 62 S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 15.
- ⁶³ S/PV.5110, p. 14 (Chile); p. 16 (Barbados); and p. 20 (Romania); S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 9 (Luxembourg, on behalf of the European Union).
- ⁶⁴ S/PV.5110, p. 23 (Japan); p. 24 (United Republic of Tanzania); and p. 26 (Philippines); S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 19 (Uruguay).

Most speakers also emphasized the importance of economic rehabilitation. Many speakers underscored the need for rapid disbursement of the donor funds for rehabilitation and development efforts.⁶⁵ Some speakers encouraged the establishment of quick impact projects that would have an immediate effect on the population.⁶⁶ The representative of Brazil referred to the situation in Haiti as a "genuine social and economic tsunami".⁶⁷ The representative of Cuba underscored that development and progress rather than security were the key to peace and stability in Haiti.⁶⁸

Most speakers underscored the need for a longterm, multidimensional and comprehensive commitment in Haiti. The representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Morocco and El Salvador emphasized the importance of comprehensive peacebuilding in Haiti.⁶⁹ The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania also supported the proposed mission of the Council to Haiti.⁷⁰ In addition, the representatives of Brazil, Guatemala and Uruguay supported further cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council under Article 65 of the Charter.⁷¹ Some speakers saw Haiti as an example for future operations and recalled the conclusions of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change⁷² initiated by the Secretary-General.⁷³

Many speakers welcomed the efforts of regional organizations and underscored the impact of the Haitian conflict on the region.⁷⁴ The representative of

- ⁶⁵ S/PV.5110, p. 9 (Brazil); p. 15 (Dominican Republic);
 p. 22 (Greece); and p. 24 (United Republic of Tanzania);
 S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 3 (Russian Federation);
 p. 8 (Peru); p. 13 (Ecuador); p. 14 (Paraguay); and p. 23 (El Salvador).
- ⁶⁶ S/PV.5110, p. 14 (Chile); and p. 21 (Romania);
 S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 9 (Luxembourg, on behalf of the European Union); and p. 19 (Uruguay).
- ⁶⁷ S/PV.5110, p. 9.
- 68 S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 18.
- ⁶⁹ S/PV.5110, p. 25 (United Republic of Tanzania);
 S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 17 (Morocco); and p. 23 (El Salvador).
- ⁷⁰ S/PV.5110, p. 25.
- ⁷¹ Ibid., p. 9 (Brazil); S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 10 (Guatemala); and p. 20 (Uruguay).
- 72 A/59/565 and Corr.1.
- ⁷³ S/PV.5110, p. 19 (United Kingdom; Romania); and p. 23 (Japan).
- ⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 10 (Brazil; France); and p. 16 (Barbados);
 S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 7 (Peru); p. 12 (Mexico);
 and p. 22 (El Salvador).

⁵⁷ S/PV.5110, p. 11 (France).

⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 22.

Barbados underscored the regional threat that illegal immigration, drugs and arms trafficking from Haiti represented.75 The acting Secretary General of the Organization of American States drew attention to the mandate granted to OAS by its own General Assembly, which referred to support for the elections, for the institutional strengthening of the Haitian State and for the defence of human rights, all in cooperation with MINUSTAH and the United Nations as a whole. He also informed Council members of the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and OAS, which gave OAS the lead in the voter registration process.⁷⁶ The representative of Bolivia noted with satisfaction that the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter had been implemented in a positive manner through the signature of the memorandum of understanding.77

In addition, the representative of China held that although there were no diplomatic relations between China and Haiti, the Chinese people had always had friendly feelings towards the Haitian people. He welcomed achievements in the security situation and in the areas of disarmament, the restoration of the rule of law and the promotion of national reconciliation. He nevertheless emphasized that peace, stability and development in Haiti would not be possible without the vigorous support and assistance of the international community. China would continue to provide assistance in good faith to the peace and stability process in Haiti.⁷⁸

The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund drew the attention of the Council to the dire situation of children in Haiti, and held that investment in children was the best foundation to build a strong and peaceful nation. She especially emphasized the plight of children in slum areas such as Cité Soleil, and appealed to MINUSTAH to secure those areas to allow relief and development agencies to work unhindered.⁷⁹

The President (Argentina) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁸⁰ by which, the Council, inter alia:

Reaffirmed the comprehensive mandate of MINUSTAH, and expressed its support for the United Nations presence in Haiti as long as necessary;

Underlined the fact that national reconciliation, security and economic development remained key to stability in Haiti;

