

**UN Security Council
Crisis in Haiti**



JACKRABBIT MUN VI

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hello Delegates!

My name is Josephine and I am so excited to be one of the co-head chairs for this year's Security Council! I currently serve as co-president of Poly MUN and have been involved in the program since my freshman year. MUN provides such a unique opportunity to further your public speaking skills while researching global issues and meeting new people, and I've loved every minute of it!

Outside of MUN, I'm part of Speech and Debate, Female Leadership Academy, Poly's orchestra, and indoor and beach volleyball. I love listening to musicals, playing card games, going to cafés and boba shops, and playing piano and viola.

This will be my third year chairing a UNSC committee at JackrabbitMUN, and I've always appreciated the smaller country list and dual-delegate experience that these committees offer. The topic of this year's Security Council, the crisis in Haiti, is extremely relevant and there have been so many developments and changes since we began writing this background guide. I know that you will all bring unique perspectives and creative solutions to address this conflict and I'm so excited to hear your ideas! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, and I can't wait to see you all in committee!

Sincerely,

Josephine Gore

United Nations Security Council | Co-Head Chair

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

I am Sasha, your Co-Chair! Welcome to Jackrabbit MUN, we cannot wait to hear your ideas!

I joined MUN my junior year, and I love it! I was lucky enough to travel with our club to New York and D.C. for fantastic MUN conferences. What makes MUN enjoyable for me is the fast paced debates concerning international affairs. I tend to choose rooms with political and military implications.

I am also involved in human rights work and behavioral economics research. At school, I run our Philosophy Lecture Series and am a member of our Female Leadership Academy. I am a fan of books, music, nature, coffee, trail running, and socializing.

I truly encourage you all to take risks and speak your mind during committee. Good luck everyone!

Sincerely,

Sasha Malena Johnson

United Nations Security Council | Co-Head Chair

sashamalenajohnson@icloud.com



POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 19th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Each dual delegation should only submit one paper.
- Position Papers can be submitted through the google form:
 - <https://forms.gle/9Y2CJvgwoAwKXPmw7>
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
 - Country Name
 - First Last, First Last
 - School Name
 - United Nations Security Council
- Papers should be submitted as a PDF file
 - Please name the file [Committee_Country]
 - Ex. **UNSC_China**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background & UN Involvement
 - Position of your Country
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.



COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The United Nations Security Council is one of the most important organs in the UN. It is dedicated to de-escalating conflicts, orchestrating negotiations, and preserving international security. Founded in 1946, it contains ten elected and five permanent members. The P5, as these last ones are known, each possess veto power over resolutions and comprise the allies of World War Two: the United States, United Kingdom, French Republic, Republic of China, and Soviet Union. The People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation have since succeeded the latter two.

The remaining members are elected by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly. Since 1965, these have been divided into regional groups, with three seats going to African countries, two to those in the Asia-Pacific region, one to Eastern Europe, two to Latin America and the Caribbean, and two to Western Europe and Others. At any one time a seat from either the Africa or Asia-Pacific group is held by an Arab country.

Though the Security Council intends to solve disputes peacefully, it is also the only UN body with the ability to impose binding measures on member states. These include

sanctions and peacekeeping missions, used in case of grave human rights abuses and collapsing state authority. However, the ideological differences between the former allies of the P5 has served to hinder decisive action, with debate often ending in a veto from one or more members.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

Haiti has been plagued by many issues, many of which have existed for decades, and others that have emerged more recently. A struggling economy, with 80% of the



population living below the poverty line, and a humanitarian crisis as a result, Haiti relies heavily on foreign aid and has accumulated a very large national debt.

Life expectancy in Haiti is one of the lowest in the world and many people suffer from malnutrition, violence, infrastructure damage from natural

disasters, and general instability. These issues have only been exacerbated by increased political turmoil. Recently, armed conflicts have broken out due to disputes over former President Jovevenal Moise's assassination.

