



NHSMUN

CRISIS - CABINET OF HAITI

UPDATE PAPER

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Renata Venzor

Dear Delegates,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Cabinet of Haiti for NHSMUN 2025. My name is Vivek Bobby, and I am excited to serve as the Assistant Director for Session I of the conference. This is my first year on NHSMUN's staff. I participated as a delegate for all four years of high school and became captain of my school's Model UN team in my senior year of high school. If you have any questions regarding Model UN or our committee, please reach out to me!

I have lived the majority of my life in Western Canada in Calgary, Alberta, the center of the oil drilling business in Canada. Currently, I am studying finance at the University of Calgary, hoping to pursue a career in corporate law. Carrying on my passion for competition and solving problems that I picked up through my time in high school model UN and debate, I participate in many case competitions hosted throughout Canada and I am an active participant in local affairs in my city as well as economics research at my university. In my free time, I love reading a good book, playing violin, and hiking.

Your directors, Adam and Joseph, have prepared a Background Guide that thoroughly covers the situation in Haiti. However, given the dynamic situation in Haiti, this Update Paper will provide new relevant information regarding gang violence, economics, and the government in Haiti. With all of this at your fingertips, we cannot wait to see your position papers and sensational research. We are confident that you will all make this committee memorable.

Good Luck,

Vivek Bobby

Cabinet of Haiti Assistant Director

Session I

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Dear Delegates,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Cabinet of Haiti for NHSMUN 2025. My name is Odera Arene, and I am excited to serve as the Assistant Director for Session II of the conference. This will be my first year on NHSMUN's staff. I participated as a delegate for all four years of high school and attended NHSMUN during my senior year of high school. If you have any questions regarding Model UN or our committee, please reach out to me!

I have lived the majority of my life in Southern California (Pasadena, Perris, and Riverside) mostly in the Inland Empire. However, I am currently a first-year student at Harvard University studying Chemical and Physical Biology on the pre-med track, so you can find me in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Recently, I have been working on my Spanish since the majority of my local community are Spanish speakers. Outside of class, I participate in the Harvard Glee Club, abstract mathematics, jazz combos, and research in biomedical engineering. In my free time, I enjoy listening to music, running, and going out. I also love to travel and do just about anything with friends.

Seeing the amount of detail and attention that goes into setting up this conference, I have no doubt you will leave this conference with long-lasting memories and huge improvements in your speaking ability, diplomacy, and research prowess.

Good Luck,

Odera Arene

Cabinet of Haiti Assistant Director

Session II

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CRISIS - CABINET OF HAITI

NHSMUN 2025



TOPIC A: POLITICAL STABILIZATION AND NATIONAL RECOVERY

Photo Credit: ICRC

Introduction

The crisis in Haiti has become a growing issue. Gang violence is on the rise in major cities like Port-au-Prince. In the last three years, over 10,000 people have been killed, and 700,000 people have been displaced by Haitian gangs.¹ In addition to gang violence, Haiti's economy is on the decline. A 2020 International Monetary Fund (IMF) report concluded that the crises in Haiti have caused inflation to exceed 20 percent, with exchange rates dropping 25 percent each year.² This means that every year, the value of the Haitian Gourde is falling, lowering the ability of native citizens to spend and purchase necessities. Currently, the IMF reports that the pandemic, the earthquake in 2021, and cholera outbreaks have worsened these numbers, making the situation in Haiti unimaginable. Furthermore, the decline of the economy and the effects of wars across the world like the situation in Ukraine, have caused a hunger crisis in Haiti.³ Without action, these combinations of circumstances could push Haiti past the point of no return, rendering it unlivable.

Despite all of these crises, Haiti still plans to host an election, electing a president by the end of 2025.⁴ This could mark a transformational moment for Haiti. There are many good outcomes through a successful election. It would show the people that the government can be effective. It would also allow the people to finally have a voice in how their government will work. However, there are many risks if this election fails or if it does happen. There would be more political turmoil. It is quite apparent that if the chaos in Haiti has not stopped, the Transitional Presidential Council (TPC), as many international experts fear, will collapse. This would be the absolute worst case for the citizens, rendering themselves defenseless in the face of hostile gangs. Therefore, it is paramount that members of the Haitian cabinet keep up with the new developments in Haiti, as the situation on the ground is rapidly changing. Only through immediate action can the Haitian cabinet prevent further eradication of Haiti, and help the country grow. With gang violence, natural disasters, and the deterioration of the Haitian economy, the Haitian cabinet must act swiftly and initiate sound policies that tackle the multiple-faceted problems in Haiti.

