

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

**Issue:** Discussing the efficiency of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in Haiti

**Student Officer:** Nikolas Langen

**Position:** Co-Chair

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Nikolas Langen and this year, I have the honor to serve as a co-chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4) in the 6<sup>th</sup> ACGMUN.

Having participated in over 15 MUN Conferences I have had the pleasure to meet many people with whom I share common interests. MUN has benefited me in a lot of ways such as being able to talk and debate on issues that concern us all. I personally hope that all of you will love and respect MUN as much as I do and understand why we all spend months together preparing conferences and all the work we put into making each and every conference successful.

In this study guide the topic at hand is “Discussing the efficiency of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in Haiti”. For many decades, Haiti has gone through some of the most demanding situations that a country could deal with such as natural disasters, political and economic instability, and assassinations of political figures.

Through this study guide the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and everything it contains will be analyzed in order to reach conclusions about its efficiency. However, you should not limit your preparation solely to this document but conduct further research on your own.

I cannot wait to meet you all in April 2023. For any further inquiries do not hesitate to contact me at [nikolas.r.langen@gmail.com](mailto:nikolas.r.langen@gmail.com).

Kind Regards,

Nikolas Langen

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

For the past century, Haiti has been facing many issues and crises, some short-term and some long-term. From coups, and presidential assassinations to natural disasters and human rights violations, the country is in dire need of resolving some of

its lasting problems. The political unrest together with the gang violence that exists mainly in the capital, Port-au-Prince, has led people to leave their country and migrate elsewhere. Furthermore, this has had a grave impact on the humanitarian aid that is being sent to Haiti since a lot of the people do not have access to it due to political instability and gang violence.

In its response, the United Nations (UN) has formed multiple committees and peacekeeping missions to try and resolve the issues facing Haiti, but also to assist and protect its citizens. One of the latest active committees of the UN specifically for Haiti is the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (AHAG). The AHAG, which functions under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has the mandate of making recommendations and assessing the situation in Haiti as well as producing reports for UN bodies and agencies such as the UN Security Council (UNSC) or the UN Secretary-General Office. Although there is currently no active UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti, in the past there have been multiple successful peacekeeping missions, which have played a significant role in assisting the Haitian state such as by coordinating all of the humanitarian aid sent to Haiti.

Haiti has received billions of dollars in aid from countries and organizations which have been key in helping the country to resolve its social, political, and economic hardships. Some countries and organizations also united their forces to assist Haiti, such as in the case of the Haiti Hope Project which managed to assist mango farmers and promote Haiti's mango industry

The communication gap between the Haitian government and the people of Haiti is large with the government not reflecting its people and as a result, it causes constant political unrest. There have been multiple times when the government has not been successful in dealing with various issues, such as putting an end to gang violence. Additionally, due to this gap and because of the fact that the Haitian people want change, there have even been several assassinations including that of President Jovenel Moise in July of 2021.

From all the above it can be understood why it is important to resolve the issues that Haiti is facing nowadays and ensure that any outcome will be in the best interests of the Haitian population. It is essential that international organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the Haitian government work closely together for as long as necessary to ensure the recovery of the island nation.

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

### Ad Hoc Advisory Group<sup>1</sup>

“Ad Hoc Advisory Group means a time-limited task force, committee, or other work group created by a quorum of the Board to work on a specific project.”

### Cité Soleil<sup>2</sup>

“Cité Soleil is an extremely impoverished and densely populated commune located in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area in Haiti. Cité Soleil originally developed as underprivileged suburb and grew to an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 residents, the majority of whom live in extreme poverty. The area is generally regarded as one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of the Western Hemisphere and it is one of the biggest slums in the Northern Hemisphere.”

### Coup d'état<sup>3</sup>

Coup d'état, also called coup, is the sudden, violent overthrow of an existing government by a small group. The chief prerequisite for a coup is control of all or part of the armed forces, the police, and other military elements. Unlike a revolution, which is usually achieved by large numbers of people working for basic social, economic, and political change, a coup is a change in power from the top that merely results in the abrupt replacement of leading government personnel. A coup rarely alters a nation's fundamental social and economic policies, nor does it significantly redistribute power among competing political groups.

### Diaspora<sup>4</sup>

A group of people who spread from one original country to other countries

### Human Development Index<sup>5</sup>

“The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary composite measure of a country's average achievements in three basic aspects of human development: health, knowledge and standard of living.”

### Remittances<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Ad Hoc Advisory Group Definition.” *Law Insider*, [www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/ad-hoc-advisory-group](http://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/ad-hoc-advisory-group). Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

<sup>2</sup> ---. “Cité Soleil.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 5 Feb. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cit%C3%A9\\_Soleil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cit%C3%A9_Soleil).

<sup>3</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “coup d'état”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 5 Jan. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat>. Accessed 13 January 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. “DIASPORA | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge.org*, 2019, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/diaspora](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/diaspora).

<sup>5</sup> World Health Organization. *Human Development Index*. 2022, [www.who.int/data/nutrition/nlis/info/human-development-index](http://www.who.int/data/nutrition/nlis/info/human-development-index).

<sup>6</sup> Ratha, Dilip. “What Are Remittances?” *Www.imf.org*, 2022, [www.imf.org/external/Pubs/FT/fandd/basics/76-remittances.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/FT/fandd/basics/76-remittances.htm).

