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DEENS' MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024

BACKGROUND GUIDE

THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

AGENDA :

*“Addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti
with special emphasis on gang violence and
organised crime”*

Table Of Contents:

1. Table of Contents	3
2. Letter from the Executive Board	4
3. Rules Of Procedure (RoP)	5
4. Special Committee Proceedings.....	10
5. Introduction to the Committee.....	11
6. Introduction to Agenda	14
7. The Humanitarian Crisis.....	16
8. Case Studies	17
9. International Involvement.....	21
10. Humanitarian access and protection challenges.....	25
11. Comparable Instances of Gang Violence and Humanitarian Crises in Other Countries.....	26
12. Important legalities	27
13. Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA).....	31
14. Reference Links	32

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It gives the Executive Board immense pleasure to welcome you to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) at DMUN'24! We eagerly anticipate your debates on our agenda of *"Addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti with special emphasis on gang violence and organised crime."* We hope that a fruitful discussion will lead us to innovative solutions.

The purpose of this Background Guide is to assist you with your research and preparation for our session. It provides a starting point and a reference for your research work. However, please consider that this Background Guide cannot be your sole source of information. Ensure that any points you bring into the committee originate from credible sources that are not biased in opinion.

This year, our committee will operate under special rules of procedure, slightly setting it apart from regular MUN committees. These unique aspects are designed to make the sessions dynamic, engaging, and enjoyable. We, the Executive Board, are committed to making this experience not only educational but also highly interesting and fun.

As delegates, you are expected to maintain the highest standards of decorum and professionalism. Respect for fellow delegates, adherence to formal procedures, and constructive participation are essential for a successful conference. We encourage both experienced delegates and first-timers to actively engage in the debates. For those new to MUN, don't hesitate to ask questions and seek guidance—we are here to support you every step of the way.

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best of luck! Happy researching and preparing!

Warm regards,

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Rules Of Procedure - RoP (UNA-USA)

Rules of procedure refers to the set of rules and conduct that delegates are expected to follow and maintain during the entirety of the conference in order to ensure that decorum is maintained. This committee will be following the UNA-USA format of rules and procedure.

Flow of committee :

1. Motion to begin formal session - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to begin formal session.
2. Motion to set agenda - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to set the agenda of the committee.
3. Motion to begin roll call - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to begin roll call. During roll call the delegate can either say “Present” or “Present and Voting”.

Note - If a delegate chooses to say “Present and Voting” then the delegate cannot abstain from voting for the resolution at the end of the committee. If the delegate votes “Present in voting” on the first day, their stance cannot be changed to “Present” during the rest of the conference. Meanwhile if they choose to say “Present” on the first day, a delegate can choose to change their stance to “Present in voting” during the rest of the conference.

4. Motion to open the GSL (General Speakers List) - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to establish the General Speakers List.
5. Motion to move into Moderated Caucus - To put this motion in order, the delegate raises a motion to suspend formal debate/session and move into a Moderated Caucus on the

topic “xyz” for a time period of “xyz” minutes allotting “xyz” minutes/seconds per speaker.

6. Motion to move into Unmoderated Caucus - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to suspend formal session and move into an unmoderated caucus for a time period of “xyz” minutes.
7. Motion to adjourn committee - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to adjourn committee session.
8. Motion to resume committee - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to resume committee session.
9. Motion to present Draft Resolution (or any other documentation) - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to introduce “resolution name”.
Note - In order to introduce amendments, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to move into amendments for the “resolution name”.

In order to vote on the resolution the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to table “resolution name” for the voting procedure. Delegates can either vote “Yes” or “No”, if their voting stance is “Present in Voting”. However if their voting stance is “Present”, delegates can choose to abstain from voting in the resolution.

General MUN Terms:

1. Motions – It is a call to take a decision by a delegate that will affect the entire committee.
2. Points – Used to bring something of non-substantive importance to notice in committee and ask questions.
3. Yields – Utilising extra speech time left after a GSL speech.
4. Executive Board – They will facilitate debate within the Committee and are usually seated at the very front.
5. Blocs - Different groups that have similar ideas and opinions about the topics. In the real UN, there are regional blocs, but delegates can choose to build their own blocs in the Model UN. These blocs will typically work together to create a draft resolution.

6. Lobbying – Informal discussion with fellow delegates before and after the MUN sessions regarding the agenda, bloc positions, etc.
7. Quorum – The minimum number of delegates required to begin a committee session (1/5th of total strength).

Debate in MUN conference:

In a MUN conference, debate is of two types -

1. Formal debate - which consists of the General Speakers List (GSL)
2. Informal debate - which consists of Moderated Caucus and Unmoderated Caucus.

General Speakers List (GSL) :

- The GSL is a non exhaustive list, if it is exhausted the committee concludes.
- It has a default speaker time of 90 seconds
- It is generally an introductory speech in relation to the agenda, but with the flow of the committee it is recommended to shape the speech in accordance to what is being discussed in regards to the committee.
- Points of information (POI's) can be brought up during GSL speeches. (Points explained below)
- If the delegate finishes their speech before their speaker time ends, the delegate can yield the remaining time in four ways -
 - a. Yield to the Executive Board - In this case the Executive Board may decide on how the time can be used.
 - b. Yield to Questions - In order to allow questions from the committee.
 - c. Yield to Comments - In order to allow comments from the delegates present in committee.

- d. Yield to another delegate - In this case the delegate can yield their remaining time to another delegate, for their own benefit.

Moderated Caucus:

In a moderated caucus a more specific line of speeches is followed in relation to a sub agenda or subtopic.