Haiti's Response to Increased Gang Violence

The current prime minister, Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, was appointed on November 10 by the TPC. The previous prime minister, Garry Conille, was fired after allegations of corruption. By the time Fils-Aimé was appointed, Haiti was recovering from the massacre of 184 people in Wharf Jérémie in Haiti's capital.⁵ The majority of victims were between the ages of 60 and 80 years old. Some were Vodou priests. Fils-Aimé, a businessman, was appointed to ensure the safety of Haitian citizens.⁶ He announced in his first press conference on December 12 that the Justice Minister and police would work together to guarantee security for all Haitians. Countering his critics, the Prime Minister said he was working behind the scenes and developing strategies to bring back safety. However, he did not elaborate on the specifics of his plans at the press conference. Furthermore, the press conference lasted only ten minutes, and he did not take any questions.⁷

Haiti has a history of corrupt prime ministers. Moreover, since 2021 it has been the TPC that has decided who gets

1 Evens Sanon, "The UN Says More than 5,600 People Were Killed in Haiti Last Year," AP News, January 7, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/haiti-gang-violence-killed-0a1e1adb661af1a6ed5396f0b4838fe6>.

2 US Department of State, "Haiti - United States Department of State," United States Department of State, July 17, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-investment-climate-statements/haiti/>.

3 "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2024 Article IV Consultation with Haiti," IMF, December 10, 2024, <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2024/12/10/imf-concludes-2024-article-iv-consultation-haiti>.

4 Renata Segura, "Weighing the Case for a New Peacekeeping Mission to Haiti," *International Crisis Group*, November 1, 2024, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/caribbean/haiti/weighing-case-new-peacekeeping-mission-haiti>

5 Frances Robles, "Massacre in Haiti Ordered by Gang Leader Leaves over 100 Dead, Rights Group Says," *The New York Times*, December 9, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/08/world/americas/haiti-gang-massacre.html>.

6 Evans Sanon, "Haiti's New Prime Minister Promises Security to a Country Reeling from Recent Massacres," *Associated Press*, December 12, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/haiti-new-prime-minister-gang-violence-f3abec3167741f0820926d4c7bf0f842>

7 Sanon, "Haiti's New Prime Minister Promises Security to a Country Reeling from Recent Massacres."



Haiti visit by United States Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield on July 22 2024

Credit: U.S. Embassy Haiti

appointed to the role, not the citizens. Naturally, this has created distrust between Haitian citizens and the government. The TPC's mandate expires in February 2026, meaning that the TPC will be removed at that time. Haiti has until the end of 2025 to elect a new president, and given the rising tensions within the government, it is unlikely that the TPC will be renewed. Moreover, Fils-Aimé's cabinet and the TPC disagree over the issues of gang violence and the economy. Ultimately, if no election is held, Haiti would lack a prime minister and a president. The state would be, essentially, leaderless. Moreover, if Haiti's political cabinet does not form a consensus on how to approach the election at the end of the year, the state will be unable to elect a leader who can effectively tackle the issue of gang violence.

To fight off gangs, Haiti asked the UN to send a Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) in October 2023.⁸ The MSS would help the Haitian national police in its fight against gangs. It was deployed in June 2024 and was initially successful in forcing gangs to retreat to their stronghold in Port-au-Prince. This allowed the MSS and Haitian security forces to

increase their presence in previously gang-controlled areas.⁹ However, despite this initial success, the gangs increased their level of violence across the city. On October 3, 115 people were killed in Pont-Sondé, a small city in the northeast of the capital.¹⁰ These killings were in response to the security forces and locals' failure to meet the demands of the gangs. Following this incident, gangs launched attacks on Solino, Tabarre, and Champ de Mars, neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. They assaulted the north of the capital in small towns like Archaie, Estère, and Cabaret. Many Haitians feel that the security forces have not solved the crisis, and violence has risen despite their actions.¹¹

Many UN experts believe that the failure of the MSS is due to a lack of money. Kenya requested the UN for USD 600 million. However, only USD 400 million was contributed to the MSS, with USD 300 million coming from the United States and USD 85 million coming from the UN.¹² The lack of money meant that despite having newly trained forces, there was no money to help equip them. Moreover, not only are officers not being deployed, the MSS is severely underequipped.¹³

⁸ United Nations, "Security Council Renews Haiti Mission Mandate, Calls for More Action against Gangs," UN News, September 30, 2024, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1155151>.