Remittances are typically transfers from one person to another person or household. They are targeted to specific needs of the recipients and thus tend to reduce poverty.

### Restavek child in Haiti<sup>7</sup>

A restavek (or restavec) is a child in Haiti who is sold by their parents to work for a host household as a domestic servant because the parents lack the resources required to support the child. The term comes from the French language “rester avec”, to ‘stay with’.

### Subsistence Farming<sup>8</sup>

Form of farming in which nearly all of the crops or livestock raised are used to maintain the farmer and the farmer’s family, leaving little, if any, for sale or trade.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Current situation in Haiti

The current political, social and economic situation of Haiti holds great uncertainty and risks the safety of the Haitian population, exacerbating the work and efficiency of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. It has been reported that almost 60% of the capital, Port-au-Prince, is controlled by gangs, according to the UN aid chief in Haiti.<sup>9</sup> In order to ensure the safety of its capital, Haiti has requested international military assistance to alleviate a worsening, complex and unprecedented crisis that is cause for great concern both by the Haitian authorities and the international community. The biggest issue that Haiti is facing today is gang wars. That is the reason why UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed urged all countries with the necessary capacity to respond to Haiti’s Prime Minister urgent appeal. Two months after the calling of Haitian Prime Minister for “the immediate deployment of a specialized armed force, in sufficient quantity”<sup>10</sup>, on 7 October 2022, no country has stepped forward and responded.

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<sup>7</sup> “Restavek.” *Wikipedia*, 5 Dec. 2022, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restavek#:~:text=A%20restavek%20\(or%20restavec\)%20is](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restavek#:~:text=A%20restavek%20(or%20restavec)%20is). Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "subsistence farming". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 21 Feb. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/subsistence-farming>. Accessed 15 January 2023.

<sup>9</sup> “UN Aid Chief: Gangs Control about 60% of Haiti’s Capital.” *AP NEWS*, 8 Dec. 2022, [apnews.com/article/health-violence-united-nations-haiti-cholera-7afa870ae65e5db22d604ee58dccb472](https://apnews.com/article/health-violence-united-nations-haiti-cholera-7afa870ae65e5db22d604ee58dccb472).

<sup>10</sup> “UN Deputy Urges Countries to Consider Armed Force for Haiti.” *AP NEWS*, 22 Dec. 2022, [apnews.com/article/canada-united-nations-haiti-antonio-guterres-ariel-henry-4f1a6729dd4c01eadae93aa260928027](https://apnews.com/article/canada-united-nations-haiti-antonio-guterres-ariel-henry-4f1a6729dd4c01eadae93aa260928027). Accessed 15 Jan. 2023.

## Financial Situation

Haiti is considered to be one of the least economically developed countries in the Western Hemisphere<sup>11</sup>. With over half of the population living under the global poverty line, many people in order to be able to provide basic need for their families rely on subsistence farming.<sup>12</sup> Another reason which has led to Haiti's current financial situation is its high dependency on its external revenue and the remittances from the Haitian diaspora. Essentially, Haiti's own internal revenues are not sufficient for its own needs, so it heavily relies on the income that it has from the donations made by the Haitian diaspora and the funds donated by international organizations. Furthermore, between 2010 and 2020, the UN allocated more than \$13 billion in international aid to Haiti. The amount of money that the Haitian population has received from the Haitian diaspora has had a steady rise over the past few years totaling \$3.8 billion in 2020 which makes up 24% of Haiti's GDP<sup>13</sup>. Over the years Haitians that live abroad make attempts to collect as much funds as possible to donate to Haiti itself to assist in its attempts to resolve its internal crisis. As it is seen from the statistics above year by year the amount of money that Haiti receives has had a steady rise, proving the importance of resolving the issues affecting Haiti but also the great interest that Haitians show to rescue their own country. Additionally, in recent years natural disasters, political instability and mismanagement of humanitarian relief have subsequently led to the depreciation of the gourde (Haiti's currency) and the straining of the economy. At the same time, tourism, which used to be a vibrant and important sector of the economy, has significantly declined due to the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development." *Council on Foreign Relations*, [www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development#:~:text=Once%20the%20wealthiest%20colony%20in](http://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development#:~:text=Once%20the%20wealthiest%20colony%20in).

<sup>12</sup> "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development." *Council on Foreign Relations*, [www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development#:~:text=Once%20the%20wealthiest%20colony%20in](http://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development#:~:text=Once%20the%20wealthiest%20colony%20in).

<sup>13</sup> "Do Remittances Have a Dark Side in Haiti?" *The Dialogue*, 9 Dec. 2022, [www.thedialogue.org/blogs/2022/12/do-remittances-have-a-dark-side-in-haiti/](http://www.thedialogue.org/blogs/2022/12/do-remittances-have-a-dark-side-in-haiti/).

<sup>14</sup> "Development and Importance of Tourism for Haiti." *Worlddata.info*, [www.worlddata.info/america/haiti/tourism.php](http://www.worlddata.info/america/haiti/tourism.php).

