



8 October 2024

AMR 36/8602/2024

## ORAL STATEMENT

### Item 10: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on interim report on Haiti, with the participation of the human rights expert on Haiti

UN Human Rights Council

57<sup>th</sup> session

9 September – 11 October 2024

Mr. President,

My colleagues recently visited Haiti and confirmed widespread violence. Armed gangs weaponize violence and recruit children to control and destroy communities.

My colleagues documented how gangs exploit children in desperate conditions including to run deliveries, gather information, and cook and clean. Girls as young as 14 told us how multiple gang members repeatedly raped them during attacks on neighborhoods or after abductions. We spoke to children who lost limbs and sustained other catastrophic injuries due to stray bullets or from being targeted. Many described how any perceived association with a gang could make them a target for police, rival gangs and community members. Child protection actors told us they need significantly more resources to even begin to address the situation.

Extreme violence will plague the country so long as impunity persists for crimes and abuses. This violence results in a cascade of other human rights violations including social and economic rights.

Moreover, we have serious concerns about the mandate and structure of the recently deployed Security Support Mission authorized by the UN Security Council, including in the absence of clear human rights safeguard mechanisms.

Finally, Haitian people on the move face racist policies and practices by states. International protection must be granted based on the Cartagena Declaration. All states must ensure that Haitians are not turned away at borders and have access to a fair and effective asylum procedure.

High Commissioner and Mr. O'Neill: How can this Council engage with urgency and purpose to help protect the rights of people in and fleeing from Haiti, including by promoting accountability and preventing future violations?

Thank you, Mr. President.