

**Committee:** Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

**Issue:** Mitigating the adverse effects of the political crisis in Haiti

**Student Officer:** Evangelia Giannopoulou

**Position:** Co-Chair

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Evangelia Giannopoulou, and it is my utmost honor to serve as a Co-Chair in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the upcoming 5th DSTMUN Conference. By the time the Conference will take place, I will be 16 years old and an IB1 student at Pierce – The American College of Greece. It has been a year since my very first participation in a MUN conference and the experience so far has been truly fruitful, to say the least. MUN is a great opportunity to broaden your horizons, expand your knowledge and develop your public speaking skills. Besides, the bond created between the members of the committee is always strong and so are the friendships between the participants. Personally, I am determined to provide you with a holistic experience, where everyone can express their opinion and exchange ideas while sharing with you my excitement for the Conference!

The following study guide delves into the mitigation of the adverse effects of the political crisis in Haiti, which is a very important topic for global prosperity. Therefore, the study guide will provide a cohesive understanding of the topic, so that based on it, you will be able to conduct your own research regarding your country's policy in relation to the issue. Make sure to be prepared and write before the start of the conference effective solutions you wish to propose so that you can participate actively during the lobbying and the debate. I cannot wait to see what you will come up with!

Should you have any questions on the study guide, need any clarifications for the procedures, or anything in general, do not hesitate to contact me at [evangelia.giannopoulou@acg.edu](mailto:evangelia.giannopoulou@acg.edu). I am looking forward to meeting you all in November!

Best Regards,

Evangelia

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Haiti has faced numerous challenges over the centuries. After abolishing slavery and French power, from a colony to the first independent nation of the Caribbean, the country needed to start from scratch and develop its political system. However, Haiti had to face another major power in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the United States. After occupying the country for almost twenty years, the US gained the role of Haiti's "guardian" as far as foreign policy is concerned. Therefore, Haitians' opportunities to rebuild their institutions were once again limited.

Haiti was in a terrifying state of instability even before the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July of 2021 and the occurrence of a massive earthquake in August of the same year. Many sectors of the economy had violently and abruptly been shut down, which was primarily due to criminal organizations supported by wealthy individuals, politicians, and drug dealers. As Moïse's opponents fought his power in an escalating tense political environment, these groups expanded their influence. Interim authorities face obvious threats of heightened political instability and a humanitarian crisis, despite the killing's aftermath leading to multiple arrests and assurance of an inclusive administration from the nation's acting leadership.

During Moïse's tenure, Haiti's economic and security conditions deteriorated rapidly. In some regards, the country was already the least economically developed in the Western Hemisphere before he took office in 2017. Its institutions were weak and unstable, high levels of criminality and corruption became normalized, severe socioeconomic disparity plagued many, and a politically incited outburst of violence spread terror. Additionally, the country still had to face the impacts of a massive earthquake that occurred in 2010. However, under the Moïse administration, the situation grew much worse. Political and societal turmoil in Haiti grew in the face of a significant economic downturn, high insecurity, corruption, inadequate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and rising gang violence. The adverse effects of the current situation in Haiti are evident in the nation itself, the greater region, and the international socioeconomic and political scene. Thus, international action aiding Haiti is needed in order for stability to be achieved.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Gang Violence

“Gang violence means criminal and non political acts of violence committed by a group of people who regularly engage in criminal activity against innocent people. The term may also refer to physical hostile interactions between two or more gangs”.<sup>1</sup>

### Corruption

“Illegal, bad, or dishonest behaviour, especially by people in positions of power”.<sup>2</sup>

### Stand-In

“A person who takes the place or does the job of another person for a short time”.<sup>3</sup> In the context of the topic, stand-ins were positioned by the Moise administration so that the plethora of the governmental mechanism performs in total accordance with the policy of President Moise.

### Immunity

“A situation in which you are protected against disease or from legal action”.<sup>4</sup>

### Political Transparency

“(Political) transparency, capacity of outsiders to obtain valid and timely information about the activities of government or private organizations”.<sup>5</sup>

### Legislation

“A law or set of laws suggested by a government and made official by a parliament”.<sup>6</sup>

### Embezzlement

“The crime of secretly taking money that is in your care or that belongs to an organization or business you work for”.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>US Legal, Inc. “Find a Legal Form in Minutes.” Gang Violence Law and Legal Definition | USLegal, Inc., <https://definitions.uslegal.com/g/gang-violence/>

<sup>2</sup>“Corruption.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/corruption>

<sup>3</sup>“Stand In.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/stand-in>

<sup>4</sup>“Immunity.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/immunity>

<sup>5</sup>“Transparency.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., [www.britannica.com/topic/transparency-government](http://www.britannica.com/topic/transparency-government).

<sup>6</sup>“Legislation.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/legislation>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### The Haitian Revolution and the involvement of the United States

On January 1, 1804, Haiti formally proclaimed its independence from France. The country, having been the French colony Saint-Domingue, rebelled against French power from 1791 until 1804. Since Haiti was France's richest colonial territory and exported products including sugar, indigo, and coffee, they sought to keep it. Under Toussaint L'Ouverture's direction, Haitians successfully abolished colonial authority in 1804, marking the Haitian Revolution in history. Only 28 years after the United States (US), Haiti became the second nation in the Western Hemisphere and the first modern state to end slavery. It was also the first country ever to be founded following a victorious uprising of the lower class, which was comprised of slaves.

