ORAL STATEMENT
Item 10: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner HC on Haiti, with the participation of Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti.
UN Human Rights Council
55th session
26 February – 5 April 2024

Mr. Vice-President,

We welcome the updates from the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, and the Independent Expert on Haiti.

The crisis in Haiti is compounded by the collapse of the interim government and increased control by armed non-state actors. The UN Security Council's authorization of a special security mission under Resolution 2699 (2023) brings to mind the lessons of previous interventions in Haiti, where military and external solutions failed to address the underlying problems and left a trail of human rights abuses and lack of accountability.

It is essential that donor nations and those who may deploy forces in Haiti take these past lessons into account.   Any efforts to address the current crisis must prioritize the protection of human rights and be guided by the leadership and needs of the Haitian people.

Moreover, the potential for further refugee displacement from Haiti raises grave concerns. We have documented the discriminatory and racist treatment faced by Haitian people on the move. We urge states to halt returns to Haiti, as conditions in the country pose life and security risks, and to grant Haitians the right to seek international protection. All states must end racist policies and practices, ensuring Haitians are not turned away at borders and have access to a fair and effective asylum procedure.

We also highlight the responsibility of armed non-state actors in Haiti who, acting as de facto authorities, must comply with applicable human rights obligations recognized under international law.   We urge the international community to support documentation and accountability efforts, and justice, truth and reparation for the victims.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.