Called on all parties in Haiti to respect human rights and to renounce the use of violence to advance their goals;

Encouraged the Transitional Government to create without delay the national commission on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration;

Renewed its appeal for the prompt disbursement of the funds pledged by international financial institutions and donor countries at the International Donors Conference on Haiti held in July 2004, and reiterated the need to assist the Transitional Government in establishing a long-term development strategy for Haiti, in accordance with the priorities set forth in the Interim Cooperation Framework;

Encouraged the Transitional Government to continue to take steps towards a comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue and reconciliation process, and called upon all political actors in Haiti to renounce violence and join this dialogue without delay;

Called upon the Transitional Government, with the assistance of MINUSTAH and the Organization of American States, urgently to take the necessary measures to ensure the holding of free and fair elections in 2005 and the subsequent transfer of power to elected authorities;

Expressed its intention to organize a mission to Haiti before 1 June 2005, possibly in conjunction with a mission of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council;

Expressed its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, and commended the work done by MINUSTAH and all of its personnel.

Decision of 31 May 2005 (5192nd meeting): resolution 1601 (2005)

At its 5192nd meeting, on 31 May 2005, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 May 2005 on MINUSTAH.⁸¹ In his report, the Secretary-General reported that MINUSTAH had made progress towards creating an environment in which the political transition could unfold, but warned that this progress remained fragile. He noted the signs of improvement in the security situation following successful operations by MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police, and

⁷⁵ S/PV.5110, p. 17.

⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 12.

⁷⁷ S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), p. 20.

⁷⁸ S/PV.5110, p. 25.

⁷⁹ S/PV.5110 (Resumption 1), pp. 2-3.

⁸⁰ S/PRST/2005/1.

⁸¹ S/2005/313, submitted pursuant to resolution 1529 (2004).

welcomed the launching of the electoral process and national dialogue. However, he observed that unless real progress could be achieved in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the security situation would remain uncertain. He also observed that the inclusiveness of the electoral process, as well as its transparency, credibility and legitimacy, remained uncertain. He remained deeply concerned about the humanitarian and human rights situations and the impunity enjoyed by those committing the violations. He further recommended that the Council adopt adjustments to the mandate of MINUSTAH, including increases in its authorized strength, and requested that the Mission be extended for a further period of 12 months, until after the electoral process and the establishment of a newly elected Government of Haiti. He reported that, according to various evaluation missions, MINUSTAH was taking practical steps to improve the implementation of its mandate.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. The President (Denmark) then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;⁸² it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1601 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia, decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH, as contained in resolution 1542 (2004), until 24 June 2005, with the intention to renew for further periods.

Decision of 22 June 2005 (5210th meeting): resolution 1608 (2005)

At its 5210th meeting,⁸³ on 22 June 2005, the Council again included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 May 2005.⁸⁴ The representative of Haiti was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (France) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;⁸⁵ it was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1608 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia: Decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH, as contained in resolution 1542 (2004), until 15 February 2006, with the intention to renew for further periods;

Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General of 13 May 2005 on MINUSTAH, and supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General as outlined in paragraphs 44 to 52 thereof, as follows:

(a) A temporary increase, during the electoral period and subsequent political transition, of 750 personnel to the currently authorized military strength of MINUSTAH in order to create a rapid reaction force in Haiti to provide increased security, in particular in and around Port-au-Prince;

(b) An increase of 50 military personnel in order to create a sector headquarters in Port-au-Prince, with the understanding that MINUSTAH would optimize at all levels the coordination between military and police components to ensure efficient and better-integrated operations, including by posting United Nations staff civilian police officers in this headquarters;

(c) A temporary increase, during the electoral period and subsequent political transition, of 275 personnel to the current strength of the civilian police component of MINUSTAH to provide increased security;

(d) An assessment of the Haitian judiciary and correctional systems, including to explore possibilities for greater international community support, and a more active role of MINUSTAH, to be submitted to the Council as soon as possible;

Urged MINUSTAH to urgently develop and implement a proactive communications and public relations strategy, in order to improve the Haitian population's understanding of the mandate of MINUSTAH and its role in Haiti.

Decision of 18 October 2005 (5285th meeting): statement by the President

At its 5284th meeting, on 18 October 2005, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 6 October 2005 on MINUSTAH.⁸⁶ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that Haiti was at a critical juncture. He welcomed the progress in the electoral process through the registration of a significant number of voters and the participation of candidates representing a broad range of political opinions, but observed that preparations continued at a slower pace than anticipated and that political dialogue remained at a nascent level. In that regard, he called on the Transitional Government to ensure that the elections be inclusive and participatory in order to enhance their

⁸² S/2005/354.

