

DPA

Implementation of the Bruxelles Programme of Action for Least developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Department of Political Affairs' (DPA) role in the Programme of action is related to Commitment 2: a. Good governance at national and international levels and b. Providing assistance to help the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as supporting confidence-building, post-conflict peace-building, reintegration and reconstruction.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Action taken

1. In February 2000, the Secretary-General established the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in Bangui (BONUCA). Its central objective is to provide support, in close cooperation with the United Nations Country Team, to national efforts at establishing an environment conducive for peace, stability and sustainable development. The Security Council strengthened BONUCA's mandate in September of 2001 following the coup attempt on 28 May 2001.
2. In line with its mandate, BONUCA is to mobilize international assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation; to provide political support for the efforts of the Resident Coordinator and United Nations agencies to promote national reconstruction, combat poverty and promote good governance; and to contribute actively to the international mobilization for political support and for resources to implement the social and economic programme for economic reconstruction as agreed by the Bretton Woods institutions.
3. DPA frequently encourages the Bretton Woods institutions to be part of the United Nations integrated strategy and support concerted initiatives aimed at helping CAR to achieve peace and security.

Impact at the country level

4. Political actors in CAR agreed to hold a dialogue for national reconciliation. However, it could not take place because of the coup on 15 March 2003 by General Bozize who overthrew President Patassé. The lack of good governance, mismanagement of public funds, and absence of a cooperation programme between the Bretton Woods institutions and the CAR compromised the peace and stability in the country. Civil servants went on strike frequently and to prevent the overall situation from further deterioration, BONUCA appealed for a national dialogue with the Government.

5. As recommended by the Security Council and the Secretary General, UNDP, the World Bank and DPA decided to design an integrated approach for peace building. In the meanwhile, DPA continued to advocate that it is in the interest of the CAR to support efforts aimed at consolidating peace in the country because without peace there can be no development.

6. The World Bank has strengthened its cooperation with DPA in order to determine peace-building objectives. A planned DPA-World Bank mission to establish a joint global strategy for the restoration and consolidation peace in CAR could not take place because of the military coup of 15 March 2003.

COMOROS

Actions taken

7. DPA assisted the country in managing the separatist and constitutional crisis during 2000-02. On 17 February 2001, under the auspices of the African Union (AU), European Union (EU), IOF and Arab League, the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros was signed in Fomboni. The Fomboni Agreement provided a solution to the constitutional and separatist crisis in the country. Pressure and inducements of the international players involved on the parties in CAR, convinced the Comorian parties to implement the Agreement. The referendum on the new constitution was held on 23 December 2001. The referenda on the constitutions of the islands, elections of governors of the islands and the presidential election all took place by the end of May 2002. All elections were internationally observed. DPA provided technical assistance to and coordinated the international observation of the elections that ensured the establishment of new institutions.

Other UN system institutions

8. Since the establishment of the “Union of Comoros” and the presidential elections, the Bretton Woods Institutions have undertaken various missions to the country and assisted the Government to plan their new budget and fiscal policy.

Donor Countries

9. A donors’ conference in Mauritius scheduled for 2002 has been postponed. It will take place as soon as political conditions permit.

Impact at the country level

10. The Fomboni agreement has provided a basis for ending the crisis and promoting national reconciliation. The United Nations assistance in the peace process has helped in establishing new and internationally recognized institutions. It also helped promote national dialogue and reconciliation, through the various follow-up mechanisms provided for by the Fomboni Agreement.

11. The Bretton Woods Institutions are now considering the resumption of their assistance to the Comoros.

Further actions needed for implementation

12. Greater cooperation between the parties is still necessary to ensure that parliamentary elections take place to provide the country with a new legal body.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Action taken

13. In June 1999, the Secretary-General established the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), following the 1998/99-armed conflict in Guinea-Bissau. DPA plays an important facilitation role in the process of peace and national reconciliation in that country by supporting peace-building efforts of the Government. In 2001 and 2002, UNOGBIS continued to help the Government manage sporadic crises confronting the country in the difficult post-conflict period. It also addressed post-conflict political and socio-economic challenges by helping the creation of political and security conditions that enables the nascent democratic institutions and structures to function efficiently. To that end, UNOGBIS, in close cooperation with the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, has been facilitating the mobilization of international political support and resources for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development priorities of Guinea-Bissau.

Other UN system institutions:

14. On 25 October 2002, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established a new mechanism, an Ad-hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, set up at the request of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, to put in place an integrated long-term programme of support for the country. At the same time, taking into account the country's urgent socio-economic needs, the Group has initiated a partnership approach between the Government and the international community to respond to those needs. The participation of the President of ECOSOC, the Chairman of the Security Councils' Advisory Group on Africa and the Chairman of the Group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau in the ECOSOC Group's work has created for the first time a cooperative arrangement between Guinea-Bissau's international partners. The Group works in close contact with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations country team on the ground, including UNOGBIS.

Impact in the country-level

15. United Nations facilitation efforts have helped prevent the resumption of the armed conflict in Guinea-Bissau. At the same time, the Organization has

encouraged all actors in Guinea-Bissau, especially its leaders, to reach consensus over constitutional, governance and other issues to improve confidence and trust both inside the country and relations between the country and its international partners. The adoption of the revised Constitution and the holding of credible legislative elections in 2003 will help strengthen the country's democratic institutional structure as a basis for peace and sustainable development.

Further action needed for implementation:

16. More innovative ways should be found to show the Bissau Guinean people that the international community cares about them by helping the Government to meet its most immediate obligations, to strengthen the country's capability to prevent relapse into conflict and to create a more conducive environment for addressing the political, economic and social root causes of instability.

MADAGASCAR

Action taken

17. DPA assisted the country in managing the political crisis during 2002. The six-month long political crisis in Madagascar following the contested results of presidential elections of December 2001 came to be resolved by the end of 2002. The United Nations jointly with the African Union, participated in a series of mediation missions aimed at facilitating tête-à-tête meetings between the two contenders and drafting agreements to overcome the political impasse. By July 2002, Marc Ravalomanana took *de facto* control of the whole territory and gained international recognition as president of Madagascar. Parliamentary elections were held on 15 December 2002. Elections took place with UN technical assistance and at the presence of international observers.

Donor Countries

18. On 26 July in Paris, to address the issue of development and economic assistance, UNDP, the World Bank and the EU jointly convened a meeting of "Friends of Madagascar".

Impact at the country level

19. Together with the AU, DPA provided assistance in addressing the political crisis. Various joint UN-AU negotiation missions facilitated the resumption of dialogue between the parties, although a negotiated solution eluded them in the end.

Further actions needed for implementation

20. The challenges ahead are now economic recovery and capacity building. Bretton Woods institutions and UNDP will play a crucial role. DPA should

continue to monitor the political climate, especially regarding national reconciliation and the establishment of multi-party democracy.