

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the Central African Republic

In conformity with UNSCR 2282 (2016) reaffirming the Peacebuilding Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission's Configuration on the Central African Republic (CAR) continued its engagement, including sharing of experiences and lessons learnt in peacebuilding from the Central African Republic's context, with members of the Commission.

Despite the persistence of many challenges, including continued armed conflict in certain areas, which is taking a disproportionate toll on the civilian population, humanitarian and human rights situation, many encouraging positive developments took place over the past year in the Central African Republic.

We need to capitalize on these developments to sustain and strengthen the country's commitment and path towards recovery and lasting peace.

Based on its continued engagement, the Commission would like to share the following points:

1. The Commission welcomes the Central African authorities' continued efforts to ensure national and local ownership of the peace process, notably by implementing the commitments made to ensure complementarity and maintain synergy at the political level within the framework of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in CAR (APPR-RCA) and the Luanda Joint Roadmap for Peace in CAR. The Commission takes note of the holding of the second Strategic Review held on 23 October and commends the progress in the harmonized implementation of the APPR and the joint Roadmap. Extension of State authority and national reconciliation are essential to rebuild the country's social fabric and create the conditions for lasting peace. The Commission stresses the importance of dialogue, reconciliation, social cohesion, and inclusive governance in achieving peace, security, and sustainable development.

2. The Commission emphasizes that the upcoming local elections, scheduled to take place in October 2024, offer a unique opportunity to make further progress in the political and peace processes and reiterates the centrality of securing a fair, open, credible and inclusive election process especially for the participation of women and youth in the election and electoral process. The CAR Government has taken important steps to create a favorable environment for the holding of local elections, including in cooperation with MINUSCA. The Commission reiterates its concern over the significant persistent budgetary shortfall, and stresses the importance for the international community to remain committed to supporting this endeavor.

3. Disarmament and demobilization are essential to putting an end to violence and insecurity. The Commission commends the significant progress made in the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration, of armed groups, as well as the positive results of efforts undertaken as part of the CAR's National DDRR program which include the demobilization and subsequent dissolution of 9 out of 14 armed groups among the signatories of the APPR. The Commission notes the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Fund in supporting projects that promote the reintegration of ex-combatants, support to community resilience with special focus on youth at risk and women, in furtherance of CAR's National DDRR program. The Commission further calls for additional financial support to ensure access to appropriate and long-term reintegration programmes. These increased efforts will prevent demobilized persons from relapsing into violence. The Commission encourages continued cooperation between CAR Authorities and their partners to create synergy and complementarity, including with peace, development and humanitarian actors and with a view to mobilize resources for awareness campaigns and to pursue the disarmament operations for remnants of armed groups. The Commission further encourages the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the CAR on security sector reform, capacity building of the armed forces including support for accountability and good governance in the defense and security services, as well as overcoming persisting socioeconomic challenges.

4. Recognizing the central importance of the fight against impunity, accountability and justice to building trust, sustainable peace and ensuring national reconciliation, and further highlighting the importance of the rule of law, its institutions, and transitional justice mechanisms in this regard, the Commission underlines the crucial need to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, as well as technical and logistical support, for such institutions and mechanisms to perform their mandated tasks, most notably the Special Criminal Court and the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. The Commission further highlights the importance of providing support to military justice.

5. The Commission underscores the enduring relevance of MINUSCA's deployment, and stresses the importance of all actors supporting the peacekeeping mission in implementing its mandate. The Commission further recalls the importance of enhanced multilateral and bilateral cooperation and coordination within the region and sub-region in assisting the Central African Republic with its peacebuilding processes, in accordance with its identified priorities and in full respect of the principle of national ownership. Reinforced mobilization and cooperation in the sub-region are particularly necessary on border issues including support to the Central African Border Management Commission.