⁸³ At the 5196th meeting of the Council, held in private on 7 June 2005, the members of the Council and the Interim Prime Minister of Haiti had a constructive discussion.
⁸⁴ S/2005/313.

⁸⁵ S/2005/402.

⁸⁶ S/2005/631, submitted pursuant to resolution 1542 (2004).

credibility. He pointed to the remaining technical issues in the electoral process, the possibility of increased violence during the campaign period and persisting impunity and disregard for human rights. He reported that MINUSTAH was working to develop local capacities, including by training and advising local human rights organizations, while continuing to monitor human rights on the ground. He reiterated the importance of sustained international support through and through MINUSTAH complementary and coordinated assistance. In that regard, he welcomed the commitment shown by the members of the Core Group on Haiti. He also urged the full disbursement of funds pledged by bilateral donors. On security, he welcomed progress in addressing urgent security threats but underscored the need to maintain pressure on illegal armed groups and expand disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, and proposed that security operations be accompanied by humanitarian and development assistance, especially after the natural disasters that had hit Haiti. He observed that reassurance could be provided if one or more Member States indicated their readiness to back up the capabilities of MINUSTAH through the deployment of an offshore presence during the electoral period. He further recommended that the reform of the police be carried out in parallel with the improvement of the functioning of the judicial and penal systems in Haiti.

The Council heard a statement by the Prime Minister of Haiti, in which he reaffirmed the commitment of the Transitional Government to ensure that the elections and the transfer of power to the new Government would take place smoothly on 7 February 2006. He pointed out the improvements made in the national dialogue between political parties and reported that a new Director General of the Provisional Electoral Council had been installed in order to improve its efficiency in preparing the electoral process. In the area security, he welcomed the promises of and recommendations for better cooperation and coordination between MINUSTAH and the National Police and held that security was no longer such a serious problem in Haiti as it had been. He underscored however, that disarmament remained a major issue and stressed that the solutions achieved by some countries in that area could not always be applied wholesale in another. In regard to human rights, he assured the Council that, if there was any semblance of human rights violations, it was not deliberate. In respect of the judicial system, he welcomed the commitment of some

countries to help with reform. He also called on the international community to speed up the bureaucracy in order to implement infrastructure projects that had been agreed upon. He alerted the Council to the need to consider that Haiti would need the continuation of MINUSTAH even after the arrival of the newly elected Government.⁸⁷

At its 5285th meeting, the Council again included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 6 October 2005.⁸⁸ The President (Romania) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁸⁹ by which the Council, inter alia:

Expressed its full support for the work of MINUSTAH and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Mr. Juan Gabriel Valdés;

Conveyed its concern regarding the risk of delays in the electoral process, and underlined international expectations that the first round of national elections should take place in 2005;

Strongly supported the mission's endeavours to ensure a secure and stable environment in Haiti, which was crucial for the country's progress, and to enable the electoral process to take place; recognized the contribution of MINUSTAH to the restoration and maintenance of the rule of law in the country, and underlined the need for strong and coordinated assistance to enable the reform and restructuring of Haiti's rule of law institutions;

Reiterated the need for the Transitional Government and MINUSTAH to begin immediately effective implementation of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

Decision of 6 January 2006 (5343rd meeting): statement by the President

At its 5343rd meeting, on 6 January 2006, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. The President (United Republic of Tanzania) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁹⁰ by which the Council, inter alia:

Reiterated its full support for the work of MINUSTAH and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti;

Reiterated that the future holding of elections was a fundamental step towards the restoration of democracy, and took note with concern of the new postponement of the elections;

⁸⁷ S/PV.5284, pp. 2-5.

⁸⁸ S/2005/631.

⁸⁹ S/PRST/2005/50.

⁹⁰ S/PRST/2006/1.

Urged the Transitional Government of Haiti and the Provisional Electoral Council to expeditiously announce new and definitive dates for the elections;

Expressed its concern over the deterioration of security conditions and urged the Haitian National Police and MINUSTAH to further intensify their cooperation to restore and maintain the rule of law;

Reaffirmed that short-, medium-, and long-term strategies, within a unified framework, were needed to ensure coordination and continuity in the international assistance to Haiti.

