



BELGIUM

**SECURITY COUNCIL
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The situation in the Central African Republic (S/2010/584)

**STATEMENT
OF
H.E. MR. JAN GRAULS
AMBASSADOR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN HIS CAPACITY OF CHAIR OF THE COUNTRY-SPECIFIC CONFIGURATION FOR CAR
OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

8 December 2010

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Security Council in my capacity of Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission's Country-Specific Configuration on the Central African Republic (CAR). I would like to highlight some of the issues related to the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic since I last updated the Council in June this year.

First of all, however, allow me to express the sincere appreciation of the CAR Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, for her tireless and determined efforts under often difficult circumstances. I am pleased that the Integrated Strategic Framework developed by BINUCA for 2011 incorporates the peacebuilding priorities identified by the Peacebuilding Commission, thus furthering the convergence and coherence between the work of the PBC and that of the UN system on the ground in support of the Government's priorities.

This coherence would also be improved by having an operational focal point within BINUCA who could play the role of our local intermediary on a daily basis. The PBC also looks forward to the opportunity to contribute in due time to the elaboration of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the years 2012-2016, another measure that will contribute to the coherence of our efforts.

Madam Chairperson,

As the Special Representative of the Secretary General has pointed out, the presidential and parliamentary elections are still scheduled to take place on January 23, 2011 according to a consensual timetable agreed within the Independent Electoral Commission. The Peacebuilding Commission played a significant role in bridging the 7.5 million USD gap in the electoral budget. A successful completion of the electoral process will create a positive momentum for the Government of the Central African Republic to plan the next stages of its peacebuilding process. The Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to continue its support to national efforts in that regard.

Over the past year, the attention of the Peacebuilding Commission has been mainly focused on the preparation of the elections and the continuously delayed Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process. As far as the latter is concerned, the positive news is that the verification process has now been completed in the north-west of the

country. Unfortunately, the volatile security situation and the reluctance of several armed groups to join the peace process did not allow for this phase to start in the north-east, the part of the CAR's territory that MINURCAT has withdrawn from in November. As a result, the Disarmament and Demobilisation stages cannot be completed there before the elections. More importantly, though, the government has yet to fully develop a strategy for the Reintegration phase, including the reinsertion of a certain number of former combatants into the national security forces, to be financed with the funds received from member states of CEMAC and the Bank of Central African States (BEAC). A clear message from the Security Council to recalcitrant rebel movements and the government concerning the DDR process would therefore greatly benefit our common goals.

Madam Chairperson,

On September 20, the Central African Republic Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank co-organized a High-Level Event here in New York on addressing peacebuilding and development needs of the Central African Republic. This event took place in the presence of the Secretary General, President Bozizé, the World Bank Vice-President for Africa, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, and high-level Representatives from several countries, regional and sub-regional organizations. The triple purpose of this successful event was: to showcase the positive progress that has been made in the CAR over the last few years; to generate attention for the considerable challenges that remain; and to serve as a stepping stone for the organization of a Donors' Conference after the successful organization of the elections to mobilize resources for other priorities.

One of the important priority areas for the coming months and years will be Security Sector Reform (SSR). As mentioned in the report of the Secretary General, the implementation of the SSR Agenda has been stalled but the government has indicated its willingness to revive it together with its international partners. In the run up to the Donors' Conference, the list of existing SSR projects should be updated and prioritized in order to have a clear project to submit to potential donors. I welcome in this regard the establishment of a Security Institutions Unit within BINUCA, which will undoubtedly provide a renewed impetus to national efforts.

Good governance and Rule of Law are also part of the peacebuilding priorities for next year. UNDP already runs a multi-year program that should be complemented and refined. At our Configuration's request, UNDP is

currently working on a strategy paper for Rule of Law that will be identify the key priorities in this field, which should include impunity and human rights violations. Our Configuration will also continue to monitor with particular attention the issues of “women, peace and security”, “child protection” and “human rights of internally displaced persons” in the CAR.

2011 will also see the effective launch of the development hubs project, piloted by the European Union, which constitutes the third priority of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding. This ambitious project aimed at re-establishing government presence in 9 secondary centers throughout the country, starting with the provision of basis services, will require substantially more resources than the initial 40 million Euro already allocated by the European Union.

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me a final word on the departure of MINURCAT from the north-east of the Central African Republic. During the last briefing on BINUCA and the interactive consultative dialogue of this Council with the Foreign Minister of the Central African Republic, I consistently pleaded for a transitional phase through a presence of MICOPAX in the Vakaga region with international support to allow some time for the requested reinforcement of the Central African security forces. The recent rebel attack by the *Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace* (CPJP) on Birao once again illustrated that the risk of instability remains real and persistent in this part of the CAR's territory. Regional spill-over should be avoided at all cost. Once again, a strong message from the Security Council in this regard would be most welcome.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.