Despite this significant event, the US did not do anything to support the Haitian Revolution. Its silence actually reveals a lot about the country's concern for the Haitian Revolution, which jeopardized its economic interests. Seeing as the French supported the American revolution against the British, it only seems fitting to their policy at the time. Plantation owners in the South sought to keep their slaves from getting informed about the Haitian Revolution out of fear that they would revolt against them. Additionally, they exerted pressure on the American administration to delay recognizing Haitian independence until 1862, following the secession of the Southern states from the Union.

Despite the United States' refusal to diplomatically acknowledge Haiti, the two countries nonetheless maintained trade relations. Prior to the uprising, the United States were Haiti's second-largest trading partner after its colonizer, France. With adverse trade rules for Haitians, the United States continued to import agricultural products from Haiti and exporting its own goods to the country throughout the 19th century. By the middle of the 19th century, US export of products in Haiti was greater than in any other country of Latin America. Haiti's first century as a nation was marked by heavy burdens and little to no progress; the nation was obliged to reimburse France in order to acquire diplomatic recognition and was cut off from all other powerful nations on a diplomatic level.

### The earthquake of 2010

12 years ago, Haiti was struck by one of the most catastrophic earthquakes that the country had ever faced. On January 12, 2010, the 7.0-magnitude earthquake first hit the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince, leaving 220,000 dead, 300,000 injured

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<sup>7</sup>"Embezzlement." *Cambridge Dictionary*,  
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/embezzlement>

and 1.5 million homeless<sup>8</sup>. In fact, the massive earthquake contributed to Haiti's multiple crises to a large extent, as the country has not managed to recover from the natural disaster since. The earthquake generated problems in housing and agriculture, and it took a toll on any progress the nation had made since then for the amelioration of the economy. Finally, there were many donations and funds from the international community for the restoration of infrastructure and support of the population, yet the progress made is nothing but superficial, and brimmed with corruption.

### **The Moïse Administration**

Having contended that the results of the first round of elections held in October 2015 had been declared invalid, as a result, Moïse was elected in November 2016. A deteriorating financial crisis and accusations of corruption characterized Moïse's presidency, as well as harshness, which led to large-scale protests against his government. The tenure of a third of the senators, the Chamber of Deputies, and a number of local officials in Haiti ended on January 13, 2020. Elections for these posts were scheduled to take place in Haiti in October 2019, however, they were postponed because of the political unrest and the parliament's inability to pass the necessary electoral law. Moïse announced the end of Haiti's Fiftieth Parliament when there were only ten senators left, making this the fourth time the nation would be administered without a functioning legislature. With this action, Moïse could rule by decree until the end of his mandate in 2022. In order to gain immunity from prosecution and re-establish the army, which was dissolved in 1994 for human rights abuses, Moïse established a new intelligence organization under his control and even tried to change Haiti's constitution. The army's contribution to several coups, the excessive use of violence on unarmed civilians, and the exploitation of the power that the body possessed, were the reasons of its dissolution. Thus, Moïse's decision made the citizens doubt the integrity of the government officials and the President's inner policy and interests.

Despite the fact that his time as president officially expired on 7 February 2021, five years after Michel Martelly abruptly resigned as leader, he remained in power by claiming that the electoral dispute meant he had been sworn in one year earlier. This led to further public outrage. Following the murder of Moïse, new presidential elections were planned for September 26, 2021, but because Prime Minister Ariel Henri, who remains in office, leading the government, disbanded the electoral council as he believed it to be too biased, they were postponed indefinitely.

### **The embezzlement of funds by the President Moïse**

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<sup>8</sup> "UN Marks Anniversary of Devastating 2010 Haiti Earthquake." *UN News*, United Nations, 17 Jan. 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109632>.

Numerous analysts attribute Haiti's present economic difficulties to the PetroCaribe program's termination by Venezuela in March 2018. With an interest rate as low as 1%, this program allowed Caribbean nations to buy affordable oil and postpone paying for 40% of what they bought for up to 25 years.<sup>9</sup> Haiti had to purchase all of its fuel from the more expensive Caribbean and US markets when Venezuela discontinued PetroCaribe. There were concerns made about the use of the PetroCaribe funds due to the delayed recovery from the disaster and the general lack of improvements in the nation. A Senate anticorruption commission's report, published in November 2017, revealed that government officials and private companies had embezzled funds from the program through forgeries, project overpayments, and other means. The investigation suggested that charges be brought against a number of former government ministers, two former prime ministers, as well as certain private business owners. The commission's recommendations, persistent oil shortages, and intended price increases fueled Haitians' discontent and anti-government sentiment, which erupted into ongoing public demonstrations in the second half of 2018.

In October 2018, Moïse declared that the Haitian Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Deputies would examine the aforementioned accusations of corruption. The court focused on how the PetroCaribe subsidies were administered by the government between 2008 and 2016, a period encompassing six governments and three presidents. In January 2019, the court's preliminary report from the investigation was made public. It was established that about 2 billion USD in PetroCaribe revenues had been misused, and fifteen former ministers and other government officials were named as suspects in the fraud.<sup>10</sup> The following month, frustrated Haitians organized a large protest, practically shutting down the nation for ten days as businesses, schools, and public transit were all suspended. The demonstrators demanded answers about the location of the stolen funds and demanded Moïse's resignation.