Decision of 9 February 2006 (5368th meeting): statement by the President

At its 5368th meeting, on 9 February 2006, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 2 February 2006 on MINUSTAH.91 In his report, the Secretary-General observed that significant progress had been made in laying the basis for an inclusive democratic transition. He underlined the fact that the electoral process would bring particular demands in the coming months and called on the Haitian authorities to complete the remaining practical preparations to support free, fair and transparent elections, especially after the first round of elections had been postponed by the Transitional Government. He stressed that the incoming leadership in Haiti would have to show strong commitment to reconciliation and an inclusive approach, and that continued international institution- and capacitybuilding at all levels would be required. He welcomed, however, the broad level of political engagement generated by the electoral process. In regard to security, he reported that, apart from Cité Soleil, where peacekeepers were the targets of attacks, most areas of the country had experienced a relatively high level of security during the period. He reported that MINUSTAH had continued to play a pivotal role in providing security and stability in the country, as well as developmental and humanitarian efforts, and observed that the configuration of troops, formed police units and individual police officers appeared adequate to maintain security at this point in time but that stability could be enhanced if one or more Member States indicated their readiness to back up the capabilities of MINUSTAH during the electoral period. He emphasized that in the longer term, the security of Haiti would require reform

and strengthening of the Haitian National Police and the judicial system. In regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, he reported that the conditions for comprehensive disarmament remained elusive and proposed that reintegration of members of armed groups could be promoted by the development of alternatives to processing through the justice system, including national reconciliation mechanisms, such as limited forms of amnesty. He reported that their respect for human rights still fell short of acceptable standards. In respect of the humanitarian situation, he observed that humanitarian and development needs must be effectively addressed to achieve and consolidate lasting stability. The Secretary-General recommended that the Mission continue in its present configuration for a further period of six months, with recommendations regarding its role in a post-electoral environment to be developed and presented to the Council in a further report.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. The President (United States) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁹² by which the Council, inter alia:

Commended the Haitian people on the holding of the first round of national elections on 7 February 2006 with high voter turnout; and called on all parties to respect the outcome of the elections, remain engaged in the political process and renounce all forms of violence;

Underlined the fact that the electoral process should lead to the inauguration of a representative government; and emphasized that, once the new government took office, Haitians should continue to promote national reconciliation and political dialogue in order to strengthen their democracy, and to ensure social, economic and political stability;

While recognizing the importance of the elections for democratic institutions and procedures, stressed that they did not constitute the sole means to address Haiti's longer-term problems and that significant challenges remained, in particular, in the fields of rule of law, security and development.

Decision of 14 February 2006 (5372nd meeting): resolution 1658 (2006)

At its 5372nd meeting, on 14 February 2006, the Council again included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 2 February 2006.⁹³

⁹¹ S/2006/60, submitted pursuant to resolution 1542 (2004).

⁹² S/PRST/2006/7.

⁹³ S/2006/60.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. The President (United States) then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution⁹⁴ and a revision to the text.⁹⁵ The draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1658 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH, as contained in resolutions 1542 (2004) and 1608 (2005), until 15 August 2006, with the intention to renew for further periods;

Requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council, as soon as possible after the conclusion of Haiti's electoral process and drawing, as appropriate, on consultations with the elected Government of Haiti, on whether to restructure the mandate of MINUSTAH after the new Government takes office, including recommendations for ways in which MINUSTAH could support reform and strengthening of key institutions.

Decision of 27 March 2006 (5397th meeting): statement by the President

At the 5377th meeting, on 22 February 2006, the Interim Prime Minister of Haiti and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH were invited to participate in the discussion. In his statement, the Interim Prime Minister of Haiti emphasized that the Transitional Government had completed its mission to organize free, fair and inclusive elections. He pointed out that progress in security had allowed a large voter turnout, which also proved the confidence of Haitians in the democratic explained that there process. He had been dissatisfaction and suspicion of fraud following a delay in the announcement of the results of the election, but that the final results had been unambiguous. He announced that the transition was planned for 29 March 2006, after a second round of elections for parliament. He nevertheless stressed that elections were a first step rather than a solution to the country's situation and that democratic consolidation through international assistance as well as efforts to fight the root cause of instability were greatly needed. In relation to that, he underscored the importance of judicial reform and professionalization of the National Police, as well as of good economic governance and continued international assistance. Welcoming the extension of the mandate of MINUSTAH, he held that revisions to its mandate might be needed under the new Government and suggested that Haiti would need fewer military personnel, but many more engineers. He also invited the Council to visit Haiti to celebrate the victory of democracy.⁹⁶

At its 5397th meeting, on 27 March 2006, the Council heard statements by the Secretary-General, the President-elect of Haiti and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH, following which statements were made by all members of the Council,97 as well as by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and aligned countries), the Bahamas (on behalf of CARICOM), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana (on behalf of the Rio Group), Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization of American States and the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme.

