

**NOTES ON THE WAY FORWARD FOR HAITI  
(Ideas Towards a CARICOM Position)**

**By**

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The recent assassination of President Moïse of Haiti amidst the extreme challenges to all State institutions, constitutional order, peace and security, and socio-economic development, has brought Haiti to the brink of social and political collapse.

The way forward ought to be founded on the embrace of the following core principles:

1. The Haitian people, their political organisations/parties and civil society must be the ones to devise and implement a Haitian solution to the Haiti's problems and challenges.
2. The Haitian people require meaningful and efficacious engagements with, and support from, regional, hemispheric, and international partners to assist in charting and implementing the way forward.
3. Regional, hemispheric, and international engagements should involve centrally the following entities with corresponding roles/functions:
  - a. CARICOM of which Haiti is a member. CARICOM is well-placed to provide:
    - (i) Considerable support to the electoral process for the conduct of credible elections;
    - (ii) A "good offices" role in assisting/advising the political parties/organisations and civil society in Haiti to fashion a Transitional/Provisional Government charged

with, among other things, the holding of credible elections within 12 to 18 months' time.

[It is to be noted that on Monday July 19, 2021, an announcement was made in Haiti of a new Prime Minister, Dr. Aril Henry, with the support of the Core Group of Ambassadors (USA, France, Canada, Germany, Brazil, Spain, the European Union and representatives from the UN and the OAS). The Core Group referred to the creation of “consensual and inclusive government”. CARICOM is absent here.]

- b. The Peace Building Commission (PBC) of the United Nations, an inter-governmental advisory body to assist with the essentials of building state institutions, maintaining peace/order/security, and facilitating socio-economic development.

[There are 31 members of the PBC comprising 7 members of the Security Council — the P5 plus Kenya and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; 7 members of the UN General Assembly; 7 members of the UN's Economic and Social Council; 5 top providers of military personnel and civilian police on UN missions; and 5 top providers of assessed contributions to UN Budgets and of voluntary contributions to the UN Fund.

The World Bank, the IMF, the European Union, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation participate in all meetings of the PBC.]

- c. The African Union: Haiti is a country predominantly of African people of African descent. Africa has tremendous experience in building peaceful, orderly, democratic societies from post-colonial challenges. The AU member-states may also be invited to provide security personnel in the transitional period in Haiti.

Currently in the PBC there are the following AU members: Egypt, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Rwanda. Egypt is the current Chair of the PBC.

- d. The Organisation of American States (OAS): Haiti is a member of the OAS. Given the checkered history of the OAS's recent involvement in Haiti and elsewhere, it may be advisable to keep the role of the OAS very limited. In any event 14 of the OAS member-states are from CARICOM. And there are 6 members of the OAS which are on the PBC: USA, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Canada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Thus, through CARICOM and the PBC, the membership of the OAS is well-represented. In any event the PBC may invite additional partners to participate in its meetings. Such partners may include member-states who are not members of the PBC, relevant entities of the UN system, IFIs, regional and sub-regional organisations, as well as civil society groupings.
- e. The UN Security Council itself where necessary and desirable.
- f. The Vatican: Vital in helping with political dialogue between parties/groups in Haiti.
- g. CELAC: This grouping embraces the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean. Haiti is a member.

#### 4. Possible practical steps in the way forward:

- a. Maintaining an adequate/sufficient security presence through the PBC mainly from the AU, Latin America, and CARICOM.

[Military personnel from the USA, UK, Russia, China, and member-countries of the European Union ought to be

discouraged, given challenges arising from historical and contemporary circumstances.]

- b. Preparing for credible elections within 12 to 18 months' time with CARICOM's assistance.
- c. Mobilisation of resources for peace, security, development, institution-building through the PBC.
- d. Forming immediately a broad-based, credible government of national unity mandated with certain central tasks including the holding of elections.
- e. Engage the entire world to assist Haiti especially our Caribbean, our hemisphere, Africa, and Europe.

### **CAUTIONARY NOTE**

Events are moving fast without CARICOM's input. It may well be that both the CORE Group and many Haitian leaders consider CARICOM a bit player or an officious bystander. The challenges to CARICOM's involvement are real, despite Haiti's membership of CARICOM. We in CARICOM at one and the same time ought to be principled, practical, and realistic without any illusions of over-stating our possibilities while not ignoring our obligations and responsibilities to a member-state.

Dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.