- It is time sensitive, which means that it will elapse.
- Points of information and yielding will **not** be allowed in a moderated caucus.
- Points of orders will be entertained in a moderated caucus.
- These speeches made by delegates carry a high weightage compared to all the other speeches in committee.
- The time limit cannot be more than 2 minutes individual speakers time, and 20 minutes for total, but can be extended by half the time of the previous moderated caucus.
- If the delegate is not recognized to speak, a delegate can send in their points through substantive chits.

Format of substantive chits:

Substantive Chit

To : Executive Board

From : The delegate of (portfolio)

(Include points not being brought up in committee in the chit)

Unmoderated Caucus :

- Delegates engage in more informal discussions, usually get up and talk to each other and without chairperson intervention.
- Usually used for discussion regarding the Draft Resolution, Resolution, Working Paper or to come up with a road-map for the committee.
- Time sensitive, which implies that it also lapses.
- ‘The Delegate of XYZ would like to suspend formal debate and motions to move into an Unmoderated Caucus for a total time period of _____ minutes. (not more than 20 minutes)
- Can be extended by half the time of the previous Unmoderated Caucus.

Points:

- Point of Information – Used to ask questions on the speech that just ended. Follow-ups may be granted according to the discretion of the Executive Board. The delegate must present the question to the Executive board. For example, “The delegate of xyz stated quote ‘insert what the delegate said in their speech that you have a question on’. The delegate of (your portfolio) would like to ask the delegate of xyz ‘your question’.”
- Points of Order – Used to point out a flaw in a delegate’s speech. It will either be a Factual Inaccuracy or a Logical Fallacy. A Point of Order of Factual inaccuracy would be pointing out any factual flaws in the delegate's speech. These must also be raised to the Executive board. An example would be, “The delegate of (your portfolio) would like to raise a Point of Order, Factual Inaccuracy/Logical Fallacy. ‘State the incorrect fact stated or the flaw in logic’.”
- Point of Personal Privilege – Anything regarding yourself and the environment. (Going to the washroom, Switching off the fans, etc.) This is the only point that can trump anything else in committee, i.e. you can interrupt speeches, etc. if you are raising this point.
- Point of Parliamentary Enquiry – Questions regarding the flow of committee and rules of procedure.

Documentation:

- Working Paper (Draft Resolution but not in format)
- Draft Resolution
- Substantive chits

Resolution:

- A resolution can contain only the solutions which are being brought about during committee sessions.
- Sponsors – Usually the authors of the DR/R. Must vote in favour of the document when put up for a vote. They CANNOT become a signatory to any other resolution.
- Signatories – Neither support nor agree with the document, but would like to see it presented in committee. Have no obligation to vote for the document and one delegate can be a signatory to multiple resolutions. Every DR/R must have at least 1/3rd of the total members of committee as signatories to even be presented.
- Clauses – Preambulatory and Operative Amendments – Non-Substantive and Substantive → Friendly and Unfriendly and additions, Modifications or Deletions
- Voting → Yes, Yes with Rights, No, No with Rights, Abstention.

Special Committee Proceedings

- In this conference, for the first two sessions, the CELAC committee will adhere to a different set of Rules Of Procedure (ROP), which very slightly deviates from a typical General Assembly Committee (GA)'s ROP.
- For the first one or two sessions of the conference, the CELAC committee will essentially behave like a non-crisis ad-hoc committee. Special situation updates generated by the Executive Board will be given to delegates, following which delegates will be given a 10 to 15 minute unmoderated caucus to draft PSL Speeches (Provisional Speakers' List),

discussing the issues in the update, while citing adequate legalities and providing solutions for the same. That is, it will follow basic GA procedure.

- There will be NO CRISIS NOTES WHATSOEVER (i.e. no directives, communiqués, press releases, etc.), and all the Special updates will be made by the Executive Board ONLY.
- The updates which will be presented in the committee will be limited to the agenda and under the defined authority and jurisdiction of the CELAC. Hence, delegates should also keep in mind that the speeches they present in committee with regards to each committee, must be respectful as they are representing a nation in a public forum.
- For the latter part of the conference, the delegates will follow regular GA procedure, having moderated and unmoderated caucuses, discussing the problems which came up before and after the crisis.
- Why are we following this procedure? This procedure ensures that delegates get a firm grasp of legalities, while at the same time are pushed to make speeches and come up with solutions in a very short time frame. Along with the fun which comes with these updates, delegates are pushed to think on their feet. Delegates will be marked according to their legalities and solutions. The main purpose of this procedure is for delegates to be pushed to focus on specific aspects of this crisis as this agenda has a lot of layers to it.
- It is important to note that the final resolution, which is to be submitted on the second day of conference, will address the series of events regarding the Haitian crisis till 22nd August, 11:59 PM along with the solutions proposed during the committee sessions.
- A thorough explanation of this special ROP will be explained to the delegates during the orientation sessions, as well as before the committee begins.

Introduction to the committee

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is a regional body formed to enhance political cooperation and integration among Latin American and Caribbean nations. Officially established on December 3, 2011, in Caracas, Venezuela, through the Declaration of Caracas, its inception was first proposed on February 23, 2010, during the Rio Group–Caribbean Community Unity Summit. CELAC serves as the successor

to both the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC). Comprising 33 member countries and recognizing five official languages, CELAC aims to promote regional unity, build political consensus, advance the Latin American and Caribbean agenda in international forums, and strengthen collaborative efforts among its member states.