In his statement, the Secretary-General welcomed the peaceful holding of the first round of elections and the high voter turnout. He also welcomed the decision of the Council to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH for a further six months and held that it was necessary that a multidimensional peacekeeping operation continue.⁹⁸

The President-elect of Haiti called on the international community to renew its commitment to a long-term assistance programme for Haiti and outlined the relationship between peace, democracy and economic development.⁹⁹

The Special Representative stated that MINUSTAH had achieved its objective of restoring stability and support for the organization of free,

⁹⁴ S/2006/97.

⁹⁵ See S/PV.5372, p. 2.

⁹⁶ S/PV.5377, pp. 2-5.

⁹⁷ At the meeting, Argentina was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship; the Bahamas was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Public Service; the Dominican Republic, Greece, Guatemala and Guyana were represented by their Minsters for Foreign Affairs; Chile and Peru were represented by their Deputy Minsters for Foreign Affairs; and Brazil was represented by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁹⁸ S/PV.5397, pp. 2-3.

⁹⁹ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

transparent and legitimate elections. Nevertheless, he expressed his conviction that despite that achievement the mission had only begun and a new emphasis needed to be placed on strengthening State institutions and on launching a comprehensive and sustainable socioeconomic development process.¹⁰⁰

In their statements, most speakers welcomed the successful holding of the first round of elections and urged all parties to remain engaged in the political process and to accept the outcome of the vote. They observed that national reconciliation and political dialogue were crucial to remedy instabilities in the country. The representative of the Bahamas, on behalf of CARICOM, pointed out that organizational shortcomings witnessed during the first round of elections nevertheless had to be addressed.¹⁰¹

Most speakers also called on the international community to build a comprehensive, long-term approach to Haiti's problems, one that would address democracy, poverty and security issues in an inclusive manner. In that regard, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the Rio Group, called for a broadening of the mandate of MINUSTAH to include a stronger humanitarian and development component in view of the post-electoral challenges.¹⁰² The representatives of China, Chile and Mexico proposed that Haiti should be considered by the newly established Peacebuilding Commission.¹⁰³ The President of the Economic and Social Council underscored the massive lack of international assistance and reasserted the need for full cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.¹⁰⁴

Many speakers also welcomed regional and bilateral cooperation achievements between Haiti and CARICOM and welcomed the normalization of relations between the two. The Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme highlighted the post-electoral stabilization strategy developed by the United Nations country team and MINUSTAH, aimed at developing a coherent package of high impact programmes, supporting key democratic institutions, enhancing political dialogue and social cohesion and working towards a poverty-reduction strategy.¹⁰⁵

In addition, most speakers underscored the necessity of reforming the Haitian police and the judicial system.

The representative of China stated that although China did not have diplomatic relations with Haiti at the current time, the Chinese people had always had friendly ties with the Haitian people. He believed that the Security Council should continue to watch closely the situation in Haiti, and looked forward to the early submission by the Secretary-General, after consultations with Haitian leaders, of recommendations regarding the structure and mandate of MINUSTAH in the next stage. His Government also hoped that the political conditions necessary for MINUSTAH to stay on would continue to prevail.¹⁰⁶

The President (Argentina) made a statement on behalf of the Council,¹⁰⁷ by which the Council, inter alia:

Commended the Haitian people on the successful completion of the first round of their electoral process, and congratulated Mr. René García Préval on his election as President;

Welcomed the announcement that the second round of parliamentary elections would be held on 21 April 2006; and reiterated its call upon all parties to respect the outcome of the elections, remain engaged in the political process and promote national reconciliation;

Stressed the need to ensure a secure and stable environment in Haiti and expressed its support for the continued efforts of MINUSTAH in that respect;

Reaffirmed that the establishment of the rule of law, including institutional capacity-building and rapid progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration would be crucial to Haiti's future;

Called on donors and relevant stakeholders to work with the new Government through the Interim Cooperation Framework to reassess assistance priorities in a targeted way.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid., pp. 4-6.

¹⁰¹ Ibid., p. 12.

¹⁰² Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁰³ Ibid., p. 11 (China); and p. 18 (Chile); S/PV.5397 (Resumption 1), p. 11 (Mexico).

