

Draft Statement by the Chair of the PBC CAR Configuration at the Security Council

Briefing on CAR, Friday 15 April 2016

Mr. President,

Distinguished members of the Council,

I am grateful to have the opportunity to brief the Council on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission, in my capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic Configuration.

I would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of MINUSCA Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga for his comprehensive briefing on the situation in the Central African Republic and commend his tireless efforts as well as his cooperation with the PBC.

The Configuration would like to express its satisfaction with the peaceful ending of the political transition and for the return to constitutional order in the Central African Republic. Building on the positive momentum of the Bangui Forum, the central African people have clearly expressed their longing for peace and stability which contributed to the peaceful transition. Moreover, Presidential candidates have also demonstrated significant patriotism and unity towards the common well-being of the country, namely by abiding to the pact of good conduct and accepting the electoral results. Such peaceful elections in a context like CAR would not have been possible without such momentum, combined with the full engagement and coordination of efforts of all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels.

I would like to reiterate, pursuant to the congratulatory letter sent by the Configuration on 3rd March to H.E Faustin-Archange Touadéra for his election, our commitment to continue providing full support to creating a conducive environment for peacebuilding.

We also welcome the appointment of Mr. Simplicie Sarandji as Prime Minister on 4th of April as well as members of the new government, appointed on 11th of April. We are pleased that four women are now members of the new Government.

Mr. President,

The Central African Republic has come a long way since its relapse in 2013. With the end of the political transition, the country is now at a critical juncture where our collective and timely support to the people of the Central African Republic and to the new authorities is more important than ever to pursue peacebuilding priorities.

These priorities must be closely aligned with the national priorities, as outlined by the President in his inauguration speech, namely the return of stability in the entire territory, with the implementation of the DDRR and SSR processes; reconciliation and national cohesion; reform of the public finance system and of the productive sectors; and rehabilitation of the country's public services.

The Configuration has been providing support to the Central African Authorities before and throughout the transitional period, together with the support of the International Community, to overcome the challenges due to the volatile situation. In this context, the Configuration also played a key role in

supporting UNDP and DPKO to raise international awareness on CAR and advocate for the holding of timely and peaceful elections, in particular with regard to the resource mobilization for the electoral basket fund. Moreover, with regard to fighting impunity, the Configuration established a reference group, together with the UN Global Focal Point on the Rule of Law, to build a supporting platform for the reestablishment of the penal chain as well as the Special Criminal Court. The next meeting will be dedicated to the modalities of recruitment of International magistrates for the Special Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

With the start of this historical new phase, actions of the Configuration will have to be tailored to the new situation, and be framed in a way that ensures the appropriate support for the long term political stability and economic prosperity of the country.

To this end, our actions should be consistent with three prerequisites that are closely interlinked: action oriented, timely, and strictly aligned with the priorities outlined by the national authorities.

Moreover, our work should be structured around three phases as follows:

1/ In the short term

Facilitate a coordinated prompt response to the challenges that the new authorities face from the early phase of their mandate, as high expectations from the population will arise regarding the improvement of their living conditions. Our collective support should therefore put emphasis on actions that would show a rapid perception of peace dividends by the population, in particular regarding the basic needs in term of public services.

To this end, the Configuration will ensure that different assessments of the urgent needs and initiatives currently ongoing in this regard or being planned by the main stakeholders remain coherent and coordinated. The aim is to avoid a fragmented approach within the aid community, and build up the momentum to ensure the success of a future donor conference.

2/ In the medium term

Continue and strengthen our coordination with the national authorities and the main stakeholders in order to ensure the implementation of a national development plan. Furthermore, the Configuration stands ready to accompany and support the various forms of engagement planned or currently ongoing in the country.

Mechanisms of mutual engagement of the UN with the country, such as the Compact, or assessments to identify the appropriate form of support such as the fragility assessment undertaken by the World Bank in 2014 and recently updated are such examples. Also, the main donors in CAR are engaged in multiple projects as well as the PBF, which have been providing a timely and critical financial support to CAR over the past years.

3/ In the long term

Ensure a stable and inclusive political environment that will allow for a long lasting peace through an effective national reconciliation encompassing all the various components of the Central African population. On the economic front, support the identification of key sectors that can ensure economic

growth and recovery, and encourage international investments. In this regard, the experience of the PBC in fields such as domestic resource mobilization could benefit significantly the country.

These actions, to be undertaken in the short, medium and long terms, are intended to support the establishment of a lasting peace, and to pave the way for the reconstruction and development of the country, devastated by this long crisis.

The humanitarian situation remains worrying, in particular regarding internally displaced persons and refugees. We call upon humanitarian organizations to continue to intervene in support of these people who have lost everything.

Mr. President,

I am planning to visit the Central African Republic as well as the main International and Regional stakeholders in the coming weeks, to further exchange on these initiatives and identify how the Configuration can best support these efforts. Indeed, this is where the role of the PBC is key, namely in bridging efforts and contributing to a coherent and coordinated approach. Another important aspect of our mandate will be to ensure the sustained attention of the International Community on Central African Republic.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the importance of this particular moment for the future of the Country. The Central African Republic has the potential of becoming a success story after all the past attempts that failed to address the root causes of instability. The gravity of the recent conflict in CAR is a strong incentive for the International Community to rethink its engagement in the country in order to turn the page once and for all.

Finally, the Configuration would like to welcome the recommendation presented in the SG report regarding the technical roll over of MINUSCA's mandate. This proposal is coherent with the actual situation of the country and will allow enough time for DPKO, who is deploying a strategic review shortly, to engage fully with the new authorities. As we all know, any long term solution in a post-conflict situation requires a strong national ownership to be successful. It is an absolute necessity, regardless of the country concerned.