The Mandate:

According to the Caracas Declaration, the key mandates of CELAC are as follows -

1. Promote a "concerted voice for Latin America and the Caribbean" on major issues and coordinate common positions between member countries in multilateral forums, political spaces and international negotiations to advance the Latin American and Caribbean agenda.
2. Foster the "political, economic, social and cultural integration" of the region by developing programs, projects and initiatives on integration, cooperation, complementarity and development within Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Strengthen coordination with sub-regional integration mechanisms like Mercosur and UNASUR to deepen economic integration and cooperation.
4. Address common challenges such as the impact of the international financial crisis, designing a "new international financial architecture", hunger, illiteracy, boosting intra-regional trade, and humanitarian and environmental

The Caracas Declaration mandates CELAC to serve as a unified voice for Latin America and the Caribbean, advance regional integration across various domains, strengthen coordination with other sub-regional blocs, and collectively address shared challenges facing the region.

Powers & Authorities of CELAC:

- It is important to note the authoritative powers of the CELAC are limited and work somewhat as a recommendatory body to the United Nations, while reaffirming its respect to the Charter of the United Nations, international law, self-determination, territorial integrity, human rights, rule of law, etc.
- The CELAC has the power to issue statements on behalf of its member states at the United Nations on issues like rule of law, right to self determination (Puerto Rico case), etc.

- It is important that delegates note the lack of power to put forward binding commitments to countries while coming up with solutions, and eventually a resolution on the crisis at hand.

CELAC's Structure and Operation:

Structure of CELAC:

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is a regional bloc that facilitates political, social, and cultural integration among its member states. Established on December 3, 2011, in Caracas, Venezuela, CELAC comprises 33 sovereign countries, representing approximately 600 million people. The structure of CELAC is designed to promote cooperation and dialogue among its members without a permanent secretariat or formal treaty obligations. It is the official successor of the Permanent Mechanism for Political Consultation and Consensus (The Rio Group) and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC).

Key Components of CELAC's Structure:

1. **Summit of Heads of State and Government:**
This is the highest decision-making body within CELAC, where leaders of member states convene to discuss and set the strategic direction of the organisation.
2. **Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs:**
This forum allows foreign ministers to coordinate policies and actions among member states, facilitating diplomatic dialogue and cooperation.
3. **The Pro-Tempore Presidency:**
The presidency rotates among member states every six months. The country holding the presidency is responsible for organising meetings and representing CELAC in international forums.
4. **Troika:**
The Troika consists of the current pro-tempore president, the previous president, and the next president. This group ensures continuity in leadership and decision-making.
5. **Specialised Meetings:**
CELAC holds various specialised meetings focused on specific areas such as health, education, and economic cooperation. These meetings allow for targeted discussions and initiatives among member states.

This committee will be a specialised meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of different countries to discuss the Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti. We assume that the current country which holds the Pro-Tempore Presidency, the Republic of Honduras, raised the requirement for a meeting to discuss the following agenda.

Relationship with Other Organisations:

CELAC is seen as an alternative to the Organization of American States (OAS) and does not replace existing regional integration mechanisms such as MERCOSUR or CARICOM. Instead, it seeks to complement these organisations by providing a unified voice for Latin America and the Caribbean on the global stage. CELAC emphasises consultation and cooperation across various areas, including trade, security, and sustainable development. CELAC has shown great ties with the European Union and has also held joint sessions to discuss global issues.

Observer Nation Requirements:

For the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) specifically, the criteria for observer status include 23 :

- Expressing in writing an adherence to CELAC's principles and objectives.
- Making a formal request to the CELAC Pro Tempore Presidency, with the decision made by the member countries.
- As an observer, being able to participate in meetings to which they are invited and having the right to speak.

If an observer state has free trade agreements with at least half of the CELAC member states, they may apply for full membership.

- Maintaining a commitment to CELAC's principles, objectives and work in order to retain observer status.

For the sake of this committee, we will assume countries which are listed as observer nations do abide by the following guidelines (as they are very vague and the countries do in fact follow them to a certain extent)

Furthermore, following normal GA ROP, observer nations will not have voting rights for resolutions. They can, however, be proxy sponsors for resolutions.

NOTE: Even though the CELAC has openly voiced against the United States of America, (emphasis on the summit that happened at Mexico), they will be an observer nation for this special summit due to their high involvement in the Haitian crisis.

Refer to the second link from the reference links to learn more about the structure and functions of CELAC.

Introduction to the Agenda

“Addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti with special emphasis on gang violence and organised crime”

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti has reached a critical point, exacerbated by a surge in gang violence, organised crime, and multifaceted challenges such as political instability, economic hardships, and natural disasters. Powerful criminal gangs, including the G9 Family and Allies, 400 Mawozo, and Chen Mechan, have taken control of large parts of Port-au-Prince and beyond. These groups engage in extortion, kidnapping, and violent turf wars, displacing hundreds of thousands of Haitians and severely disrupting the delivery of aid. The humanitarian impact is severe, with over 5.2 million Haitians, nearly half the population, in urgent need of assistance.

The Biden administration has responded by reinstating Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian refugees, providing temporary legal status and work authorization for Haitian nationals in the United States, recognizing the dire situation in their home country. The crisis in Haiti has also been met with international support, including a \$100 million aid pledge from the Biden administration and efforts by the Pan American Health Organization to provide medical supplies and support to the Ministry of Health.

Gangs have taken control of large swaths of Port-au-Prince and the surrounding Artibonite department, engaging in kidnappings, extortion, and violent clashes with law enforcement and rival groups. This has severely restricted access to essential services like healthcare, with less than half of health facilities in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area operating at normal capacity. The crisis has also worsened existing challenges, such as food and water insecurity, with over a third of Haitians, or 4.35 million people, facing extreme food insecurity due to violence disrupting agricultural production and distribution. Access to safe water and sanitation has also regressed due to security concerns and lack of funding for maintenance.