⁹ Renata Segura, "Weighing the Case for a New Peacekeeping Mission to Haiti."

¹⁰ The Associated Press, "The Death Toll in a Gang Attack on a Haitian Town Rises to at Least 115," NPR, October 10, 2024, <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/10/g-s1-27385/death-toll-in-a-gang-attack-on-a-haitian-town-rises-to-115>.

¹¹ Renata Segura, "Weighing the Case for a New Peacekeeping Mission to Haiti."

¹² United Nations, "Security Council Renews Haiti Mission Mandate, Calls for More Action against Gangs,"

¹³ "UN: Deploy New Haiti Mission to Restore Security," Human Rights Watch, December 9, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/12/09/un-deploy-new-haiti-mission-restore-security#>.

To combat gangs, the MSS requires ammunition, high-caliber weapons, helicopters, and vessels, especially since gang operations have expanded out to sea. A lack of funds and poor leadership from the Haitian government caused the MSS funds to be spent improperly on expensive armored vehicles that were useless in the heavily populated major cities. Even though the MSS is backed by the UN Security Council, it acts almost completely independently from the UN, making member states reluctant to fund the MSS. Typical UN missions like peacekeeping missions are constantly monitored by the UN and are guided by decades of experience and processes learned from prior peacekeeping missions. Without the UN's guidance, the MSS's day-to-day operations have been slow and filled with complications.¹⁴

On October 21, the head of the TPC, Leslie Voltaire, requested that the MSS be converted to a full UN peacekeeping mission.¹⁵ While renewing the MSS's mandate in September, the Security Council debated this issue. The US ended up tabling the proposal in the hope that the peacekeeping mission could be approved by the end of the year. Turning the MSS into a peacekeeping mission would increase the staff for missions in Haiti. The current MSS mission only has 400 out of the 2,500 foreign officers they requested.¹⁶ Also, becoming a peacekeeping mission would allow MSS to receive funding quarterly from member states, rather than donations. Also, more troops would be available from other troop-contributing countries that specialize in areas like naval warfare which is crucial in stopping gangs from becoming a global threat.

Despite these benefits, many groups oppose the deployment of a UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti. Russia and China, seeing the instability in Haiti, feel that more investments, especially a UN peacekeeping mission, would be a waste of funds. These countries also argue that a UN peacekeeping mission would completely distract member states from funding the MSS. They

argue that since the MSS has not been completely funded and implemented, it makes no sense for it to be dispelled. Haiti's prior experiences with UN peacekeepers are also something to note. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) from 2004 to 2017 was largely successful in quelling gang activity. Unfortunately, the citizens of Haiti remember the hundreds of "MINUSTAH babies" that were conceived because of coercion by UN peacekeepers toward young Haitian women.¹⁷ Additionally, UN peacekeepers may have been behind the cholera contamination of the Haitian water supply. Despite this, the United States has remained an advocate for a Haitian peacekeeping mission. Under the direction of former US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, America planned to allocate USD 100 million towards the efforts in Haiti.¹⁸ However, American lawmakers have delayed this provision. They claim that the growing instability in Haiti makes such an investment risky. Congress also stated that the US has already donated millions of dollars to improve agriculture, safe drinking water, and assisting the judiciary and healthcare systems in Haiti.¹⁹

Some members of the TPC want to take the "Bukele" option. Nayib Bukele, the president of El Salvador, has taken a hard approach towards gangs. In Haiti, this would mean re-creating a standing government army. However, given the history of Haiti and its national army, many fear that implementing an army would be a step backward in reaching the goal of electing a president. A different approach towards fighting gang violence is for the Haitian national police to team up with the private defense sector, specifically US companies. This method, although promising, many fear the TPC that would further put Haiti in debt.²⁰

14 "UN: Deploy New Haiti Mission to Restore Security."

