

Background paper on the Central African Republic

Executive Summary

This paper has been prepared to assist the discussions of the Central African Republic Country Specific Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). It provides a brief overview of the current political, security, economic, and social context in the Central African Republic (CAR), examines the existing national framework documents, and highlights some peacebuilding priorities and challenges. The paper also lists the regional and international initiatives.

CAR faces a daunting array of challenges, in the political, security, humanitarian and development sectors. The government has developed plans and strategies in response to many of these challenges.

In the short to medium term PBC's engagement could focus on addressing the most immediate priorities for peacebuilding as they have emerged from discussions with the authorities of the Central African Republic and the local and international donor community during the recent visit of the CSM Chair to the Central African Republic from 10-11 July 2008 and on supporting the inclusive political dialogue. These priorities are: (1) support for effective, accountable, and sustainable national security sector, (2) reinforcing of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and good governance, and (3) the establishment of development poles. The importance of focusing initially on those peacebuilding priorities derives from the fact that they hold the key to stabilizing the country and laying the foundation for sustained peace, which in turn will put the country on a path of recovery, sustained growth and development. Moreover, the crucial task of building state institutions for effective political and economic governance will critically depend on progress in institution-building to support security sector, rule of law and human rights.

As the PBC will have addressed the more immediate challenges, the PBC could progressively take up other priorities in the context of the broader role the PBC can play in ensuring that peacebuilding priorities complement existing national strategies, in identifying the gaps in programmes needed to strengthen the peacebuilding agenda, in increasing regional and international attention toward the country and in contributing to support national efforts to undertake the essential tasks of promoting national reconciliation, strengthening peace and political stability, building institutions for public administration and attaining economic growth rates that can significantly reduce the level of poverty in the country.

Contents

.....Paragraphs Page

I.	Introduction.....	1-3	3
II.	Context.....	4-20	3
	A. Political and security situation.....	4-12	3
	B. Economic and social situation.....	13-20	4
III.	Existing national frameworks and plans: an entry point for peacbuilding efforts.....	21-27	6
IV.	Peacebuilding priorities and challenges	28-37	7
	A. Support for an effective, accountable, and sustainable national security sector...	33	8
	B. Reinforcing the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and good governance in all regions of the country.....	34-36	8
	C. The establishment of development poles	37	8
V.	Conclusion	38-41	9
	Annex I Regional and international initiatives on CAR.....		10
	Annex 2: CAR Basic Economic and social Indicators and Facts on PBC Engagement		11

I. Introduction

1. In a letter dated 6 March 2008, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic (CAR) requested the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to place the Central African Republic on its agenda. This letter was forwarded to the Security Council on 10 April 2008.

2. On 30 May 2008, the President of the Security Council wrote to the Chairman of the PBC supporting the request for the CAR to be placed on its agenda. The Security Council invited the Commission to provide advice and recommendations on the situation in the CAR in the following areas: (i) establishment and conduct of an inclusive political dialogue; (ii) action by the national authorities and support from the international community to develop effective, accountable and sustainable national security sector system; and (iii) restoration of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and good governance in all regions of the country.

3. At the 6th Meeting of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, 12 June 2008, it was decided to place the Central African Republic on the agenda of the PBC. The Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, Ambassador Jan Grauls, was elected as Chair of the Commission's country-specific configuration for CAR.

II. Context

A. Political and Security Situation

4. The defining characteristic of the Central African Republic today is fragility. This fragility is particularly acute in the state institutions and political processes. The CAR suffers from a multidimensional conflict that has endured for several decades, as illustrated by a series of military and political crises from 1996 to 2003. The government is struggling to restore basic administrative, economic and social functions in order to meet the most urgent needs of the population. State authority is concentrated in and around the capital and a handful of other towns. The weakness of state institutions and the virtual absence of effective public administration outside Bangui have led some to regard the CAR as a "phantom state".

5. Violence persists in vast parts of the country, particularly in the northern parts of the country. Insurgency in these regions has aggravated the humanitarian situation in the country, causing massive displacement of the civilian population, which faces violence committed by armed bandits - *zaraguinas* or *coupeurs de routes* – rebels and governmental forces. As a result, an estimated 295,000 Central Africans have been forced to flee their homes: nearly 200,000 have been internally displaced, and close to 100,000 fled into neighbouring Chad, Cameroon and Sudan. The civilian population is not afforded adequate protection due to the lack of security, police and justice mechanisms outside the capital of Bangui.

