

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Establishing stability in Haiti

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Position: President of Security Council

Introduction

The only French speaking state in the Caribbean, Haiti has been chaotic since its independence in 1804. Throughout its 200 years of independence, Haiti has faced coup after coup. Due to its constant political turmoil, it has grown to be the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. In 1990, Haiti held its first general elections after decades of dictatorship. Dissatisfied by the results which elected Catholic Priest, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the nation's military overthrew the government and sent Aristide into exile merely a year after. In 1993, the Security Council decided to set up a peacekeeping operation in the country. In 1994, they finally deployed a multinational force to return Aristide to presidency.

In 1996, Rene Preval won the election for Haiti's second democratic elections. UN peacekeeping forces continued to stay in Haiti throughout his presidency which saw improvements in the Haiti's economy and social conditions. In 2000, Aristide once again won that year's controversial presidential elections. However, increasing opposition saw the rise of tension in Haiti. In 2004, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) stepped in to mediate. Along with the Caribbean, the Group of Six, Bahamas, Canada, European Union, France, OAS, helped negotiate a two plans for Aristide to carry out. Despite so, the opposition refused to abide. In 2004, yet another coup occurred in the nation. Aristide was flown out of the nation in late February, and resigned as President shortly after. The Security Council also authorized the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) to stabilize and maintain peace in Haiti. In March 2004, the Secretary-General recommended a multinational stabilization operation, known as the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Elections were scheduled for 2005 by the transitional government. In the delayed elections in 2006, Rene Preval won the elections again. Once again, Haiti was on its way to improvement. Recently, Haiti was hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated wide areas, especially its capital, Port-au-Prince. The death toll is on the rise and UN saw its great causality in peacekeeping history. Much aid have been rushed into Haiti by the International Community, but problems of transport and clearing the debris obstructs the distribution of aid. This natural disaster could potentially greatly undermine the progress made in the previous years.

Definition of Key Terms

Multinational Interim Force (MIF)

Following the coup in February 2004, on the request of the interim President's request for assistance, Security Council passed resolution 1529 and authorized the MIF to stabilize the coup in Haiti, as well as oversee the return of peaceful and constitutional political process.

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

The UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti. It was deployed in 2004 following Security Council Resolution 1542 on 30 April 2004 replacing the MIF. Its initial mandate was six months. It was then extended for a further 18 months. Since then, it has been further extended and is currently still in Haiti. In the Haiti 2010 earthquake, the headquarters of this mission was destroyed and more than 100 peacekeepers are unaccounted for.

CARICOM

Haiti is part of CARICOM, the Caribbean Community. CARICOM has been specially concerned about the situation in Haiti, often requesting Security Council to step in to help.

Transitional Government

The transitional government held office from 17 March 2004, after the coup, until current President Preval was elected in the February 2006 elections. The elections itself was repeatedly delayed from its original date in October 2005.

General Overview

Issues in Haiti

For many decades Haiti has been plagued by many social problems causing the political upheaval and instability witnessed today.

Health

Haiti has the highest HIV prevalence rates in Latin America and the Caribbean, the highest outside of Africa. While an estimated 2.5% to 11.9% of the population is affected by AIDS, only 6% of them are receiving treatment. Funding for antiretroviral therapy is hugely lacking, even though it has been increasing. Also, many religious Haitians refuse to accept the scientific explanation for AIDS, putting the blame on medical reasons.

Poverty & Hunger

Poverty remains a prodigious problem in Haiti. 76% of Haitians live on less than US\$2 per day and 56% on less than US\$1 a day. Due to poverty, more than 2.4 million people in Haiti are food-insecure according to the United Nations World Food Program. Global Chronic Malnutrition in certain parts of the country peaks at 31.7%.

2010 Earthquake

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti. Its capital, Port-au-Prince, was devastated by the earthquake. Many major buildings of the government and the national cathedral were leveled. MINUSTAH's headquarters was also destroyed. MINUSTAH's head was confirmed to be dead. After the earthquake, many nations flew in personnel and resources. Donations also have been pouring in from many countries. Many organizations like the UN, WFO, MSF are already on site collaborating the aid relive effort. One major issue that face MINUSTAH would be the stability of Haiti that has been undermined by the earthquake.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
December 1990	Haiti's first general elections. This is preceded by decades of dictatorship. However, the democracy in the nation did not last long.
September 1991	Haiti's military overthrew the government and sent her President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide into exile.
September 1993	Security Council decided to set up a peacekeeping operation in the country – United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH)
February 07, 2001	Haiti's first president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, once again won the presidential election and assumed presidency
February 2004	Coup d'etat that removed Jean-Bertrand Aristide from presidency and prompted the International Community to intervene.
March 17, 2004	A 13-member transitional government was formed.
April 30, 2004	Security Council established the current UN mission in Haiti – MINUSTAH
February 2006	Elections were held and current president, Rene Preval won.
January 12, 2010	Haiti was hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that severely destroyed the nation's capital and other major cities.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

UN involvement in recent years is mainly through MINUSTAH. The most recent resolution passed by the Security Council is in January 2010, where the number of UN personnel in MINUSTAH was increased. The mandate of the MINUSTAH has been periodically extended since 2004. This list contains the most recent ones and the original resolution that established it.

- Security Council boots levels for military, police components of UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), 19 Jan 2010 (**S/RES/1908 (2010)**)
- Report of the Security Council mission to Haiti, 3 April 2009, (**S/2009/175**)
- Extension of the mandate of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), 13 October 2009, (**S/RES/1892(2009)**)
- Establishment of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), 30 April 2004, (**S/RES/1542(2004)**)

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