

Statement of the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) Country-specific configuration on Central African Republic (CAR)

28 June 2010

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Security Council in my capacity of the Peacebuilding Commission's Country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic.

As you know, I undertook a mission to Bangui from 9 to 12 June 2010, during which I met members of the government, the Independent Electoral Commission, the Follow-up Committee of the Inclusive Political Dialogue, the international community, the UN leadership and UN Country Team, representatives of women's organisations, and the humanitarian and development partners. In my intervention I would like to highlight some of the issues related to the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic that I discussed during my visit.

But before all allow me to express my sincere appreciation for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, for her tireless efforts in difficult circumstances. These efforts are a tremendous support for the achievement of the peacebuilding priorities in the Central African Republic.

Mr. President,

Let me first say something about the electoral process. As the Special Representative of the Secretary General has pointed out, the latest postponement of the date for the presidential and parliamentary elections resulted from a consensual agreement among all national stakeholders in the electoral process, all of which are represented in the Independent Electoral Commission. The international community supported this decision, since it provides for the time required to prepare credible elections. During my meeting with the Prime Minister and the President of the Independent Electoral Commission, I stressed that the holding of national elections, including the setting of dates, is a matter of national sovereignty, and that the international community can only play a supporting role by providing technical and financial assistance.

The President of the Independent Electoral Commission informed me of the new proposed electoral calendar. It envisages a first round on 24 October and a second round on 19 December. In order to encourage increased support from the international community for the electoral process, it is important to urgently validate these dates by a presidential decree to signify the government's acceptance of this new calendar. This would facilitate my resource mobilization efforts, already under way, to fill the 7.5 million dollars gap in the electoral budget estimatIn w0 121 0 N(Ent's acceptan

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Another important item I discussed my visit is the DDR process. The link between the start of DDR activities and the holding of elections could become problematic, as some rebel leaders continue to hope to be able to join a transitional government with elections postponed beyond the constitutional timeframe. It is these calculations that set the background to the continuously delayed start of DDR, combined with the lack of success of the Government's efforts to negotiate with the remaining rebel groups which have not adhered to the peace process. Increased pressure from the Security Council on all parties, especially the recalcitrant armed groups, to finally engage in the DDR process is desirable.

The imminent start of the rainy season is likely to further delay DDR activities in large parts of the country. I advocated for a start of a DDR in those zones where security and weather conditions allow, notably APRD controlled areas in the North-West of the

justice. The purpose of the mapping document is to ensure coordination and coherence of actions in the area of justice and rule of law. It would also allow for the