6. Despite the persisting political and security challenges, in recent years the government has sought to address the sources of fragility and strengthen peace and political stability in most parts of the country. The 2005 general and presidential elections marked the return to constitutional governance. The government of President François Bozizé presented its General Policy Declaration in 2005, which underlined the need to (i) consolidate peace and security, (ii) reinforce the macro-economic framework and reforms, and (iii) rebuild the country's basic infrastructure and social services.

7. In a landmark attempt to put an end to the country's recurrent political and security crises, the government has committed to an Inclusive Political Dialogue. The dialogue's Preparatory Committee (CPDPI), formed in December 2007, brought together representatives from the state, the opposition, civil society, and the armed groups to elaborate a consensual framework for an inclusive political dialogue. The Inclusive Dialogue is seen as a crucial opportunity to bring together all national stakeholders in a reconciliation process. The Inclusive Dialogue is also viewed by most of these national stakeholders as a critical step to ensure that the next legislative and presidential elections are free, fair and peaceful.

8. As discussions continued on the organization of the inclusive political dialogue, the Government concluded separate peace agreements with the Democratic and Popular Forces of the CAR (FDPC) in Syrte, in February 2007, and with the Union of Democratic and Republican Forces (UFDR) in Birao, in April 2007. The Government's separate peace agreement with the Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD) was signed in Libreville, in May 2008, following the recommendation of the Dialogue Preparatory Committee (CPDPI). Also, at the recommendation of CPDPI, the Government concluded a Comprehensive Peace Agreement with APRD and UFDR in Libreville, in June 2008. The two latest agreements are important preconditions for the Inclusive Dialogue and the comprehensive peace agreement remains open for signature by other politico-military groups.

9. In early August, most of the key stakeholders in the dialogue process, including the main coalition of opposition parties (UFVN) and politico-military groups, announced their withdrawal from the peace process over their dissatisfaction with the three draft amnesty laws tabled before the Parliament by the CAR Government. The bills were viewed by these stakeholders as being contrary to the spirit of the Libreville accords and the recommendations of the Dialogue Preparatory Committee which, among other things, provided for amnesty to leaders of rebel groups to enable them participate in the inclusive dialogue.

10. In addition to internal political and security challenges, potential external threats subsist, as the CAR is exposed to the effects of conflict in neighbouring countries of Chad, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In an effort to address the regional security concerns, on 25 September 2007 the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1778, authorizing the deployment of a multidimensional presence in eastern Chad and the north eastern part of the Central African Republic. This presence has three components: (i) a multidisciplinary United Nations mission (MINURCAT - United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad), (ii) Chadian Police for Humanitarian Protection (PTPH), and (iii) a European Union military presence supporting the UN's actions. Presently, the European Union Force (EUFOR) has 3,000 troops in Chad and CAR. The original objective was to have 3,700 troops, including 200 based in Headquarters in Paris.

11. In 2002, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) established a sub-regional force (FOMUC), which currently consists of 500 troops from Cameroon, Chad, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. The operational responsibilities over FOMUC were formally transferred to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on 12 July 2008. The sub-regional peacekeeping force, to be called MICOPAX, which would also have a civilian component headed by a Special Representative of ECCAS, will become operational in January 2009.

12. In addition to these measures, the government has committed to embark on a comprehensive security sector reform (SSR) and poverty reduction strategies (PRS). An effective SSR process would significantly contribute to political stability. In this regard, a 4-day national seminar was organized in April 2008 to address reform challenges in the CAR armed forces (FACA), police forces, justice and penitentiary system, intelligence services and private security forces. A detailed plan of the reform was prepared during the seminar.

B. Economic and Social Situation

13. While the CAR is rich in agricultural and mineral resources, it is one of the world's least developed countries, with 67% of its population living under US\$ 1 a day – the world's third highest ratio. The country is ranked at 171 out of 177 countries on the 2007/08 Human Development Index (HDI). The country had a 2% negative growth over 1995-2004 and experienced a major budget crisis in 2005. Its population is overwhelmingly agrarian and largely engaged in subsistence farming – more than half of its GDP arises from agriculture.

