

Draft statement for
H.E. Omar Hilale, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco
and Chair of the PBC Central African Republic Configuration
15 April 2015

Excellencies and friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to today's informal discussion and exchange of views on the situation in the Central African Republic. I am especially delighted to welcome SRSG Babacar Gaye who, as you know, addressed the Security Council yesterday morning. I take this opportunity to congratulate him for his tireless efforts and reiterate the full support of the Configuration. Our second guest speaker today is Ambassador Raymond Balé who will brief us about the activities of the International Mediator for CAR, H.E. President Sassou Nguesso.

The purpose of today's meeting is to further exchange on the PBC's role and potential contribution, within the current political and security situation in CAR.

As a backdrop to our meeting today, I would like to recall the Security Council Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2014/28) of December 2014 which reiterated "*the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in encouraging and facilitating dialogue, complementarity and coherence among all actors involved, in close collaboration with the United Nations leadership in the field; in sustaining the attention and commitment of the international community in support of these processes and of the long term peacebuilding objectives of the country*". The Configuration is also guided by the recommendations of the last report of the Secretary General discussed yesterday at the Security Council.

Within the framework of the activities of the Configuration, I recently travelled to Washington DC where I held very useful discussions at the State Department with the US Special Envoy, Ambassador Symington, in the presence of representatives from different Departments (African Affairs, Department of Justice, Usaid). We fully coincided in our views on the importance of achieving the short term objectives (the Bangui Forum, the constitutional review and the elections) as well as on the need to start a collective reflexion on the medium and long term objectives. I also visited the World Bank where I met with representatives from the Fragility, Conflict and Violence, and the Africa Departments respectively. They fully shared our concerns on the situation in CAR and presented the current and short term engagement of the Bank in the country.

We are also currently engaged, together with UNDP, DPKO, DPA and other partners, in discussing a strategy to mobilize partners to support the upcoming elections. There is still an approximate pledging gap to fill of 16 million US dollars (38% of 43.8 million US dollars). We are encouraged by the fact that the EU has disbursed a first tranche of 8 million Euros allowing for the registration process to begin. This fundamental issue of financing the election process has been raised in a number of meetings, and mentioned by several High level representatives (Secretary General, Administrator of UNDP etc...) with potential donor countries, yet we still face the dilemma of lacking resources for such a crucial milestone for the transition just a few months away from the date of the elections.

This issue will be treated at the side event co-organized by France and the World Bank in the margins of the World Bank Spring meeting in Washington D.C. (19th April) and the Fond BEKOU meeting in Brussels (24th April). We are aware that further financial support will be necessary for the numerous challenges ahead of us and we'll continue to support the ongoing and future resource mobilization efforts. In this context, we would like to address the question of mobilization of domestic resources, especially given the fact that different armed groups still control the exploitation of natural resources throughout the country. We would like to hear the point of view of the SRSB on this issue and how the Configuration could bring its support to MINUSCA and to the transitional authorities in the context of domestic resources mobilization.

Before giving the floor to our guest speaker(s), I would like to announce that I will travel to Bangui at the end of the month, to attend the conclusion of the Bangui Forum. This visit was scheduled from a long time, but we finally decided to wait for the official announcement of the Bangui Forum. We hope that all the necessary conditions for the success of the Forum will be met. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Transitional authorities and MINUSCA for concluding the regional consultations process. I intend to meet a number of key interlocutors from the Government of the Transition as well as members of civil society and partners from the international community. The visit will seek to define PBC's role in support of the transition process and launch discussions on the medium and long term peacebuilding objectives.

At a time when the stakes in CAR are higher than ever, today's meeting should give us an opportunity to engage in an open discussion on issues such as State and institutional building, extension of state authority, regional dimension, support of good governance, national cohesion and the use of natural resources. Therefore, I would like to invite your inputs and

thoughts on key messages that this configuration could endorse, which in turn I shall deliver during my discussions with interlocutors and partners on the ground. The PBC could greatly benefit by drawing from the views and perspectives of regional and international key stakeholders when fulfilling its mandate.

Collectively, we have a responsibility to help the people of CAR move out of crisis and give our best efforts in paving the way for a better future.

Let me now turn to Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding Support, Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco who will share a few words with us.

[ASG Fernandez-Taranco statement]

Thank you, Mr. Fernandez-Taranco. Now, I give the floor to SRSO Gaye who will first brief us on the current situation in the country. I would like to ask you General if you could also share your thoughts on how this Configuration can help your good offices efforts to ensure the political support required for a permanent cease-fire, and more broadly, to the political process.

[SRSO Gaye statement]

I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary General for his remarks and before giving the floor to the Ambassador of Congo, I would like to convey the appreciation of the members of the Configuration for the key role played by His Excellency President Sassou Nguesso in his capacity of Head of the International Mediation and reiterate our full support to his efforts.

[Ambassador of Congo statement]

I thank the Ambassador of Congo for his comprehensive briefing. Before opening the floor, I would like to share just one additional point of information. As you are all aware, the 2015 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture is underway and you'll also recall that CAR is one of the five country case-studies for that review.

By coincidence, that case-study visit will be going ahead on almost the same dates as my own visit to Bangui. Ambassador Gert Rosenthal who is Chairing the Advisory Group of Experts for the first phase of the 2015 review, along with Ambassador Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, will be visiting Bangui from approximately 26 April to 7 May.

The two visits are distinct and should not interfere with one another. The Advisory Group's visit will be oriented around the Terms of Reference for the 2015 review set out by the General Assembly and Security Council. Mr. Stephen Jackson, Head of the Secretariat established to support the 2015 review, is on hand if you should wish to seek any further clarification.

The floor is now open and I welcome your comments to start the discussion.