

**Summary of the informal meeting**  
**Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission**  
**8 June 2015**

On 8 June, the Peacebuilding Commission Central African Republic Configuration (PBC CAR) held an informal meeting to brief on the status of the political transition in the Central African Republic with a focus on the preparation for the general elections. Member of the configuration were briefed by H.E. Mr. Bachir Walidou Modibo, Minister of Territorial Administration of the Central African Republic, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily SRSG UNOCA, Mr. Dimitry Titov, ASG DPKO, Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, UNDP Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, Mr. Aurélien Agbénonci, MINUSCA DSRSR/ HC/RC/RR and Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, ASG for Peacebuilding Support.

For the occasion, the Chair of the Configuration invited representatives of Australia, Bahrain, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to attend as special guests to the meeting. The United States of America Special Representative for the Central African Republic, Ambassador W. Stuart Symington also attended the event.

The various panellists drew the attention of the meeting on the most pressing challenges and opportunities of the transition in the Central African Republic and enumerated significant progress achieved so far in the areas of electoral preparations and the extension of the State authority throughout the country. The political mood in the country was described as one of cautious optimism and hope, given the momentum generated by the Bangui Forum and its concluding documents, namely the Agreement on the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), and the 'Pacte Republicain'. A panellists detailed the relevance of two events described as tipping point in the current political roadmap, one being the Bangui Forum and the other the general elections.

In view of the fact that the elections constitute an essential step to mark the end of the transition, several panellists alerted about the risks for the country and the region should this process not result in greater stabilization in the Central African Republic. In an equally volatile regional environment plagued by the threat of groups such as Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army, it is crucial that the Central African Republic avoids plunging into further instability and insecurity. In this regard, various panellists explained that there has never been a more propitious moment than now to rebuild the social contract between the citizenry and the State in the Central African Republic. Moreover, the sum of the collective efforts to consolidate stability and foster social cohesion should result in ensuring that elections can take place under better conditions of legitimacy, inclusiveness, transparency and security.

Furthermore, a serious concern was manifested by the panellists about the underfunded budget for the electoral process, which currently has a shortfall of USD 21 million out of USD 43.5 million. In this regard, all the panellists and some Configuration members such as the United States and France urged international partners to make the most of the window of opportunity and urgently scale up their support for the political process; especially for the elections through contribution to the Electoral Trust Fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme.

In his conclusions, the Chair of the PBC CAR Configuration underscored the importance of seizing the historic opportunity to improve the lives of the Central African population. In this sense, the Chair praised the commitment and tireless efforts of the two Special Representatives of the Secretary

General, namely Mr. Babacar Gaye and Abdoulaye Bathily for their leadership in guiding the attention of the international community. The Chair made a plea to increase the solidarity of the international community to avoid a relapse into violence which would erode the meagre but significant achievements obtained so far. He also highlighted the importance of the financial contributions already made by France, the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) and the UNDP to the electoral Trust Fund, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for the Bangui Forum. The Chair commended the efforts of partners such as the EU for the recently held meeting of the Bekou fund in Brussels and the timely and catalytic Peacebuilding Fund contribution for the Central African Republic. In this regard, he noted, the attention and coherent political support of the international community is, more than ever, needed urgently to ensure that short term requirements fit into a longer term peace building vision.

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