14. The country has abundant, but largely unexploited natural resources in the form of diamonds, gold, uranium, and other strategic minerals. CAR is a member of the Kimberley process certification scheme. The timber industry accounts for 16 percent of the export earnings in CAR and; the forest covers 37 percent of its territory (situation in 2005). Natural resource governance is therefore an important aspect of peacebuilding in CAR. Good governance of natural resources is a safeguard against illegal exploitation that might foster economic incentives for maintaining unstable environments. Effectively harnessing the natural resources of the country would provide

employment opportunities as well as produce adequate stream of revenue to finance government's recurring expenditure.

15. Even though the economic performance of the last two years is encouraging, it remains fragile because the low level of economic and human capital and the vulnerability of the country to adverse and exogenous factors, such as the increase of oil prices or the ongoing food crisis. Real GDP grew by 4.2 percent in 2007 and is expected to grow by about 4.9 percent in 2008. Growth should be even higher to rapidly reverse the socioeconomic indicators and facilitate the catching up process. Infrastructure, road networks in particular, is weak and many parts of the country are cut from the capital during the rainy season. Major electricity and water shortages persist among the limited beneficiary population.

16. Therefore short and medium term challenges for the country will continue to require immediate, sustained and significant external resources. In this regard, during the first half of 2007, more Official Development Assistance (ODA) was received than in the whole of 2006. Despite this improvement, CAR remains somewhat of an "aid orphan" for several reasons: there are very few bilateral donors; looking at aid per capita, the country ranks particularly low (\$32 per capita in 2007); and bilateral and multilateral partners do not plan to increase their respective CAR country envelopes in the coming years. At the same time, aid also faces strong absorption capacity constraints and because the CAR has very low government revenues, there is an indirect risk of a dampening effect by aid on domestic revenue mobilization.

17. CAR engaged in a series of reforms in various sectors, to create conditions for return to socio-political stability and to send signals of good governance in the economic and financial sectors while providing some peace dividends for the population. Three economic and recovery programmes were formulated and successfully implemented since 2005. These programmes are two post conflict programmes, an interim strategy programme and a Poverty Reduction programme underway. The fiscal position also improved owing to expenditure control and efforts to enhance domestic revenue mobilization. Fiscal revenue increased steadily from 2004 to 2008; the government payroll decreased by almost 21% from 2004 to 2006, while tax receipts increased significantly. In 2008-2009, the government will continue having difficulty clearing salary arrears within the public service, but it is forecasted that the fiscal deficit will be contained to less than to 3 percent of GDP in 2008.

18. In September 2007, the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) determined that the CAR qualified for debt relief under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and had reached the decision point under the Initiative. To qualify for irrevocable debt relief at completion, the government was required to implement a broad set of reforms, in particular to accelerate efforts to strengthen public financial management. The government is expected to continue to put into action an economic programme supported by the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), and continue implementing its PRSP. In addition, the CAR will be eligible for Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative assistance when it reaches HIPC completion point. Resolution of the domestic debt overhang is also a pressing issue, as public sector domestic debt amounts to about 23 percent of GDP. About 60 percent of domestic debt is arrears (mostly salaries); many civil servants are owed several years of salary.

19. The humanitarian crisis caused in the CAR by violence in regions affected by rebellious attacks and government armed forces retaliation, hit more than 1 million highly vulnerable people due to disease, malnutrition and insecurity. Some 300,000 people are displaced internally and in neighboring countries. Most have sought refuge in urban areas where they have been cut off from their livelihoods. The economic and social situation of the displaced people needs to be addressed urgently in the framework of wide integrated national and regional programmes that combine efforts in three interrelated sectors: Security, Peace and Development.

20. Overall, and despite major political and security challenges, the Central African Republic has made encouraging progress on economic and fiscal reforms. While the budgetary situation is still very fragile, improvements should be pursued.

III. Existing national frameworks and plans: an entry point for peacebuilding efforts

21. The government of CAR, with the support of other stakeholders, has developed several strategic frameworks through extensive and comprehensive consultations. The following frameworks will contribute significantly to peacebuilding.

22. The **Poverty Reduction Strategy Program (PRSP)**, launched in 1999 was completed at a broad national consultation organized on 3 September 2007. The government presented the PRSP 2008-2010 on 26 October 2007 at the Development Partner Round Table in Brussels. Costs for priority reconstruction and pro-poor growth programmes were estimated at US\$ 3.6 billion. At the Round Table, and taking into account the exigencies of the macroeconomic framework between 2008 and 2010, the priority programmes were sized down to US\$ 1.5 billion. Out of this request, donors pledged US\$ 600 million over the next three years to finance crucial humanitarian and development projects.

