

Note to the file

Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission Country-Specific configuration on the Central African Republic – 14 September 2009 – New York, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm – Conference Room 2

1. This morning, the PBC met in its country-specific configuration for the Central African Republic (CAR) to hear a briefing by Ambassador Grauls, Chairperson of the CAR CSM, on his recent mission to Bangui. The report of his mission is attached for your perusal.
2. Several delegations took the floor (France, Jamaica, UK, El Salvador, European Commission, South Africa, Central African Republic).
3. France stressed the feeling of urgency highlighted by the Chair in his remarks, notably in the areas of DDR and elections. While welcoming the start of the DDR sensitization campaign, France expressed its hope that further steps would come quickly. On the issue of military observers (milobs) France indicated that MICOPAX could be in a better position to provide support. France stressed the importance of ensuring that the full amount of CEMAC funds be allocated and disbursed for DDR, in a manner coherent with the overall DDR project approved by the DDR Steering Committee. Finally, France called on CAR authorities to come to a quick agreement on the composition of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEMI) in keeping with the recommendations of the Inclusive Political Dialogue. The European Commission intervened on the same issues and shared France's concerns.
4. Jamaica expressed concern with the continued instability in the country and with the fact that a number of urgent priorities were experiencing delays. Jamaica also stressed the importance of achieving a balanced approach between the DDR and the development hubs project, which are linked.
5. The United Kingdom (UK) requested an update on the recruitment of some key posts in the UN presence in CAR, notably the positions of the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, which should also function as DSRSG of BINUCA. UK also enquired about the latest developments related to the presence in the CAR of LRA elements. UK suggested that the Chair share the findings of his latest mission with the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC. With the agreement of the membership of the CSM, the Chair decided to inform the three organs in writing. Letters to that effect are being prepared.
6. El Salvador offered to share its experience in the field of DDR with the Central African authorities and other actors involved, and could contribute Milobs or

- elements of police if required. The Chair suggested a contact between UNDP and El Salvador to facilitate that exchange. El Salvador enquired about women's participation in the electoral process and encouraged their presence including at the decision-making level.
7. South Africa commended CEMAC for making funds available for DDR in CAR; it encourages continued political dialogue among all parties , leading up to the successful holding of elections in 2010.
 8. The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) provided information on the status of disbursement of PBF funds, upon request by the Jamaican delegation.
 9. The Chair concluded the meeting by informing the membership of his outreach activities since the last CSM meeting. The Chair indicated that the biannual review of the country's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding was scheduled to take place in November, and would focus on ensuring synergies among and between national and international efforts in support of the implementation of the Strategic Framework. The biannual review should be coordinated with and take advantage of other ongoing processes, such as the discussion on a possible second allocation from the PBF, and the PRSP review.
 10. The Chair announced that he would write to the membership to solicit additional financial support for some of the key priorities, notably for DDR and for the upcoming elections.

Prepared by
P. Helminger
PBSO