Women and children are disproportionately affected, with a significant number of armed group members being children and widespread reports of sexual violence and exploitation. The Haitian government has struggled to address the crisis, leading to international interventions. The United Nations has approved the deployment of a multinational force to help train and support the Haitian police, though the implementation of this plan remains uncertain.

As the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), a comprehensive and coordinated approach is essential to address this crisis. Strengthening security and the rule of law is crucial, supporting the Haitian government and security forces in combating gang violence

while ensuring human rights and protecting civilians. Facilitating humanitarian access is vital to ensure that aid organisations can deliver essential supplies to those in need without interruption. Addressing the root causes of the crisis, such as poverty, inequality, and weak governance, is vital for long-term stability and resilience in Haiti. Coordinating regional cooperation by leveraging the collective resources and influence of CELAC member states will help mobilise a robust regional response.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has also played a pivotal role in addressing the crisis in Haiti. CARICOM has been actively involved in diplomatic efforts, advocating for political stability and encouraging dialogue among Haitian leaders. Additionally, CARICOM member states have provided humanitarian assistance, including food, medical supplies, and technical support, to help alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people.

The time to act is now, as the situation continues to worsen each day.

The Humanitarian Crisis

Haiti's ongoing crisis is a deeply complex and multifaceted challenge, driven by political instability, gang violence, and economic hardship. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the situation has deteriorated significantly in recent years. Armed gangs now control large parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, severely hindering the delivery of aid and essential services.

Estimates indicate that around 200 armed groups operate nationwide, with about 20 of them concentrated in Port-au-Prince. These gangs are a major obstacle to stability and progress. Figures like Jimmy Chérizier, also known as 'Barbecue', have gained prominence, advocating for political reform while bearing a tarnished reputation due to allegations of past brutality.

The crisis has had a devastating impact on women and children. The UN estimates that 30% to 50% of armed group members are children, and approximately 90% of Haiti's population lives in poverty. Three million children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Sexual violence is rampant, with gangs using it to punish and control people. Women are often raped during gang attacks, and some are forced into exploitative sexual relationships. Such violence is severely underreported and goes largely unpunished.

Case studies

The Rise of Gangs and Their Role in Haiti's Humanitarian Crisis

1. The G9 Family and Allies (G9 an Fanmi ak Alye)

- The G9 is an alliance of nine powerful gangs in Haiti, led by Jimmy Chérizier, alias 'Barbecue', a former police officer.
- The G9 is believed to have been allied with former President Jovenel Moïse and acted as his security force until his assassination in 2021.
- After Moïse's death, the G9 has continued to exert significant control over parts of Port-au-Prince, engaging in violent turf wars with rival gangs and hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- In July 2022, the G9 was accused of orchestrating a massacre in the Cité Soleil slum that left at least 89 people dead, including women and children.

2. The G-PEP gang alliance

- The G-PEP gang alliance, led by Gabriel Jean-Pierre (also known as Ti Gabriel), is one of the two main rival gang federations currently engaged in violent conflict in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-Prince.
- G-PEP is based in the impoverished Cité Soleil district of Port-au-Prince and has been associated with Haitian opposition parties.
- In September 2023, G-PEP formed a temporary alliance with its rival, the G9 gang led by Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier, to coordinate against shared political opponents.
- In March 2024, G-PEP joined forces with G9 to carry out coordinated attacks targeting police stations, prisons, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure in Port-au-Prince.
- This included an assault on two prisons that freed over 4,600 inmates, many of whom were recruited by the gangs.
- The rapid escalation of violence between G-PEP and G9 has had devastating humanitarian consequences, with over 2,500 people killed or injured in the first quarter of 2024 alone.

Thousands have been displaced, and access to basic services like healthcare has been severely disrupted.

-The UN Security Council has called for urgent international assistance to help stabilise the situation, including through the deployment of a Multinational Security Support Mission authorised in October 2023.

3. The 400 Mawozo Gang

- The 400 Mawozo gang is known for its involvement in high-profile kidnappings, including the abduction of a group of missionaries in 2021.
- The gang's criminal activities have disrupted the flow of goods and services in the capital, as they often block major roads and highways.
- Investigations have revealed that the 400 Mawozo gang has connections to Haitian-American criminal networks, with some members operating out of the United States.
- The gang's involvement in kidnapping and extortion has further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, as aid workers and civilians have become targets of their criminal activities.

4. The Chen Mechan Gang

- The Chen Mechan gang is based in the Cité Soleil slum, one of the most impoverished and gang-controlled areas of Port-au-Prince.
- In July 2022, the Chen Mechan gang was blamed for a massacre that left at least 89 people dead, including women and children, in what was described as one of the deadliest incidents of gang violence in Haiti's history.
- The gang's control over Cité Soleil has severely limited the ability of humanitarian organisations to access and provide aid to the residents of the slum, who are in dire need of assistance.

There are believed to be about 200 armed gangs operating in Haiti, with around 95 in the capital Port-au-Prince alone. These gangs have been accused of mass killings, sexual violence, kidnappings, and extortion. The gangs have been closely associated with politicians, political parties, businessmen, and other elites in Haiti. They have increasingly made political demands, particularly after the 2021 assassination of President Moïse, and have been involved in a power struggle with the government.

IMPORTANT: The Viv Ansanm Movement

The Viv Ansanm (or "Live Together") gang coalition is a powerful alliance of armed groups that has taken control of significant portions of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. Led

by the notorious gang leader Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier, Viv Ansanm is believed to comprise around 200 armed gangs, with roughly half of them operating in the capital. The coalition has been accused of committing mass killings, sexual violence, and other human rights abuses in areas under their control, as well as in districts they seek to take over. Viv Ansanm has also been linked to the political party of former President Jovenel Moïse, who was assassinated in 2021. Recently, the gang coalition has made bold political demands, threatening violence if they are not granted a seat at the negotiating table as Haiti's transitional government attempts to restore order. Chérizier has warned that it is "either we are all at the table, or the table gets destroyed with all of us," underscoring the gang's growing influence and unwillingness to be sidelined in the country's political future.