23. The PRSP is the reference framework for all national development policies in the CAR and was developed by all interested parties, including national stakeholders. The four pillars of the CAR's national reconstruction and poverty reduction strategy are: (i) restoring security, preventing conflict and consolidating peace, with the aim of material and human capacity-building of the Defense and Security Forces as well as the reform, restructuring, geographical reorganization and participatory transformation of the security sector; (ii) promoting good governance and the rule of law, strengthening political and legal systems, improving economic governance and local government and promoting gender equality; (iii) renewing and diversifying the economy by means of macroeconomic stabilization, rural development, transparent and efficient exploitation of natural resources, promotion of tourism and cottage industries and development of infrastructure to support production; (iv) developing human capital, including the promotion of education, employment, access to healthcare services and the fight against HIV/AIDS. PRSP Projects are organized and structured around "development poles".

24. A National Seminar on Security Sector Reform took place in Bangui on 14-18 April 2008. The government publicly endorsed a two-year reform plan that coordinates changes across the security system and tasks government institutions with concrete steps for implementation. CAR's **Security Sector Reform (SSR)** approach is comprehensive in that it includes all the stakeholders to ensure the reform process is managed and operated in a manner that is more consistent with democratic norms and sound principles of good governance. The seminar had been prepared by a national Security Sector Reform Committee comprised of representatives of CAR's security and justice services, government officials and members of civil society. It examined individual and cross-cutting approaches to reform to: (1) army and gendarmerie; (2) national and other police forces; (3) justice and penitentiary systems; (4) intelligence services; and (5) customs service and; (6) governance of the security sector.

25. The **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)** is the common strategic action plan developed by the UN Country Team in partnership with the Government of the CAR. The 2007-2011 UNDAF's main priorities are: (1) reinforcement of democratic governance and respect of human rights; (2) continuation of development efforts and the fight against poverty; and (3) advancement of the fight against HIV/AIDS. In line with this, the expected UNDAF Outcomes by the end of the programming cycle areas are as follows: (1) CAR's population will have peace, security, and economic prosperity, where human rights are respected and women can participate equally in the peace consolidation and governance processes; (2) the decline of social indicators in the CAR will be reversed, poverty will be reduced and the country will be engaged in the process of sustainable development and community participation; and (3) a reduction in the transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS.

26. Within the Humanitarian and Development Partnership Team (HDPT), UN agencies and NGOs formulated the **Consolidated Appeal Process for 2008**, to plan, implement, coordinate, and monitor the activities of humanitarian work in the CAR. For 2008, the government and the aid community have agreed on three strategic priorities: (1) enhance the protection of people affected by the conflict in the north; (2) provide timely and adequate assistance to people who are deprived of their rights; and (3) ensure coherence and complementarities between humanitarian, early-recovery and development programmes. All NGOs and UN agencies working under the auspices of the HDPT, will work to meet these priorities. With this, each project was ranked as 'immediate',

'high' or 'medium'. US\$ 114 million are needed for the CAP in 2008, and US\$ 70 million had been committed by June 2008.

27. The CAR was declared eligible to receive Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) support in January 2008 to help address priorities essential for the consolidation of its peace. While the political situation in country remains complex, underlined among other issues by weak State capacity, recurrent instability and lawlessness; the conclusion of a Ceasefire Agree provided a new opportunity for enhanced peacebuilding support. The priority plan, developed in consultation with BONUCA and the UN Country Team, was approved in May 2008 for the amount of US\$ 10 million, identifies three short-term priority areas for PBF funding: i) *security sector reform*; ii) *promoting good governance, decentralization and public services provision*; and iii) *revitalization of communities affected by conflict*.

IV. Peacebuilding priorities and challenges

28. CAR faces a daunting array of challenges in the political, security, humanitarian and development spheres. As noted above, the government has developed plans or strategies with the support of the international community, in response to many of these challenges. In order to add value and support the Government's efforts to stabilize the country, respond to threats to peace and create the conditions for development and human security, the PBC's engagement must be well prioritized, sequenced and coordinated with ongoing national and international initiatives.