The President resisted leaving office. He also cited the failure of Prime Minister Jean-Henry Céant to fulfill commitments, such as new agreements to encourage both domestic and foreign investment in Haiti. The court of auditors released a second report on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year. One of the conclusions

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<sup>9</sup> Grimm, Linda. "Responses to the Political and Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti: October 9 and 17, November 1, and December 6, 2019, and January 12, 2020." *Historic Documents of 2019*, edited by Heather Kerrigan, CQ Press, 1st edition, 2020. *Credo Reference*, [https://search-credoreference-com.acg.idm.oclc.org/content/entry/cqpresshd/responses\\_to\\_the\\_political\\_and\\_humanitarian\\_crisis\\_in\\_haiti\\_october\\_9\\_and\\_17\\_november\\_1\\_and\\_december\\_6\\_2019\\_and\\_january\\_12\\_2020/0](https://search-credoreference-com.acg.idm.oclc.org/content/entry/cqpresshd/responses_to_the_political_and_humanitarian_crisis_in_haiti_october_9_and_17_november_1_and_december_6_2019_and_january_12_2020/0)

<sup>10</sup> "Petrocaribe Scandal: Haiti Court Accuses Officials of Mismanaging \$2 Bln in Aid." *France 24*, France 24, 18 Aug. 2020, <https://www.france24.com/en/20200817-petrocaribe-scandal-haiti-court-accuses-officials-of-mismanaging-2-bln-in-aid>.

reached by the auditors was that Moïse received almost 2 million USD in illegitimate reimbursements for road maintenance projects in 2014 and 2015 through his business, Agritrans, some of which were made just before he declared his candidacy for President. The auditors discovered that in one instance, the public works ministry of Haiti awarded two contracts for the exact same road restoration project to two separate businesses, one of them being Agritrans. Moïse refuted the charges. Following the publication of the study, the protests quickly intensified, with protesters blocking roads, torching tires, and hurling rocks at buildings and vehicles.

Opposition legislators in parliament started a movement to impeach the President, alleging that Moïse had committed "crimes of high treason" and more than 25 constitutional offenses, in addition to corruption and misuse of financial resources. The Chamber of Deputies, which is the lower house of parliament, had an impeachment vote on August 22 but it was soundly defeated. Only 3 of the 61 present members of the chamber's 119 deputies voted to remove Moïse. The result could be expected as Moïse controlled the governmental bodies from the inside so as to assure that he would ultimately remain in power.

### **The resignation of the Prime Minister**

Moïse and his followers tried to keep the governmental regime in place as the corruption charges circulated. After receiving a censure from the legislature for failing to take any action to ameliorate Haiti's economy and living circumstances, Céant resigned on March 21, 2019. Since then, the nation has basically been without a fully functioning government. Following Céant's resignation, Jean-Michele Lapin who was a former minister of culture was chosen for the position of prime minister. On April 9, 2019, Moïse proposed Lapin take on the entire scope of the office's duties, but several doubted if Lapin had the expertise and understanding of the economy to lead Haiti out of hardship. Despite his choice of prime minister, several leaders of the opposition denied speaking with Moïse about constructing a new administration. Lapin's candidacy, his prospective governmental composition, and his overall political project and policy vision were never brought to a vote in the Senate. Notably, nominees for Prime Minister must receive approval from both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, as well as their proposed coalition government and political platform.

On July 22, 2019, Moïse suggested that Fritz William Michel take over as Prime Minister in place of Lapin. Similar to Lapin, some opposition members claimed that Michel and his prospective cabinet ministers were not experienced enough and did not represent the consensual administration that Haitians wanted. The Senate failed to confirm Michel as prime minister at least five times, despite the Chamber of Deputies accepting Michel and approving his general position statement on September 3rd. A group that the UN later referred to as "opposition militants, some

of them armed and assisted by a small number of senators"<sup>11</sup>, stormed the Senate chamber on September 11 and September 23, 2019, interfering with debate on both occasions.

### Protests and police brutality

As inflation increased and the fuel shortages got worse, protests flared up once more in September of 2019. The Port-au-Prince capital witnessed thousands of protesters, and more roadblocks, fires, lootings, and violence shut down public services, shops, and schools. The country would remain closed until Moïse quit, according to the protest leaders, and protests persisted practically daily into mid-October. During this time of protests, "at least 42 people have died and 86 have been injured"<sup>12</sup>, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Around this period, a number of reports claimed that the Haitian National Police had brutally suppressed demonstrators. Haiti's national Network for the Defense of Human Rights charged the police with adopting oppressive methods early in October and demanded an investigation into their attempts to restrict and control protesters. Additionally, Amnesty International reported that "several incidents of police using less lethal weapons indiscriminately and unlawfully, including launching tear gas out of a moving police vehicle amidst peaceful protesters, firing on protesters with less-lethal ammunition at extremely close-range, and beating a protester".<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Grimm, Linda. "Responses to the Political and Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti: October 9 and 17, November 1, and December 6, 2019, and January 12, 2020." *Historic Documents of 2019*, edited by Heather Kerrigan, CQ Press, 1st edition, 2020. *Credo Reference*, [https://search-credoreference-com.acg.idm.oclc.org/content/entry/cqpresshd/responses\\_to\\_the\\_political\\_and\\_humanitarian\\_crisis\\_in\\_haiti\\_october\\_9\\_and\\_17\\_november\\_1\\_and\\_december\\_6\\_2019\\_and\\_january\\_12\\_2020/0](https://search-credoreference-com.acg.idm.oclc.org/content/entry/cqpresshd/responses_to_the_political_and_humanitarian_crisis_in_haiti_october_9_and_17_november_1_and_december_6_2019_and_january_12_2020/0).