15 Voice of America, "U.S. Supports Haiti's Request for a UN Peacekeeping Operation," Voice of America (Editorials on Voice of America, November 26, 2024), <https://editorials.voanews.com/a/u-s-supports-haiti-s-request-for-a-un-peacekeeping-operation/7877627.html>.

16 United Nations, "Security Council Renews Haiti Mission Mandate, Calls for More Action against Gangs,"

17 Renata Segura, "Weighing the Case for a New Peacekeeping Mission to Haiti."

18 Nike Ching, "US Commits \$100 Million More to Multinational Force for Haiti amid Violence," Voice of America (Voice of America (VOA News), March 12, 2024), <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-commits-100-million-more-to-multinational-force-for-haiti-amid-violence/7523790.html>.

19 "U.S. Relations with Haiti," U.S. Department of State, September 5, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-haiti-2/>.

20 Georges Fauriol, "Four Questions that Could Determine Haiti's Future," *United States Institute of Peace*, November 21, 2024, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/11/four-questions-could-determine-haitis-future>

Economy and Environmental Recovery

Despite Haiti's economy declining since the 1970s, Haiti appears to be recovering financially. Economists believe that this is an important detail given that to create a stable government. There needs to be funds to build crucial infrastructure such as hospitals and transportation. On the negative side, almost one-third of Haiti's economy is dependent on remittances. Remittances are funds sent from migrant workers to their families.²¹ Fearing gangs, many Haitians have fled to different parts of the country and even outside its borders to places like the US. These Haitians then support their families by sending money back whenever they can. However, gangs often seize control of infrastructure that allows the secure flow of remittances. As a result, remittances are volatile and make the economy very vulnerable. Despite this, economic growth is expected to be slightly positive in 2025.

Regardless of the bleak overview of the Haitian economy, the Executive Board of the IMF believes that Haiti's government has done a good job in creating economic policy given the situation in Haiti. The Executive Board recognized Haiti's recent broadening of its tax code, its efforts to make public

²¹ "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2024 Article IV Consultation with Haiti," IMF, December 10, 2024, <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2024/12/10/imf-concludes-2024-article-iv-consultation-haiti>.

²² International Monetary Fund, "IMF Management Approves a New Staff Monitored-Program with Haiti," IMF, December 21, 2024, <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2024/12/21/pr24498-Haiti-IMF-Management-Approves-a-New-SMP>.

²³ "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2024 Article IV Consultation with Haiti."

²⁴ "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2024 Article IV Consultation with Haiti."

spending more transparent to prevent corruption, and its use of the Fund's Food Shock Window to hold itself accountable for its resources.²² The goal of the fund is to deal with the impact of natural disasters and quickly emerging crises and has been key to mitigating the worst of Haiti's economic problems. The Board also applauded Haiti's commitment and following its goal to keep its monetary financing of the deficit at zero.²³ Finally, the Board is pleased with Haiti's digitization of government information making the government more transparent. However, the IMF still finds more policies that can be adopted by Haiti to enhance economic stability further. The Board recommends that Haiti enhance the social safety net so that no citizen falls into poverty due to circumstances beyond their control.²⁴ It also encourages limiting non-concessional lending to deter falling into debt and failing to achieve sustainability.

While these recommendations sound simple, actually doing them is anything but easy. These are deep structural challenges that Haiti faces, which limits its ability to enact change. Under such conditions, it is just very hard to enact such policies. Strengthening social safety nets requires a large



Woman in Line at the medical center

Credit: Alex Proimos from Sydney, Australia

amount of money, and efficient administration, both of which do not exist. Also, avoiding non-concessional lending while solving development needs requires a careful balance, which is challenging given the country's economic fragility. These factors show the reason attainment of such a goal would need an extraordinary, sustained effort, especially during and before the presidency. Adding to this is the pervasive impact of gang forces. Their impact has further complicated economic challenges by undermining the already weak infrastructure, disrupting trade, and lowering public confidence. Despite the challenges, fiscal and administrative reform has shown measured gains. Haiti's government has taken real steps to improve transparency in how state funds are used and computerize some government functions to increase accountability. These steps have garnered commendation from the IMF. The commendations especially apply to Haiti's commitment to maintaining a zero monetary financing deficit. This is a pledge critical to curbing inflation and fostering long-term stability.