29. In the short to medium term PBC's engagement could help to address immediate priorities for peacebuilding as they have emerged from discussions with the authorities of the Central African Republic and the local and international donor community during the recent visit of the CSM Chair to the Central African Republic from 10-11 July 2008. The importance of focusing initially on those peacebuilding priorities derives from the fact that they hold the key to stabilizing the country and laying the foundation for sustained peace, which in turn, will put the country on a path of recovery, sustained growth and development. Moreover, the crucial task of building state institutions for effective political and economic governance will critically depend on progress in institution-building to support security sector, rule of law and human rights.

30. Taking advantage of the opportunity created through regional efforts to re-establish peace and stability in the CAR, the PBSO approved PBF Emergency Window funding of US\$ 801,975 for an Inclusive Political Dialogue Project. Following the project launch and to expedite the dialogue process, two decrees relating to the establishment of the Dialogue Preparatory Committee (DPC) and its launch were signed by President Bozize on 30 November 2007. The dialogue process, through a BONUCA-led consultative exercise with all stakeholders, has helped to foster consensus on the adoption of the rectification decree.

31. The Dialogue Preparatory Committee (CPDPI) has prepared a consensual framework for the dialogue around three themes: (i) politics and governance, (ii) security situation and armed groups, and (iii) social and economic development. The Committee also defined the following national priorities: (i) good governance, (ii) strict respect for human rights, (iii) fight against impunity, and (iv) lasting peace with all armed groups. On 25 April 2008, the Committee formally submitted its conclusions to President Bozizé, initiating the 45 day period to organize the actual dialogue. The opening of the dialogue, originally planned for 8 June 2008, was postponed pending the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement which subsequently took place on 21 June 2008. However, as noted earlier, the preparatory process is currently stalled pending agreement on amnesty provisions to rebels and plans for their demobilization and reintegration. In the next few months, every effort must be made by the Government, the parties and by the international community to successfully complete the inclusive political dialogue and implement the agreements, which would be reached in good faith and without delay, so as to ensure that the peace process is irreversible and stays on track.

32. The Inclusive Political Dialogue, planned to be held before the end of 2008, differs from previous dialogue initiatives in that it draws on a comprehensive peace agreement between politico-military movements and the

government and the commitment of authorities and international actors to rebuilding the country. The Dialogue Preparatory Committee (CPDPI), a process supported in part by the Peacebuilding Fund, has prepared a consensual framework for the dialogue around three themes: (i) politics and governance, (ii) security situation and armed groups, and (iii) social and economic development. In an effort to ensure participation of all groups in the reconciliation process, the Committee also defined the following national priorities: (i) good governance, (ii) strict respect for human rights, (iii) fight against impunity, and (iv) lasting peace with all armed groups. In the next few months, every effort must be made to successfully complete the inclusive national dialogue and implement the agreements reached.

A. Support for an effective, accountable and sustainable National Security Sector

33. A strong security environment is necessary for the establishment of inclusive development in the CAR. Security sector reform in the CAR is aimed at restructuring domestic security and justice services into a coherent set of organizations that work together to uphold the law, promote good governance and human rights, and foster development. The National SSR Seminar in April 2008 resulted in a comprehensive report *Crucial Steps: Security Sector Reform in Central African Republic* which offers proposed solutions and a projected two-year reform schedule for the security sector. In particular, the restructuring of the security institutions, professionalizing and deploying the police and gendarmerie in the interior of the country, ensuring the completion of DDR, and enhancing prison and penitentiary capacity are imperatives in the reform process. The PBC efforts should support the implementation of this two year reform schedule, including through resource mobilization and effective coordination of international support. Furthermore, strengthening the civilian oversight of the security sector, particularly through the parliamentary committees, and encouraging responsible civil society will be critical in ensuring accountability and achieving effective SSR.

B. Reinforcing the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and good governance

34. Restoring good governance and the rule of law is a major challenge in the CAR. The weakness of justice and public administration institutions represents a particularly acute challenge to state and human security. The country's public administration is marked by destroyed infrastructure, salary arrears, and inefficiency. In this context and to bring public services closer to the vulnerable population groups throughout the country, it is an urgent priority to strengthen the democratic and state institutions, by enforcing the capacity-building of local administration and through development and training of a cadre of qualified personnel in the state and local institutions.

