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PRESS RELEASE

Participation of the *Patriotic Congress for National Recovery* at the “Solutions Summit: Haiti Matters” held on the eve of the UN General Assembly

Port-au-Prince, September 26, 2025



The *Patriotic Congress for National Recovery* took part on Monday, September 22, in the “Solutions Summit: Haiti Matters”, held on the eve of 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York. On this occasion, it presented a status report on its work and shared a thoughtful analysis of the prospects ahead.

This international summit was initiated and organized by two prominent think tanks in global affairs: Chatham House (UK) and Global Canada (Canada). It convened diplomats from Africa, Canada, France, Brazil, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the OAS, alongside representatives from international institutions, Haitian civil society, business community, and government officials, including President Laurent Saint Cyr. It aimed to foster a coordinated international response and to explore concrete, sovereign pathways out of Haiti’s crisis, grounded in a shared vision for the country's future.

The *Patriotic Congress for National Recovery* (PCNR) was represented by the Honourable Michaëlle Jean and by Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph, of the Haitian Studies Association and member of PCNR Executive Board.



Hon. Michaëlle Jean



Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph

The Summit provided the PCNR with an opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved over the past six months, to present the key areas of emerging consensus, and to outline the methodology that will guide the forthcoming work in October and November, leading to the final resolutions of the process.

The solidarity expressed toward the Haitian people, the high-level diplomatic support for Haiti, and the commitment to pursuing Haitian-led solutions that are sovereign, viable, and legitimate, all serve as positive signals amidst a context of acute crisis.

The positive reception of the Patriotic Congress's work strengthens our resolve to reject fatalism and reaffirms our firm belief that a genuine, inclusive inter-Haitian dialogue is not only possible, but essential to building consensus amongst stakeholders around national priorities and laying the groundwork for meaningful and lasting transformation.

More than ever, we remain committed to forging, with all the country's vital forces and the diaspora, realistic, constructive, and hopeful solutions for a better future for Haiti.

For the public's information, we herein include, in full, the remarks delivered on this occasion, on behalf of the Patriotic Congress, by the Honourable Michaëlle Jean.

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Remarks of the Honourable Michaëlle Jean

Solutions Summit: Haiti Matters

Organized on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly

New York, September 22, 2025

Distinguished delegates, esteemed colleagues, dear friends,

I thank you for the opportunity to address this body at such a critical juncture for Haiti. Your presence here today carries profound significance for a nation that has contributed so courageously to the history of human rights and freedom, yet that now feels perilously abandoned.

Haiti was born of a revolution that changed the course of humanity; a Republic, forged in defiance of tyranny, racism and in affirmation of universal liberty. Today, however, Haiti finds itself grappling with one of the most devastating chapters of its modern existence.

After nearly a decade without elections, resulting in the country not counting one single elected official and after five years of transitional governance, Haitians live under the daily weight of unchecked insecurity, humanitarian catastrophe, and institutional collapse. The transitional presidential council (CPT) entrusted with the solemn responsibility to restore order and lead the country to credible elections, has regrettably failed on nearly every front.

On February 7, 2026, as the Transitional Council's mandate comes to its end, Haiti faces a stark and dangerous reality: Zero legitimate institutional authority.

Faced with this looming void, the urgency of a negotiated, inclusive, and sufficiently consensual national solution became undeniable. It was in this context that the *PATRIOTIC CONGRESS FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY* was born.

This initiative was spearheaded by a coalition of 15 of the country's most respected public and private universities, with representation from all ten geographic departments. These institutions were joined by the Haitian Studies Association, a network of more than one thousand scholars and experts from the global Haitian diaspora, alongside twenty civil society organizations deeply rooted in the country's regions.

Together, they launched an unprecedented nation-wide dialogue through a series of twelve structured forums — ten regional forums, one in the diaspora, and a culminating National Synthesis Forum. For the first time, new voices — from academia, from regional civil society, from the diaspora, and from an intelligentsia long silent on political affairs — are stepping forward as active participants in shaping the future of their country ; creating a space for stakeholders and political actors to engage in meaningful exchanges, through structured forums addressing the major challenges facing the nation.

Since I first lent my voice to the March 27, 2025 call for action — urging all citizens of goodwill to take part in the Patriotic Congress — much has been achieved. But critical work still lies ahead.

While the work is ongoing, already, four major points of consensus have emerged:

First, there is broad agreement that the current nine-member Transitional Council is expensive, ineffective and riddled with corruption. Two main alternatives have emerged: a leaner, more efficient version of the Council, or an institutional solution aligned with constitutional tradition—appointing a judge from the Court of Cassation, Haiti's highest court. The presidency would be supported by a small government composed not of politicians but of senior officials of the public administration.

Second, let's not open Pandora's box. Any change in governance must occur at the

end of the current mandate, not before. Providing time to plan while engaging the TPC in the search for a solution for its own replacement and a transfer of power, in a responsible and organized manner.

Third, while there is consensus on the need for constitutional reform, the current process has been almost unanimously rejected for its lack of legitimacy, transparency, and inclusivity. and especially because of the lack of confidence among Haitians in the current governance. A new approach is needed — one that is led by legitimate powers, that draws on the extensive work of constitutional expert groups and engages the Haitian people meaningfully.

Fourth, and above all, the most pressing priorities are the restoration of security and the holding of democratic elections.

If the current transitional council were to initiate the electoral process before its mandate ends, the gesture could be welcomed—provided it is done in good faith, with appropriate security conditions and not as a means to extend power beyond the symbolic February 7 deadline. And given the unresolved challenges, such a move must be carefully assessed.

On the issue of security: The international community's recent willingness to deploy a UN-mandated gang suppression force seems to be a step in the right direction because it targets a powerful local link in the chain of transnational crime: trafficking in drugs, arms and organs.

I say: "seems to be a step in the right direction", because for more than three years, Haitians have been victims of the dilatory tactics and impotence of the international community. Today nothing seems to indicate that in six to nine months we will not still be discussing how to help Haitians escape from this unbearable hell.

The national security forces, gravely under-resourced and overwhelmed, are no match for the transnational criminal networks operating on the ground — and this, we must recognize, is partly due to past failures and inconsistencies of the international community.

While the sanctions imposed on gang leaders have no effect on their capacity to cause harm, this is further reinforced by the ease with which they can receive sophisticated weapons and ammunition from the United States and the Dominican Republic to which national security forces do not have access.

The Kenyan mission will end in a few days and its failure is considered a success for those who have no real desire to help Haitians escape from this hell.

What Haiti urgently needs now is an immediate military cooperation, with strong

capacity-building assistance to its national security forces, including the Army (yes the Army!) and the Police.

Excellencies, distinguished friends,

Allow me to end my remarks by commending the joint efforts of Chatham House and Global Canada in facilitating the much needed search for a durable solution for Haïti. I thank them for offering me this platform to amplify the glimmer of hope that is now emerging from the heart of Haiti, through the work of the Patriotic Congress.

This is a pragmatic path toward security, elections, and the restoration of democratic legitimacy.

Let us not abandon Haiti.

Let us act, with resolve, with unity, and without delay.

I thank you.

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