



Statement by the Chair of the PBC CAR Configuration at the Security Council

Briefing on CAR,

8 July 2016

Mr. President,

Distinguished members of the Council,

I would like to start by congratulating Japan for its accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July, and thank you for your invitation. It is always a pleasure and an honor to brief the Council on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission, in my capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic Configuration.

I would also like to thank the Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping, Mr Hervé Ladsous, for his comprehensive briefing on the situation in the Central African Republic, after the successful strategic review, and commend his tireless efforts as well as his high level of cooperation with the PBC.

The report of the Secretary General is comprehensive and we take note of the recommendations proposed.

Mr. President,

At the national level, less than six month after the presidential election, the country is engaged in its recovery process and a wave of hope is spreading throughout the country. The President is benefiting from a strong popular support that needs to be maintained with the cooperation of the international community. Although the new political reality in the country is full of daunting challenges, it also brings new opportunities never seen before. A transparent and inclusive political process will be key to ensure the engagement of the entire population and to facilitate the rebuilding of the social contract.

At the regional level, the surrounding countries, which have played a critical role throughout the transition, still have an important role to play on a number of issues such as transhumance or the numerous sources of illicit trafficking. On those aspects, the UN Office for Central Africa, UNOCA, is well positioned to coordinate efforts emanating from the region. We urge the neighbors of the CAR to continue offering their full support to the new authorities through their positive and constructive engagement.

Beyond the region, we note the numerous actions undertaken by various stakeholders such as the United Nations System, through the UN Mission and the UNCT, the World Bank, the European Union and bilateral partners.

Based on the roadmap presented at my last briefing before the Security Council, the Configuration will continue striving towards achieving a coherent and coordinated approach of the various actions

just mentioned and will continue to advocate in favor of a stronger support from the international community.

Mr. President,

Allow me to touch upon what we consider, from a peacebuilding perspective, as the main aspects that will need to be addressed as part of the priorities for the coming months:

1/The security situation remains extremely volatile and recent events in numerous parts of the country and the risk of violence upsurge are a reminder that the country is still not exempt from a relapse. In this sense, the success of the DDRR and SSR processes will be indispensable for a return of stability.

We commend the efforts to address the security situation and the plight of armed groups which should be prevented from spoiling the democratization process of the country. There is a clear commitment from the President to make this a priority of his Government and the international community must firmly stand by his side.

2/The lack of capacity of the country is often mentioned as one of the main challenges to development. We would like to call upon all member states, whether from the region, the continent or from other parts of the world to consider pay special attention to CAR by providing possibilities of assisting through trainings under a South-South or triangular cooperation schemes. Although the needs are urgent in many sectors, it is not too late to start investing now in capacity building.

3/As we reiterated in numerous occasion, there will be no peace without reconciliation and no reconciliation without credible mechanisms to fight impunity. It is against this backdrop that strengthening the capacity of the national judicial system and the establishment of the Special Criminal Court are of paramount importance. The establishment of this Court is facing multiple challenges, from funding to resolving issues such as the protection of magistrates, witnesses and victims, but its establishment is not only necessary to prosecute cases of violent crimes, it will also have a catalytic effect on the entire judiciary system of the country. We urge the new authorities to speed up the bureaucratic processes underway toward a prompt establishment of this important mechanism. Of utmost importance is also the building of capacity of the national judiciary.

4/A Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment mission made up by the EU, the WB and the UN was recently dispatched to CAR, coinciding with the Mission's strategic review. The fact that these two missions could overlap and coordinate views represents a good example of the necessary coherence in our joint approach to addressing the pressing needs of the country.

Furthermore, we take note of the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to develop a mutual accountability framework tasked to ensure the national ownership of the process and provide visibility to both the international community and the Government. As mentioned in the SG's report being presented today, *it will be essential to ensure an effective articulation of this framework with the ongoing peacebuilding and recovery assessment that will inform the planned conference of donors.*

For this Conference as well, we will need to take into account the lessons learned from the previous experiences to ensure its successful outcome. The Configuration will work closely with the main stakeholders to that end.

In the actual context, we look forward to the assessment of budgetary estimates for the different funding streams for humanitarian, development, security and recovery needs keeping in mind an appropriate sequence by taking into account the peacebuilding priorities of the country.

5/The dire humanitarian situation persists without giving many signs of abatement. The annual humanitarian appeal is constantly unfunded, reaching recently only 15.4% for 2016, based on OCHA's data. On this aspect as well, the international Community can and must do more. Furthermore, the number of refugees and IDP's is still very high . We must not forget that the international community has a responsibility towards those refugees fleeing their country due to the severity of the crisis. We must work harder to achieve a favorable environment for their return.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I would like to seize this opportunity to call upon all the members of the UN to increase their support to the Central African Republic. I cannot say it enough; the country is at a critical juncture and will need our constant support to ensure a return to stability. The situation in CAR is suffering from a chronic passivity among the donor community: 90% of the aid –often insufficient- originates from a handful of stakeholders. We need to expand, urgently, the pool of donors, taking into account that different types of support would be helpful.

With a legitimate Government in Office, and with a clear vision of the task ahead manifested through the “politique générale de l'Etat”, approved by the Parliament the 7 of June, there is an opportunity to provide to the people of CAR the support they deserve.