

**Peacebuilding Commission  
Informal Country-Specific Meeting on Central African Republic**

**Briefing on the Chair's visit to CAR, draft work plan  
and CAR Background paper**

**10 September 2008**

*Chair's Summary Note*

1. The primary purpose of this informal meeting was to hear a briefing by the Chair on his exploratory mission to the Central African Republic (CAR) from 10 to 12 July 2008, and the presentation by PBSO of a background paper on the situation in CAR. The Chairman's mission report and the analytical background paper had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The CSM also discussed the draft work plan for the coming six months. Ambassador Grauls, Permanent Representative of Belgium, chaired the meeting.
2. Ambassador Grauls gave a detailed account of his exploratory mission to the Central African Republic. He reminded the three-fold objective of the mission, (1) establishing contact between the Chair of the CSM and the Central African authorities, (2) initiating a discussion with the national authorities on the key priorities for peacebuilding, and (3) explaining to all relevant stakeholders the nature of the PBC engagement with the country. Ambassador Grauls concluded that these three objectives had been fully met and commended the national authorities, in particular the President of the CAR, H.E. Mr. François Bozizé, for their commitment to peacebuilding in the country, and to the work of the PBC.
3. The conclusions of the Chair's visit to Bangui focused on the volatile security situation, notably outside of the capital Bangui, on the need to support the Security Sector Reform, good governance and the rule of law, and on the regional context. Ambassador Grauls also stressed the importance of the increased international attention and the newly created momentum for peacebuilding, which would greatly benefit from further progress on the inclusive political dialogue.
4. The Chair presented an indicative work plan for the CSM's work on CAR for the coming six months, which would lead, in early 2009, to the finalization of an instrument of engagement between the PBC and the country concerned. Overall the tentative workplan aims at making the best use of the allocated slots for the work of the PBC as the number of countries on its agenda increases. Meetings of the CAR CSM should be scheduled strategically to that effect. The workplan also tentatively indicates the conduct of a PBC mission to the country during the month of November.
5. Chad and Cameroon were welcomed by Ambassador Grauls as the two newest members of the CAR configuration of the PBC.

6. In his presentation, Mr. Otobo explained that the Central African Republic confronts fragility in the political, institutional and economic areas. He also detailed the key trends pertaining to the country's political and security situation, the socio-economic situation, existing national frameworks and plans providing an entry point for peacebuilding efforts, the country's potential peacebuilding priorities and challenges, and the role the international community in general and the PBC in particular could play in support of the country's efforts in this regard.
7. In his intervention, the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations concurred with the findings of the exploratory mission by the Chair of the CSM and those of the analytical background paper. He stressed the importance of the inclusive political dialogue as the cornerstone of peacebuilding in his country. He reiterated the commitment of the country's national authorities to the peacebuilding process and the country's readiness to fully and actively engage with the PBC. Finally, he indicated his Government's readiness to address the PBC at the ministerial level at an upcoming meeting scheduled for 8 October 2008.
8. The delegations of France (on behalf of the European Union), Gabon, Brazil, Burundi, the European Commission, Russian Federation, and the Netherlands took the floor to express general agreement with the proposed workplan and to support the Chair in the way he intended to conduct the work of the configuration.
9. The Chair concluded the meeting by reminding the members of the configuration of the upcoming formal meeting of the CSM, scheduled to take place on 8 October, and which would provide the opportunity for the Government of the Central African Republic, to lay out its priorities for peacebuilding.

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