

Summary of the informal meeting
Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission
with presentations by MINUSCA SRSG Babcar Gaye and
H.E. Raymond Balé, Ambassador of Congo.
15 April 2015

On 15 April, the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) invited SRSG Babacar Gaye and H.E. Ambassador Raymond Balé of Congo to an informal discussion and exchange of views on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and on the work of the International Mediator, H.E. President Sassou Nguesso.

At the outset, the Chair of the Configuration, Ambassador Hilale recalled the PBC's role to foster dialogue, complementarity and coherence among actors, in close collaboration with the United Nations leadership to sustain the attention and commitment of the international community on the long term peacebuilding objectives of CAR. In this connection, the Chair informed about recent meetings held in Washington DC with representatives at the State Department, including the US Special Envoy, Ambassador Symington and at the World Bank. Ambassador Hilale informed about his upcoming trip to CAR in connection with the holding of the Bangui Forum. The Chair's visit is intended to define PBC's role in support of the transition process and launch discussions on the medium and long term peacebuilding objectives, including on issues ranging from institutional building, extension of State authority, regional dimensions to support the political process, support for improved national governance and national cohesion.

Ambassador Hilale reminded participants about ongoing collective efforts by international partners, through various multilateral mechanisms, to mobilize resources and raise awareness on the pressing financial requirements for the successful accomplishment of milestones of the political transition. Chief among them is the urgent need to fill a gap to fund the general elections that will mark the end of the transition process and the return to constitutional order in CAR. The Chair also evoked the mobilization of domestic resources in CAR as an issue that should feature prominently among the areas of long term support by the PBC.

The Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Babacar Gaye described the current situation in the Central African Republic as improving, despite remaining challenges on the security front, resulting from political momentum and significant achievements in connection with the transition political process. As such, he mentioned the regional consultations and the ongoing preparations for the Bangui Forum. To this effect, he noted that the role of the region has been significant through close involvement and support by ECCAS, and the role of the International Mediator, President Sassou Nguesso. In this regard, the Ambassador of Congo concurred with the SRSG on the importance of the commitment and support shown by regional countries in moving the transition process out of the most critical security phase. However, with a situation that remains extremely fragile, Ambassador Balé said it is essential to carry out the full implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement signed last year in Brazzaville.

SRSG Gaye itemized the main objectives of a successful meeting of the Bangui Forum, such as setting in motion a comprehensive national reconciliation strategy in the Central African Republic. This will require a substantial amount of investment and political support from international partners for the foreseeable future, he added. In addition, SRSG Gaye recommends that national authorities and international partners establish a compact to guarantee a long term cooperation engagement and

accompaniment to the follow up of the Forum's outcome. Ambassador Balé noted that the International Mediator, President Sassou Nguesso has advocated tirelessly for the cause of peace and stability in the Central African Republic, internationally and in the sub region. Regarding the issue of the peace talks in Nairobi, the Ambassador of Congo said he would keep the Chair of the Configuration informed of any significant developments.

Additional key aspects underscored by SRSB Gaye with regard to the immediate needs of the country include the launch of an effective DDR process with a Community Violence Reduction (CVR) element. Equally urgent, the SRSB spoke about the need to reinforce the State's capacities and extend its reach throughout the country as it is vital to deliver peace dividends to the population. He added that even if delayed, the holding of elections would be crucial in order to move the process beyond the transition to a phase of return to constitutional order. Moreover, the SRSB indicated that peacebuilding support through the PBC could have a lasting positive impact in conjunction with current peacekeeping efforts. In this regard, the Ambassador of the Central African Republic called upon the international partners to remain supporting the people and the authorities of CAR and urged the international community to mobilize financial and other resources in a coordinated manner.

While expressing his full support to the work of the SRSB Gaye, the Ambassador of the African Union emphasized the need for international partners to keep the momentum beyond the transition phase as the new legitimate authorities resulting from the elections would certainly require much support in stabilizing the country by boosting the economy and shoring up the reconciliation efforts toward lasting peace. In response to the comments by the representative of Chad about the need for inclusivity of all relevant actors at the Bangui Forum, including those representing the combatants, SRSB Gaye noted that the success of the Forum and more generally of any future reconciliation effort would hinge on the inclusive representation of all relevant parties and their legitimate will to work together and seek answers to long held grievances.