¹⁰⁴ S/PV.5397, p. 29.

¹⁰⁵ S/PV.5397 (Resumption 1), pp. 3-4.

¹⁰⁶ S/PV.5397, pp. 11-12.

¹⁰⁷ S/PRST/2006/13.

Decision of 15 May 2006 (5438th meeting): statement by the President

At its 5438th meeting, on 15 May 2006, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. The President (Congo) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,¹⁰⁸ by which the Council, inter alia:

Congratulated Mr. René García Préval on his inauguration as President of Haiti; also congratulated all newly elected parliamentarians and called upon them to recognize the importance of the mandate given to them by the Haitian people to work constructively to build a better future for their country;

Underlined the fact that many challenges remained to be tackled, including the need to ensure a secure and stable environment in Haiti, strengthen its democratic institutions, foster national reconciliation, inclusiveness and political dialogue, promote and protect human rights and the rule of law, and build governmental capacity, and welcomed the commitment of Mr. Préval in this regard; recognizing that development remained essential to Haiti's stability, the Council called on donors and relevant stakeholders to continue to assess and coordinate assistance priorities, in close cooperation with the new Government, taking into account existing mechanisms such as the Interim Cooperation Framework;

Expressed its full support for the continued efforts by MINUSTAH and the international community to assist Haiti in its ongoing transition, and requested that MINUSTAH work closely with the new authorities in the implementation of its mandate.

Decision of 15 August 2006 (5513th meeting): resolution 1702 (2006)

At its 5513th meeting, on 15 August 2006, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 28 July 2006 on MINUSTAH.¹⁰⁹ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the security situation in Haiti continued to be worrying and destabilizing, despite the successful and peaceful holding of the national elections. He welcomed the efforts for national dialogue and reconciliation of the President-elect, and the holding of a consultative process leading to an agreement on a multiparty Government. He observed that the institutions of the State, including the national police and the judicial system, required extensive assistance to function appropriately at all levels. He regretted that little progress had been made in addressing structural problems in Haiti's judicial system, and observed that the independence of the

judiciary remained problematic. He noted that poverty reduction and socioeconomic development were high priorities. He observed that Haiti could not address those challenges by itself at the moment and that international support from partners was greatly needed. Following an assessment of the role of MINUSTAH in the post-election environment, the Secretary-General held that MINUSTAH could best offer assistance, on the basis of its comparative advantages, in the following two areas: ensuring a secure and stable environment; and providing institutional support to rule-of-law reform and to institutions of governance. Those efforts would be underpinned by the human rights work of the Mission and a political role for the Special Representative, including through his good offices. He recommended that the MINUSTAH police be strengthened with personnel and equipment qualified for special weapons and tactics (SWAT) as well as with expert advisers, as kidnapping and increased gang operations greatly impeded stabilization in Haiti. He warned, however, that while the Mission intended to maximize its crime prevention role, it would not be able to respond to criminality in an exhaustive manner.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Haiti to participate in the discussion. The President (Ghana) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹¹⁰ it was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1702 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH, as contained in resolutions 1542 (2004) and 1608 (2005), until 15 February 2007, with the intention to renew for further periods;

Decided that MINUSTAH should consist of up to 7,200 troops and up to 1,951 police officers;

Authorized MINUSTAH to deploy 16 corrections officers in support of the Government to address the shortcomings of the prison system;

Decided that MINUSTAH should provide assistance and advice to the Haitian authorities in monitoring and strengthening the justice sector;

Requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of MINUSTAH by 31 December 2006.

¹⁰⁸ S/PRST/2006/22.

¹⁰⁹ S/2006/592, submitted pursuant to resolution 1658 (2006).

¹¹⁰ S/2006/648.

Decision of 15 February 2007 (5631st meeting): resolution 1743 (2007)

