



OAS - Organization of American States

Topic A: Addressing the Haitian emigration crisis and how to support both internally displaced people and immigrants abroad.

Topic B: Seeking solutions to Haiti's deeply rooted socioeconomic problems and governmental instability via international cooperation.



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Letter From the Chair

Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the Organization of American States (OAS)! We are Samuel Alvarado and Mateo Burgos, and we are honored to serve as your chairs for EMUN 2026. Our committee is dedicated to fostering dialogue and cooperation among the nations of the Americas, with the mission of strengthening democracy, promoting human rights, advancing sustainable development and ensuring peace and security throughout the region.

As your chairs, we want to emphasize the importance of your voices. The strength of this committee lies in the diverse perspectives and experiences that each delegation brings to the table. We encourage you to engage fully in our sessions by sharing opinions, asking questions, and offering insights. Remember, there is no single “right” or “wrong” answer; your engagement and willingness to collaborate will shape the success of our collective work.

We also ask that you approach every discussion with respect and an open mind. The richness of debate comes from listening as much as speaking, and we look forward to witnessing the unique perspectives each of you contribute. Above all, we encourage you to enjoy the experience of debating, learning, and connecting with your peers—while upholding the spirit of diplomacy.

We are truly excited to begin this journey with you and cannot wait to see the thoughtful and innovative solutions you will bring to the committee.

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Committee Overview

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the oldest regional organization in the world, dating back to the First International Conference of American States held in Washington DC, 1890. This conference set the stage for the establishment and development of many institutions that would unite countries in the Americas, which afterwards led to the official creation of the OAS with the signing of the Charter of the OAS in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1948. Currently, the OAS is formed by all 35 independent states in the Americas, united under the organization's four main pillars: democracy, human rights, development, and security. As an institution guided by the principles presented in the UN charter, this organization pushes for peace, democracy and justice, using discourse and cooperation as main tools to promote security and fairness in the continent.

Recent Actions

As a founding member, Haiti has stood for the values of the OAS since its inception, making its current political and humanitarian crisis important to address in this committee. Over the past months, this organization has called for international cooperation to address the root causes that have driven violence in the island nation, as it has been open to collaboration with other IGOs, such as the United Nations and CARICOM. In August of 2025, the Secretary General of the OAS presented a comprehensive, actionable roadmap to address the problems that have taken place and to provide the international community with steps that must be taken to reestablish peace and security in Haiti. In this roadmap, several aspects of the crisis were considered, such as the restrengthening of national institutions that fight against corruption, or the focus of delivering tangible humanitarian aid.

Although a solid plan has already been laid out, it is this committee's job to ensure that these steps are carried out properly. Additionally, delegations must be prepared to encounter hurdles and challenges that will require new solutions to be proposed. It is important to remember that, despite these efforts, nothing has been truly solved yet, as gangs still hold dangerous control over Haiti, forcing millions to leave while the situation worsens.



Topic A: Addressing the Haitian emigration crisis and how to support both internally displaced people and immigrants abroad.

Background of the Topic

The current Haitian emigration crisis represents one of the most acute humanitarian emergencies in the Western Hemisphere. Due to gang violence, political instability, and economic hardships, millions of Haitians have been either internally displaced or forced to migrate abroad. First, internal displacement in the country is at an all-time high, with 1.3 million people forced to move from their homes and settle in makeshift shelters, where basic human necessities such as clean water and healthcare are not guaranteed. These people's displacement is commonly attributed to gang violence concentrated in the capital, as the UN currently estimates that 85 percent of Port Au Prince is entirely controlled by gangs. However, there have also been recent surges of organized violence in other regions of the country, such as the Artibonite and Centre departments, which demonstrates how this issue is nationwide. On the other hand, Haitians have also fled to many nearby countries, with estimates surpassing 700,000 refugees in the United States alone. Due to the difficulties of both legally and illegally immigrating to the US, Haitian migrants have also settled in other countries, including Dominican Republic, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and Mexico. Emigrating often entails dangerous expeditions on overcrowded speedboats in the Caribbean, or treacherous trips through land, such as the US-Mexico border or the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama. Evidently, Haitians face dangers whether they decide to stay in their country or to leave it, proving the urgency of this matter.

