

Statement by Ambassador Hilale, Chair of the CAR
Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission
Security Council, 16 March 2017

Mr. President of the Security Council,
Mr. President of the Central African Republic,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished Members of the Security Council,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the members of the Central African Republic Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

It is always an honor and a pleasure to address the Security Council, on the occasion of this meeting on the Central African Republic, organized following the visit of H.E. Mr. Faustin Archange Touadera, President of the Central African Republic, whom I warmly thank for honoring us with his presence here today. I would also like to thank the President of the Security Council for convening this meeting, despite the busy agenda for this month, and for his invitation to be here today.

At the outset, I would like to commend the organization of this meeting, which demonstrates in concrete terms the possible synergies between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, with the ultimate goal of promoting the necessary conditions for a sustained peace in CAR. CAR is an exemplary case, where in the past, an early disengagement of the International Community had contributed to the relapse of the country into conflict.

Today however, while the security situation remains volatile due to the resurgence of violence between the main armed groups that remain outside of the peace process, we are in a better context, with the return of the Constitutional order, an ambitious National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, which was strongly supported at the Brussels Donors' Conference, and the presence of a multidimensional peacekeeping mission with an extended mandate, MINUSCA.

Mr. President,

This morning we organized a meeting of the Central African Republic Configuration, which was marked by the presence of the President of the Republic, HE President Touadera; and the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Parfait Onanga-Onyanga. The presence of HE President Touadera gives a strong signal to the International Community on his determination and that of his government to lead efforts to restore peace and security in the Central African Republic.

The members of the Configuration reiterated to the Head of State their firm and constant commitment to continue the fruitful collaboration with the Government of the Central African Republic; and to collaborate with the entire United Nations system and other stakeholders. Members also reiterated the importance of continued coordination with the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Parfait Onanga-Onyanga, whom I

thank for the excellent cooperation with the Configuration; and with regional and sub-regional organizations and international partners.

Members of the Configuration expressed their support for the program of work which was presented recently to the Security Council, and consists mainly of a meeting for each of the three pillars of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, bringing together all relevant stakeholders (UN, EU, World Bank) to discuss how best to support the efforts of the Government and partners.

To this end, we will intensify our coordination and collaboration with the three main partners in charge, under the leadership of the Central African authorities, of the implementation of the recovery plan: the UN for the first pillar (Support for peace, Security and reconciliation), the EU for the 2nd pillar (Renewal of the social contract between the population and the Government) and the World Bank for the 3rd pillar (Promoting economic recovery and boost of productive sectors).

In proposing this program of work for the coming months, the Configuration has an ambitious medium- and long-term goal. It consists of making CAR one of the models of success for the United Nations and peacebuilding in general, and in particular for the Sustaining Peace concept, which emanates from last year's Resolution 2282 of the Security Council and 70/282 of the General Assembly. Indeed, the main elements necessary to sustaining peace are present in the case of CAR, as follows:

- Responsibility of national authorities to identify and translate national priorities into strategy, which resulted in the national recovery and peacebuilding plan, and;
- The role of the Peacebuilding Commission in terms of advocacy, coordination of efforts and platform bringing together the various actors involved in peacebuilding.

We are confident that existing or new coordination mechanisms will facilitate coordination between key partners, and hence the implementation of the national recovery plan. It should be recalled that the Peacebuilding Commission remains committed to facilitating the coordination of the various actors here in New York and to ensuring that the efforts are complementary.

In this regard, I intend to visit the Central African Republic soon, to discuss with the main national and international partners present in the country on the main challenges encountered in the implementation of the national plan, and on the ways and means of optimizing our support to the Government in order to overcome these challenges. I look forward to then discuss together with the members of the Configuration and the members of the Council how to take forward our support.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate the countries of the region for their constant engagement in CAR, as well as for their recent mediation initiative involving the AU, ECCAS, ICGLR with Congo, Chad and Angola.

I would also like to commend efforts of the Council working towards maintaining the Central African high on its agenda. The organization of an interactive dialogue on the African mediation initiative is an excellent illustration of this commitment and will enable Council members to explore the possibilities of support for this initiative. The Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to lend its support, knowing that all the actors involved in this process are members of the Configuration.

I thank you for your attention.