NOTE: While this background guide does not cover in-depth details about various organised crime groups (around 200) in Haiti, it is important to note that researching such information is within the scope of your duties as a delegate. This knowledge may prove useful later on during the proceedings.

The Roots of Haiti's Gang Violence Situation

The origins of Haiti's gang violence can be traced back to the Duvalier dictatorship, when armed groups were formed for protection and self-interest. Under President Aristide in the 1990s, armed groups called Chimères emerged as a voice for the poor.

The 2010 earthquake provided an opportunity for imprisoned gang members to escape and join or form new groups. UN peacekeeping troops stationed in Haiti from 1993-2017 failed to contain the violence or prevent the gangs from growing in power and influence.

The rise of powerful gangs in Haiti, such as the G9, 400 Mawozo, and Chen Mechan, has played a significant role in exacerbating the country's humanitarian crisis. The gangs' tactics of violence, extortion, and control over strategic areas have made it increasingly difficult for aid organisations to reach those in need, further compounding the suffering of the Haitian people.

Haiti's humanitarian crisis has deep historical roots, beginning with the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492, which marked the onset of colonisation and the decimation of the Indigenous Taíno population. The French established the lucrative colony of Saint-Domingue, relying heavily on enslaved Africans for sugar and coffee production. The Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) led to independence but resulted in crippling reparations to France, severely impacting Haiti's economy. Political instability, foreign interventions, and natural disasters have compounded these issues, leaving Haiti as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere today.

Haiti's humanitarian crisis is deeply rooted in its post-colonial history, marked by a series of foreign interventions and internal conflicts. After gaining independence in 1804, Haiti faced crippling reparations to France, which stunted its economic growth and led to chronic poverty.

The U.S. occupation from 1915 to 1934 further undermined Haitian sovereignty, imposing a constitution that favoured American interests. Subsequent coups, notably the 2004 ousting of President Aristide, perpetuated instability, allowing foreign powers to dominate Haitian governance.

Natural disasters, such as the 2010 earthquake, compounded these issues, while ongoing gang violence and political turmoil continue to displace citizens and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis.

The Geographical Analysis of Haiti

The geographical location of the country, its border dynamics, and regional disputes all contribute to the complexity of the situation. Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and historically, the border has been a source of tension. The porous nature of this border facilitates illegal trade and human trafficking, further complicating Haiti's security situation. The Dominican Republic has increased its military presence along the border due to concerns about the spillover effects of Haiti's instability, such as an influx of refugees and criminal activities.

The political landscape in Haiti has been turbulent, especially following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021. Since then, Prime Minister Ariel Henry has governed without parliamentary approval, leading to a significant power vacuum and a lack of democratic legitimacy. The absence of elected officials since 2016 has worsened the political crisis, with no elections held since that time. Protests demanding Henry's resignation have intensified, especially as the February 7 constitutional deadline for a power transfer approaches. Efforts to establish a transitional government have been hindered by deep divisions among political factions and civil society. While some groups have sought dialogue, including representatives from the Catholic Church, consensus remains elusive. The political deadlock has led to a deteriorating situation where governance is increasingly challenged by armed gangs that control significant portions of Port-au-Prince.

Gang violence dominates the security landscape in Haiti, with criminal groups controlling approximately 80% of Port-au-Prince. This has resulted in a significant increase in kidnappings,

killings, and sexual violence. The Haitian National Police, already under-resourced, has struggled to maintain order, prompting Prime Minister Henry to request international assistance. However, proposed multinational forces, including a contingent from Kenya, have faced legal and logistical hurdles, delaying their deployment. Haiti is currently facing a multifaceted crisis that encompasses political instability, rampant gang violence, and dire humanitarian conditions. The country's geographical context, border dynamics, and regional disputes contribute to the complexity of the situation. Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, with a border that has historically been a site of tension. The porous nature of this border facilitates illegal trade and human trafficking, further complicating Haiti's security situation. The Dominican Republic has increased its military presence along the border due to concerns about the spillover effects of Haiti's instability, including the influx of refugees and criminal activities. Haiti's political landscape has been tumultuous, particularly following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021. Since then, Prime Minister Ariel Henry has governed without parliamentary approval, leading to a significant power vacuum and a lack of legitimacy.

International Involvement

The United Nations involvement in the situation

The United Nations has been deeply involved in efforts to address the crisis in Haiti. In 2022, the UN Security Council approved [Resolution 2645](#), authorising a Kenyan-led multinational security mission to help combat gang violence and restore stability in the country. However, the deployment of this mission has faced delays and challenges, including a Kenyan court ruling the deployment "illegal and invalid" and Kenyan officials pausing any deployment until a new government is in place in Haiti. Which recently happened, that is why Kenyan Troops are now present at Haiti.

The UN has also warned that the humanitarian situation in Haiti is dire, with over 362,000 Haitians displaced due to gang violence and the country at risk of famine. In March 2023, the UN Security Council issued a statement calling for urgent international action and support to address the crisis.

MINUSTAH:

Overview of Minustah

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (Minustah) was established on June 1, 2004, following a request from the Haitian government and the Organization of American States

(OAS). It was created in response to a political crisis that led to the ousting of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The mission aimed to stabilise the country, support the transitional government, and facilitate the restoration of democratic governance.

