

**High-Level Side Event on Addressing  
Peacebuilding and Development Challenges  
in the Central African Republic**

**20 September 2010**

*Chair's Summary Note*

1. The Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank jointly organised a high-level event on the peacebuilding and development challenges of the Central African Republic (CAR) on 20 September 2010. The meeting took place on the first day of the 2010 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and days before the opening of the 65th U.N. General Assembly. The objective of the event was to reach a shared understanding on the critical peacebuilding and development challenges in the CAR, demonstrate high-level international commitment to help accelerate the DDR program and to facilitate free, fair and transparent elections, and to mobilize resources for post-election peace building and development needs, through a prospective donors' conference to be held in 2011.
2. Participants to the event included H.E. Mr. François Bozizé, President of the CAR, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, Mrs. Obiageli Ezekwesili, World Bank Vice-President for the Africa Region, Mr Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank, H.E. Mrs. Sahle-Work Zewde, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in CAR, high-level representatives of current and potential partner countries, representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations and of international financial institutions (European Union, African Union, CEMAC, ECCAS, International Monetary Fund). The session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Jan Grauls, Chairperson of the PBC's CAR Configuration.
3. The completion of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, the holding of free and fair elections in 2011, and the country's security situation in a post-MINURCAT context were at the forefront of the identified peacebuilding preoccupations. There was also broad recognition of the country's challenges in achieving the MDGs by 2015, and of the need to do more for the country's reconstruction and development. The event generated a series of notable commitments by international partners.
4. President Bozizé reiterated his government's commitment to hold the 2011 elections and stressed the importance it attaches to Security Sector Reform (SSR) and national capacity building after MINURCAT's withdrawal. He emphasised the need for increased international support towards the country's development goals.
5. In his opening remarks, the UN Secretary-General noted the considerable challenges the country faced in achieving the MDGs. He commended the Government's decision to request to be added to the PBC's agenda, and encouraged it to continue demonstrating ownership in this context. He pointed out that PBC engagement had attracted additional partners and had led to strengthened cooperation with the WB. He also noted that the Peacebuilding Fund had allocated US\$ 31 million to the CAR since the country was declared eligible in January 2008.

6. The SG stressed the important milestones for the coming months, recalling the challenges faced in the DDR process (including the urgency of developing the reintegration aspect) and the importance that the authorities meet their commitment to hold elections in January 2011. With respect to the imminent withdrawal of MINURCAT from Chad and Northern CAR, the SG recalled that the Security Council had expressed support for the second option presented in his last report, which focuses on medium- to long-term capacity building in the security sector, coupled with immediate support measures with the assistance of bilateral partners and sub-regional and regional organisations, such as the African Union (AU) or the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), in the areas of training and equipment. International donors support would still be needed.
  
7. In his intervention, President Bozizé recalled the “patriotic jolt” of 2003 that had marked the beginning of a new phase in the country’s history. He first expressed his strong commitment to the holding of free, fair and transparent elections in 2011, and

elections. He expressed the EU's concerns about the post-MINURCAT security context in the North-Eastern Vakaga region. In this regard, he encouraged the CAR authorities to request an African peacekeeping mission (AU or ECCAS) and invited relevant organisations to further explore options for setting up such a force. Finally, he invited donors to join the EU in making the "development hubs" program a priority.

10. Statements were subsequently delivered by representatives of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Belgium, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Egypt, Poland, Turkey, France, L'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Brazil, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

11. The ECCAS Secretary-General insisted on the necessity to have clarity on the consequences on MICOPAX in the post-MINURCAT scenario. He said the 700-men strong peacekeeping presence was mandated until 2013 and may be reinforced after the elections. The African Development Bank said its Fragile States Unit was following the situation in CAR and indicated its willingness to take part in a prospective 2011 donors' roundtable. Egypt insisted on the importance of capacity building, alongside other aspects of the peacebuilding and development agenda. Poland announced a US\$ 20,000 contribution to the electoral process. Turkey pointed to the crucial role of the PBC in helping the CAR authorities, and said it was prepared