

I. Establishing Self Determination as a Human Right

The Republic of Haiti stands firm in its deep understanding and support of the right to self-determination. Haiti has been working on the international, regional, and national levels to firmly establish and ensure self-determination as a right for all human beings. **Internationally**, Haiti has been participant in the United Nations (UN) and within it supports several resolutions. In the General Assembly, Haiti supports A/RES/63/163, more specifically the request of the Human Rights Council to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation; and the reaffirmation that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights. Within A/RES/62/116, Haiti endorses the reaffirming of the inalienable rights of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the UN and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People. Haiti has also been a supporter of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which was adopted on December 10, 1948. Haiti also has been a party to and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on February 6 1991. **Regionally**, Haiti works within the Organization of American States (OAS) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Member States on the defense of the human right to self-determination. On the OAS Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Haiti particularly agrees with the clauses stating “Every person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever” and “Every person has the right to associate with others to promote, exercise and protect his legitimate interests of a political, economic, religious, social, cultural, professional, labor union or other nature.” **Nationally**, Haiti continues to support fully the efforts made by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in its efforts to protect and promote economic, social and cultural rights, and to respond to growing interest by civil society in public policy and stabilize an elected government embodying the spirit of self determination underscored in the Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH, S/2009/439. To further this process, Haiti proposes a four point plan of action **F.R.E.E.** which calls for: **F**acilitate grass roots strategies in order to aid developing nations in finding a democratic government through education, economic assistance, and steps of accomplishment; **R**estoration of a government run by the people in post-colonial and occupied situations; **E**lect to adhere to the ICCPR ensuring a people’s right to self-determination; **E**mpower citizens with the right to self govern through respecting the preeminence of the power of self-determination under the UN system.

II. Addressing the Dangers of Land Mines in Previously Colonized States

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person", that is why the Republic of Haiti overwhelmingly supports the ban of landmines. Haiti has signed The Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction in 1997, also referred to as the “Mine Ban Treaty,” Haiti participated in the first review conference of the Ottawa Treaty, the Nairobi summit on a Mine-Free World in 2004, as well as the *Workshop on the role of the Caribbean Community in pursuing the aims of the Ottawa Convention in 2006*. Haiti endorses A/RES/56/24V, the United Nations (UN) Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons(SALW) in all Its Aspects, the

measures envisioned in the Programme of Action cover action at the national, regional and global levels which, if effectively implemented, can help minimize the adverse impact of illicit SALW on children. Haiti additionally supports A/RES/56/26M, A/RES/59/84, A/RES/61/84, A/RES/62/41 and A/RES/63/42, on implementing the Ottawa Convention, A/RES/60/98 and A/RES/62/99 on assistance for clearing landmines and is also a member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). Haiti proudly has never maintained any stockpiles of landmines or had any land area threatened by deployed landmines. According to Landmine Monitor, "over 75 countries and territories in all regions of the world are affected by landmines and/or explosive remnants of war. Estimation from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), approximately half of the 15,000 to 20,000 annual victims of landmines and unexploded ordnances in 90 countries are children. Between April 1992 and September 30, 1994, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) which was created by UN resolution 743 (1992), reported a total of 145 mine incidents in the former Yugoslavia alone, resulting in 19 dead and 161 wounded. Information put out by United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) estimates that in 2007 alone, 5,426 people were killed or maimed by mines and other explosive devices that have been left behind by armed forces. Haiti supports the six goals set forth by the UNMAS: information, emergency response, assistance to national and local authorities, quality management, coordination and resource mobilization, and advocacy. As of 2008, 38 nations have stopped production, and global trade has been drastic reduced. Haiti deplores the continued production of antipersonnel mines and urges states to pursue other alternatives to landmines, such as new technology to protect borders which would be less harmful to the people they are protecting. Haiti also calls on all other countries in the Americas to sign onto the Ottawa Convention. Haiti commends UNICEF, ICBL, Ban Mine USA, and other organizations in their tremendous efforts in fighting Landmines. Haiti suggests the implementation of its plan for action **I.C.A.R.E**: **I**mplement the mine risk education (MRE) programs within countries that have been affected by landmines through the help of non-governmental organizations at the national and local levels, in a manner consistent with the rights of national sovereignty; **C**are for victims who have been affected physically and emotionally by landmines through the implementation of the joint ICRC-WHO for prevention, Care and Rehabilitation of Victims of Landmines; **A**lert populations in post-conflict areas of locations that are endangered by landmines, and safely; **R**emove planted landmines from those areas that have been identified; **E**xpand the authority of the Ottawa Convention by attaining signatures of all states in the Americas to the treaty.

III. Evaluating the Right to Freedom of Expression throughout Member States

The Republic of Haiti recognizes the right to freedom of expression on a international, regional and national level. **Internationally**, Haiti supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) especially article 19 which states that al persons have the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Haiti has ratified the Convention on the Right of a Child (CRC) and firmly supports article 3 "clearly establishes not only children's right to freedom of expression, but also their right to have their views heard and to be given due weight in matters concerning them". Haiti also agrees with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states in article 19 everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference, have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice. **Regionally**, Haiti is part of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) under the Organization of American States (OAS). Haiti is also a party to its Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression. Through the OAS Haiti affirms AG/RES.2523 and AG/RES.2287 on the Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media and AG/RES.2515 and AG/RES.2418 on Access to Public Information and Strengthening Democracy. **Nationally**, the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti expressly guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Section C, Article 28 of the Haitian constitution states that "Every Haitian has the right to express his opinions freely on any matter by any means he chooses". The constitution also protects journalists, Article 28-1 emphasizes on "Journalists shall freely

exercise their profession within the framework of the law. Such exercise may not be subject to any authorization or censorship, except in the case of war". Therefore, Haiti has developed a five point action plan entitled **P.R.E.S.S.** **P**romote Member States to adhere to principles of the UDHR and respect the freedom of expression of it's citizens; **R**einforce human, institutional or community performance, skills, knowledge and attitudes on freedom of speech; **E**ducate citizens on the importance of freedom of expression and how it contributes to the development of their country; **S**trengthen international, regional, and national agreements with recognition of sovereignty; **S**tabilize governments and halt internal conflict to stop the influx of the freedom of expression.