

AD HOC MEETING OF MINISTERS OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (HAITI)
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RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN HAITI

THE AD HOC MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

BEARING IN MIND that, in exercise of the powers conferred on it in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91), the Permanent Council convened the Ad Hoc Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on September 30, 1991, the very day on which the coup d'état took place in Haiti, to assess the seriousness of the events that had occurred and which had caused the sudden and violent interruption of the democratic process in that country;

HAVING SEEN resolutions MRE/RES. 1/91, MRE/RES. 2/91, MRE/RES. 3/92 corr. 1, MRE/RES. 4/92, MRE/RES. 5/93 corr. 1, and MRE/RES. 6/94, adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member states with respect to the restoration of democracy in Haiti; resolutions CP/RES. 567 (870/91), CP/RES. 575 (885/92), CP/RES. 594 (923/92), CP/RES. 610 (968/93), CP/RES. 630 (987/94) and CP/RES. 633 (995/94); and declarations CP/DEC. 2 (896/92), CP/DEC. 8 (927/93), CP/DEC. 9 (931/93), CP/DEC. 10 (934/93), CP/DEC. 14 (960/93) CP/DEC. 15 (967/93), CP/DEC. 18 (986/94), and CP/DEC. 21 (1006/94), adopted by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States;

TAKING NOTE of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations, particularly Security Council resolutions 841 (1993), 861 (1993), 862 (1993), 867 (1993), 873 (1993), 875 (1993), 905 (1994), 917 (1994), 933 (1994), 940 (1994), 944 (1994), 948 (1994), 964 (1994), 975 (1995), and General Assembly resolutions 46/7 (1991), 46/138 (1991) 47/20A (1992), 47/20B (1993), 48/27A (1993), 48/27B (1994), 49/27 (1994), 49/201 (1995) concerning the Haitian crisis;

BEARING IN MIND that the September 30, 1991 coup d'état in Haiti constituted a violation of the sovereign will and human rights of the Haitian people;

RECALLING that the said coup d'état spawned a reign of terror causing thousands of deaths, summary executions, acts of torture, disappearances of persons, a massive exodus of people, and immeasurable physical and psychological harm, in flagrant violation of the human rights of the Haitian people;

REAFFIRMING that one of the basic purposes of the Organization of American States is to promote and consolidate representative democracy with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;

CONSIDERING:

That based on resolution AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91), the member states immediately and forcefully responded to this challenge by assuming responsibility for actively supporting the Haitian people's heroic resistance to the dictatorship and their unflagging efforts to restore the democratic system in Haiti;

That the international community, particularly through the Organization of American States and the United Nations, responded to the appeal of the Haitian Government by taking the necessary steps to reinstate the constitutional government of the people of Haiti, in accordance with their sovereign will, as expressed overwhelmingly in the December 16, 1990, elections; and

That the rule of law was restored to that country with the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti on October 15, 1994, the installation of the officials legitimately elected by the Haitian people in December 1990, and launching of the electoral process to form a new parliament,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the efforts of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the Government and people of Haiti to consolidate democracy and ensure full respect for human rights and the socio-economic development of Haiti should be firmly supported by the international community and, in particular, by the member states of the Organization of American States, pursuant to the aforementioned resolution AG/RES. 1080 referred to above;

That the Haitian people have set January 1, 2004, the bicentennial of their independence, as the target date for achieving a higher standard of living, and considering furthermore that this objective coincides with the commitments undertaken by the heads of state and government at the Summit of the Americas;

RECOGNIZING the interrelationship that exists between the consolidation of a country's democratic government and the quality of life of its people;

OBSERVING that the Government of Haiti, with the support of the Organization of American States, in coordination with the United Nations, has launched programs aimed at consolidating democratic institutions in Haiti and to that end, continues to coordinate efforts thereby strengthening national efforts under way to reactivate that country's economy;

HAVING HEARD President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and

HAVING HEARD the reports presented by the President of the ad hoc Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States on the current situation in Haiti, and by the Chairman of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its deepest satisfaction at the restoration of the democratic government in Haiti, headed by the President of the Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.
2. To congratulate the people and Government of Haiti on their efforts to bring about national reconciliation and embark on a process of strict observance of human rights.
3. To reaffirm the member states' firm resolve to continue providing active cooperation towards consolidation of the democratic system, the promotion of socio-economic development, and absolute respect for human rights in Haiti, within the purview of the Organization of American States.
4. To join in the appreciation expressed by the Government of Haiti to former OAS Secretary General, Ambassador João Clemente Baena Soares, for the dedication and resolve the Ambassador had displayed in that capacity in his defense of freedom and respect for the sovereign will of the Haitian people.
5. To acknowledge the work performed, under difficult and dangerous conditions, by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in reporting human rights abuses and violations during the darkest days of the military regime in Haiti.
6. To congratulate the members of the International Civilian Mission for their valiant efforts in Haiti over the last three years in defense of human rights, under the constant threat of the military dictatorship, and to recommend at the same time that they remain active in this effort and in any electoral observation tasks entrusted to them by the Government of that country.
7. To request that the OAS Secretary General report periodically to the Permanent Council on the activities of the International Civilian Mission.
8. To congratulate the heads of state and government of the member states and permanent observers to the OAS, Secretaries General of the OAS and the UN, their special envoys, the countries comprising the Group of the Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Caribbean community, and the various notable members of the international community for their valuable contribution to the restoration of the rule of law in Haiti.

9. To call upon the various financial institutions, particularly the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, to cooperate with the Haitian authorities in designing and implementing an economic development plan for 1995-2004, given the pressing need to revitalize the Haitian economy.

10. To support the initiatives of the member states and Permanent Observers in the Organization of American States to reinforce their partnership with the Government and people of Haiti.

11. To urge the international community to continue to render assistance and support for the consolidation of democracy and the economic recovery of Haiti.

12. To commend the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. César Gaviria Trujillo, on the many efforts he has made to assist in consolidating democratic institutions and defending, promoting and protecting human rights, and in promoting the process of economic and social development in that country.

13. To ratify the terms of communiqués CP/INF.3683/94 which nullify the sanctions recommended in previous resolutions.

14. To recommend to the Permanent Council that it closes the Special Committee to Monitor Compliance with the Trade Embargo on Haiti, created through resolution CP/RES. 575 (885/92) on January 22, 1992.

15. To express well-deserved appreciation to the Government of Bolivia and, in particular, to the President of the ad hoc Meeting for their excellent work.

16. To close the ad hoc Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Haiti.