However, much is still to be done to fully protect against the weaknesses in Haiti's economy. To set their country against these vulnerabilities requires a tortuous process for the leaders of Haiti in terms of reforms and international assistance. Strengthening the social safety net—as the IMF has emphasized—provides a first line of defense for poor people during adverse economic conditions arising from both political unrest and natural calamities.²⁵ A strong social safety net is important for providing social services and is a strong indicator of the quality of life. This dependence on foreign aid, including money from the IMF's Food Shock Window, has been vital for sustaining vital services but also points to the need for self-sustaining growth mechanisms.²⁶ Infrastructure projects are especially necessary for building a foundation for long-term stability: transportation, sanitation, and public health. Such projects, however, need an environment of security currently threatened by widespread gang violence.²⁷

Political instability and poor economic conditions have also posed serious risks for the future of Haiti. The TPC

and the government are increasingly under pressure to have elections before 2026. Not doing this might plunge the country deeper into a governance crisis and further empower gangs, causing economic slowing. While the international community debates levels of intervention, Haiti truly stands at a critical moment where coordinated action will define its trajectory, both at home and abroad. Some members of the TPC propose reviving Haiti's economy through aggressive measures modeled after other countries that have successfully turned their financial crises around. One suggestion includes significantly increasing import tariffs to protect local industries and reduce dependency on foreign goods.²⁸ While this might have the added benefit of stimulating domestic production, critics fear it would inflate the cost of living for ordinary Haitians, many of whom already struggle with shortages of food and fuel. Another approach gaining momentum is the search for large-scale investments from international private firms, especially in sectors such as renewable energy and infrastructure.²⁹ However, detractors warn this could lead to predatory contracts, further entangling Haiti in unsustainable debt and weakening its economic sovereignty. Both strategies highlight the delicate balancing act required to address Haiti's economic vulnerabilities without exacerbating its existing challenges.

Conclusion

Haiti is facing a severe crisis that requires immediate action. Gang violence is causing widespread fear and instability, whilst the economy is in disarray, leaving families starving and unable to survive. There has been a lack of security for many civilians. If this is not taken care of, crime will only continue in the country. Even if crime was decreased, the Haitian people need jobs to survive. Without jobs, crime will only continue to get worse. The political situation in the country also needs help. The Haitian government has called for presidential elections by the end of 2025. However, there is a significant amount of work that must be done until then. Democratic institutions

25 "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2024 Article IV Consultation with Haiti."

26 International Monetary Fund, "IMF Management Approves a New Staff Monitored-Program with Haiti,"

27 "Haiti - Economy: All the Details on the 2024-2025 Budget," HaitiLibre, October 10, 2024, <https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-43383-haiti-economy-all-the-details-on-the-2024-2025-budget.html>.

28 World Bank, "The World Bank in Haiti," World Bank, April 18, 2024, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/haiti/overview>.

29 World Bank, "The World Bank in Haiti,"

need to be strengthened. The government must be strong enough to control the country. Public services also need to resume for the millions that are suffering. These challenges are both serious and complex, which means the solutions demand thoughtful attention. Only through unified actions, can the Haitian cabinet steer Haiti towards a brighter future. A future where its citizens can live freely and without widespread fear.

To address these issues, the government must work collaboratively and swiftly. Possible solutions for solving these problems may include rebuilding the economy and granting access to necessities to its citizens. Doing so would help to alleviate the effects of both the economic downturns, but also the harshness of the gang warfare's after-effects. However, contending with these vicious gangs is another task entirely. It would be one which may take several forms. Solutions could entail appealing to international bodies for support or re-creating the Haitian military to take serious action. Each carries repercussions and sets a precedent for the future of Haiti. Regardless of what path is taken, the government must get the support of the citizens. Without public trust, it will be very difficult for the government to be able to govern effectively. It needs a united front from its people to allow it to carry out its policies. Human rights also need to be preserved as the country makes its recovery. While security is easy to implement, human rights can also easily be overtaken. It is the resilience of the people and proactive effort by leaders that will guarantee Haiti a way forward from this turbulent period into securing a base for long-lasting recovery and development.

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