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POSITION STATEMENT ON THE HAITIAN CRISIS

The *Groupe de Réflexion et d'Action pour une Haïti Nouvelle* (GRAHN) condemns the recent escalation of violence in Haiti, particularly in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and the Artibonite department.

Faced with the imminent threat of the collapse of the Haitian state, GRAHN reiterates its call for a national reckoning and a shift away from an emphasis on personal interests on the part of all concerned. In this toxic climate, where the common good is too often disregarded, it is more crucial than ever that the interests of the Nation take precedence over those of individuals.

Ensuring the safety of citizens and their property must be the top priority. Given the decay of the state and its limited resources, the crucial support of our international partners is essential in tackling the crisis. Simultaneously, the state needs to be reorganized into a more decentralized and equitable structure. This requires first a constitutional reform to improve the functioning and quality of our institutions, then by honest democratic elections at all levels of the State but not necessarily all at the same time.

The Nation is in danger. Haitian society is collapsing. Acts of violence carried out with impunity are intensifying. The responsibility for this anarchic climate is shared between the perpetrators of these acts and those who sponsor them or who allowed this situation to take hold, whether they are inside or outside Haiti. It is also due to the inaction, carelessness, and negligence of these actors, especially by imposing their calamitous choices on us with ruthless orders.

GRAHN promotes a state governed by the rule of law, where every public officeholder is held to account and where the legitimacy of power derives solely from democratic elections. He denounces the exploitation of precarious social categories in the country and the transformation of it into a theater of illicit trafficking of all kinds. To restore the Nation, it is essential to promote education in all its forms, including education for citizenship, civic-mindedness, worship of the common good and equal opportunities.

For Haiti to recover, it is essential to establish good governance and to fight corruption relentlessly. The new Haiti will emerge when the general interest prevails over partisan interests, when the scientific spirit guides our actions, and when integrity supplants corruption. Only then will Haiti regain its dignity and its respectability in the concert of nations.

About GRAHN

GRAHN-World (or GRAHN) is a worldwide citizen-watch organization that wants to contribute, through well thought out actions, to solving the problems of Haiti. It aims to be a nonpartisan civil society movement, focused on the construction of a new Haiti founded on the rule of law, on sharing, solidarity, education, respect for the environment, and a strong commitment for the common good. GRAHN was founded in Montreal on January 20, 2010.