Objectives

Minustah had several key objectives:

1. **Stabilisation and Security:** To restore and maintain a secure and stable environment, enabling the Haitian government to function effectively.
2. **Support for Democratic Processes:** To assist in organising and conducting free and fair elections, thereby promoting democratic governance.
3. **Human Rights Protection:** To monitor and promote human rights, ensuring the protection of civilians and the rule of law.
4. **National Dialogue and Reconciliation:** To support political dialogue among various factions within Haiti to foster national reconciliation.

Structure and Composition

Minustah was composed of military and police personnel from various UN member states. At its height, the mission included approximately:

- **Military Personnel:** Over 9,000 troops from countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and the United States.
- **Police Forces:** Around 2,000 police officers, primarily from countries like Jordan, Brazil, and Canada.

The mission was led by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who coordinated the efforts of the military and civilian components.

Key Events and Challenges

1. **Cholera Outbreak (2010):** One of the most significant challenges faced by Minustah was the cholera outbreak that began in October 2010. The outbreak was linked to the improper disposal of sewage by UN peacekeepers from Nepal. It resulted in over 10,000 deaths and hundreds of thousands of infections, leading to widespread public outrage against the UN.
2. **Allegations of Sexual Abuse:** Throughout its deployment, Minustah faced numerous allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers. These incidents raised serious concerns about the conduct of UN personnel and led to calls for accountability and reform within the UN peacekeeping system.

3. **Political Instability:** The mission operated during a period of significant political turmoil in Haiti, including protests, violence, and changes in government. The political landscape was often unstable, complicating the mission's efforts to achieve its objectives.
4. **Natural Disasters:** Haiti is prone to natural disasters, and the 2010 earthquake further exacerbated the country's challenges. The earthquake killed over 200,000 people, displaced millions, and caused extensive damage to infrastructure, necessitating a humanitarian response alongside the stabilisation efforts.

Transition and Conclusion

In October 2017, the UN Security Council voted to end Minustah and transition to a new mission called the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). This new mission focused on:

- **Strengthening the Haitian National Police:** Providing training and support to improve the capacity and effectiveness of local law enforcement.
- **Promoting Rule of Law:** Supporting the judicial system and enhancing the accountability of state institutions.

The transition marked a shift from a primarily military presence to a focus on police support and justice sector reform.

The Role of Other Countries

Kenya

Kenya has intensified its involvement in Haiti's gang violence crisis by deploying approximately 400 police officers to Port-au-Prince as part of a U.N.-backed multinational mission, which aims to restore order and support the Haitian National Police. The Kenyan-led force is expected to grow to about 2,500 personnel, with contributions from other nations like the Bahamas and Jamaica, and is primarily funded by the United States. The mission faces significant challenges, including scepticism from Haitians wary of foreign military presence due to past interventions that led to human rights abuses and health crises. Despite escalating violence, which has displaced over 580,000 people, there is cautious optimism that the mission might stabilise the country and create a secure environment for democratic elections.

Canada

Canada's involvement in addressing Haiti's gang violence crisis includes targeted sanctions, significant financial aid, and a leadership role in international coordination. Canada has sanctioned prominent Haitian gang leaders to hold them accountable for exacerbating violence and destabilising the country. Financially, Canada has committed over \$400 million since 2022 to support humanitarian needs and security efforts, including an additional \$80.5 million in 2024 to strengthen the Haitian National Police through the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS). Canada's assistance also addresses emergency needs, such as food security and health services, particularly in response to gender-based violence. In its leadership role, Canada is coordinating with international partners to bolster Haitian authorities' ability to combat gang violence and restore order amid a worsening humanitarian crisis marked by widespread displacement and escalating violence in Port-au-Prince.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic has taken a proactive stance in response to the escalating gang violence in Haiti, driven by concerns over potential spillover effects. In March 2024, it shut down its border with Haiti and deployed 10,000 troops to prevent violence from crossing into its territory. The Dominican Republic has also called for greater international intervention, with President Luis Abinader urging the UN to take action to restore order in Haiti, emphasising the threat to regional security. While serving as a crucial buffer between Haiti and the rest of the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic is also concerned about illegal arms trafficking along the border. Despite these efforts, the country remains reluctant to become more deeply involved in Haitian affairs due to historical tensions and its own capacity constraints, focusing instead on securing its borders and safeguarding national security.

United States of America

The United States has provided approximately \$200 million in financial aid aimed at alleviating the severe humanitarian needs caused by the violence and instability. The U.S. has also supported the deployment of a Kenyan-led multinational security mission, authorised by the UN Security Council, to help stabilise the situation in Haiti, where gangs have taken control of large parts of Port-au-Prince. U.S. officials have stressed the importance of a coordinated international effort, emphasising that military intervention alone is insufficient without addressing the underlying socio-economic issues fueling the violence.

Despite these efforts, the U.S. faces significant criticism for its historical role in Haitian politics, with many arguing that past interventions have contributed to the current instability and governance issues. Additionally, the proliferation of illegal firearms trafficked from the U.S. has been identified as a major factor exacerbating the gang violence, leading to calls for the U.S. to take greater responsibility in curbing the arms trade. The ongoing violence has created a power vacuum in Haiti, with acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry struggling to maintain control, which has further destabilised the country. The U.S. is also concerned about the potential for increased migration as the violence escalates, fearing a humanitarian crisis that could lead to a surge in Haitian refugees seeking asylum.

France

France's involvement in addressing Haiti's gang violence crisis encompasses diplomatic support, financial aid, and advocacy for international intervention. France has strongly supported the deployment of a Kenyan-led multinational security support mission (MSS) to assist the Haitian National Police in combating the escalating gang violence. It has pledged €1 million in bilateral support for the Haitian National Police for 2023, renewed for 2024, and has contributed to a dedicated UN fund to support the MSS. France is also backing the establishment of a Transitional Presidential Council in Haiti, which it views as a vital step toward restoring democratic institutions and preparing for future elections.