<sup>12</sup> "Press Briefing Note on Haiti Unrest." *OHCHR*, 1 Nov. 2019, [www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2019/11/press-briefing-note-haiti-unrest](http://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2019/11/press-briefing-note-haiti-unrest).

<sup>13</sup> Tucker, Duncan. "Amnesty Verifies Evidence of Excessive Use of Force in Haiti." *Amnesty International*, 24 Sept. 2021, [www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/haiti-amnesty-verifies-evidence-excessive-force-against-protesters/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/haiti-amnesty-verifies-evidence-excessive-force-against-protesters/).



**Figure 1: Haitians protesting against Moïse administration in country's capital, Port-au-Prince, in March 2021<sup>14</sup>**

### The results of Moïse's regime

Jovenel Moïse, the controversial president of Haiti, was assassinated in his residence on July 7, 2021, in the early morning. It is still unclear who planned the assassination and what motivated them. 28 foreigners were identified as the alleged gunmen who killed Moïse, including two Americans of Haitian origin and 26 Colombians. An image of Haiti in the weeks before Moïse's murder shows a nation in grave distress. Gang barriers completely closed off Haiti's southern region from the rest of the country. Security concerns prevented fuel from being unloaded from tankers, there were growing shortages, and more than half of the population was living on less than 2 US Dollars (USD) a day.<sup>15</sup> At least 15,000 individuals had been internally displaced<sup>16</sup>, and many of them were housed in congested community centers that were difficult for aid organizations to access because of the presence of criminals in the area. In these centers, rape and other sexual assaults were frequent. While the first vaccines didn't arrive until July, COVID-19 was raging, killing over 600 people (possibly a large undercount)<sup>17</sup>, including the chief justice of the Supreme Court in June. By forbidding legislative elections and appointing stand-ins to municipal positions, Moïse had also undermined the country's political structures.

### The discontinuation of the UN peacekeeping missions

<sup>14</sup> Wamsley, Laurel. "Even Before Jovenel Moïse's Assassination, Haiti Was In Crisis." *NPR.org*, 7 July 2021, [www.npr.org/2021/07/07/1013879000/even-before-jovenel-moises-assassination-haiti-was-in-crisis](http://www.npr.org/2021/07/07/1013879000/even-before-jovenel-moises-assassination-haiti-was-in-crisis) .

<sup>15</sup> "Haiti: A Path to Stability for a Nation in Shock." *Crisis Group*, 16 June 2022, [www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/haiti/b44-haiti-path-stability-nation-shock](http://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/haiti/b44-haiti-path-stability-nation-shock) .

<sup>16</sup> "Haiti: A Path to Stability for a Nation in Shock." *Crisis Group*, 16 June 2022, [www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/haiti/b44-haiti-path-stability-nation-shock](http://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/haiti/b44-haiti-path-stability-nation-shock) .

<sup>17</sup> "Haiti: A Path to Stability for a Nation in Shock." *Crisis Group*, 16 June 2022, [www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/haiti/b44-haiti-path-stability-nation-shock](http://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/haiti/b44-haiti-path-stability-nation-shock) .

In the meantime, the UN concluded its fifteen-year peacekeeping operation in Haiti and reinstated a new office with the political mission to promote inclusive national discussion and improve political stability and effective administration in Haiti. The new United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) began operations on October 16 of 2019, following the conclusion of the peacekeeping mission namely the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

Several UN representatives mentioned Haiti's political upheaval and instability. The majority of children in Haiti were not able to attend school in 2019, according to an OHCHR representative.<sup>18</sup> Considering that a large percent of schools are privately owned with required tuition, being able to attend school is hard for most Haitians. In fact, tuition aside, enrollment spots are few and far between. People, particularly in areas outside the capital, have had significant problems obtaining food, drinkable water, medicine, and fuel due to roadblocks and violence. With a lack of energy, gasoline, and supplies, as well as the difficulty many medical professionals face to become employed, the health industry has been impacted severely.

