



BRAZIL

**69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Fifth Committee
Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti**

Statement by Mr. Sérgio Rodrigues dos Santos,
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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Controller, Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, under agenda item 157, as well as the Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing the relevant report of the Advisory Committee.

The delegation of Brazil aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and would like to add the following comments.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past year, Brazil has continued to support the implementation of MINUSTAH's consolidation plan, which lays out the conditions for a sustainable drawdown of the current UN military presence in Haiti, in line with the security situation on the ground, as approved by the Security Council, as well as the transition of responsibilities to national authorities and the UN Country Team.

During this period, encouraging developments have taken place in Haiti. Cholera cases have steadily declined as a result of concerted efforts to control the disease. The National Haitian Police has continued to increase its ranks, including through the swearing in of a number of female officers, with a view to reaching the established goal of 15,000 by 2016. Last March, an Electoral Law was finally promulgated and local, legislative and presidential elections were scheduled for later this year. Brazil welcomes the progress made and encourages the Haitian government to continue its efforts.

Haitian authorities will require strong support from MINUSTAH as well as from the country's international partners, in order to ensure the realization

of legitimate, free and fair elections. A successful electoral process will be essential in order to enable a continued and sustainable drawdown of the Mission. Setbacks at this sensitive stage may risk unraveling the security situation in the country and reversing the gains achieved since 2010.

Therefore, it is crucial that we adopt a responsible approach towards the financing of the activities of MINUSTAH for the next financial year. The reduction of the Mission's footprint must be guided by the security situation on the ground, including its social and political dimensions, as well as by the capacity of the Haitian government to play a growing role.

In these circumstances, Brazil reiterates that each peacekeeping mission budget should be examined and approved on the basis of its existing mandate as well as on actual conditions on the ground. In the case of MINUSTAH, specifically, resource levels should be defined as a result of the mission's expected support for the upcoming electoral process, the strengthening of the national police capacity, and the development of the national administration, including in critical areas such as rule of law and corrections.

As MINUSTAH's military component undergoes a significant 53% reduction and the Mission's physical presence throughout the Haitian territory is greatly reduced as a result of the most recent Security Council mandate, it will be essential that the forces maintain the necessary mobility to deal with possible emergencies on the ground and preserve stability in areas where it they are no longer stationed.

Similarly, Community Violence Reduction programs and Quick Impact projects will remain essential tools for promoting improved relations between the Mission and the local population, as well as for fostering sustainable peace and security in the country, particularly as MINUSTAH reduces its military footprint and responsibilities are gradually transferred to local authorities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Brazilian delegation firmly opposes any attempts to adjust budgetary levels on the basis of arbitrary financial imperatives, including the needs of other peacekeeping missions or intended overall budget levels for peace operations. We will engage actively and constructively in consultations with other delegations in order to guarantee that MINUSTAH is adequately funded to undertake its planned mandated activities. In this context, we remained concerned with arrangements for certain types of medical evacuation cases and will seek further clarification from the Secretariat during informal consultations.

Finally, I wish to express my delegation's continued support for MINUSTAH and reiterate my Government's position that in order to achieve its objectives, the Mission must simultaneously address not only security related issues, but also human rights, as well as socially inclusive and sustainable development. A responsible and well funded drawdown will constitute the foundation for durable stability and, in the medium term, for a successful conclusion to MINUSTAH's activities.

Thank you.