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Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

President's statement

PRST 22/...

Technical assistance and capacity-building in human rights in Haiti

At the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council, held from 25 February to 22 March 2013, during consideration of agenda item 10, entitled "Technical assistance and capacity-building", the President of the Council made the following statement:

1. The Human Rights Council takes note of the report of the Independent Expert and welcomes the latest legal and political developments in Haiti, which have been marked by progress in civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights:

(a) The implementation of the Universal, Free and Compulsory Education Programme through the National Education Fund launched on 26 May 2011, with a sum of around \$360 million over five years, for 1.5 million children;

(b) The implementation of the Strategic Development Plan to identify immediate reconstruction needs in a long-term development perspective;

(c) The implementation of social programmes for the most disadvantaged, "Ti Maman chéri", "Aba grangou" and "Ede pep", which form part of the National Strategy on the Rule of Law;

(d) The inclusion of women in political affairs, with a quota of 44 per cent in Government posts.

2. The Council welcomes the Haitian Government's commitment to setting up a structure to organize the next legislative and municipal elections in Haiti.

3. The Council applauds the reaffirmation of the Haitian authorities' commitment and determination to improve the living conditions of Haitian women and men by, inter alia, devoting greater attention to respect for human rights, and welcomes the Government's efforts in that regard.

4. The Council also applauds the priorities set by the President of the Republic, which include the rule of law, education, the environment, employment and energy, and urges donors to honour their commitments without delay.

5. In that context, the Council welcomes the Government's decision to pursue the strengthening of the rule of law, notably by combating impunity, crime and the causes of crime, so as to ensure the functioning of institutions and public services and the enjoyment of all human rights, and encourages the Government of Haiti to take all necessary measures to achieve that goal.

6. The Council applauds the efforts made by the Government of Haiti to strengthen national human rights institutions, in particular the Office of Citizen Protection.

7. The Council invites the Government of Haiti to continue to adopt the necessary political and legal measures to safeguard the rights of members of vulnerable groups, including the victims of child trafficking, to increase women's participation in political affairs and to continue to combat gender-based violence and discrimination.

8. The Council is aware of the many obstacles to development in Haiti and the difficulties encountered by its leaders following the earthquake of 12 January 2010. It recognizes that the full enjoyment of civil and political, economic, social and cultural human rights is a factor in peace, stability and development in Haiti.

9. The Council encourages the international community as a whole and, in particular, international donors, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the group of countries known as the Friends of Haiti, United Nations agencies and, in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to step up their cooperation with the Haitian authorities with a view to the full realization in Haiti of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

10. The Council welcomes the request of the Haitian authorities for a one-year extension of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, which concerns technical assistance and capacity-building, and decides to approve this request.

11. The Council encourages the Independent Expert mandate holder to work with international institutions, donors and the international community to raise their awareness of the need to provide their expertise and sufficient resources to support the Haitian authorities' efforts to rebuild the country and pursue sustainable development.

12. The Council also encourages the Independent Expert mandate holder to work with Haitian non-governmental organizations and civil society in Haiti.

13. The Council invites the Independent Expert mandate holder to assist the Government of Haiti in acting upon the recommendations made in the course of the universal periodic review. He or she will also provide their experience, expertise and contribution to the cause of human rights, including civil and political rights and with particular emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, in Haiti.

14. The Council invites the Independent Expert mandate holder to assist the Government of Haiti in acting upon the recommendations made by the special procedures, in particular those of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing.

15. The Council also invites the Independent Expert mandate holder to undertake a mission to Haiti and to report to the Council at its twenty-fifth session. It encourages Haiti to continue to cooperate with the mandate and is ready to support Haiti in establishing a national human rights plan.