



BELGIUM

**SECURITY COUNCIL
6575th Meeting**

The situation in the Central African Republic (S/2011/311)

**STATEMENT
OF
H.E. MR. JAN GRAULS
AMBASSADOR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN HIS CAPACITY OF CHAIR OF THE COUNTRY-SPECIFIC CONFIGURATION FOR CAR
OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

7 July 2011

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Security Council in my capacity of Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission's Country-Specific Configuration on the Central African Republic.

Before all, allow me to pay tribute to Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her action in support of consolidating peace in the Central African Republic and welcome the appointment of Ms. Margaret Vogt as new Special Representative of the Secretary General in the Central African Republic and head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA).

Mr. President,

Over the past six months, the attention of the Peacebuilding Commission has been mainly focused on the country's electoral process and on the preparation of a subsequent Partners' Round Table

As far as the elections are concerned, the Peacebuilding Commission played an important role in mobilizing resources to bridge the 7.5 million USD gap in the electoral budget by actively reaching out to donors. In addition, the Peacebuilding Commission and its Chair used appropriate channels to convey some advice through BINUCA to some of the actors active in preparing the elections, such as the Independent Electoral Commission, the Government and the opposition, including on addressing irregularities noted in the first round of the parliamentary elections. In light of the preceding, the boycott of the second round of parliamentary elections by a coalition of opposition parties was particularly regrettable.

The Peacebuilding Commission took note of the presentation to the National Assembly on 18 May 2011 of the Government program, which prioritizes amongst others the completion of DDR by the end of 2011, the fight against corruption, strengthening governance and the rule of law, as well as revising the 2009 Electoral Code and establishing a permanent and independent mechanism in charge of organizing future elections.

Following the completion of the electoral process, the Government of the Central African Republic and the Peacebuilding Commission organized a Partners' Round Table in Brussels on 16 and 17 June, with the support of UNDP, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. Around 160 participants attended the event, representing 29 member states, 35

international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, as well as observers representing civil society, NGOs and the private sector. The Round Table was the follow-up of a high-level event co-organized by the PBC and the World Bank on 20 September 2010, in the margins of the MDG Summit, to discuss the peacebuilding and development challenges of the Central African Republic.

The purpose of the Round Table was to sensitize partners about the priorities of the second-generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. In light of the vastness of these needs, some speakers encouraged national authorities to prioritize their actions in the new PRSP, and to focus on measures aimed at enhancing stability and targeting first and foremost the populations in need. It was agreed that the event was only the beginning of a longer term effort to strengthen existing and forge new partnerships with a wide range of current and future partners.

During the discussion, recognition was given to a number of critical developments in the weeks and days leading to the round table, such as the conclusion of ceasefire agreements with the last remaining rebel group (CPJP). The clear commitments made by the Government to conclude DDR before the end of 2011, the creation of a permanent independent secretariat in charge of organizing elections, and the commitment to review the Electoral Code were equally welcomed by partners, who stressed the need to translate these clear commitments into action.

Mr. President,

One of the important priority areas for the coming year will be Security Sector Reform. I am pleased that the new Representative of the Secretary General has made it a priority for BINUCA to accompany the Government in the elaboration of a national SSR strategy. The list of existing SSR projects, presented during the Round Table, should be prioritized and incorporated into such a strategy, building on the April 2008 national seminar on Security Sector Reform.

Good governance and Rule of Law and the reform of the Justice Sector are also part of the peacebuilding priorities for next year. UNDP already runs a multi-year program that should be complemented and refined. Natural resources management is a challenge that needs to be addressed urgently in order to generate increased national revenue and stimulate private investment. The Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to continue its outreach to existing and potential partners to find support for priority peacebuilding projects.

I would also like to stress the importance the Peacebuilding Commission gives to incorporating gender and particular attention to the situation of children in its work. During my last visit to Bangui in April, I stressed the urgent need to establish a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for children and armed conflict and understand that this has happened in the mean time. Upon my return, I briefed the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict. I encouraged the Special Representatives of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict and for Sexual Violence and Conflict to visit the Central African Republic this year to take stock of the situation on the ground.

Mr. President,

I would like to conclude by indicating that the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic, jointly elaborated between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of the Central African Republic, is expiring – so to say – at the end of 2011. The Peacebuilding Commission will therefore use the ongoing second review of the Strategic Framework, to identify options for the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Central African Republic, bearing in mind existing national strategies and frameworks. I will brief the Council on the result of our deliberations in due course.

Thank you, Mr. President.