Humanitarian Access and Protection Challenges

One of the biggest impediments to reaching communities and distributing aid is the lack of access for humanitarian organisations due to gang control of Port-au-Prince and the Artibonite departments. The dynamic and constantly changing environment, blockages, and security concerns make Haiti a challenging operational context for many international aid organisations.

Civilians are often subjected to violence, abuse, coercion, and deprivation during the armed conflict, and the continued displacement of people is creating new protection needs and challenges for organisations working on gender-based violence (GBV). The UN found a 50% increase in sexual violence between 2022 and 2023, with almost 80% of women and girls reporting being subject to some form of GBV.

In their Haiti situation report published on June 5, 2024, the UN Population Fund stated, "There is an urgent need to mobilise adequate resources to ensure robust protection programming in terms of the provision of basic hygiene items, building women and girls' resilience through social and economic activities and cash assistance."

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has been relatively quiet on the Haitian crisis, despite its potential to play a more active role in regional affairs. CELAC, which includes most countries in the Americas except the United States and Canada, has not issued any major statements or taken concrete actions to address the situation in Haiti. Some experts have criticised CELAC for its lack of engagement, arguing that the organisation could leverage its regional influence to facilitate a more coordinated and effective international response to the crisis.

Comparable Instances of Gang Violence **and Humanitarian Crises in Other** **Countries**

The humanitarian crisis in Haiti, driven by gang violence, is not an isolated issue. Other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean face similar challenges, resulting in severe consequences for vulnerable populations. Here are some relevant case studies:

In El Salvador, gang violence primarily from MS-13 and Barrio 18 has created a severe humanitarian crisis. These gangs engage in extortion, forced recruitment, and violent turf wars, displacing hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans. Humanitarian organisations struggle to provide aid due to the disruption of essential services. The government's harsh crackdown on gangs has been criticised for human rights abuses and failing to address the root causes of violence. Women and children are especially vulnerable, facing increased risks of sexual violence and recruitment by gangs.

Venezuela is another example where economic and political crises have fueled gang violence, particularly in urban areas like Caracas. Hyperinflation, food and medicine shortages, and collapsing public services have created a dire humanitarian emergency, with millions needing aid. Gangs exploit this crisis through extortion, kidnapping, and violent turf wars, displacing thousands and hindering humanitarian efforts. Government crackdowns on gangs have been

criticised for human rights abuses, and the broader crisis has led to a massive regional migration strain.

In Honduras, gangs like MS-13 and Barrio 18 have long contributed to high levels of violence, compounded by poverty, corruption, and natural disasters. These gangs engage in extortion, forced recruitment, and targeted violence, causing internal displacement and disrupting access to essential services. Security forces have been accused of human rights abuses, further fueling the cycle of violence. The crisis disproportionately affects women and children, who face heightened risks of gender-based violence and exploitation. Humanitarian organisations face significant challenges in delivering aid due to pervasive gang presence and instability.

These case studies from El Salvador, Venezuela, and Honduras highlight the interconnected nature of gang violence and humanitarian crises. They underscore the difficulties governments and humanitarian organisations face in addressing these complex issues.

As CELAC addresses the crisis in Haiti, it is essential to consider these broader regional contexts. Learning from the experiences of other countries can help in formulating a coordinated, multilateral approach to effectively tackle gang violence and its humanitarian impacts. This approach can alleviate the suffering of affected populations across Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting stability and security in the region.

Important Legalities

CELAC's Legal Framework

CELAC, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, does not have a formal, binding charter or constitution. Instead, its legal framework is based on a series of political declarations and statements issued by its member states.

Regional Charters and Policies

CELAC Charter

- The CELAC Charter establishes the 33-member Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as a regional bloc to unite the region and strengthen its global voice. It serves as an alternative to the Organization of American States

(OAS), which some view as too influenced by the United States. However, CELAC has faced internal divisions on issues such as Venezuela.

CELAC Plan on Health Self-Sufficiency

- This CELAC initiative aims to boost the region's capacity to locally manufacture vaccines, medicines, and other health technologies, reducing dependence on imports.
- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for greater health self-sufficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean. This plan represents an effort to coordinate regional cooperation on pharmaceutical production and supply chains.

CELAC-China Forum

- The CELAC-China Forum provides a platform for dialogue and cooperation between China and the 33 CELAC member states.
- This forum has allowed China to deepen economic and political ties with the region, challenging the traditional influence of the United States. However, some CELAC members remain wary of over-dependence on China.

CELAC Declaration on Haiti

- CELAC declarations have called for a "Haitian-led solution" to the country's political and security crises, rejecting foreign military intervention.
- CELAC's stance on Haiti reflects the region's desire for autonomy and self-determination, even as the situation in Haiti continues to deteriorate. However, CELAC has struggled to translate declarations into concrete action.

CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger 2025

- This plan, adopted in 2014, aims to coordinate regional efforts to achieve zero hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2025 through increased agricultural productivity, food trade, and social protection programs.
- The plan has helped drive some progress, with the number of undernourished people in the region declining from 47.2 million in 1990-92 to 39.3 million in 2014-16. However, hunger levels have risen again in recent years due to economic crises and the COVID-19 pandemic.

CELAC-EU Summit Declarations

- CELAC and the European Union have held several high-level summits since 2013, issuing joint declarations on issues like sustainable development, human rights, and regional integration.

- The CELAC-EU partnership has deepened political and economic ties between the two regions. However, the declarations have been criticised by some as lacking concrete commitments and follow-through.