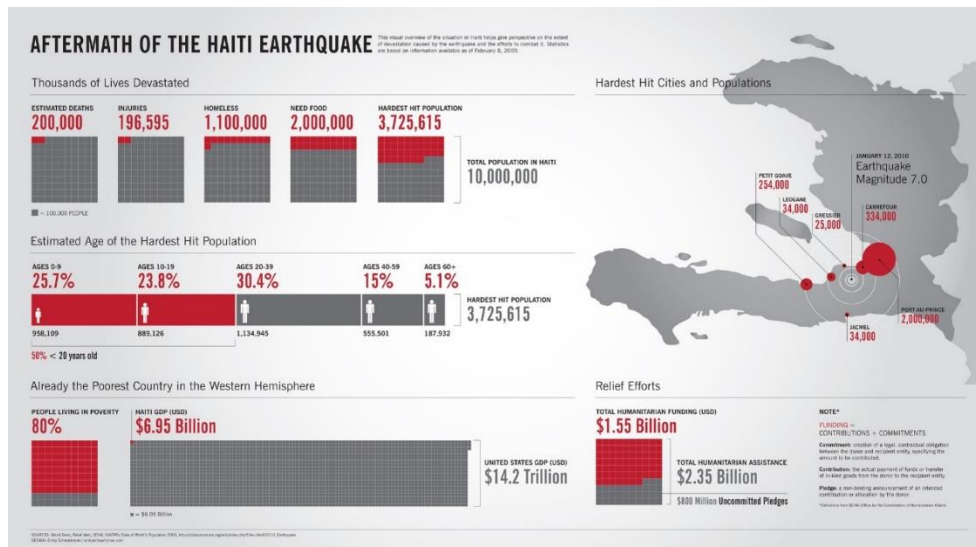


Figure 2: Graph depicting the aftermath of the deadly 2010 earthquake in Haiti and Humanitarian Aid provided <sup>15</sup>

### The fall of the Aristide government and current leadership in Haiti

Jean-Bertrand Aristide was the country’s first democratically elected President who was deposed twice because of coups, one in 1991 and one in 2004. Both of these coups led to U.S. military interventions that were supported by the UN. In response to the 2004 coup the UN launched a thirteen-year peacekeeping mission led by Brazil called the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) with the mandate of “restoring order after the fall of the Aristide government”<sup>16</sup>. In 2011, Michel Martelly was elected as President, but his elections were clouded by allegations that the U.S. was meddling on his behalf. Later on, he stepped down after he postponed presidential elections twice and ruled by decree, meaning that he was passing laws without parliamentary confirmation, for more than a year.

In regard to the current political situation in Haiti, civil unrest and protests began again on 14 January 2021 shortly after back-then President Moïse announced his plans to run for one more year in office. This ultimately led to the assassination of Moïse on 7 July 2021. One day later, acting prime minister Claude Joseph announced that despite the assassination, the parliamentary elections would be held on the date set by the Provisional Electoral Council (PEC). Additionally, UN special envoy for Haiti, Helen La Lime said that until the upcoming elections Joseph would remain acting prime minister. Nonetheless, a month later Ariel Henry was appointed Prime Minister. On 27 September he dismissed all the members of the PEC as they were seen by many as biased. After that Henry’s office announced that a new council would be appointed

<sup>15</sup> “Emily Schwartzman Wins Haiti Infographic Contest!” Cool Infographics, [coolinfographics.com/blog/2010/2/19/emily-schwartzman-wins-haiti-infographic-contest.html](http://coolinfographics.com/blog/2010/2/19/emily-schwartzman-wins-haiti-infographic-contest.html).

<sup>16</sup> “United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.” *Wikipedia*, 11 Jan. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Stabilisation\\_Mission\\_in\\_Haiti#Background](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Stabilisation_Mission_in_Haiti#Background). Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

and would carry out elections in early 2022. Finally, on 21 December 2022 prime minister Henry signed an agreement amongst political parties, civil society organizations and parties from the private sector that the elections shall be held in 2023 with the new prime minister being sworn in on 7 February 2024.

### **Foreign aid to Haiti**

Haiti is a Caribbean Island nation where multiple natural disasters often occur, including tropical storms, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. More specifically since the start of the 21st century more than 15 major natural disasters of this kind have occurred. Haiti is located on a geological fault line in a region prone to severe storms and other devastating natural disasters. It is the most exposed country in the Caribbean to natural disasters and one of the most exposed in the world. One of the most common weather-related events that are affecting Haiti are floods, mainly due to the country's severe deforestation. This has had a great impact overall on the island since they have caused multiple humanitarian crises in the recent years, with the biggest one being the deadly 2010 earthquake. As it can also be seen above on the chart the earthquake caused one of the biggest humanitarian crises that ever occurred on the island which further worsened Haiti's economic and political situation.

The island nation has received billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance. However, it still remains to be one of the least economically developed countries (LEDCs) on a global scale, while it has the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in the Americas. Furthermore, Haiti is considered a post-conflict state that is emerging from a civil war and more recently a coup d'état.