At its 5631st meeting, on 15 February 2007, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH.¹¹¹ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the largely successful completion of the electoral process marked a further significant step in the reinforcement of Haiti's democratic process. He stated that, in spite of the fragility of the country's foundation for democracy and stability, a renewed political dialogue had created a unique opportunity to tackle key underlying problems in the areas of security, institution-building and socioeconomic development. He noted, however, that sustained and close collaboration between the Haitian authorities, MINUSTAH and the wider international community was still required. He stated that the Government would continue to face challenges, including the distribution of responsibilities between central and local authorities; how best to meet the full security requirements of the country; determination of an appropriate response to armed groups and development of relevant disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes; finalization of plans for reform of the justice system; development of a means to resolve the problem of pretrial detentions; and adoption of an appropriate legislative framework for the Office of the Ombudsman. He reported that the human rights situation in Haiti remained of concern and that further efforts were needed to strengthen human rights institutions. With regard to the security situation, he reported on incidents by armed groups expressing their frustration for the perceived inaction on the part of the Government to meet their demands for amnesty in return for participation in a disarmament programme and reported that the President had issued a statement stressing that he would not hesitate to use force to neutralize armed groups that refused to disarm voluntarily. He noted that a continued deployment of MINUSTAH remained essential and that any reductions in the international security presence from its current force level should be linked to proportionate increases in the ability of Haitian institutions to assume relevant tasks, taking into account any changes in the security environment. He reported that MINUSTAH had been supporting the new Government in establishing strong and sustainable State institutions

for governance and the rule of law and was also promoting development and supporting humanitarian assistance in coordination with the work of the United Nations country team. He recommended that the Mission be extended for a further 12-month period, with its present authorized troops and police ceilings.

The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile and Haiti were invited to participate in the discussion. Statements were made by the representatives of China and Panama.

The President (Slovakia) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹¹² it was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1743 (2007), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH as contained in its resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005) and 1702 (2006) until 15 October 2007 with the intention to renew for further periods;

Requested that MINUSTAH continue the increased tempo of operations in support of the Haitian National Police against armed gangs as deemed necessary to restore security, notably in Port-au-Prince, and encouraged MINUSTAH and the Government of Haiti to undertake coordinated deterrent actions to decrease the level of violence;

Requested MINUSTAH to maintain a proactive communications and public outreach strategy to improve public understanding of the mandate and the role of MINUSTAH in Haiti.

Speaking after the vote, the representative of China welcomed the improvement of the security situation in Haiti and emphasized that the mandate of MINUSTAH should be updated to reorder the Mission's priorities and adjust its composition to meet more effectively the current needs of the Haitian people, especially in the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. He pointed out that China had proposed amendments to the resolution, inter alia, extending the mandate for only six months in keeping with general practice related to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Since he had also requested that the Secretary-General carry out a comprehensive assessment on the changed situation, his Government had agreed to an extension for a reasonable period, as an ad hoc arrangement, beyond the original six months. He also held that although military operations against armed gangs were necessary for the short term, certain

¹¹¹ S/2006/1003, submitted pursuant to resolution 1702 (2006).

¹¹² S/2007/88.

paragraphs of the draft resolution overemphasized military means while failing to pay adequate attention to such important priorities as political reconciliation and economic recovery. He also held that a timely implementation of the provision in resolution 1608 (2005), paragraph 3, requesting the Secretary-General to devise a progressive drawdown strategy of the MINUSTAH force levels for the post-election period would enhance the effectiveness of the limited resources of the United Nations. He regretted that some amendments proposed by the Chinese delegation were not considered and hoped that when the Council next revisited the issue those insufficiencies would be fully addressed.¹¹³

The representative of Panama regretted that the extension provided for in resolution 1743 (2007) was for only eight months and wished that 12 months had been allocated to a comprehensive assessment of Haiti's development. He held that the support of the United Nations for Haiti would have to continue not only for 12 months, but for many more. He expressed the hope that in this time the Government of Haiti would make enough progress to enable the Council to change the Mission's configuration in keeping with that progress and that eventually the Peacebuilding Commission would step in to assist Haiti with its development, at which point the Council would be able to complete its task there.¹¹⁴

Decision of 15 October 2007 (5758th meeting): resolution 1780 (2007)

At its 5758th meeting, on 15 October 2007, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 22 August 2007 on MINUSTAH.¹¹⁵ In his report, the Secretary-General reported on his visit to Haiti to assess the stabilization process and reaffirm the United Nations commitment to Haiti, and noted the progress made and the determination of the people to address the root causes of the conflict. He observed that the multiparty Government established by the new President in May 2006 continued to benefit from broad public support. He welcomed recent improvements in security but underlined the need for consolidation of the gains. He reported that MINUSTAH had conducted a detailed

