

Country/entity	Haiti
Region	Americas
Agreement name	Governors Island Accord
Date	1 Jul 1993
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Haitian Political Crisis (1991 - 2006)

After decades of brutal authoritarian rule by François Duvalier and later his son Jean-Claude Duvalier, which ended in 1986, Haiti was under pressure to institute free democratic elections. The interim administration scheduled presidential elections for December 1990. The winner was Jean-Bertrand Aristide. His time in power was disrupted by an unsuccessful coup just one month after election, and another, this time successful, coup in September 1991. A military junta, headed by General Raoul Cédras, seized power, while Aristide sought refuge in the US. The junta remained in power until 1994, ruling the country in a violent manner, resulting in thousands of deaths, a refugee crisis, and numerous instances of rape and organized sexual violence. In 1993 an agreement (Governors Island Agreement) was reached between Aristide and Cédras, allowing for Aristide to return to power in October of that year, and granting amnesty to Cédras and other prominent members of the regime. However, this agreement was not respected, and the following year saw the implementation of comprehensive sanctions against Haiti accompanied by a US-led and UN-sanctioned intervention, which was moderated by a last-minute agreement between the US envoy Jimmy Carter and Raoul Cédras on the 18th of September 1994. Aristide returned to power, but the political turmoil in the country continued, as Aristide was again ousted in a coup d'état in 2004, after winning the presidency for the second time in 2002.

Close

Haitian Political Crisis (1991 - 2006)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Haitian peace process
Parties	Signed:

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of the Republic of Haiti

General Raoul Cédras, the Commander-in- Chief of the Armed Forces of Haiti

Third parties [The document does not include any mention of third parties. UN mediator Dante Caputo was already coded on the database.]

Description The agreement is about political dialogue and the necessary steps for the transition. It requests the suspension of sanctions and embargoes; the implementation of assistance through international cooperation; grants an amnesty; includes provisions for the police and the armed forces; and it specifies the date for the return of the president in exile.

Agreement document [HT_930703_GovernorsIslandAgreement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

**Women, girls and
gender** No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	<p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references</p> <p>Page 1, 1: Organization, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), of a political dialogue between representatives of the political parties represented in the Parliament, with the participation of representatives of the Presidential Commission, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Agree to a political truce and promote a social pact to create the conditions necessary to ensure a peaceful transition;(b) Reach an agreement on the procedure for enabling the Haitian Parliament to resume its normal functioning;(c) Reach an agreement enabling the Parliament to confirm the Prime Minister as speedily as possible; and(d) Reach an agreement permitting the adoption of the laws necessary for ensuring the transition. <p>Page 1, 2: Nomination of a Prime Minister by the President of the Republic.</p> <p>Page 1, 3: Confirmation of the Prime Minister by the legally reconstituted Parliament and his assumption of office in Haiti.</p> <p>Page 2, 9: Return to Haiti of the President of the Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, on 30 October 1993.</p>
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	<p>Page 1, 5: Implementation, following the agreements with the constitutional Government, of international cooperation:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(b) Assistance for the administrative and judicial reform;</p> <p>[...]</p>
Constitution	<p>Governance→Constitution→Constitution affirmation/renewal</p> <p>Page 1, 6: An amnesty granted by the President of the Republic within the framework of article 147 of the National Constitution and implementation of the other instruments which may be adopted by the Parliament on this question.</p>

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 2, untitled postscript: The President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief agree that these arrangements constitute a satisfactory solution to the Haitian crisis and the beginning of a process of national reconciliation. They pledge to cooperate fully in the peaceful transition to a stable and lasting democratic society in which all Haitians will be able to live in a climate of freedom, justice, security and respect for human rights.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Liberty and security of person
Page 2, untitled postscript: The President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief agree that these arrangements constitute a satisfactory solution to the Haitian crisis and the beginning of a process of national reconciliation. They pledge to cooperate fully in the peaceful transition to a stable and lasting democratic society in which all Haitians will be able to live in a climate of freedom, justice, security and respect for human rights.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy Page 2, untitled postscript: The President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief agree that these arrangements constitute a satisfactory solution to the Haitian crisis and the beginning of a process of national reconciliation. They pledge to cooperate fully in the peaceful transition to a stable and lasting democratic society in which all Haitians will be able to live in a climate of freedom, justice, security and respect for human rights.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts Page 1, 5: Implementation, following the agreements with the constitutional Government, of international cooperation:
[...]
(b) Assistance for the administrative and judicial reform;
[...]

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 1, 5: Implementation, following the agreements with the constitutional Government, of international cooperation:

- Technical and financial assistance for development;

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 1, 5: Implementation, following the agreements with the constitutional Government, of international cooperation:

- Technical and financial assistance for development;
- Assistance for the administrative and judicial reform;

Assistance for modernizing the Armed Forces of Haiti and establishing a new Police Force with the presence of United Nations personnel in these fields.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 2, untitled postscript: The President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief agree that these arrangements constitute a satisfactory solution to the Haitian crisis and the beginning of a process of national reconciliation. They pledge to cooperate fully in the peaceful transition to a stable and lasting democratic society in which all Haitians will be able to live in a climate of freedom, justice, security and respect for human rights.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	<p>Page 1, 5: Implementation, following the agreements with the constitutional Government, of international cooperation: [...] (c) Assistance for modernizing the Armed Forces of Haiti and establishing a new Police Force with the presence of United Nations personnel in these fields.</p> <p>Page 1, 7: Adoption of a law establishing the new Police Force. Appointment, within this framework, of the Commander-in-Chief of the Police Force by the President of the Republic.</p>
Armed forces	<p>Page 1, 5: Implementation, following the agreements with the constitutional Government, of international cooperation: [...] (c) Assistance for modernizing the Armed Forces of Haiti and establishing a new Police Force with the presence of United Nations personnel in these fields.</p> <p>Page 2, 8: The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Haiti has decided to avail himself of his right to early retirement and the President of the Republic shall appoint a new Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in Haiti, who shall appoint the members of the General Staff, in accordance with the Constitution.</p>
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 1, 6: An amnesty granted by the President of the Republic within the framework of article 147 of the National Constitution and implementation of the other instruments which may be adopted by the Parliament on this question.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation Page 2, untitled postscript: The President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief agree that these arrangements constitute a satisfactory solution to the Haitian crisis and the beginning of a process of national reconciliation. They pledge to cooperate fully in the peaceful transition to a stable and lasting democratic society in which all Haitians will be able to live in a climate of freedom, justice, security and respect for human rights.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 1, 5: Implementation, following the agreements with the constitutional Government, of international cooperation:
[...]

(c) Assistance for modernizing the Armed Forces of Haiti and establishing a new Police Force with the presence of United Nations personnel in these fields.

Enforcement mechanism

No specific mention.