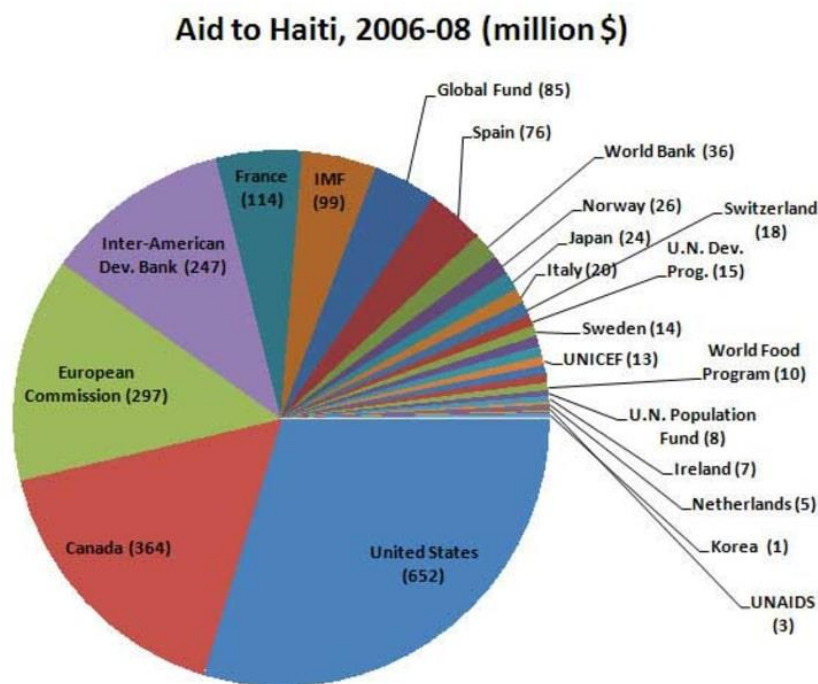


Figure 1: Chart depicting the financial Aid provided to Haiti from different countries and organizations throughout the years<sup>17</sup>

### Human Rights Situation in Haiti

According to the Human Rights Watch 2022 World Report<sup>18</sup> on Haiti, a series of events in the past year have deteriorated the humanitarian situation in the country and the already existing challenges. Up until this day, Haiti is struggling to meet the basic needs of its communities as well as to resolve the long-standing human rights problems. Some of the events that have led to the deterioration of the situation in the past year include the Covid-19 Pandemic, an economic crisis, the assassination of the Haitian President (President Jovenel Moïse) in July of 2021 as well as a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August of 2021. Despite the fact that the Constitution and the laws of Haiti meet the majority of the international humanitarian standards,<sup>19</sup> the majority of them are not abided by and applied by the judicial officers. Some of the unofficial practices that have and are being used especially throughout periods of unrest, attempted coups and coups include kidnapping, torture, unlawful incarceration, and political killings.

### Women’s rights and acts of sexual violence

*Devex Editor. “Haiti Aid Facts.” Devex, Devex, 15 Jan. 2010, www.devex.com/news/haiti-aid-facts-63590. Accessed 5 Jan. 2023.*

<sup>18</sup> Human Rights Watch. “Haiti: Events of 2021.” *Human Rights Watch*, 10 Dec. 2021, www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti#:~:text=Haiti.

<sup>19</sup> “Humanitarian Principles | NRC.” *NRC*, 2016, www.nrc.no/what-we-do/speaking-up-for-rights/humanitarian-access/.



Sexual violence is a common phenomenon in Haiti and has become a national problem<sup>20</sup>. One of the main reasons for this is the fact that the Constitution and legal system do not sufficiently address such issues. For instance, the Constitution does not contain any specific language that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, disability, etc.<sup>21</sup> Nonetheless, working standards exist to protect women but once again the resources that exist to ensure their enforcement are insufficient and lack the necessary personnel and facilities. Abuse and rape have become quite common and, although illegal, the judicial system lacks the necessary framework -meaning mostly the laws that criminalize acts of sexual violence such as rape- to prosecute the perpetrators. Moreover, the Haitian government has a Ministry of Women's Affairs but due to the lack of resources, it is unable to tackle key issues.

### **Children's rights and the Restavek system**

Children in Haiti have been suffering from chronic malnourishment, lack of educational opportunities and 2 out of 3 children have also suffered from physical abuse.<sup>22</sup> Furthermore, trafficking of children has also become a significant issue with UNICEF estimating that 2.000-3.000 children are being trafficked from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.<sup>23</sup> Restavek is a practice which includes children being sold by their parents as domestic servants in host households, due to their inability to support them financially. These practices meet the formal universal definition of child trafficking and modern-day slavery, and 300.000 Haitian children have been affected.<sup>24</sup> The Child Domestic Workers (CDW) numbers - which is more than 400.000- are defined by three main criteria: "1) living away from parent's home, 2) not following normal progression in education, 3) working more than other children".<sup>25</sup> In addition, Restavek children are unpaid and do not have any powers within the hosting family. Unlike modern slaves, these children have the option to run away or return to their families.

### **United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)**

MINUSTAH was a stabilization mission in Haiti, active during the period of June 2004-October 2017 with its headquarters being located in the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. The UN Mission was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1542 on 1 June 2004. The mandate of MINUSTAH was to "restore a secure and stable

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<sup>20</sup> "Sexual Violence in Haiti." *Wikipedia*, 7 Sept. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual\_violence\_in\_Haiti.

<sup>21</sup> "Sexual Violence in Haiti." *Wikipedia*, 3 Sept. 2022, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual\_violence\_in\_Haiti#Law. Accessed 12 Jan. 2023.

<sup>22</sup> "Restavek." *Wikipedia*, 1 Dec. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restavek.

<sup>23</sup> UNICEF. "Haiti Humanitarian Situation Report July – November 2022." *UNICEF*, UNICEF, 2022, www.unicef.org/media/132541/file/Haiti-Humanitarian-SitRep-July-November-2022.pdf. Accessed 15 Jan. 2023.

