

## Peacebuilding Commission

### Meeting of the Central African Republic Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on peacebuilding priorities

Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

#### Chair's Summary

1. On 1 November 2022, the Chair of the Central African Republic (CAR) Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on the Configuration's written advice to the Security Council ahead of MINUSCA mandate renewal. In 2022, the Configuration focused on the priority areas of rule of law, local elections, and the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA). The Chair of the Configuration underlined the necessity for strengthening the rule of law and the fight against impunity, successful outcome of local elections, and the implementation of the RCPCA and its follow-up initiative as a conduit to foster peacebuilding dividends. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of CAR, H.E. Mrs. Sylvie Baïpo Temon, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of MINUSCA, Ms. Lizbeth Cullity, and the Peacebuilding Support Office Deputy Head and Director, Ms. Awa Dabo briefed on developments in the country.
2. **The Chair of the CAR Configuration of the PBC, H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale**, welcomed in his opening statement the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report on the situation in CAR. He recalled the Republican Dialogue as cornerstone of democratic consolidation and highlighted the importance of the Luanda Roadmap. H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale noted, the CAR's lack of capacity, whether technical, human, or financial are impacting peacebuilding in CAR are manifold and asked for the Configuration's attention. Regarding the instable security situation, the Chair emphasized the need to focus on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration as well as Security Sector Reform. The Chair stressed the importance of successfully holding local elections in early 2023 as an incremental part of decentralisation and consolidating socio-economic perspectives as well as delivering basic social services. He added that strengthening the rule of law and the fight against impunity should be a third focus area to bolster sustainable peacebuilding in a long-term perspective. H.E. Hilale stated that fundamental projects of the RCPCA, remain unimplemented, depriving the citizens of CAR from benefiting from the peace dividends in a sustainable and inclusive manner. He added that efforts must ensure that the RCPCA's successor initiative complements and is consistent with the peace process. The Chair of the configuration noted that CAR's Government clear vision of its goals and priorities, as well as the positive momentum created by the progress made in recent months, are a testament to its commitment to achieving peace and stability. He concluded by renewing his call for regional, international, multilateral and bilateral support for CAR and peacebuilding processes in the country.
3. **The Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms. Sylvie Baïpo Temon**, informed on the Government's commitment to hold the local elections in the first quarter of 2023, and

ensure their inclusivity, and, decentralization process. She asked for international support for holding local elections and reiterated CAR's commitment to ensure the participation of women, youth and the disabled. She stated that a national workshop to evaluate the 2020-2021 electoral process made it possible to formulate recommendations aimed at improving the organisation and holding of the next election, which include the review of the electoral code to integrate the concept of gender and minority. The Minister shared with the Configuration that mapping operations have been carried out as well, allowing the identification of 300 new voting centres. She reaffirmed that CAR's military is holding tribunals under military jurisdiction to combat impunity and safeguard human rights. At the Court of Bangui, the Government plans enhancing capacities for effective court procedures on grave cases while on a local level the Government's decentralisation measures aim to support local jurisdiction and government. Regarding the written advice to the Security Council, she reiterated the Government's positions in favour of a robust MINUSCA mandate coordinated with regional organizations to achieve a stabilization of the security situation. She thanked the international community for its continued support to the Government of CAR and considered the PBC a valuable partnership forum.

4. **The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of MINUSCA, Ms. Lizbeth Cullity**, informed the Configuration of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of 4000 combatants and hence underlined the importance of bolstering socio-economic perspectives to achieve long-term sustainable development. Accessibility of programs of socio-economic nature must be priority also in coordination with MINUSCA's activities, she shared. She stated that MINUSCA plans to follow-up on this priority by further strengthening relationship with CAR national bodies and more specific efforts to target combatants for reintegration including the involvement of affected communities. The DSRSG stressed the role of reconciliation through the truth, justice and reparation commission and its restorative justice program as crucial component of the peacebuilding work of the Mission. For successful continued support of reconciliation efforts as integral part of peacebuilding in CAR. Ms. Cullity stressed the necessity for bolstered efforts to mobilize resources assuring sufficient ability of the Mission, as well as for the enhancement of the justice sector in CAR. The DSRSG highlighted the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund meaningful impact in this regard.
5. **The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) Deputy Head and Director, Ms. Awa Dabo**, commended the close cooperation of the Configuration with the CAR Government in supporting long-term sustainable peace in the country. She recalled the successful outcome of the presidential and legislative elections held in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Ms. Dabo underlined the adopted approaches by the Configuration to mobilize international support and attention, utilizing its platform to highlight the funding needs of the Special Criminal Court and the Transitional Justice, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TJRRC), which are crucial tools for ensuring justice and accountability. She reaffirmed that CAR remains a priority country for the PBF which has invested over US\$115 million in the country since 2008 and since the signing of the Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation (APPR) in 2019, the Fund has invested over US\$53.2 million to support the implementation of the peace agreement and the RCPCA. She noted national dialogue; socio-economic integration and reintegration of vulnerable youth;

women's protection and empowerment; addressing illegal and human trafficking in the border area with Cameroon and addressing durable solutions are among the key issues addressed through the current portfolio of PBF-funded projects which amounts to \$19 million. The PBSO Deputy Head stated that strengthening of partnerships with international financial institutions is a priority area, particularly working with the World Bank through its Fragility Conflict and Violence Strategy in its engagement in CAR in financing a Turnaround Allocation in alignment with the achievements of the milestones as per the APPR. Ms. Dabo ensured PBSO continues to ensure that Women Peace and Security, as well as Youth Peace and Security Agendas are mainstreamed in its support, particularly by ensuring gender responsive programmes with PBF financing.

Member states welcomed the briefings and wished following aspects to be reflected in the written advice:

- They are concerned by the volatile security situation in CAR and its impact on vulnerable groups. They welcomed the Luanda Joint Roadmap as core of the peace process in CAR and highlighted the necessity for the cross-cutting inclusion of women and youth to sustain a multidimensional mandate and regional coordination of the peacebuilding framework in CAR by the Government and the Mission alike.
- They expressed their concern over failing state authority in some territories of CAR and reiterated international support must remain steadfast in the form of a robust and multidimensional mandate enforced with the current operational capacity for the volatile security situation.
- They welcomed the Government's commitment to holding local elections and integrating this process in the country's broader framework for peacebuilding through opening up paths for local, political and institutional reconciliation to build national consensus.
- They spoke for the continued implementation of the RCPCA emphasising a decentralization by human-centred approach that ensures protection of women and youth and includes a strategic committee to combat sexual violence and impunity
- They valued the central role of the Peacebuilding Fund in implementing essential components of the APPR, the Luanda Roadmap and the RCPCA through local projects that feature the multilateral support of the PBC and improve socio-economic perspectives.
- They underlined the role of national ownership in peacebuilding processes supported by multilateral institutions like the PBC and MINUSCA as well as the potential for them to collaborate with regional institutions and international financial institutions on peacebuilding in CAR.
- They stressed the importance of adherence to international human rights law as partial goal of CAR justice sector reform impacting its peacebuilding trajectory. This includes

the full involvement of women and youth at all levels, which can be ensured through mandate and project designs by donors.

- They stressed the importance of PBC advice to the Security Council and noted on possible improvements to the institutionalization of written advice of the PBC to the Security Council.

In his closing remark the Chair of the Configuration, H.E. Omar Hilale, reiterated the need for stabilizing the security situation in cooperation with the Mission and the Government. This underpinned the need for effective juridical institutions and mechanisms to tackle the consequences of armed conflict and initiate national reconciliation.