Current Prime Minister Ariel Henry uses the chaos to suspend electing government officials, who haven't been chosen since January 2023. Armed gangs and corrupt police forces have radiated from the political disorder, causing 3,156 killings and 1,248 kidnappings. How and to what extent should the United Nations intervene? Which methods of humanitarian assistance should be employed? How can foreign powers assist in developing the economy and furthering confidence in government? How should the current prime minister go about reducing corruption and promoting fair elections? Delegates will debate these questions and more while working together to find meaningful and lasting solutions to the crisis in Haiti.



BACKGROUND

History

Haiti, along with the Dominican Republic to the east, forms the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. With a name derived from the Arawak name Ayti, or Mountainous Land, and a history of oppression and strength, it is a nation of unique origin. Haiti is



the only nation in history whose sovereignty came from a successful slave revolt, with their independence from France in 1804. The land, although previously fresh, is now largely infertile as a result of the single crop planting, a lack of time for land to lay fallow, and soil erosion caused by deforestation. Haiti had a challenging beginning, as



France demanded 15 million francs for the land and resources that the Haitians had “stolen” from them, and many developed nations created trade embargoes and restrictions. With a lack of strong governmental history and infrastructure, and challenges with many nations,

especially their neighboring Dominican Republic (D.R.), Haiti’s past has continued to a tumultuous present. The Dominican Republic has grown and prospered, with more

fertile land and a stable government, and has had a rather prosperous economy and society. Shared markets on the border between the D.R. and Haiti illuminate their drastically different realities. Dominican border officials only allow Haitians to sell at the ‘neutral’ and ‘equal access’ markets hours after the Dominicans have taken all of the good spots and have already started selling. Many Haitians have sought refuge in the D.R., with 128,000 migrants since 2015, searching for better employment opportunities and stability. However, mass deportations of Haitians have ensued, with little to no regard to the individuals’ well-being or the living conditions they will be returned to. Haitians also face intense racism and mistreatment from Dominicans, as exemplified in almost any interaction, even in moments as small as showing documents on an international bus ride.

In addition to these social, societal, and economic challenges, Haiti has also had to rebuild following several devastating earthquakes. In 2010, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck 15 miles west of Port-au-Prince, leaving as many as 300,000 people



dead. Despite the \$13.5 billion of aid from international charities and other nations, the country is still struggling to recover both in infrastructure and economy. There was also a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in 2021 that killed over 2,000

people, and this catastrophe has only worsened an already challenging situation.



Although this particular earthquake was not as devastating as the one in 2010, Haiti has faced hurricanes and other natural disasters throughout the decade as well.

Current Situation

Since the Duvalier dictatorship ended in Haiti in 1986 after 29 years, the country has had nineteen leaders and little stability. The country is also extremely poor, with an annual budget of \$2.2 billion. Violent incidents, like murder, theft, and rape, are common occurrences. The political climate itself worsened when the president, Jovenel Moise, was killed in July of 2021. This created a power vacuum and chaos, with Ariel Henry's appointment as interim president. He claimed that he would hold official elections soon after he took office, but there have been no elected officials in office since January 2023, with the 10 remaining senators departure from Haiti.

The situation is currently particularly dangerous and unstable, as a coordinated gang attack began on February 29, 2024. Gangs have gained control and access to airports and ports, which are now closed, and have gained much of Port-au-Prince, the capital. The government has declared a state of emergency, and they cannot control the situation.

Schools and government agencies have been forced to close. There is mass looting and gun violence, and stores and public buildings are under



attacked. With a series of armed assaults on government buildings, roads are blocked, which has interfered with food supply into

residential areas. More than twelve police stations have also been damaged. There is no law and order, and prisons were attacked. As a consequence, almost 5,000 prisoners were released.

Haiti's former Prime Minister and acting president, Ariel Henry, left for Puerto



Rico in the first days of March 2024. His government was powerless. Rebel forces and gangs were in control. The United States and neighboring Caribbean nations tried to aid his return to Haiti and help create a new interim government capable of stopping the chaos. Kenya had committed a police force to travel to Haiti and assist in combating the gang violence and activity. However, on Monday, March 11, this mission was halted as Henry announced

his resignation. The current transitional presidential panel has been tasked with choosing the next prime minister, with nine individuals involved. They are currently leading Haiti as a group, but disagreements about voting structure have only delayed decisions about the prime minister, and it does not appear that their efficacy will improve any time soon.