<sup>24</sup> "Restavek." *Wikipedia*, 1 Dec. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restavek.

<sup>25</sup> "Restavek." *Wikipedia*, 1 Dec. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restavek.

environment”<sup>26</sup>. After the earthquake of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the UNSC endorsed the Secretary General’s recommendation to “increase the overall force level of MINUSTAH to support the immediate recovery, reconstruction and stability efforts in the country”<sup>27</sup>. After the completion of the 2011 Presidential elections, MINUSTAH continued to work towards establishing political stability and protecting human rights in Haiti. Finally, the UNSC decided through its resolution 2350 in April 2017<sup>28</sup> that MINUSTAH would close on 15 October 2017 and would transition to a “smaller follow-up peacekeeping mission which will support government efforts to strengthen rule of law institutions, further develop the Haitian National Police and engage in human rights monitoring, reporting and analysis”<sup>29</sup>. This mission was called the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and it also concluded in 2019. Overall, MINUSTAH was composed of over 7.200 military personnel with the major countries contributing with military personnel<sup>30</sup> being Brazil (2.200), Nepal (1.075), Sri Lanka (959), Argentina (558) and over 2.000 police/civilian personnel<sup>31</sup> primarily from Jordan (312), Pakistan (248), Senegal (131).

## The Ad Hoc Advisory Board

### Creation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

On May 7, 1999, the Economic and Social Council, with Resolution 1999/4<sup>32</sup>, decided to establish an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. The Advisory Group undertook an assessment mission in Haiti in 1999 and remained active for the brief period of three months. Its role was to make recommendations to ensure that any international assistance to Haiti was organized, well-coordinated and adequately distributed amongst the community. Later on, from 2000 the Advisory Group was

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<sup>26</sup> “United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti.” *Wikipedia*, 11 Jan. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Stabilisation\\_Mission\\_in\\_Haiti#Background](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Stabilisation_Mission_in_Haiti#Background). Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

<sup>27</sup> United Nations. “MINUSTAH.” *United Nations Peacekeeping*, 2017, [peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minustah](https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minustah).

<sup>28</sup> “Resolution 2350.” *Unscr.com*, [unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2350](https://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2350). Accessed 13 Feb. 2023.

<sup>29</sup> “United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti.” *Wikipedia*, 11 Jan. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Stabilisation\\_Mission\\_in\\_Haiti#Ending](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Stabilisation_Mission_in_Haiti#Ending). Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

<sup>30</sup> “United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti.” *Wikipedia*, 11 Jan. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Stabilisation\\_Mission\\_in\\_Haiti#Countries\\_contributing\\_military\\_personnel\\_\(7\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Stabilisation_Mission_in_Haiti#Countries_contributing_military_personnel_(7)). Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

<sup>31</sup> “United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti.” *Wikipedia*, 11 Jan. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Stabilisation\\_Mission\\_in\\_Haiti#Countries\\_contributing\\_police\\_and/or\\_civilian\\_personnel\\_\(2\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Stabilisation_Mission_in_Haiti#Countries_contributing_police_and/or_civilian_personnel_(2)). Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

<sup>32</sup> *Long-Term Programme of Support for Haiti*. 7 May 1999, [www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2020/resolution-1999-4.pdf](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2020/resolution-1999-4.pdf). Accessed 12 Jan. 2023.

replaced by annual reports of the Secretary-General's Office on the "Long Term Programme of Support for Haiti"<sup>33</sup> which were submitted to the ECOSOC.

### Reactivation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

With decision 322, on 11 November 2004, the ECOSOC decided to reactivate the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. As such the group is currently composed of the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Benin, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the USA and Uruguay<sup>34</sup>. The Chairman of the Advisory Group is the Permanent Representative of Canada.

### The Mandate of the Advisory Group

According to ECOSOC Resolution 2021/18 the mandate of the Group is to follow closely the developments and provide advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti with the aim of promoting socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction, and stability. Another key issue where the AHAG shall pay particular attention is the need to ensure the coherence and sustainability in the international support sent to Haiti based on the long-term national development priorities. Finally, the final target of the Group should be the establishment of a Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti whilst avoiding overlap and duplication with existing mechanisms.<sup>35</sup>

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### Canada

From very early on, Canada has Haiti in various forms and is also the 2nd most significant donor, after the USA.<sup>36</sup> Canada has participated in a handful of international interventions such as in 1994, Operation Uphold Democracy<sup>37</sup> which had the aim of removing the military dictatorship ruling the country and MINUSTAH in 2004, as well as other smaller-size military operations. Besides the above military

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<sup>33</sup> Council (2004, UN Economic and Social, and substantive sess : New York). "Long-Term Programme of Support for Haiti." *Digitallibrary.un.org*, 2005, [digitallibrary.un.org/record/532524?ln=zh\\_CN](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/532524?ln=zh_CN). Accessed 14 Jan. 2023.

<sup>34</sup> "ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti | UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL." *Www.un.org*, [www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-ad-hoc-advisory-group-haiti](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-ad-hoc-advisory-group-haiti).