Although, the country has been ravaged by political instability, economical strain, and foreign intervention since its independence, the current migration crisis in Haiti is attributed to the killing of president Jovenel Moise in July of 2021. Moise's unpopularity was apparent since the low voter turnout in

the 2016 elections that saw him take office, and this was later enforced with the surge of protests in the country calling out corruption, fuel prices, and the president's term limits. Due to the lack of public funding, gang presence, and overall incompetence, Moise's assassination became the tipping point to an already dysfunctional government, leaving the country with a power vacuum. The role of prime minister was successively assumed by Ariel Henry, but due to criticism of his reluctance to hold general elections, Henry was exiled by gangs and forced to resign.

As the main push factor for this migration crisis, it is also important to address the rise of gangs in the country. Haiti's history of armed groups traces back to the regime of dictator Francois Duvalier, whose personal paramilitary force, called the Tonton Macoute, terrorized civilians and targeted any political opponents to Duvalier's government. Although the Macoute was disbanded by the end of the dictatorship, it was not disarmed, and weapons were passed down as informal militia groups were formed and sometimes employed by political actors seeking to defend their interests. By the time the disastrous 2010 earthquake hit Port Au Prince, the presence of violent gangs increased as criminals escaped damaged prisons and younger, ruthless militants replaced old, politically aligned gangs. Additionally, the withdrawal of the United Nation's controversial peacekeeping force (called MINUSTAH) in 2017 caused further expansion of these violent groups. The current sociopolitical situation in the country has allowed political actors such as Jimmy Cherizier, leader of the G9 gang, to exert more power than traditional governmental institutions, leading to the unregulated control of violent, chaos-inducing groups over the already fragile island nation.

Current Situation

Every month, the number of displaced people grows as innocent Haitian civilians are constantly terrorized by violent gangs. After Henry's resignation, the Transitional Presidential Council was formed and tasked with the regular duties and powers of the country's president, including the appointment of the prime minister, a position that has been changed three times since 2024. The TPC is only a temporary government, set to last until a new president is elected or until February 7 of 2026. Furthermore, the country's political situation remains deeply unstable, with no functioning legislative or judicial systems.

To make matters worse, it has been 10 years since the last actual elections took place, meaning all current representatives of the country are unelected as all democratic institutions remain collapsed.

Although there have been both local and international efforts to combat gangs, such as the deployment of Kenyan police forces in Port Au Prince, these attempts have been unsuccessful due to the overwhelming power that gangs already hold in the country. Since there are no clear signs that the current crisis will be solved, the stream of innocent Haitians who are fleeing their homes and their country every month will most likely increase, risking the lives of thousands who decide to take the treacherous journey.

Context of the Problem Worldwide

The increasing influx of immigrants into the American mainland have brought significant strain to its regional borders and a humanitarian crisis in immigration routes, making the issue in Haiti a concern for the entire continent. Each country's stance on immigration over the years has had a great influence on the fate of these refugees. An example of this is during the 2010 earthquake, when many migrants flocked to South American countries, especially Brazil and Chile. While they were initially received with solid job opportunities and economic stability, stricter immigration restrictions have pushed people to take the long journey towards the United States. The policies of transit countries also play a crucial role. Panama, along with Costa Rica and Colombia, have implemented a "controlled flow" policy where they register, screen, and help transport immigrants, a process that may take months. Other Central American countries have been unable to house migrants due to the overwhelming numbers, leading to actions such as Nicaragua's notorious border closure in 2015. In North America, communities of Haitians have been established in both Mexico and the US, seeking asylum and avoiding deportation. As with any immigrants aiming to cross this border illegally, the chances of deportation, injury, and death remain high for Haitians, especially with cases of border patrol brutality constantly surfacing. Overall, the strategies for receiving immigrants fluctuate with each country but remain an important topic to discuss as more people decide to leave Haiti in search for safer conditions.