35. Moreover, an emphasis must be placed on restoring accountability and transparency of public finance management. The stabilization of public finance involving a three-prong effort should aim at improving the security of tax revenue collection systems, reinforcing budgetary control, and fighting corruption. These efforts are essential to restoring confidence in economic management of the country, increasing international support and foreign direct investment and providing basic services for the population. Revenue from the extractive industries has the potential of contributing to the public finances.

36. To consolidate peace and to strengthen the foundation for a rule of law-based society, national institutions charged with the promotion of human rights must be reinforced to promote respect for law and social cohesion, and to educate the citizens of their rights and gender awareness particularly amongst the young former combatants as well as for security personnel. The national efforts to fight impunity and to address transitional justice issues should be reinforced by international expertise and support in these areas.

C. Establishment of development poles

37. The extension of State authority throughout the territory of the CAR will be vital to peace and security and for jumpstarting the economic recovery and development in CAR. The ability to secure food and livelihoods to its citizens can help to strengthen this authority. In order to achieve this goal, the CAR is in the process of establishing development poles throughout the country with the support of its partners. Development poles can be defined as secondary urban centres and their immediate surroundings where socio-economic development will be

boosted, infrastructures will be set up and minimal security services will be established in order to create an anchor for extension of state authority in the area.

V. Conclusions

38. Although there is much work to be done in the CAR, there is currently a unique window of opportunity. Relevant actors must capitalize on the commitment of the government and international donors, the comprehensive peace agreement, the Inclusive Political Dialogue, and the strategic frameworks addressing security, poverty reduction and humanitarian aid. Support already being provided through the PBF can play a crucial role in catalyzing and sustaining the momentum of the peace process in CAR, and to this end will go a long way to complement other efforts of the development community in consolidating the peace and creating early peace dividends.

39. In the short to medium term PBC's engagement could focus on addressing the most immediate priorities for peacebuilding as they have emerged from discussions with the authorities of the Central African Republic and the local and international donor community during the recent visit of the CSM Chair to the Central African Republic from 10-11 July 2008 and on supporting the inclusive political dialogue. These priorities are: (1) support for effective, accountable, and sustainable national security sector, (2) reinforcing of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and good governance and (3) building minimum state authority throughout the country through the establishment of development poles. The importance of focusing initially on those peacebuilding priorities derives from the fact that they hold the key to stabilizing the country and laying the foundation for sustained peace, which in turn will put the country on a path of recovery, sustained growth and development. Moreover, the crucial task of building state institutions for effective political and economic governance will critically depend on progress in institution-building to support security sector, rule of law and human rights.

40. As the PBC will have addressed the more immediate challenges, the PBC could progressively take up other priorities in the context of the broader role the PBC can play in ensuring that peacebuilding priorities complement existing national strategies, in identifying the gaps in programmes needed to strengthen the peacebuilding agenda, in increasing regional and international attention toward the country and in contributing to support national efforts to undertake the essential tasks of promoting national reconciliation, strengthening peace and political stability, building institutions for public administration and attaining economic growth rates that can significantly reduce the level of poverty in the country. The PBC visibility of the CAR can be increased through PBC engagement, thus creating a potential for increased resource mobilization.

41. The PBC, in full interaction with the UN presence on the ground including BONUCA, should ensure that the country's progress towards peacebuilding is monitored and tracked, while providing critical interventions and advice to national and international stakeholders in a coordinated and well-sequenced manner.

Annex I

Regional and international initiatives on CAR¹

CAR has received various forms of international and regional support throughout the past decade. On the request of the President of CAR following military mutinies in 1996, the leaders of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali visited Bangui to mediate a truce – the Bangui Agreements. An **Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreement (MISAB)** comprised of 800 troops to oversee the agreement from 1997 to 1998. MISAB was under Gabonese command and logistically supported from France. The UN coalition was approved by the UN Security Council with Resolution 1125 and provided with a Chapter VII mandate.

With the end of MISAB, the Security Council on 15 April 1998 established the **UN mission in the Central African Republic, MINURCA** under Resolution 1159. MINURCA, a 1,350-strong force was mandated to assist in maintaining and enhancing security and stability in Bangui and surrounding areas; assist in disarmament programmes; assist in capacity-building of national police; and help facilitate preparations for elections. Under Security Council Resolution 1271, MINURCA's mandate was extended until February 2000 with a view to ensure a short and gradual transition from United Nations peacekeeping to a post-conflict peacebuilding presence.