<sup>35</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/205/52/PDF/N2120552.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>36</sup> ---. "Canada-Haiti Relations." *GAC*, 14 Nov. 2019, [www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/haiti/relations.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/haiti/relations.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>37</sup> "Operation Uphold Democracy." *Wikipedia*, 11 Feb. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Uphold\\_Democracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Uphold_Democracy). Accessed 14 Feb. 2023.

initiatives, Canada has shown its commitment through other actions such as through the New Deal which contains the goals of the Canadian government whilst assisting Haiti and the funds that will be allocated for the resolutions of the issues that Haiti is facing today.<sup>38</sup> Additionally, a large majority of Canadian development workers are currently present in Haiti together with hundreds of missionaries that focus on the health and education sectors. Canada has also proven its determination to assist Haiti and resolve the ongoing situation by being the Chairman of the UN Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

## Cuba

Cuba has been one of the few Caribbean countries that have supported Haiti on a long-term scale. Despite the problems that Cuba faces itself, it has been offering extensive support to Haiti since the late 1990s. More specifically, Cuban medics have been assisting Haiti since 1998. To this day, Cuba has medically trained more than 1000 Haitians for free.<sup>39</sup> 2022 marks the 24th anniversary of Cuban medical aid to Haiti, a period during which Cuban doctors have assisted their Haitian counterparts and the people of Haiti in natural disasters such as Hurricane Georges, the 2010 Haiti earthquake and cholera outbreak, and the 2021 earthquake. Additionally, from 1998 to 2010 Cuban doctors performed over 207,000 surgeries, restored eye sight to 45,000 people, assisted in the birth of 100,000 children and taught 100,000 how to read. Cuba has focused a lot of its financial and humanitarian aid to improve and assist the health system of Haiti. It has been observed that due to Cuba's medical aid there have been changes in infant mortality and life expectancy amongst Haitians.<sup>40</sup>

## Norway

Norway has been a longstanding partner of Haiti and has been active in the development efforts, whilst holding a greater focus on the South Province, with the aims of "tackling the underlying causes of poverty and building resilience"<sup>41</sup>. Besides the above-mentioned aims, Norway has worked closely with numerous UN agencies and the Haitian government to support efforts in improving the education sector, the management structures surrounding natural resources and in promoting women's participation. While concerned about the political instability of the country, Norway

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<sup>38</sup> Canada, Global Affairs. "Canada Announces \$50.4 Million in Support for Haiti." *Www.canada.ca*, 21 Jan. 2022, [www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/01/canada-announces-504-million-in-support-for-haiti.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/01/canada-announces-504-million-in-support-for-haiti.html). Accessed 28 Jan. 2023.

<sup>39</sup> ---. "Cuba–Haiti Relations." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 21 Apr. 2022, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Haiti\\_relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Haiti_relations). Accessed 12 Jan. 2023.

<sup>40</sup> ---. "Cuba–Haiti Relations." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 21 Apr. 2022, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Haiti\\_relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Haiti_relations). Accessed 12 Jan. 2023.

<sup>41</sup> "Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti." *Norgesportalen*, [www.norway.no/en/missions/UN/statements/other-statements/2019/ad-hoc-advisory-group-on-haiti/](http://www.norway.no/en/missions/UN/statements/other-statements/2019/ad-hoc-advisory-group-on-haiti/). Accessed 6 Jan. 2023.

encourages all the different actors involved in Haiti to engage in meaningful dialogues and find long-term and realistic solutions to solve the economic and political crisis facing the country.<sup>42</sup> The AHAG is closely related to Norway's above-mentioned proposal since the AHAG is producing reports which include plausible solutions but could work even closer with other Haitian political groups to have a more direct impact on Haiti.

### **Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG)**

The Haiti Advocacy Working Group was formed after the January 12 2010, earthquake with the purpose of coordinating the advocacy efforts for the effective distribution of disaster relief, the reconstruction and long-term development of Haiti, according to the U.S. development policy towards Haiti. The group consists of more than 30 diverse groups which represent a handful of cross-sections in the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) community. The priorities of the group include “promoting Haitian civil society inclusion and leadership in relief and reconstruction”, “prioritizing rural and agricultural development needs” and “ensuring support through U.S. and multilateral aid commitments and full debt relief”.<sup>43</sup> This is closely related to the AHAG since both are making recommendations and address similar issues, thus, one can help the other come up with feasible and effective solutions to address the crisis in Haiti. Multiple organizations contribute on a case-by-case basis by making recommendations and expressing their positions in the work that the HAWG does.

### **The Organizations of American States (OAS)**

The OAS has actively participated in the preparation and execution of the elections taking place in Haiti. More specifically, it has provided technical assistance to Haiti's electoral authorities and has taken initiatives such as supporting and assisting in the revision of the electoral law. Moreover, it has created an electoral calendar for the Haitian authorities to use whilst also assisting in the organization of voter education campaigns. This is closely related to the AHAG since one of its main targets is assisting Haiti with its electoral procedures and ensuring that Haiti can execute elections without any external assistance. The OAS has taken the first steps in achieving that since it has produced some key pieces that are essential to Haiti's independent execution of electoral procedures such as the development of electoral calendars and the improvement of existing laws surrounding elections.

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<sup>42</sup> “Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.” *Norgesportalen*, [www.norway.no/en/missions/UN/statements/other-statements/2019/ad-hoc-advisory-group-on-haiti/](http://www.norway.no/en/missions/UN/statements/other-statements/2019/ad-hoc-advisory-group-on-haiti/). Accessed 6 Jan. 2023.