### The rise of gang violence

Young men from the least fortunate areas of big cities, with few to no social services, inadequately equipped schools, no clean water, and limited health care facilities, make up the majority of the members of armed groups or gangs. These young people have very few employment opportunities and an uncertain future, making it simple and inexpensive for the elite, mainly in the field of entrepreneurship, and politicians to bribe them, frequently, for just for a few dollars a day. State officials' ineffective or even conniving response to gang activity has assured that their crimes are almost completely unpunished. According to a recent study on gang violence in Port-au-Prince's less economically stable neighborhoods, "to date, the Haitian government has failed to hold perpetrators accountable, allowing them to act with near complete impunity [...] This lack of justice has allowed a culture of impunity to grow, emboldening criminals and leaving civilians vulnerable to politically motivated violence".<sup>19</sup> The assassination of the President and the political instability are the main factors of the gangs' rise to power. By implementing force and strength as means of sovereignty and power, Haitian citizens face multiple attacks from gangs whose target is all-changing. Their main objective is to create an atmosphere of chaos and catastrophe; something not so difficult in an already

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<sup>18</sup> Press Briefing Note on Haiti Unrest." OHCHR, 1 Nov. 2019, [www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2019/11/press-briefing-note-haiti-unrest](http://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2019/11/press-briefing-note-haiti-unrest).[http://](http://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2019/11/press-briefing-note-haiti-unrest)

<sup>19</sup> "Killing with Impunity: State-Sanctioned Massacres in Haiti", *Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic*, 22 April 2021, p. 3. [http://hrp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Killing\\_With\\_Impunity-1.pdf](http://hrp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Killing_With_Impunity-1.pdf)

corrupt nation. Specifically, in April of 2022, “surging gang violence in Haiti's capital has left nearly 200 people dead and thousands displaced[...]Heavily armed rival gangs began clashing and seizing territory in Port-au-Prince with new intensity in late April, forcing more than 16,800 people, including children, to abandon their homes and shelter in temporary accommodation”.<sup>20</sup> It is important to shed light on the apathy of the state towards this behavior and especially, the ignorance the police have shown. Nonetheless, this attitude towards gangs and gang violence by government and law enforcement officials is not irrational given the fact that—after all—the corruption and the need to rule by imposing violence comes from the inside of the system of the Haitian administration and business elite.

### **The adverse effects**

Haiti is gradually becoming an autocracy, while its democratic nature is continuously being diminished . By remaining in power, Moïse’s corruptive practices affect multiple aspects of the country. Additionally, Haitian people’s voices are “muted”, with that resulting to anger, desire for unrest, and of course, absence of parliamentarism and equality. Nonetheless, since the nation is comprised by the population and not just by certain government officials, under the current situation, with citizens in silence, Haiti can not escape from its political crisis.

Furthermore, rapid financial changes affect the less-fortunate population, while the elite remains powerful and even makes profit out of Haiti’s turmoil. While the whole world faces inflation and energy crises as an aftermath of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, Haiti does not remain unaffected by the current situation. Thus, an already less economically developed country is called to face a new wave of financial hardship, leaving minimal opportunities for Haiti to rebuild its economy and gather itself politically. Since political stability, or in this case instability, orbits around the financial factors in place, Haiti has to surpass an additional obstacle in order for the nation to take a step forward, away from political unrest.

Moreover, the situation in Haiti has a destabilizing effect on the whole region, not just the country. The Dominican Republic, and the countries in the Caribbean are affected too. In a world facing increasing globalization, many national crises affect the international community around them too. This is unfortunately evident in Haiti’s instance.

Apart from that, large numbers of Haitians are obliged to leave the country in search of better living conditions and opportunities with the main destination being the US. However, in the United States, Haitians have to face difficulties too. With the

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<sup>20</sup> Dupain, Etant, and Eliza Mackintosh. “Nearly 200 Killed in a Month as Haiti's Gang Violence Soars.” *CNN, Cable News Network*, 31 May 2022, <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/05/31/americas/haiti-gang-violence-intl/index.html>

host country being almost as inhospitable and unwelcoming as the country they leave from, Haitian immigrants are called to face severe racism, inequalities, and abusive attitudes.

The world's first black-led nation and first Caribbean state to declare independence does not empower its Caribbean community as it once used to. Haiti has not managed to maintain its bright legacy of the past and nowadays it presents a rather negative example and narrative because of inherent corruption. As politics, history, and legacy are interconnected, this feeling of degradation of morals and aspirations affects the Haitian population. For political reform to take place, people need to feel the need for restoration and, thus reclamation for change. As long as Haitians see that the international community does not value them enough and its proud beginnings due to the current state of the country, they cannot hope for a better future and thus, truly advocate for it.

### MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

#### United States of America (US)

The United States has had complete influence over Haiti's political landscape ever since the invasion and furthermore occupation of 1915–1934. The conditions in Haiti have worsened due to its political and financial influence over international institutions as well as the plethora of UN peacekeeping missions that Haiti has faced since 1991. The US is in charge of the Haiti dossier at the UN Security Council, and it has served as the nation's “guardian power” par excellence. It continues to serve as the last arbiter and decision-maker in conflicts involving Haiti's adversity.

Particularly, the US invaded Haiti in 1915 and stayed in the country for almost 20 years. The military, which was apparently there to maintain peace inside the nation, alongside the terms of six presidents and untold carnage during the previous five years, played a crucial part in reforming the government of the nation and creating its national army. The military occupation gave the United States a chance to deepen its commercial connections with the nation. The United States has attempted to revive commercialism in the Caribbean from the late 19th and early 20th century, with a particular concentration in Haiti. Food aid provided to Haiti by the US administration has been another type of international assistance. The abovementioned aid, which the US substantially subsidizes so that American farmers make profit, has swamped the Haitian markets and driven down prices. Many Haitian farmers have been forced to leave their farms and relocate to Port-au-Prince

and the surrounding overcrowded, underprivileged neighborhoods as a result of this plan.