Key Documents To The Agenda:

1. Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit (2010):

The Unity Summit in Cancún, Mexico, on February 22-23, 2010, established the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The declaration emphasised political, economic, social, and cultural integration, and outlined principles like respect for international law, sovereign equality, democracy, human rights, and environmental protection. CELAC, based on solidarity, inclusion, equity, and diversity, aims to continue the legacy of the Rio Group and CALC, focusing on regional integration and sustainable development.

2. Haiti's Constitution and Laws

- **The Constitution of Haiti** (1987, amended in 2012) is the supreme law of the land, overriding all other legislation apart from international agreements ratified by Haiti.
- Haiti's legal system is based on the **Napoleonic Code**, with key laws including the Civil Code, Penal Code, Code of Civil Procedure, and Commercial Code.
- **The Haitian Rural Code** of 1962 (amended in 1986) governs land rights and tenure in rural areas.

3. UN Security Council Resolutions

- *UN Security Council Resolution 2476 (2019)*
Established BINUH (United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti) on June 25, 2019, to continue the UN presence in Haiti following the conclusion of the previous mission, MINUJUSTH. BINUH focuses on providing advisory services to Haitian state institutions to promote political stability, good governance, and the rule of law.
- *UN Security Council Resolution 2645 (2022)*
Extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) until July 15, 2023. This resolution was crucial in addressing the ongoing political and security crises in Haiti, particularly in light of the deteriorating situation following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021.

- *UN Security Council Resolution 2653 (2022)*

Established a sanctions regime on Haiti, including measures like asset freezes and travel bans, to address the deteriorating security situation. This stands as the first powerful step put forward by the Security Council and put strict sanctions on Haiti.
- *UN Security Council Resolution 2692 (2023)*

Renewed BINUH's mandate for another year until July 15, 2024, and emphasised the mission's role in supporting Haitian authorities in combating illicit arms trafficking and financial flows
- *UN Security Council Resolution 2699 (2023)*

Adopted unanimously on 2 October 2023, this resolution authorised member states to establish and deploy a Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to Haiti for one year. The MSS mission is tasked with supporting the Haitian National Police to combat armed gangs, protect civilians, and facilitate humanitarian aid delivery. The Secretary-General is required to report on the resolution's implementation within 60 days and every 90 days thereafter.
- *UN Security Council Resolution 2700 (2023)*

Adopted unanimously on 19 October 2023, this resolution renewed the sanctions regime on Haiti for one year, including an arms embargo and targeted asset freezes and travel bans. It designated specific individuals and entities associated with armed gangs for sanctions and requested the Secretary-General to provide a midterm report within six months and a final report 30 days before the mandate ends.

4. Humanitarian Action Framework

Global Humanitarian Overview 2024 (GHO)

The GHO 2024 framework coordinates international humanitarian response and prioritises aid. It identifies key priorities in Haiti, including offering protection services to women and girls at risk of gender-based violence.

CEDAW

Adopted in 1979, CEDAW is the UN's treaty on women's rights, often called the "bill of rights" for women. It requires ratifying countries to eliminate discrimination against women and

promotes gender equality, monitored by a 23-member committee. It aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

UDHR

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948, outlines fundamental human rights. It consists of 30 articles detailing universal, inalienable rights and freedoms for all.

ICCPR

Adopted in 1966, the ICCPR commits 173 state parties to respect civil and political rights, including the right to life, freedom of religion and speech, and rights to due process. It is part of the International Bill of Human Rights and is monitored by the UN Human Rights Committee.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

- What are the intricate socio-economic factors, including historical, political, and cultural dimensions, that contribute to the rise and perpetuation of gang violence in Haiti?
- What comprehensive strategies can be implemented to address the multifaceted challenges faced by civilians in accessing essential services such as clean food and water, healthcare, and education amidst the ongoing crisis?
- What are the structural frameworks necessary for eradicating the evils prevalent in Haiti like gender-based violence, migrant-smuggling, drug abuse, homicide, kidnapping, trafficking, etc., considering the lack of reforms in the country to uphold the rule of law?
- What are the structural deficiencies and loopholes in Haiti's existing legal and institutional frameworks that exacerbate the persistence of the crisis, and how can these be effectively reformed?
- Through what mechanisms and channels are organised crime syndicates acquiring weapons and resources, and what international and domestic policies can be enacted to disrupt these supply chains?
- How can reconciliation and community-building efforts be strategically supported and integrated into broader peacebuilding initiatives to foster long-term societal cohesion and a peaceful environment in Haiti?

Reference Links

Here are a few websites you may refer to get a better understanding of the agenda and the committee. Please do go through the same as these have been specially picked by the Executive Board. We cannot emphasise enough the need for delegates to refer to these links as they hold very crucial information.

- <https://celacinternational.org/>
- https://www.minrel.gob.cl/minrel_old/site/artic/20130208/asocfile/20130208155151/proc_edimientos_celac__ingl__s.pdf
- <http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/19-reunion%20intersesional/documentos/CARACAS%20DECLARATION.pdf>
- <https://insightcrime.org/news/g9-gpcc-two-gang-alliances-tearing-haiti-apart/>
- <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/haiti/>
- <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/crisis-haiti>
- <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15674.doc.htm>
- [CELAC - Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of the role of the Organization | Dominican Republic](#)
- [celac_e.pdf \(un.org\)](#)
- [Permanent Mission to the United Nations | Statement on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC on Agenda Item 83: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and Strengthening of the Role of the Organization \(cancilleria.gob.ar\)](#)
- <https://riskbulletins.globalinitiative.net/ht-obs-001/index.html>
- <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/haiti>