<sup>43</sup> “About HAWG.” *Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG)*, [haitiadvocacy.org/about](http://haitiadvocacy.org/about). Accessed 28 Jan. 2023.



Figure 3 Map depicting the Republic of NGO's in Haiti which shows all of the international organizations and countries participating in the humanitarian aid projects in Haiti<sup>44</sup>

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
7 May 1999	Resolution 1999/4, ECOSOC established the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti
23 February 2004	UN Security Council addressed the deteriorating situation in Haiti after the request of the Caribbean Community Intergovernmental Organization (CARICOM)
28 February 2004	Political unrest and protests forced back then President Aristide to flee Haiti.
30 April 2004	The UN Security Council established MINUSTAH.
11 November 2004	With resolution 2004/322 the ECOSOC reactivated the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.
April 2007	The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti sent a team to Haiti.

<sup>44</sup> Marqusee, Hannah. "Mapping the "Republic of NGOs" in Haiti." *New Security Beat*, 2011, [www.newsecuritybeat.org/2011/01/mapping-the-republic-of-ngos-in-haiti/](http://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2011/01/mapping-the-republic-of-ngos-in-haiti/).

1 December 2010	7.0 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, between 100.000-300.000 deaths, 300.000 injuries. <sup>45</sup> Most devastating earthquake in modern history.
October 2015	The first round of elections was held in October 2015, but the results were postponed and then annulled after allegations of widespread fraud and irregularities. The second round was eventually held in January 2016, but was also marred by widespread protests and violent clashes, leading to the eventual election of Jovenel Moïse as president.
October 2020	The presidential elections were initially scheduled for October 2020, but were postponed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, political instability, and funding issues. The elections were eventually held in November 2020, but were marred by low voter turnout, violence, and allegations of fraud.
February 2021	In February 2021, the country was scheduled to hold presidential and legislative elections, but these elections were postponed again due to the ongoing political crisis and security concerns. The elections were rescheduled for October 2021, but were once again postponed, this time due to logistical issues.
14 April 2021	7.2 magnitude earthquake, third deadliest with over 2.000 fatalities and 13.000 injured. <sup>46</sup>

<sup>45</sup> ---. "List of Earthquakes in Haiti." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 June 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_earthquakes\_in\_Haiti.

<sup>46</sup> ---. "List of Earthquakes in Haiti." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 June 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_earthquakes\_in\_Haiti.

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### Resolution E/RES/1999/4<sup>47</sup>

Resolution 1999/4 is the resolution that first established the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti back in 1999. Its content refers to the structure of the group, its responsibilities, the selection process for the countries-members, the Haitian government's involvement as well as its relation to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

### Resolution E/RES/2021/18<sup>48</sup>

This resolution, signed on the 21 July 2021 is one of the most recent resolutions of the ECOSOC on the situation in Haiti and more specifically in regard to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. With this resolution the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Advisory Group up until "the conclusion of the 2022 session" (Clause 1, page 1) whilst continuing to serve the Haitian population and proposing realistic and plausible solutions as well as continuing to provide the Council with its reports and recommendations. It acknowledged the significance of the AHAG, addressing the Covid-19 Pandemic and its impact on Haiti. With this resolution, ECOSOC also requested for the AHAG to submit a report with its recommendations for the council's 2022 session.

### Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2022/52)<sup>49</sup>

This is the latest report that the ECOSOC requested the AHAG to submit in regard to its work, as well as recommendations that the Council should consider during its 2022 session. Additionally, the report includes all of the activities of the Group from July 2021 until March 2022, such as meetings with national authorities and head of states, representatives of international financial institutions and the UN Integrated Office in Haiti. One of the main parts of the report include recommendations such as accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Haiti and the enhancement of the international response to the crisis that the island-nation faces.

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<sup>47</sup> Long-Term Programme of Support for Haiti. 7 May 1999, [www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2020/resolution-1999-4.pdf](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2020/resolution-1999-4.pdf). Accessed 12 Jan. 2023.

<sup>48</sup> ---. "ODS HOME PAGE." *Documents-Dds-Ny.un.org*, documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/205/52/PDF/N2120552.pdf? OpenElement. Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.

<sup>49</sup> Team, ODS. "ODS HOME PAGE." *Documents-Dds-Ny.un.org*, documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/321/54/PDF/N2232154.pdf? OpenElement. Accessed 11 Jan. 2023.



## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### U.S. Military Intervention-Operation to Restore Democracy

From the very start of the Clinton Administration, President Clinton stated his support for President Aristide who was living in exile in the U.S. During the military regime of general Cédras, the U.S. government vowed to restore Aristide as the Haitian President. On 31 July 1994, UNSC resolution 940 authorized “the deployment of a multinational force under American leadership to restore Aristide to the presidency of Haiti”.<sup>50</sup>

### Fann Decide

The Fann Decide is a women’s rights organization that works to empower women and promote gender equality in ways such as by participating in the electoral process and advocating for women’s political representation. Multiple organizations and countries including Haiti have as a goal the inclusion of women in the political life as well as the empowerment of women overall. The Fann Decide as well as the AHAG are two of the many organizations that are working on women’s rights and the improvement of women’s perception amongst Haitians, proving the importance of addressing human rights issues as well as issues that surround women’s rights<sup>51</sup>.

