

## **Study Guide (ECOSOC)**

### **Topic: Socio-Economic Impact of Political Instability in Haiti**

#### **● Introduction to the committee**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the most important part of the UN. It is the central platform for the UN in which it discusses economic, social, and environmental issues. ECOSOC acts as a crucial coordinating body for various agencies, funds, and programs that make up the UN's development system.

ECOSOC was added into the UN in the very beginning, it was signed on June 26, 1945 but came into action on October 24, 1945. ECOSOC's main purpose is to fulfill the 17 SDG's that the UN made to achieve sustainable development in the world by 2030. In addition to its role as a coordinating body, ECOSOC also serves as a crucial bridge between the UN and a vast network of civil society actors.

#### **● Introduction to the topic**

For decades, Haiti has been plagued by a chain of political instability, a crisis that has profoundly and devastatingly impacted its socio-economic system. The crisis started with assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, which led to a power vacuum that resulted in gang leaders accumulating power and seizing control over large parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, leading to a full scale security crisis and triggering a humanitarian catastrophe that has displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

This crisis not only destabilized the nation but also created a severe humanitarian emergency. The UN reports that nearly half of the country's population, approximately 5.7 million people, is facing high levels of acute food insecurity, with some areas on the brink of malnutrition and starvation. The crisis has also left a generation of Haitian children vulnerable to disease and exploitation, adding to the severity of the crisis.

#### **● Key Terms**

1. **G-9 Family and Allies (G9):** One of the most powerful and notorious federations of gangs in Haiti, led by former police officer Jimmy Chérizier, also known as "Barbecue."
2. **Haitian National Police (PNH):** The country's police force, which is severely under-resourced and outmatched by the armed gangs.

3. **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Violence committed against individuals on the basis of gender. This has become a widespread issue, with gangs using sexual violence as a weapon to terrorize communities.
4. **SDG 5: Gender Equality:** Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the crisis. They face a heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), which gangs use as a weapon.
5. **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:** The political and economic instability has exacerbated existing inequalities. The most vulnerable populations, including the internally displaced, women, and those living in poverty.
6. **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Gang violence has turned urban centers, particularly Port-au-Prince, into war zones. The destruction of infrastructure, forced displacement, and collapse of public services make urban life unsustainable.
7. **SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** This is arguably the most critical and foundational SDG for the crisis. The collapse of the rule of law, the erosion of the judicial system, and the state's inability to provide security are the root causes of the widespread instability and humanitarian crisis.

#### ● **Past UN Actions and Resolutions**

1. **S/RES/1542 (2004):** This resolution established the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). It was a peacekeeping mission with an objective to restore a secure and stable environment, support the political process.
2. **S/RES/2350 (2017):** This resolution officially ended MINUSTAH and established the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). The shift from "stabilization" to "justice support" reflected a change in focus towards building the rule of law and human rights.
3. **S/RES/2653 (2022):** This resolution established a sanctions regime on Haiti, including a targeted arms embargo, travel ban, and weaponry freeze on individuals and entities supporting gang violence, an escalated response to the armed gangs.
4. **S/RES/2699 (2023):** This resolution introduced the deployment of a Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to Haiti to assist the Haitian National Police in re-establishing security.

5. **S/RES/2476 (2019):** This resolution created the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), a non-peacekeeping political mission. BINUH's mandate is to advise the Haitian government on political stability and good governance.
6. **A/RES/54/187 (2000):** This is an example of a General Assembly resolution that focused on the human rights situation in Haiti, welcoming improvements while also expressing concern over security problems.
7. **A/RES/71/161 (2017):** Following the devastating cholera outbreak linked to UN peacekeepers, this resolution from the General Assembly welcomed a new approach from the Secretary-General.
8. **A/RES/46/7 (1991):** Adopted shortly after the 1991 coup, this early resolution is significant because it condemned the illegal overthrow of the democratically elected government.
9. **A/RES/47/20 (1992):** This resolution expressed grave alarm at human rights violations such as executions, torture, and rape. It urged UN member states to increase humanitarian assistance to address the issue of displaced people and refugees.
10. **A/RES/54/187 (2000):** This resolution focused on the situation of human rights in Haiti during a period of temporary peace. It recognized the independence of democracy, development, and human rights. While it welcomed improvements in human rights, it also expressed concern over ongoing security problems.
11. **Geneva Convention Common Article 3:** Common Article 3, applicable to all four Geneva Conventions, establishes fundamental humanitarian rules for NIACs like the one in Haiti involving government forces and armed gangs. It protects individuals not actively participating in hostilities and prohibits acts such as violence against persons (including murder and torture), taking hostages.
12. **Geneva Convention Common Article 1:** This principle establishes a general obligation for all States to respect and ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions in all circumstances. This means that States are responsible for ensuring that all parties to a conflict, including non-state actors.
13. **Geneva Convention IV Article 47:** This article protects the rights of civilians in occupied territory, stating that their rights cannot be deprived by changes to the local institutions or government, agreements with the occupying power, or annexation.