Possible Solutions and Limitations

With Topic A focusing on migration, this committee will have to work in cooperation to implement solutions that manage the already-existing flow of immigrants and allow for them to receive the help needed. One direction that could be taken is the expansion of legal pathways to allow people to migrate and properly integrate into their new country. Although strategies such as humanitarian visas or performance-based permits may require more resources and personnel, they can also discourage illegal methods of migration and decrease the flow of both human and drug trafficking. Countries can also work on managing international borders with a cooperative approach. Not only can border forces collaborate more closely, but regional partnership could also help ensure that deportation and migration control is lawful and humanitarian. Lastly, there is the possibility of tackling the root causes of this large migration crisis, something that will be inevitably discussed during Topic B to stop this issue from its source.

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Topic B: Seeking solutions to Haiti's deeply rooted socioeconomic problems and governmental instability via international cooperation.

Background of the Topic

Gang violence, political instability, and economic fragility are all issues that currently exist in Haiti, leading to a country in crisis and its people in danger. However, these problems are not new for the nation; the current situation can be attributed to centuries of turmoil and foreign intervention. To understand the gravity of Haiti's crisis, it is important to take its history as an independent nation into account.

Haiti's problems can be traced back to the very inception of the country. After defeating Napoleon's

forces, Haiti became the only country in history to be established by a successful slave insurrection, and the second independent country in the Americas after the United States. This very fact, however, is what put Haiti in a significant disadvantage from the very start. To avoid spreading abolitionist ideals, the international community refused to recognize or trade with the young nation. By 1825, the French demanded an indemnification of 150 million francs over lost land in exchange of recognition. This amount added up to three times the GDP of Haiti at the time, which forced the country to take loans from French banks and led to a double debt that would not be fully paid until 1947. Because of this, development in areas like education and infrastructure stagnated for decades, and the fact that government instability and corruption were present from the start significantly worsened Haiti's position.

Another key moment leading to the current crisis was America's constant intervention in Haiti during the 20th century. In 1915, the United States invaded and seized control of the nation's government due to economic and political interests. During the 19-year occupation of the island, the US cemented itself as a main actor in economic affairs, pushing for infrastructure projects through forced labor and ending a Haitian law against foreign ownership of land. Even after withdrawing formal control over the island, America kept a strong influence over Haiti with the dictatorship of the Duvaliers between 1957 to 1986. The US exploited the island's resources and reduced the agricultural sector of Haiti over time, making the nation dependent on imported food to survive. Furthermore, American companies took advantage of cheap labor, running sweatshops that paid less than 3 dollars a day to Haitians.

Although the deplorable conditions for the average Haitian were no secret to the international community, most humanitarian aid never reached Port Au Prince's streets, as the wealth was mismanaged through corruption and the ineffectiveness of NGOs. This issue remains prevalent to this day, and it was evident during Haiti's catastrophic earthquake in 2010: although millions of dollars were raised, NGOs invested most of the money on themselves, instead of giving it to Haitians. In 2004, after a coup that ousted President Aristide for the second time, the United Nations deployed a peacekeeping force in Haiti known as MINUSTAH. Over its 13 years of operations, this group of foreign militants grew deeply unpopular, with many instances of sexual abuse and unnecessary force on innocent civilians.

Additionally, the MINUSTAH are attributed for starting a cholera outbreak that infected over a million Haitians, making the disease a prevalent issue to this day.

Although Haiti's problems originally rose due to an enormous debt, issues like corruption, socioeconomic disparities, and foreign involvement quickly followed. Additionally, with the normalization of political violence through the personal militias of political actors such as Duvalier's, it was clear from the start that Haiti would be affected by famine, violence, and a lack of overall development.