Civilian Population

The civilian population is suffering. Ten thousand people have been displaced from their homes due to the violence. The United Nations (UN) explained that some 3,000 pregnant women are unable to access healthcare. In general, women are



specifically being targeted with violence. There are now food and water shortages throughout the country. The country's bottled water operators have closed due to the violence, so people are not able to fill their water bottles with clean drinking water. Shops have been burnt to the ground. Half of the 11 million inhabitants are not getting enough to eat, and 1.4 million are starving. There is also increasing unemployment.



UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

Secretary-General's Reports and Security Council Press Statements

The Secretary-General periodically issues reports on Haiti, and most recently gave a 90-day report on January 15, 2024. Many of the issues highlighted are related to increased gang violence and an uptick in violence against women and children. The report mentions the higher rates of unemployment, kidnappings, rape, homicides, and an overwhelmed national police force that is declining in size. With the conditions worsening by the day, “It is difficult to overstate the gravity of the political, security, human rights and humanitarian situation in Haiti today” (S_2024_62-EN). The Security Council has also released press statements, with the most recent statement on March 11, 2024. Many similar concerns were raised, and stressed the necessity of the MSS mission, with the assistance of Kenya. Member states reiterated the importance of enforcing the arms embargo, the continued investigation into President Jovenel Moïse’s assassination, and their concern over the little progress in regards to a democratic election in Haiti.

Security Council Resolutions

Numerous United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions have gone into effect since they first began working in Haiti in 1993. There have been 33 resolutions to date, and the UNSC has convened in 2024 while releasing both statements and potentially drafting new resolutions to address the more recent developments. UNSC Resolution 2699 enabled the formation and deployment of a Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to assist with elections. Elections, and the lack thereof, have been one of the main political issues in Haiti, and this task force unfortunately has not been implemented in its full intended capacity. Additionally, Resolution 2700, passed



on October 19, 2023, renewed the Resolution 2653 “targeted assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo measures sanctions” placed on Haiti in 2022. Other resolutions included the renewals of sanctions and extensions of the UN Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which has now been transformed into the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH). BINUH continues to work in and monitor the situation in Haiti, and is headed by María Isabel Salvador.

Action from the United Nations and International Community

The devastating earthquake in 2010 caused major damage to Haitian infrastructure, and led to \$13.5 billion in assistance from other nations and private charities. This allowed Haiti to



rebuild many of the lost buildings and homes, but did not lead to the significant infrastructural nor political changes that many had hoped for.

Additionally, although deployment of Kenyan police officers to Haiti was declared unconstitutional by the Kenyan High Court in January 2024, the President of Kenya has reiterated that he still will work to send these forces to Haiti to assist in fighting gang violence. This has been the most direct international support in regards to the surge in gang activity, but there has been much additional assistance in other capacities from the international community. The United Nations launched the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan in Haiti with an appeal for \$719.9 million to address the humanitarian aid needs of the Haitian people. Unfortunately, this monetary goal has not been attained, and 5.5 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance.



BLOC POSITIONS

African Bloc (Algeria, Sierra Leone, Mozambique): Algeria has supported the Kenyan missions in Haiti politically and financially. Also, 21 African countries have also pledged to donate more than \$51 million going to relief efforts in Haiti.

