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Washington, 28-30 October 2024

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Or. Fr.

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
BETWEEN A DELEGATION FROM HAITI
AND A DELEGATION FROM THE VENICE COMMISSION
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN
STATES**

**ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE ISSUES NECESSARY
FOR THE PREPARATION OF FUTURE ELECTIONS IN HAITI**

(Washington, 28-30 October 2024)

CONCLUSIONS

On 28, 29 and 30 October 2024, a delegation of Haitian authorities and representatives and a delegation from the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, under the auspices of and in cooperation with the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Organization of American States (OAS), held working meetings on the constitutional and legislative issues necessary for the preparation of future elections in Haiti.

In June 2024, at the request of the OAS Secretary General, the Venice Commission adopted an interim opinion on possible constitutional and legislative solutions for the conduct of future electoral procedures in Haiti ([CDL-AD\(2024\)017](#)). This opinion was an interim one, as the Venice Commission had not yet had the opportunity to meet Haitian representatives to finalise its analysis. It should be remembered that it is up to the authorities and representatives of the Haitian people to decide when and how to resolve the country's profound crisis. The Venice Commission is ready to make a contribution in terms of legal analysis and recommendations based on international standards and the best practices of other member countries, in a process of inclusive dialogue.

The participants acknowledged that the reestablishment of security is a fundamental precondition for holding the referendum and the elections. In parallel with the process of preparing the constitutional and legislative framework, the Haitian authorities must take the necessary steps to restore security, with the support of the international community. The Haitian authorities are calling for the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

The Haitian authorities intend to maintain the electoral deadline of 7 February 2026 for the installation of an elected president. In discussions with the Venice Commission delegation, the need was raised to establish intermediate stages to aim to meet this final deadline. This expected timeframe includes the participation of the Venice Commission.

In **December 2024**, the Venice Commission will adopt the final opinion on possible constitutional and legislative solutions for the conduct of future electoral procedures in Haiti. In this opinion, the Commission will express its views on a number of issues discussed over the two days, including the stability of electoral institutions and legislation, gender equality in elections, youth representation, voting by Haitians abroad, electronic voting, the financing and creation of political parties, security conditions for voters and electoral material, and the suspension of active and passive voting rights. The Commission will also make recommendations to the Haitian authorities.

On **7 November 2024**, the Steering Committee plans to launch a consultation meeting of the National Conference for the Reform of the Constitution, on the basis of a list of questions posed by the Committee. The draft constitution should be finalised **by the end of December 2024**. It will then be submitted to popular consultation with a view to calling a constitutional referendum **at the end of March 2025**.

This draft constitution will be sent by the Steering Committee to the Venice Commission for an opinion as soon as it has been finalised. The Venice Commission will adopt an opinion at its **March 2025 session**, before the referendum is held, with a view to proposing any improvements to the draft.

At the same time, the Provisional Electoral Council will be preparing the electoral framework for the constitutional referendum; the participation of women, displaced persons and, if possible, Haitians abroad should be guaranteed. The Venice Commission remains available to prepare an opinion on this text in **March 2025**. As the accuracy of the electoral roll is a fundamental principle for the holding of democratic and credible elections, the work on the electoral roll for participation in the referendum will have to be completed sufficiently in advance of the referendum. DECO stands ready to provide assistance on specific issues at the request of the Haitian authorities.

The Haitian authorities have undertaken to inform the public and the international community, by appropriate means, of the progress of these processes.

The representatives of Haiti and the Venice Commission, with the assistance of the OAS, will keep in touch to establish a timetable for the successive stages in the adoption of the new constitution. Any additional or subsequent questions may be addressed through dialogue between the two delegations.

The Haitian authorities will identify the needs relating to the issuing of electoral cards, the preparation of electoral rolls and staff training, with a view to obtaining the essential financial and logistical support from the international community.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

HAITI

- Dr. Joseph Frinel, Counselor-President, member of the Presidential Transitional Council of the Republic of Haiti;
- Mr Jean-Charles Enex, President of the Steering Committee for the National Conference and Constitutional Reform;
- Ms Kerlande Mibel, member of the Steering Committee of the National Conference, representative of the diaspora
- Mr Patrick Saint Hilaire, President of the Provisional Electoral Council
- Mr Jacques Desrosiers, Member of the Provisional Electoral Council (Treasurer)
- Mr Max Délice, Executive Director, Provisional Electoral Council
- Mr Reynold Guerrier, Director General of the National Identification Office
- Mr Thomas Gandy, Permanent Representative of Haiti to the OAS

VENICE COMMISSION

- Mr Eirik Holmøyvik, Venice Commission, Norway
- Ms Janine Otálora Malassis, Venice Commission, Mexico
- Mr François Séners, Venice Commission, France
- Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Director, Secretary of the Commission
- Mr Pierre Garrone, Deputy to the Secretary of the Commission

Online :

- Mr Michael Frendo, Venice Commission, Malta
- Mr Pere Vilanova Trias, Venice Commission, Andorra

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

- OAS Member States participating in the Working Group on Haiti
- OAS Permanent Observers
- Mr Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States
- Mr Francisco Guerrero, Secretary Strengthening Democracy
- Mr Gerardo de Icaza, Director, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation
- Mr Cristobal Dupouy, Special Representative of the Secretary General in Haiti
- Mr Martin Huenneke, Specialist, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation
- Mr Alex Bravo, Electoral Technology Specialist, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation
- Ms Stella Yerutí Méndez, Specialist, Electoral Cooperation and Observation Department

EXPERT SESSIONS (in alphabetical order)

- Mr Nathaniel Ballantyne, Political Action Committee of the Haitian Diaspora
- Ms Renée Ballantyne, President, Political Action Committee of the Haitian Diaspora
- Mr Piero Corvetto, Head of Peru's National Office for Electoral Processes
- Mr Johan Hamels, Resident Director in Haiti, National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Mr Roberto Menéndez, Head of the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA)

- Mr Emmanuel Roy, Director of Communications, Political Action Committee of the Haitian Diaspora
- Mr Diego Rubiano, Coordinator of the Electoral Political Observatory, Electoral Observation Mission of Colombia
- Ms Carmen Velarde Koechlin, Head of the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status of Peru
- Mr Fausto Von Streber, Director of Technology, Communication and Information, Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice, Paraguay