14. **Geneva Convention IV Article 32:** This article prohibits corporal punishment, torture, and any measures of violence or coercion against civilian persons in occupied territory.
15. **Geneva Convention IV Articles 55 and 56:** Article 55 mandates the free passage of all foodstuffs and medical supplies for the civilian population. Article 56 extends protection to property belonging to municipalities, religious, charity, education, arts, and science institutions.

### ● International Treaties

1. **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):** This guarantees fundamental rights like the right to life, freedom from torture, and the right to a fair trial.
2. **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):** This treaty protects rights to food, health and education.
3. **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):** The crisis has had a disproportionately devastating effect on children, who are being forcibly displaced, recruited by gangs.
4. **Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA):** Haiti is a party to this treaty, which is meant to prevent and combat the illegal arms trade.
5. **Vienna Convention:** This treaty outlines the rights and duties of diplomatic missions. The crisis has posed a direct threat to the security of foreign diplomats and embassies.

### ● Key stakeholders

1. **The United States:** As a major donor of humanitarian aid and a key diplomatic player, the U.S. has a significant stake in Haiti's crisis and stability. It has been a backbone for UN-backed security mission to address the crisis.
2. **Kenya:** This country is a critical stakeholder as it is the designated leader of the UN-authorized Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission. Its commitment to deploying police forces is central.

3. **China:** As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China holds significant diplomatic power. Its stance on issues of sovereignty and non-interference influences the nature and scope of any UN-sanctioned intervention in Haiti.
4. **Canada:** A major stakeholder in the Haiti crisis due to its significant financial and diplomatic involvement and its leadership role in coordinating international security support.
5. **France:** A key stakeholder in the Haiti crisis due to its historical ties, significant financial contributions, and active role in coordinating international diplomatic and security support.
6. **Brazil:** Brazil has a long history of involvement in Haiti, having led the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) from 2004 to 2017. As the former lead of the peacekeeping force, Brazil holds institutional knowledge.
7. **Germany:** As a key member of the Core Group - a coalition of ambassadors and representatives from major international actors in Haiti - Germany plays a significant diplomatic role.
8. **Spain:** Also a member of the Core Group, Spain is actively involved in diplomatic efforts and contributes to the UN Trust Fund for the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission.

### ● Current State

The violence has created a nearly uncontrollable humanitarian crisis. An estimated 1.3 million people have been internally displaced, with half of them being children, who are now living in makeshift camps with little to no access to basic necessities. The crisis has pushed 6 million Haitians into dire need of humanitarian assistance, and food insecurity has reached critical levels as gang blockades cut off supply routes to the capital. The healthcare system is on the brink of collapse, with many hospitals and clinics forced to close due to attacks. Over 2.1 million people are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), meaning they are facing critical food insecurity with major food shortages.

The current state of the Haiti crisis is marked by a deep security crisis, a critical humanitarian emergency, and a fragile political issue that is struggling to gain progress. The situation remains dire and is described by the UN Secretary-General as a "perfect storm of suffering." The security situation continues to deteriorate. Armed gangs have expanded their control to an estimated 85% of Port-au-Prince and are now extending their reach into new territories beyond the capital. These groups are heavily armed with weapons trafficked primarily from the United States

### ● **Humanitarian Impact**

The country is in a state of near-anarchy, as armed gangs have consolidated their power and expanded their control beyond the capital, Port-au-Prince. The violence has been destructive, with over 1,500 people killed between April and June 2025 alone. The Haitian National Police are severely outnumbered, and the UN-authorized Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, led by Kenya, has struggled to make significant progress. The MSS mission remains severely underfunded and understaffed, with only a fraction of the necessary personnel on the ground.

### ● **OARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)**

1. How will an immediate end to gang violence be achieved?
2. How will the Haitian National Police (PNH) be strengthened to maintain security independently?
3. How will the flow of illegal arms and funding to gangs be stopped?
4. How will access be secured for humanitarian workers to reach displaced populations?
5. What is the plan to provide immediate humanitarian aid, including food, water, and medical supplies?
6. What measures will be taken to address the severe malnutrition and health crisis?
7. How will the rule of law be re-established, and what steps will be taken to reform the judicial system?
8. How will international aid be managed to ensure transparency and accountability, and to prevent corruption?

9. What programs will be put in place to address the root causes of the crisis, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity?
10. What strategies will be implemented to rebuild Haiti's economy and infrastructure?

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