

Peacebuilding Commission
Country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic

Thematic meeting

Background Paper on Inclusive Political Dialogue

1. The political situation in the Central African Republic over the past one year or so has been basically characterized by attempts to organize an Inclusive Political Dialogue to promote reconciliation among all national political stakeholders in the country. This process is deemed to be critical for the advent of lasting peace and stability in the country. In this regard, and following numerous calls from various quarters including Civil society and the democratic opposition and through the facilitation of BONUCA and other international partners, a 25-member Dialogue Preparatory Committee chaired by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and comprising

with the APRD on 9 May 2008, followed by a Comprehensive Peace Agreement with the APRD and UFDR on 21 June 2008 in Libreville, under the aegis

understanding was reached to resolve the crisis with President Bozizé reaffirming his resolve to ensure that the National Assembly adopts an amnesty law in consonance with the spirit of the recommendations of the Dialogue Preparatory Committee and the Libreville peace accords and that was responsive to the concerns of the various parties. It was also agreed that immediately upon the enactment of this Law, the composition of the Dialogue Organizing Committee would be reviewed to address the concerns of the UFVN, which felt it was under-represented. The announcement of the starting date of the Inclusive Political Dialogue would follow shortly after.

11. As part of his efforts to revive the peace process, SRSF Fall also visited Gabon at the end of August for consultations with the Gabonese and ECCAS authorities. This visit was followed by the convening on 15 September 2008 of the first meeting of the Follow up Committee under the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement under the chairmanship of the Gabonese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Laure Gondjout².

12. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Final Communiqué, which recommended, *inter alia*, strict compliance with the provisions of the Cease-fire and Peace Agreement of 9 May 2008 and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 21 June 2008 respectively. The ECCAS-led regional peace-building force, MICOPAX, was mandated to supervise the implementation of an immediate cease-fire. During the meeting, the APRD President, Jean Jacques Demafouth, announced the return of his movement to the peace process.

13. Meanwhile, the CAR National Assembly concluded its consideration of the amnesty bills on 29 September with the adoption of a single consolidated general amnesty law³. The amnesty law does not cover crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the ICC, particularly those relating to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It also protects the right of recourse of victims.

14. The adoption of this law, which addresses the concerns of the various national stakeholders and international partners, will constitute a significant breakthrough for the holding of the Inclusive Political Dialogue. The next step would now be the review of the composition of the Dialogue Organizing Committee to make it more balanced and representative to be followed by the announcement of the dialogue.

² In attendance were representatives of the CAR Gom0 Tc0h7Tresen Desen -1[e)repi(-1lep)-4.9tary gep2ppeshe nsa(p)-4.ushe n