

25 January 2010

To : Members of the PBC – Central African Republic
Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Country Specific Configuration of the PBC on the
Central African Republic
New York, 25 January 2010**

Chair's summary

On 25 January 2010, the Central African Republic country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission met at an informal meeting, to discuss the latest developments in the country's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process, and in the preparations for the 2010 elections.

This informal meeting immediately followed a formal meeting of the configuration, which formally adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations of the first biannual review of the country's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding.

In his introduction remarks to the informal segment of the meeting, the Chair welcomed the announcement made earlier by the PBSO, that the Secretary General had just decided on a second allocation from the Peacebuilding Fund for the Central African Republic amounting to US\$ 20 million, bringing the total support from the Peacebuilding Fund to CAR to US\$ 30 million.

In her update to the country specific configuration on Central African Republic, the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of BINUCA, welcomed the decision by the Secretary General to allocate an additional US\$ 20 million to CAR from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). She expressed her confidence that this additional support would translate into important progress for several ongoing projects.

On DDR, the SRSG indicated that in spite of initial delays, the military observers, who had been stationed in Bangui for the past month, were now going to be deployed starting 27 January, coinciding with the start of the second phase of the government-run sensitization campaign. The Government of CAR had also agreed to pay their share of the per diems of the leaders of the politico military groups, as well as the cost of feeding the ex-combatants awaiting demobilization, for a period not exceeding three months.

With respect to elections, the "*collectif des forces de changement*", encompassing UFVN, APRD and UFDR representatives, had suspended their participation in the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), requesting the resignation of the President of the IEC, and the work of the IEC to be started over from scratch. Legal texts have no provisions for the resignation of the Chair of the IEC. Meanwhile, the IEC had started updating the electoral lists, based on the 2005 lists. The SRSG concluded by indicating that the opposition was likely to maintain its resistance, while the IEC would continue its work as it had done so far.

Several members of the Commission took the floor (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Benin). The OIF announced that it had dispatched a mission to Bangui, headed by former Burundi President Pierre Buyoya, to provide assistance to the IEC in coordination with other stakeholders.

The Special Representative reiterated her call for an urgent start of the DDR, and that discussions were to take place with MINURCAT, the United Nations mission in Chad and the Central African Republic, to explore the possibility of cooperation in the area of security to areas not covered by MICOPAX. SRSG Zewde also stressed the importance of holding the elections in the constitutional timeframe, something the Security Council had also reiterated in its most recent Presidential Statement. However, the SRSG pointed out that the call for elections to take place in time is not a unanimous, and that some were envisaging a postponement of the elections, referring to a similar transition period in 1992.

With respect to the funding for the elections, Mr. Bo Schack, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General indicated that out of the estimated US\$ 16 million estimated budget, US\$ 14 million had already been secured, albeit not yet disbursed into a single account. The Government had allocated the equivalent of US\$ 7.5 million from the 2009 and 2010 budgets, the EC pledged US\$ 6 million, and smaller contributions from France and UNDP amounted to about US\$ 500,000. The budget had been adopted in principle by the elections steering committee, but could only be finalized once the elections project document had been agreed and signed.

The Chair briefed on his latest and planned sensitization visits. He had been to Brussels (EC and Belgian Government) and The Hague (Netherlands) recently, and planned to visit Berlin, and Washington (WB and State Department). The Chair called on all members of the CSM to consider mobilizing their Governments to ensure elections were fully funded.

A draft Statement by the country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic of the Peacebuilding Commission was submitted to a silence procedure for adoption by the PBC.

The Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic, H.E. Mr. Fernand Poukré-Kono expressed his Government's gratitude to the Secretary General for the US\$ 20 million allocation from the Peacebuilding Fund. He also thanked the Special Representative of the Secretary General and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, as well as the Chair of the configuration, for their work and commitment to the cause of the Central African Republic. Finally, he reiterated his government's commitment to hold the elections within the constitutional timeframe, and stressed the importance of DDR in that context.