Overall, the United States' actions are truly affecting Haiti, and not positively. With the former controlling multiple aspects of the financial sector of the latter, a major part of Haiti's path towards political stability, or instability, is rooted in US policy. Moreover, the current situation in Haiti obliges many people to live in the country and seek for better opportunities in the United States. However, the US implements discriminatory and even abusive immigration policies when it comes to Haitians. Therefore, asylum seekers from Haiti are forced to face extreme difficulties in the host country, if they even manage to get in.<sup>21</sup>

### Dominican Republic

**Figure 2: US law enforcement officials push backing Haitian asylum seekers trying to cross the borders**

The Dominican Republic is the neighbouring country of Haiti. The two nations share the wider island of Hispaniola. The Dominican Republic's administration has been actively raising awareness regarding the political crisis in Haiti, highlighting the importance for the restoration of the political system of the country, for the sake of the well-being of Haiti, the region, as well as the entirety of the international community. The Dominican Republic is deeply affected by the situation in Haiti economically and security-wise. In fact, in April of 2022, the foreign minister of the Dominican Republic was kidnapped by gang forces. Although the minister was released after four days, the incident remains concerning for the security of the country and the region if there is no immediate counter action to the problem.

### Canada



Canada has been supporting Haiti in its development for over 30 years. Canada has also been actively responding to the political instability that Haiti has been facing as of recently. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called upon the international community to take immediate action in

light of the issue, acknowledging the severity of the humanitarian, political, and security problems that the Caribbean nations have had to deal with. Additionally, in 2022, the Canadian government stated that the country will provide a further 39

<sup>21</sup> "Top U.S. Diplomat in Haiti Resigns over 'inhumane' Treatment of Migrants." *NBC News*, 23 Sept. 2021, [www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/top-u-s-diplomat-haiti-resigns-over-inhumane-treatment-migrants-n1279927](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/top-u-s-diplomat-haiti-resigns-over-inhumane-treatment-migrants-n1279927).

million USD (or 50 million CAD) in aid for Haiti's infrastructure, security, and health services.

### **France**

Due to the fact that Haiti was a French colony in the past, the two countries are connected through their shared language and history. France declared its deep concerns regarding the political unrest in Haiti and emphasized the necessity for the problem to be immediately and effectively addressed. The French administration characterizes the issue as inherently political, and it highlights how problematic the absence of democracy and elections is—not only for Haiti—but for the global community as well.

### **Taiwan**

Haiti is one of the sole fifteen countries that recognizes Taiwan as an independent state. The alliance between the two countries is strong and considered really important by the administration of Taiwan. Nonetheless, a shocking incident occurred on Thursday, July 8, 2021, a day after the assassination of President Moïse. A group of armed people violently entered the Taiwanese embassy with the Haitian police arresting 11 of them. Despite this event, the relations between the two countries do not seem to have been shaken, with the Taiwanese side noting the importance of restoration of democratic values in Haiti and the need for immediate resolution of the current political crisis.

### **European Union (EU)**

The European Union has addressed the significance of the political crisis in Haiti. The Union primarily focuses on the humanitarian aspect of the situation, without ignoring the political substance of the problem. The EU has devoted certain funds for the support of Haitian people, targeting those affected by the recent earthquake, gang violence and forced displacement. All in all, the aforementioned funds could be beneficial for Haiti, bearing in mind that they are properly allocated.

### **Organization of American States (OAS)**

The OAS consists of 35 countries located in the continent of America, with one of them being Haiti. Although the OAS cannot intervene in national issues, but rather consult, encourage, and survey the actions of the member states, its Secretary General has taken a stance upon the matter. “The OAS General Secretariat urges all political forces in Haiti to find a cooperative framework in order to comply with the letter and the spirit of their constitutional order, respecting the five-year presidential term in office. In this context, the term of President Jovenel Moïse ends on February

7, 2022".<sup>22</sup> The remark was regarding the one-year delay of Moïse's inauguration due to the tumultuous voting process. That attitude did not comply with the role of the OAS and, thus, there were reactions. On June 2, 2020, the Secretary General of OAS received a letter from seven Haitian human rights organizations denouncing his comments as being against the OAS charter and outlining their legal analysis of the president's authority.

### **United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)**

BINUH is overseen by a special envoy, tasked with helping Haiti prepare for elections, instructing the National Police on human rights issues, preventing gang violence, guaranteeing adherence to international human rights responsibilities, and improving the justice system. It is the program that followed the conclusion of the UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti, thus the goal of the missions has been transferred to this office. Given the current situation in the country, BINUH has to tackle numerous issues. However, since it remains a United Nations' body, the Office can not truly intervene in the matter, therefore its propositions are not frequently implemented by the state.

### **Commission for Haitian Solution to the Crisis**

The Commission for Haitian Solution to the Crisis was created in response to the multiple problems that Haiti currently faces, with one of them being political instability. The Commission condemns the inefficient policy of the government and advocates for Haitians who can either tolerate the humanitarian and political crisis, which comes with harsh living conditions, or leave their country. The main goal of the Commission is to raise awareness regarding the issue, thus it is highly informative and does not provide effectively tangible solutions.