Context of the Problem Worldwide

Haiti's internal turmoil also poses relevant consequences for the entirety of the continent. Besides the already mentioned migratory crisis that is being seen all throughout the Americas, Haiti's geographical location in the Caribbean has a significant strategical advantage. The island's location has been beneficial to many illicit industries, such as drug and arms trafficking, as these products go through Haiti before reaching their destination, whether it is North or South America. Considering the impact that these industries have had on the entire continent, the fact that a main transit country has no regulations or presence from authorities is a significant worry for the continent. Additionally, the lack of effectiveness that international aid has raised questions on the legitimacy and authority of the organizations that claim to bring humanitarian assistance. While the controversies of the MINUSTAH have already been mentioned, other NGOs like the Red Cross have also been accused of mismanaging funds, proving the flaws in the current model that Haiti is surviving from. With the humanitarian crisis worsening every day, it is the responsibility of the OAS to assist a member state that has been overrun by violent groups, risking the wellbeing of millions of Haitians.

Possible Solutions and Limitations

This committee's attempts to restabilize Haiti must consider previous failures and successes of the international community to ensure that the country can finally prosper after decades of turmoil. As it has been seen multiple times, current approaches to tackle the humanitarian crisis via donations and NGOs

have been ineffective, calling for new strategies to be proposed where aid can be closely monitored and achieve clear goals. Additionally, a new perspective must be adopted in which Haitians can take the lead in restoring their nation, a sentiment that the island's population has had since the 2010 earthquake. Instead of entrenching Haiti into a deeper dependency in international actors, new efforts should focus on enabling the country to become self-sufficient by decreasing its reliance on imports and providing the Haitian people with more employment opportunities to rebuild their country. As previously mentioned in the committee overview section, many of these strategies are already in the works with the recently proposed roadmap, but close cooperation with the Transitional Presidential Council and other international organizations like the UN are crucial to ensure that actual change takes place. Evidently, another focus must be the restoration of peace and security as government forces must reclaim control over the country. Although there have already been efforts to overthrow violent gangs through the Kenyan-led security mission and the more recent Gang Suppression Force that deployed in September of 2025, the committee must ensure that deployment and funding goals are being met to successfully remove gangs from power.

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Important Terms and Definitions

Irregular Migration: Refers to the movement of people across borders without official documentation or authorization.

Refugee Status: Legal recognition granted to people fleeing persecution or violence. In the case of Haiti, some immigrants are not given this status due to Haiti's instability being classified as generalized violence instead of targeted persecution.

Asylum Seeker: People who have already applied for refugee status but are yet to be approved.

Humanitarian Visa: Also known as humanitarian parole, it is the temporary authorization to enter or remain in a country due to humanitarian reasons.

Controlled Flow Policy: A strategy initially adopted by Panama to organize migrant movement with

checkpoints and transports.

IDP: An internally displaced person is someone forced to leave their home who stays in their country.

TPC: The Transitional Presidential Council is the current official representative body of Haiti, replacing prime minister Ariel Henry in 2024. They are tasked with the duties of president and will temporarily oversee that elections are being held by February of 2026.

PNH: The Police Nationale d'Haïti is the official police force of the country, which is currently severely underfunded and outgunned by gangs.

MINUSTAH: The United Nation's stabilization mission in Haiti. Due to its controversial actions, it officially withdrew from the country in 2017. Currently, the UN has an integrated office working with Haiti to reestablish peace, called BINUH.

Gang Federations: Refers to the loose alliances of local gangs which control the territory and ports in Haiti. The main factions include G9, G-Pep and 400 Mawozo.

GSF: The Gang Suppression Force refers to the new multinational mission approved by the UN to combat gang control in Haiti.

Members

- Argentine Republic
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- Canada
- Republic of Chile
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of Costa Rica
- Republic of Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Republic of El Salvador
- Republic of Guatemala
- Republic of Honduras
- Jamaica

- United Mexican States
- Republic of Nicaragua
- Republic of Panama
- Republic of Peru
- Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- United States of America
- Oriental Republic of Uruguay
- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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