### International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

The IFES is an international organization that works to support the development of democratic institutions and processes around the world, including through providing technical assistance and support to electoral management bodies, civil society organizations and political parties. More specifically, the foundation has partnered with multiple local and global organizations as well as independent government institutions to allow for the people of Haiti to hold peaceful and credible elections. The IFES is currently also working on implementing the Elections and Political Processes Support Activity (EPPSA) which aims to build greater confidence in the electoral process by supporting Haitian-led efforts to strengthen the Provisional Electoral Council (PEC), civil society and in general, political processes<sup>52</sup>.

### The Haiti Hope Project (HHP)

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<sup>50</sup> “Haiti: Restoring a Democracy · Clinton Digital Library.” *Clinton.presidentiallibraries.us*, clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/haiti-topic-guide.

<sup>51</sup> “Fann Decide.” *Wikipedia*, 10 Feb. 2023, fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fann\_Deside. Accessed 14 Feb. 2023.

<sup>52</sup> “Haiti.” *IFES - the International Foundation for Electoral Systems*, www.ifes.org/haiti. Accessed 14 Feb. 2023.

Although not closely related to the solving of the political or humanitarian crisis that Haiti is facing, this Project has been one of the most efficient and successful. The Haiti Hope Project is a living proof of multiple organizations, the public and private sectors as well as governments coming together for one purpose. The project was first established to address the challenges that Haiti's mango industry -which is a huge part of Haiti's economy and exports in general- was facing. Some of the partners in this venture include the Coca-Cola Company, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), Techno Serve, etc. Additionally, some of the goals that the HHP had set up and achieved included providing skills training to more than 25.000 farmers, empowering women, improving the sustainability in the industry, and supporting access to credit. The HHP is closely related to the AHAG since it managed to unite organizations to assist Haiti and improve the living conditions of Haitian people. Were this to be executed on a bigger scale it would have a tremendous impact on the development of the small island nation.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Facilitation of a Haitian National Dialogue**

One of the suggestions made by the United States Institute of Peace in regard to resolving the political crisis that Haiti is currently facing is hosting a so-called Haitian National Dialogue. The point of this dialogue is to produce first of all a Haitian-led Secretariat with the final goal being the production of an interim government. Throughout its existence Haiti has never really had a true national dialogue, going from dictatorship straight to elections in the 1990s with few of the following elections being meaningful and representative.

A National Dialogue would grant Haitian groups and organizations to convene for meetings and decision-making. It would be important for senior states persons to participate in the event to show its significance not only with their presence but with their support as well. This process of a national dialogue would also give way for the international community to assist and work with all elements of Haitian society and polity to provide the necessary logistical and security support and function as a behind-the-scenes advisor for the successful resolution of the political crisis.

### **Establishment of a Haitian-led agency for the management of international aid**

The most important outcome of this dialogue should be the formation of a newly elected governing body, together with possible changes to the constitution, but also the establishment of a Haitian-led entity that would organize and direct international support, humanitarian, and financial aid, etc. This Haitian-led entity

would be a cooperation from different ministries of Haiti but also independent actors such as NGOs and international organizations that will work closely with the UN to address key issues on how the aid is distributed and organized. Additionally, to ensure that this entity will remain non-corrupted and work for the people of Haiti supervision under the AHAG is recommended.

### **Redefinition of the mandate and the content of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

As it currently stands, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (AHAG) acts as a body that makes recommendations mainly to the UN but also to Haiti itself as to how to improve and resolve all the crises that the island-nation is facing. Nonetheless, the AHAG could become a solid partner of the Haitian government and function as a permanent advisory body that will assist Haiti to recover and build its future. What should also be taken into consideration is the possibility of a sub-entity of the Advisory Group to become the sole body responsible for the relationship between Haiti and all UN agencies involved in the situation in Haiti. This would allow for an easier and faster assistance to Haiti as everything would be directed under one UN body as well as producing any reports and paperwork requested by any UN agency. All of this entails the enlargement of the AHAG with extra personnel and resources but also for the UNSC to redefine the mandate of the Group and everything it entails.

### **Promotion of socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction, and stability**

The key target of the AHAG is to address problems facing Haiti and propose long-term solutions that the Haitian government can implement. Both the resolving of the social and economic situation of Haiti are important for the recovery of the whole nation. Taking into consideration the current human rights situation, the living conditions and many more factors, the AHAG has to find long-standing and feasible solutions that will benefit the Haitian population. The economic recovery of Haiti is also one of the issues that the AHAG is addressing. The socioeconomic recovery of Haiti will lead to the establishment of an investable economy and one that can stand on its own and withstand collapse.

### **Coherence and sustainability in international support and aid**

Whilst international financial and humanitarian aid are of great significance for the rebuilding of the island nation, the Advisory Group must ensure that it is coherent to the current needs of the country. Furthermore, international aid should not only be reasonable and consistent but also sustainable. That translates into ensuring that issues such as transportation and production of materials included in humanitarian aid are as sustainable as possible. Although humanitarian aid gives the opportunity for the people of Haiti to grab new opportunities and improve their living conditions, sustainability is essential especially in the case of Haiti, which has adopted its own

2030 Agenda, closely related to the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> “Haiti | Regional Observatory on Planning for Development.” *Observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org*, [observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/en/countries/haiti](http://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/en/countries/haiti). Accessed 12 Jan. 2023.

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