## **BLOCS EXPECTED**

### **Bloc A**

This alliance consists of countries with major involvement in Haiti's crisis. They are either historically connected (e.g., France), or they have assisted the country throughout its crisis (e.g., Canada). In addition, countries that believe that a supervising external actor—either governmental or non-state—should be responsible for Haiti's political matters may join this alliance too.

### **Bloc B**

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<sup>22</sup> Johnston, Jake. "The OAS Picks Sides in Haiti ... Again." *Center for Economic and Policy Research*, 9 June 2020, <https://cepr.net/the-oas-picks-sides-in-haiti-again/>.

This alliance includes countries that have not gotten involved in the resolution of the issue by providing, for example, financial aid. The countries in this alliance have not prioritized the political crisis in Haiti in their agenda and thus, their actions towards the issue are limited. (e.g., Russia). Nonetheless, the alliance will approach the issue based on diplomatic dialogue, aiming for the holistic resolution of it.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
January 1, 1804	Haiti formally proclaims its independence from France.
1915	The United States of America invade Haiti and occupy the country.
1915	Commencement of UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti.
1934	The occupation of Haiti by US forces comes to an end.
April 30, 1948	The Organization of American States is founded.
March 10, 1987	The renewed and reformed constitution of Haiti, written both in French and Haitian Creole, is presented.
1991	Large numbers of Haitian citizens begin to leave the country and seek for asylum in the US because of the violent and repressive situation in Haiti. Many of them enter the US as refugees, however the majority is repatriated by the US government.
January 12, 2010	The massive earthquake hits Haiti.
January 13, 2010	Canada sends financial aid to Haiti in response to the catastrophe caused by the earthquake. <sup>23</sup>
November 2016	President Moïse is elected.
November 2017	A Senate anticorruption commission's report reveals that government officials and private companies have embezzled funds from the PetroCaribe program

<sup>23</sup> Clark, Campbell, and Gloria Galloway. "Canada Rushes Aid to Haiti." *The Globe and Mail*, The Globe and Mail, 13 Jan. 2010, [www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canada-rushes-aid-to-haiti/article4303301/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canada-rushes-aid-to-haiti/article4303301/).

	through forgeries, project overpayments, and other means.
June 25, 2019	BINUH office is established, replacing the UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti.
July 7, 2021	President Moïse is assassinated by an armed group.

## RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### Resolution of the Security Council S/RES/2476<sup>24</sup> (2019)

This resolution addresses the Council’s concerns for the multiple character of the crisis in Haiti. Furthermore, it introduces the BINUH program mentioning that its task, among others, is the assistance of the government towards political stability and fair elections with transparency. The document is of high importance as it presents the successor of the UN peacekeeping missions and the context that the program will operate in.

### Resolution of the Security Council S/RES/2600<sup>25</sup> (2021)

This resolution notes the importance of addressing the crisis in Haiti and condemns the perpetrators of the assassination of President Moïse, highlighting the need for political stability and regulation of gang violence. Most significantly, according to the document, the BINUH program is extended at least until the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, while requesting for appropriate assistance and training of the members of BINUH so that they can adequately respond to any new problems that may occur, along with the already existent political crisis. The extension of BINUH is the most significant point of the resolution, along with the request for proper instruction of BINUH officials.

### United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti Report of the Secretary-General<sup>26</sup>

The report covers a plethora of aspects of the crisis in Haiti, including political issues and good governance, violence reduction, and existing legislation. Overall, the report could be characterized as a summary of the current situation in Haiti, while emphasizing on the crucial problems that the political turmoil is generating every

<sup>24</sup> Security Council. “Resolution 2476 (2019).” *United Nations*, 25 June 2019. [https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S\\_RES\\_2476\(2019\).pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_RES_2476(2019).pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Security Council. “Resolution 2600 (2021).” *United Nations*, 19 Oct. 2021. [https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2600.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2600.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> “United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti Report of the Secretary-General.” *United Nations*, 15 June 2022. [https://binuh.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2022-06-13\\_-\\_sg\\_report\\_on\\_binuh.pdf](https://binuh.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2022-06-13_-_sg_report_on_binuh.pdf)

day. It is an informative document that seeks rise of awareness regarding the issue, thus it presents a good source of enlightenment.

### **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Briefing on Haiti<sup>27</sup>**

This press briefing note by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is underlining the uncontrolled situation in Haiti and the devastating aftermath of protests and riots in 2019, leaving civilians dead and injured. Additionally, the note stresses the fact that children have been neglected of their education since September of that year due to the unrest and heightened tensions, as well as the fact that the healthcare system is in immediate need of support and restoration. This action shows the willingness of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to address the issue yet there are no proposed feasible solutions proposed. The note primarily seeks for acknowledgement and raising awareness.

### **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

#### **The response of the European Union<sup>28</sup>**

The EU, alarmed by the situation in Haiti, provided the country with humanitarian aid in the form of funds. Specifically, those funds were directed towards the fight against COVID-19, food supplies and resources for the disasters that gang violence has caused. This funding plan supported Haiti from 2019 to 2021. At first glance, resources may seem beneficial for the state. Nevertheless, the way that the funds are allocated is not always guaranteed to be for the sake of citizens' wellbeing.