In a report on the activities in the CAR, the Secretary General stated in 2000 that international and regional efforts had provided CAR with much needed stability and that the government would have to build on these gains. In a separate report in 2000, the Secretary General reported that the **United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA)** would take over from MINURCA to provide assistance in the peacebuilding effort. The principal mission of BONUCA, is to support the government's efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions and facilitate the mobilization at the international level of political support and resources for national reconstruction and economic recovery in the country. In addition, BONUCA is mandated to promote public awareness of human rights issues in the country and monitor developments in this field.

In 2002, after an unsuccessful military coup attempt in 2001, the **Force Multinationale en Centrafrique (FOMUC)** was created to restore security in Bangui. Originally under the umbrella of the Community of Sahel Saharan States (CEN-SAD), then under the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), and on 12 July 2008 was transferred to Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Its current strength of 380 troops will be increased to 500 with the deployment of 119-strong Cameroonian contingent. FOMUC now patrols the area around Kaga-Bandoro, Bozum, and Paoua in the northwest.

On 25 September 2007, the Security Council Resolution 1778, approved the creation of a multidimensional presence alongside the European Union intended to create security conditions that will enable voluntary, secure, and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons. The mission is a **United Nations in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)**. This will be accomplished by: (i) contributing to the protection of refugees, displaced persons and civilians in danger, (ii) facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance in eastern Chad and north eastern CAR, and (iii) by creating favourable conditions for the reconstruction and social and economic development of those areas.

¹ Source: DPKO's Peacekeeping Situation Centre Research and Liaison Unit dated 2nd July 2008 entitled *see annex on International Community Involvement in the CAR*

Annex II Central African Republic Fact Sheet

Economic and Social Indicators	
Population (2008) ¹	4.35 million
GDP (2007) ¹	(US\$1.84billion)
GDP per capita (2007)	US\$450
Real GDP growth (2007) (constant prices)	4.2%
Real GDP per capita growth (2007)	1.96%
HDI Rank (2007/08) ²	171/177
Life expectancy at birth (2006) ³	44
HIV/AIDS infection rate	6.2%
Adult literacy rate	Men: 51% Women: 32%
Percent of Population Living Under US\$1 ³	67%
External Debt in 2008 ⁴	US\$1.0 billion
External Debt in 2008 ⁵ as Percent of GDP	50.2% (projected)
Total Grants in 2006 (OECD DAC)	US\$192.6million
Net ODA in 2006 (OECD DAC)	US\$133.8 million
Net ODA as Percent of GDP	7.2. %
Economic Vulnerability Index*	50.8



PBC Engagement	
Date of Request	6-Mar-2008
Date of Referral to PBC Chairperson	30-May-2008
Date of CSM election of Chair	12-Jun-2008
Date of first CSM	2-Jul-2008
Date of CSM's Chair's first visit	10-11 July 2008
Date of PBC visit	TBD
Date of adoption of strategic framework	TBD
Date of first biannual review	TBD
Chair of CSM	Jan Grauls (Belgium)

Peacebuilding Fund	
Date of Declaration of Eligibility to PBF	Window II: January 2008 Window III: September 2007
Total Amount	US\$10,801,975
Windows	US\$10 million (Window II) US\$801,975 (Window III)

PBF Priority Plan – Window II Allocation	
1. Security Sector reforms	US\$ 4.0 million
2. Promotion of good governance and the rule of law	US\$ 3.4 million
3. Revitalization of conflict-affected Communities	US\$ 2.6 million

*Economic Vulnerability Index reflects the risk posed to a country's development by exogenous shocks, the impact of which depends on the magnitude of the shocks and on structural characteristics that determine the extent to which the country would be affected by such shocks. The EVI is a combination of seven indicators: (a) population size; (b) remoteness; (c) merchandise export concentration; (d) share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in gross domestic product; (e) homelessness owing to natural disasters; (f) instability of agricultural production; and (g) instability of exports of goods and services.'

¹ IMF, World Economic Outlook April 2008, USD exchange rate as of August 18 2008

² UNDP, Human Development Report 2007/08

³ World Bank, World Development Indicators database, April 2008

⁴ IMF projection, Balance of Payments (Second Review Under the Three-Year Arrangement Under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility, June 2008)

