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RENEWED SUPPORT FOR SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, INCLUSIVE, FREE, FAIR, AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS, AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI

(Adopted by the Permanent Council at its special meeting, held on February 10, 2023)

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

REAFFIRMING the principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American

States, particularly those relating to representative democracy and social security;

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 2982 (LII-O/22) adopted by the General Assembly on October 6, 2022, at its 52nd regular Session, on the security situation in Haiti and hemispheric cooperation for the preservation of democracy and the fight against food insecurity;

REITERATING that any solution to the current multidimensional crisis in Haiti requires the efforts of all stakeholders of the Haitian nation, including the government, the opposition, civil society, women's organizations, and the private and religious sectors;

REITERATING ALSO that a secure environment is essential for the organization of the inclusive, free, fair, and credible general elections that must be held as soon as conditions permit in order to make the country’s democratic institutions functional;

DEEPLY SADDENED by recent losses of the lives of innocent citizens and of officers of the Haitian National Police;

GREATLY CONCERNED by the ongoing and recently increased insecurity, especially the proliferation of armed gangs, that threatens the rule of law and the future of democracy in Haiti;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Haitian Government’s requests, contained in a letter dated October 9, 2022, to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), for effective support from Haiti’s international partners to enforce the Rule of Law and to address the security and humanitarian crises that have been exacerbated by, among other things, the criminal actions of armed gangs and their sponsors;

NOTING THAT the Haitian’s Government letter of October 9, 2022, also acknowledged that “Support to build a national consensus among all the stakeholders in the country is also necessary to enable us to ensure inclusive, clean, and democratic elections”.

 ACKNOWLEDGING THAT an accord was reached on December 21, 2022, and a document entitled, ‘National Consensus for an Inclusive Transition and Transparent Elections’, was issued by the executive branch of Government and representatives of the business sector, the social sector, and political parties in Haiti;

RECALLING the encouragement in AG/RES. 2982 (LII-O/22) for all regional and subregional initiatives in support of the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Haiti, political parties, private sector, religious actors, and civil society, including women’s organizations for the organization of free and fair presidential, legislative, and local elections, consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter as soon as conditions allow;

RECALLING ALSO the request in AG/RES. 2982 (LII-O/22) to the OAS Secretariat, member states, and permanent observers that are in a position to do so to urgently offer direct support to the Government of the Republic of Haiti to better train port security officials to combat firearms trafficking, to strengthen the capacities and means of the National Police to restore security in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and to stop the expansion of armed gangs that are terrorizing the population;

RECOGNIZING the decisions in AG/RES. 2982 (LII-O/22), particularly to re-establish a mechanism for regular meetings of the OAS to follow up on the Good Offices Mission to Haiti and to remain actively engaged in Haiti; and

NOTING the report released in January 2023 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) regarding the Situation of Human Rights in Haiti,

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the signing, on December 21, 2022, of an accord, entitled, ‘National Consensus for an Inclusive Transition and Transparent Elections’ by the Government, and representatives of the business sector, social sector, and political parties in the Republic of Haiti, and to encourage further inclusion and participation of those stakeholders in Haiti, who have not yet signed the accord, while also moving forward with implementing the structures outlined in the accord.
2. To call on the High-Level Transition Council, established through the above-mentioned accord, to coordinate, as soon as possible, a political dialogue aimed at broadening the consensus surrounding this accord and ensuring it is as inclusive as possible, as provided in the accord’s Article 6.
3. To encourage member states, to the extent of their resources and capacity, to act urgently in providing support to the efforts of the Haitian authorities to restore order and security, and to consider the Haitian government’s requests, as appropriate, contained in its letter of October 9, 2022, to the OAS Secretary General, and in accordance with AG/RES. 2982 (LII-O/22).
4. To establish by February 22, 2023, a Working Group of the Permanent Council, to serve as a mechanism for regular meetings of the OAS on the situation in Haiti; and, in establishing the Working Group, to be guided by Article 15 of the Statutes of the Permanent Council and Articles 12 and 25 of the Rules of Procedures of the Permanent Council.
5. To invite the Government of the Republic of Haiti to establish and maintain regular ongoing dialogue with the “Working Group on Haiti” to facilitate support by OAS member states, permanent observers, and the General Secretariat for inclusive, free, fair, and credible elections and democratic transition in the Republic of Haiti, noting the targeted date of February 7, 2024, as agreed on the December 21, 2022, accord.
6. To request that the OAS Working Group on Haiti, with the assistance of the General Secretariat, convene by March 17, 2023, a Security, Humanitarian, Electoral, and Democracy Assistance Dialogue with the participation of the Government of Haiti and the High-Level Transition Council (HCT), to permit the latter to provide OAS member states, permanent observers and the General Secretariat with information regarding the priority areas of assistance required to enable and ensure inclusive participation of Haitian stakeholders in arrangements for inclusive, free, fair and credible elections and democratic transition in the Republic of Haiti as soon as conditions allow.
7. To request that the Working Group take note of the dispositions in the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and of the measures adopted by the United Nations Security Council, particularly the provisions of resolutions 2645 regarding arms and ammunition trafficking and 2653 on sanctions measures, and the Joint Program for the Haitian National Police (UN Basket Fund), as well as the contents of the letter of the UN Secretary-General to the President of the UN Security Council dated October 8, 2022.
8. To request that the General Secretariat provide the necessary support to the Working Group on Haiti to fulfil its assigned responsibilities, and that the Working Group provide a report to the Permanent Council by March 31, 2023, and thereafter on a quarterly basis concerning its work to implement its mandate.

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