

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Informal Country-Specific Meeting on Central African Republic**

**8 July 2011**

*Chair's Summary Note*

1. The purpose of the informal meeting of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission was to hear a briefing by **Mrs. Margaret Vogt**, the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic, and head of BINUCA. SRSV Vogt had briefed the Security Council on 7 July and presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in that country. The Chairperson of the CAR configuration of the PBC also briefed on the recent partners' round table held in Brussels, 16-17 June 2011.
2. Also present at the meeting were **H.E. Charles Armel Doubane**, the newly appointed Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations, and **Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins**, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office.
3. In her intervention, **SRSV Vogt** welcomed the opportunity to participate in a meeting of the PBC and confirmed her readiness to work closely with the PBC to address peacebuilding challenges in CAR. She hailed the holding of the partners' round table in Brussels, as a turning point for the country, as demonstrated by the senior level of participants, including from African countries and representatives of the non-traditional donor community. She highlighted a number of recent positive developments in the country. These included the conclusion of the presidential and legislative elections, the formation of a new Government and the commitments it made in the areas of good governance, DDR, rule of law, and respect for human rights. The decisions to initiate a review of the electoral code and to establish a permanent, independent and professional institution in charge of organising future elections were equally welcomed and could provide a platform for broader engagement of the entire society of the Central African Republic. A number of Security Council members had expressed interest in the UN looking closer at how political parties operated in CAR and identify ways to improve that collaboration.
4. On the security front, the cease-fire agreement between the Government and the CPJP and the agreement between the Governments of CAR, Chad and the Chadian FPR rebel group were steps in the right direction in the country. SRSV Vogt briefed on the Government-led launch of DDR operations in the North West of the country. She stressed the importance of proceeding with DDR in the framework of the DDR Steering Committee, and in full coordination with the international community. SRSV Vogt underlined the importance of having the right framework in place, including a well defined and resourced reintegration strategy.

5. Mrs. Vogt praised the Government for its decision to focus its attention on SSR, in recognition of the unanimous agreement on taking control of the security situation throughout the country at this very moment, as a condition for the successful implementation of the PRSP II. Appropriate linkages between DDR and SSR need to be reinforced. To that end, BINUCA has requested a review of the way it has supported DDR and SSR programmes in CAR to ensure a holistic approach. A small assessment mission is to be deployed starting 18 July, and will engage national and international partners to define a clear strategy and seize the current momentum with the full confidence of the international community. SRSV Vogt welcomed the tripartite agreement between CAR, Chad and Sudan, aiming at ensuring security in the North East Vakaga region. With respect to the activities of the LRA, BINUCA will be working closely with the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).
6. Finally, SRSV Vogt emphasized the importance of better addressing broader protection issues, such as the recruitment and use of child soldiers and sexual violence abuses. In that regard, she indicated her intention to promote the elaboration of a framework on protection issues, including monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and measures to address the problem and mitigate its impact on the populations.
7. Responding to a comment by the representative of **Nigeria** on the importance of updating the electoral lists, **SRSV Vogt** indicated that the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs was preparing to deploy a mission to Bangui to assess the current situation and provide recommendations in that regard. In her opinion, it was important to proceed simultaneously on the revision of the electoral code, DDR and SSR, without having to prioritise one over the other.
8. For his part, the Permanent Representative of CAR to the UN, **Ambassador Doubane**, stressed the importance that the new permanent secretariat in charge of organising future elections will play. In his intervention, Ambassador Doubane welcomed the holding of the partners round table in Brussels, and applauded the extraordinary personal effort and commitments deployed by the Chair of the CAR configuration of the PBC. He confirmed the assurance given by his Government to pursue vigorously the implementation of the commitments it made, noting that his country could only be helped if it proved itself as a trustworthy partner. He concluded by stating CAR counted on the accompaniment the PBC and others could provide, highlighting the regional ramifications of failure in CAR.
9. In his statement, the representative of the **European Union** confirmed his organisation's readiness to work closely with BINUCA. He welcomed the holding of the well attended Brussels Round Table and the opportunity it provided to bring new partners on board in addition to existing and long standing partners. He concluded by stating that the EU is currently engaged with CAR authorities in a dialogue under article 8 of the Cotonou agreements, with a focus on SSR, the reform of the military justice code, DDR, the fight against corruption and impunity, as well as the review of the electoral code.

- 10.** The representative of **France** stressed the importance for CAR authorities to address issues of reconciliation, security and the protection of civilians. An inclusive dialogue, including with the opposition is essential in the run up to the municipal elections, which should be held soon. The DDR Steering Committee should be quickly associated with ongoing DDR operations. Finally, he welcomed the tripartite agreement between CAR, Chad and Sudan, stressing however that it is the responsibility of the Government of CAR to protect its population from the LRA.
- 11.** Providing a clarification on the role of the DDR Steering Committee, **SRSB Vogt** indicated that it remained fully involved in the DDR process, but that the absence of consent by the MICOPAX political hierarchy had prevented the participation of its military observers in the first phase of DDR.
- 12. Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins**, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, welcomed the positive new momentum in the Central African Republic, and praised the Government for having developed a solid PRSP with due consideration to peacebuilding. ASG Cheng-Hopkins expressed her hope that SRSB Vogt, in her capacity as co-Chair of the PBF Joint Steering Committee, would be able to inject her dynamism and strategic thinking to the decision making process of the committee. She reiterated PBSO's willingness to continue providing support and advice to the Chair of the CAR configuration and to BINUCA.
- 13.** The Chair concluded the meeting by indicating his intention to quickly proceed with the completing the second review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic. He also informed the members of the configuration of his intention to liaise with the Government of CAR and BINUCA to identify the dates for the annual PBC visit to the country before the end of the year.
- 14.** The meeting was adjourned.

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