

**Statement of the Central African Republic Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission
on the outcome of the first round of elections in the CAR.**

New York, 29 January 2016.

The members of the Central African Republic (CAR) Configuration of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) take note of the peaceful holding of the first round of presidential elections held on 30 December 2015.

The PBC commends and underscores the clear wish of the population to end the crisis besieging the country and its aspiration for democracy, stability, economic progress, and national reconciliation.

The PBC also welcomes the vital and complementary contributions of MINUSCA through the United Nations Integrated Electoral Assistance and its security force, the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and all other partners in supporting CAR to finalize the first phase of the presidential electoral process

The PBC acknowledges in particular the tireless efforts of the Transitional Authorities, including the National Electoral Authority (ANE) in organizing a complex election in extremely difficult circumstances.

Following the annulation of the first round of the legislative elections by the Transitional Constitutional court, it is essential that all efforts be reinforced to hold new legislative elections and the second round of the Presidential elections, and to ensure the successful conclusion of this entire electoral process, which is a critical political milestone, by 31 March 2016, according with the agreed timeframe.

The PBC calls upon the political parties and their candidates, especially Presidential candidates for the second round, to strictly abide by the code of conduct they signed prior to the first round of elections, and encourages them to strive in maintaining the peaceful atmosphere which prevailed on election day. In this regard, the PBC exhorts the political entities to refrain any acts which could provoke unrest. The PBC encourages the political candidates and parties to continue to resolve differences of an electoral nature peacefully, through the established institutions and existing legal procedures.

Furthermore, the PBC encourages all national and international stakeholders to do their utmost in ensuring a stable political transition in CAR. The vital stage of holding elections is a crucial step towards the restoration of peace and stability, with long term engagement of the region and the international community required now more than ever.

In the wake of this historical moment, the PBC reiterates its readiness to support the newly elected national authorities, the people of CAR, as well as MINUSCA and other international partners in creating an enabling environment for economic development, national reconciliation and stability in the Central African Republic.
