

Mission report
CSM Chair's Mission to Central African Republic
(27-28 August 2009)

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Chair's mission was to continue the dialogue with the CAR government and the local representatives of the international community on their engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peace Building in the CAR. Specifically the Chair followed up on four key issues:

- DDR
- Preparations for 2010 elections
- SSR
- Progress in the design of the Development Hubs

2. Meetings

The Chair held meetings with the following:

- Government officials: Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Planning
- United Nations system: the SRSG, the UNCT, and separate discussions with UNDP on the DDR program
- Other partners: the European Commission, the COPESPOD (group of development partners)

3. Actual results

Development Hubs:

Ten “monographies” for the first phase of the program have been completed by UN-Habitat, and validated locally. A national validation meeting will take place at the end of September with all stakeholders and external partners. Three major priority areas have emerged (i) basic social services, (ii) financial poverty, and (iii) rehabilitation of basic infrastructure. Estimated budget is 75 billion CFAF (roughly \$ 167 million). A donors’ meeting will follow the national validation, in order to raise additional funding to complement the EC envelope of 40 million EUR.

The Chair asked the Prime Minister to urgently appoint a technical steering committee in charge of the project in order to ensure the national ownership of the Development Hubs.

Multiplication of sector-specific Round Tables:

The Chair asked the Prime Minister to consider organizing one multi-sector Round Table regarding the revision of the PRSP instead of moving forward with the several planned sector-specific Round Tables to avoid confusion and enhance coordination. The Prime Minister took note of this suggestion, but the government has not communicated about this issue since the mission.

4. Follow up

- Follow up the finalization of the DDR Program Document (target date October 1).
- Approach partners regarding a possible contribution to the budget of the Milobs and speed up their deployment.
- Advocate for participation in the SSR Donors’ Round Table, to be held in Bangui late October.
- Coordinate with the EC on the ground and the national SSR Steering Committee, and take into account new developments in SSR and the development hubs, in developing the proposal for the second allocation of PBF
- Prepare the bi-annual review SF and coordinate this review with the various round tables taking place in the same period, and the review of the PRSP.
- Follow up the finalization of the regional “monographic studies”, and donors’ meeting and support CSM Chair in elaborating and implementing a resource mobilization strategy for the development hubs