#### **Declaration on the situation in Haiti by the OAS<sup>29</sup>**

The declaration on the situation in Haiti by the OAS was adopted by the Organization's General Assembly. The document is a written response to the situation in Haiti after the assassination of President Moïse, expressing the Organization's concerns for the political crisis. The declaration encourages international cooperation for the resolution of the issue, and it highlights the OAS's commitment towards the maintenance of prosperity in all States parties, including Haiti. The document presents a written response of the Latin American states to the

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<sup>27</sup> "Press Briefing Note on Haiti Unrest." *OHCHR*, 1 Nov. 2019, [www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2019/11/press-briefing-note-haiti-unrest](http://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2019/11/press-briefing-note-haiti-unrest).

<sup>28</sup> *European Parliament*. "Haiti's Political and Humanitarian Crisis." European Union, 10 Jan. 2022. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\\_ATA\(2022\)698866](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_ATA(2022)698866)

<sup>29</sup> OAS, U.S. Mission. "OAS General Assembly Adopts Declaration on Haiti." U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States, 13 Nov. 2021, <https://usoas.usmission.gov/oas-general-assembly-adopts-declaration-on-haiti/>

issue that stresses problems that are important for the international political scene to be aware of. This is a promising attempt, considering that the OAS is an organization which is closer to the values of Haiti, seeing as its members focus on issues in the greater region, However, this declaration can only encourage other states and Haiti itself.

### **USAID Elections Assistance<sup>30</sup>**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has contributed in order for the crisis in Haiti to be tackled. Particularly, USAID is working on the restoration of democratic elections procedures in Haiti, by focusing on pre-elective activities for the according procedures to be strengthened. In order for Haiti to have electoral transparency and credible elections, USAID is contributing technically but also financially, by allocating funds to this purpose. Although this mission might seem promising for the re-establishment of democratic norms, this way of intervention could lead to a nation being suspicious of the actions taken by the external body. That is not unreasonable as – after all- each country acts based on its own interests. USAID’s program ultimately serves the goal of the US government for constant surveillance of the situation in Haiti

### **Canada’s economic aid<sup>31</sup>**

As mentioned before, the earthquake of 2010 had a major negative impact on Haiti’s population and economy. Therefore, upon decision, the Canadian administration decided to provide generous funds to the Haitian government in order for the country to be able to make progress, help its citizens, and rebuild its economy and institutions. However, it was observed that, little to no progress had been made even though the given financial resources were sufficient for many reconstruction projects. Consequently, doubts arose within the international community and Canada regarding the funds and whether they had been allocated properly. It is believed and suspected that the Haitian government is responsible for the misallocation of the resources due to the utilization of funds for self interests. This incident emphasizes the corruption rooted in Haiti and its politics.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Reform in current legislation**

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<sup>30</sup> “Fact Sheet: U.S. Assistance to Haiti.” *The White House, The United States Government*, 13 July 2021, [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/13/fact-sheet-u-s-assistance-to-haiti/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/13/fact-sheet-u-s-assistance-to-haiti/)

<sup>31</sup> Helm, Valerie. “Haiti 10 Years Later: What Happened to the Billions Pledged to Help the People of Haiti?” *Global News, Global News*, 20 Jan. 2020, <https://globalnews.ca/news/6421625/haiti-10-years-later-billions-pledged/>.

As Haiti is in the midst of its political crisis, renewed and effective legislation should be proposed. The basis of a democratic system is a comprehensive legal framework, aiming for both the prosperity and the equal treatment of all citizens, as well as for the regulation of the power that government officials are able to possess. Given the current situation, Haitian politicians (including Moïse) have remained in power without always following democratic procedures, by avoiding elections and ruling by decree. These loopholes greatly play into the current situation; they need to be addressed and eliminated. Overall, legal reform is of high importance for the country to be functional again and have the necessary groundwork to rebuild its institutions and political system.

### **Examination of the efficiency of the UN's involvement**

It is a fact that the UN has been deeply involved in addressing the issue of the multiple crises in Haiti. Apart from humanitarian assistance, the UN has implemented peacekeeping missions for fifteen years. Although those missions aim for peaceful intervention towards the resolution of the crises and the maintenance of security, such long-term plans are not always fruitful for a nation already in turmoil. It must be noted that the population is not always welcoming to external forces, and in this case non-state actors. The abovementioned plan does not appear as an effort to help and benefit everyone, leading to doubts regarding the missions. The Committee could discuss whether, after all, the existence of peacekeeping forces in Haiti were efficient and if the current UN body in Haiti, BINUH, is a successful and sufficient replacement of the missions. In addition, there could be propositions for the enhancement of BINUH, seeking for a more holistic approach to the issue by the UN, with prioritizing the well-being of the Haitian population and the restoration of democracy in mind.

### **Examination of the international factor**

Inarguably, in such a globalized world, the Haitian political crisis affects but also is affected by the international political scene. With countries such as the United States exercising surveillant power over the nation, Haiti's situation is defined, to a large extent, by external actors. However, the Committee should evaluate whether such attitude is beneficial, sustainable for Haiti, or is hindering any of its efforts to gradually gravitate towards political stability. The influence of international opinion should be examined and defined so as all nations have a clear understanding and outline of the limits of non-invasive intervention as an external factor to the Haitian crisis. It is necessary to distinguish the need for fruitful international cooperation for the resolution of the issue and the "outsider" controlling behavior that benefits a country's own interests.

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