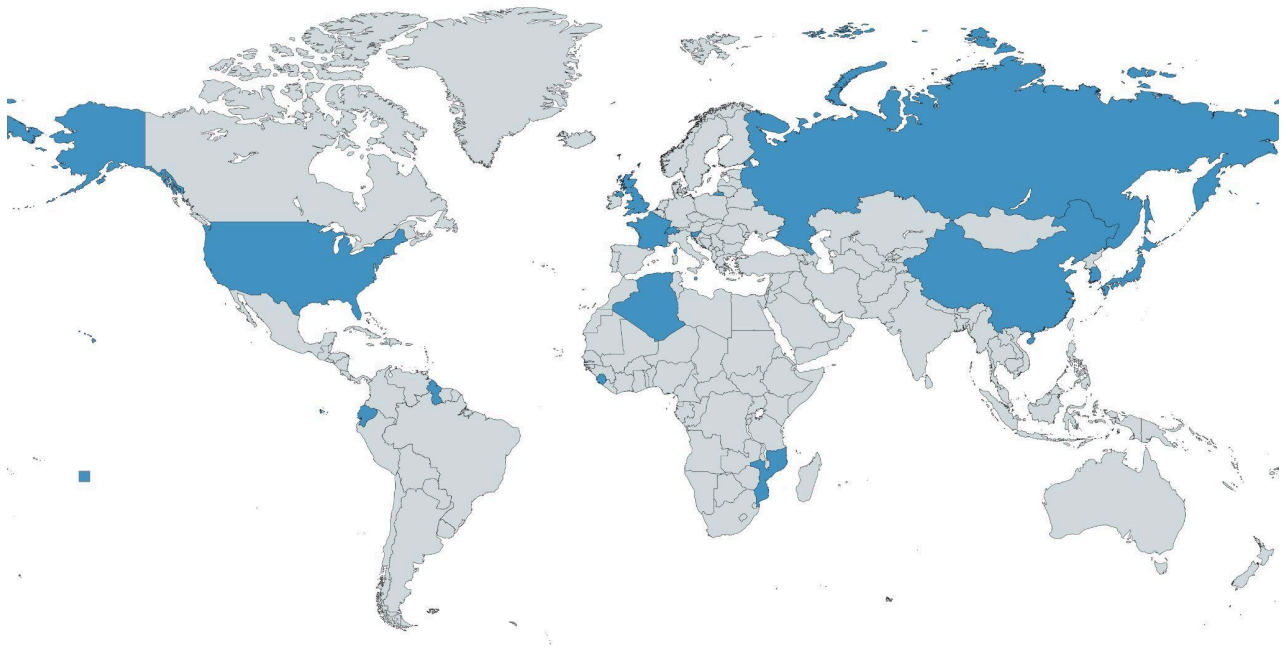
Asia-Pacific Bloc (China, Japan, Republic of Korea): China supports the United Nations implementing an international force and improvements to Haiti's government. Japan gave 4,000 vouchers to households in Haiti to help them meet their food needs. They've also given \$6.3 million to strengthen the national police. The Republic of Korea announced that it is sending 200 Peace-keeping Forces to rebuild Haiti's government and communities.

Western European and Others Bloc (France, Malta, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States): France has supported the Haitian police and given money specifically focused on the effectiveness of Haitian police officers. Malta has provided emergency and medical aid. They are operating in areas of Haiti to help transmit information. In regards to Haiti's development, Switzerland has supported the use of renewable resources, agriculture practices that protect the environment, and sustainable water management. The United Kingdom has specifically helped Haiti through being a lead donor in the Caribbean Development Bank. They have also begun using sanctions to regulate threats to Haiti's instability. The United States announced the deployment of force in Haiti, with \$100 million in funding.



Eastern European Bloc (Slovenia, Russian Federation): Slovenia focuses on the reconstruction of health-care, infrastructure, education, agriculture, and mines through Non-Governmental Organizations. They have a specific focus on food security. Russia has concerns for helping Haiti due to past actions in Haiti from foreign forces., however, they have offered to help restore the political structure and security.

Latin American and Caribbean Bloc (Ecuador, Guyana): Ecuador has worked with the United States to provide foreign aid and operational, static, and training support for the Haitian police. Guyana has called for more advocacy for the humanitarian crisis. Along with pledging financial support, Guyana has focused on restoring peace and security for the nation.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What actions has your country taken to address the conflict within Haiti?
2. Is it ethical for countries to intervene in Haiti militarily? Economically?
3. What prior solutions have been proposed by the international community?
4. Should the strategy to select a new president change given the challenges faced by the transitional presidential council?
5. Does your country believe that a council system is the best solution considering the downsides of the 1956 council?
6. To what extent can and should the international community intervene in the presidential selection process? In building and expanding the economy and infrastructure?
7. What is your country's ideal solution for the conflict in Haiti?



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