threat assessment which identified three security threats facing Haiti: the likelihood of civil unrest; the potential of renewed armed violence; and the illicit traffic in drugs, arms and contraband. He also reported that an international task force, comprising MINUSTAH, the United Nations country team, key partners and donors, had been launched in January to help ameliorate the dismal situation in the shanty towns of Port-au-Prince. It aimed at identifying a broad strategy as well as shortand medium-term activities for those areas. With regard to the socioeconomic situation, he observed that real progress had been made in stabilizing the economy and that, if Haiti maintained its current path and continued improvements in security, real growth could be expected in its gross domestic product. The Secretary-General also welcomed the progress made towards judicial reform, respect for the rule of law, the strengthening of institutions and governance. He observed, however, that the security and human rights situation in Haitian prisons remained unacceptable. He reaffirmed the essential role of MINUSTAH in assisting the Government in those areas as well as in that of human rights. He observed that the provision of quick-impact projects continued to make a crucial difference and fostered public support for MINUSTAH. He recommended that the mandate of MINUSTAH be extended for a further period of 12 months, with adjustments made to its composition to reflect changing circumstances on the ground and with a view to a gradual transition towards reliance on Haitian structures to maintain stability. He further indicated that, during the coming mandate period, MINUSTAH would develop a consolidation plan with clear benchmarks for progress.

The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Spain and Uruguay were invited to participate in the discussion. The President (Ghana) then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Italy, Panama, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and the United States;¹¹⁶ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1780 (2007), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 October 2008, with the intention of further renewal;

¹¹³ S/PV.5631, pp. 2-3.

¹¹⁴ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

¹¹⁵ S/2007/503, submitted pursuant to resolution 1743 (2007).

¹¹⁶ S/2007/601.

Endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General for reconfiguring the Mission; and decided that MINUSTAH should consist of a military component of up to 7,060 troops of all ranks and of a police component of a total of 2,091 police;

Expressed its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti;

Reaffirmed its call upon MINUSTAH to support the constitutional and political process under way in Haiti;

Requested that MINUSTAH continue its support of the Haitian National Police as deemed necessary to ensure security in Haiti;

Requested MINUSTAH to remain engaged in assisting the Government of Haiti to reform and restructure the Haitian National Police;

Requested MINUSTAH to provide technical expertise in support of the efforts of the Government to pursue a comprehensive border management approach;

Requested the United Nations country team, and called upon all relevant humanitarian and development actors, to complement security operations undertaken by the Government of Haiti with the support of MINUSTAH with activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the populations concerned, and requested MINUSTAH to continue to implement quick-impact projects; Condemned any attack against MINUSTAH personnel;

Requested MINUSTAH to continue to pursue its community violence reduction approach;

Reaffirmed the human rights mandate of MINUSTAH;

Strongly condemned the grave violations against children affected by armed violence, as well as widespread rape and other sexual abuse of girls, and requested MINUSTAH to continue to promote and protect the rights of women and children;

Called on the United Nations system and the international community, in cooperation with the Haitian authorities, to devise and support a renewed aid coordination system;

Requested the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance of all MINUSTAH personnel with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and to keep the Council informed, and urged troop-contributing countries to ensure that acts involving their personnel are properly investigated and punished;

Also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of MINUSTAH semi-annually and no later than 45 days prior to its expiration.

Asia

23. The situation in Timor-Leste

Decision of 14 May 2004 (4968th meeting): resolution 1543 (2004)

On 13 February 2004, the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a special report on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET).¹ In the report, he observed that in view of the formidable challenges that remained at the end of the current UNMISET mandate on 20 May 2004, further assistance would be essential to consolidate and build upon the gains that had been made in an atmosphere of peace and security. He recommended the extension of UNMISET for a further year, in a reduced size and with a modified mandate. He also recommended that a security force be deployed to provide protection for military liaison officers.

At its 4913th meeting,² on 20 February 2004, the Council included the report of the Secretary-General in its agenda. The President (China) drew the attention of Council members to a letter dated 11 February 2004 from the representative of Portugal,³ in which the President of Portugal indicated his support for a post-UNMISET United Nations presence that continued to include a military force; and to a letter from the representative of Timor-Leste,⁴ requesting the extension of the presence of a United Nations battalion of peacekeeping forces in Timor-Leste beyond May 2004 in the light of the general volatility in the region and the

¹ S/2004/117, submitted pursuant to resolution 1410 (2002).

² During this period, in addition to the meetings covered in this section, the Council held meetings in private with the troop-contributing countries to UNMISET, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B. The meetings were held on 6 May 2004 (4963rd), 11 November 2004 (5074th) and 16 May 2005 (5179th).

 $^{11 \}text{ November 2004 (<math>3074\text{ m}$) and 10 may 2

³ S/2004/108.

⁴ S/2004/114.