

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Ambassadorial-level Meeting on the Central African Republic**  
**13 June 2017**

1. On 13 June 2017, the Central African Republic (CAR) configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting under the chairmanship of H.E. Omar Hilale. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the implementation of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA), with a focus on its first priority pillar, Promotion of Peace, Security and Reconciliation. The Government of Central African Republic was represented by H.E. Mr. Flavien Mbata, Minister of Justice and Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Central African Republic addressed the Commission. Following the briefings, members of the Commission exchanged views on the situation in CAR and on the challenges and opportunities to advance the implementation of the RCPCA.
2. In his welcoming remarks, the Chair summarised the main points of the preparatory expert-level meeting that had taken place on 9 June 2017. He provided an update the four components of the first pillar of the RCPCA:
  - The Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation component (DDRR): The implementation of this component was on track but unlikely to start this year, since many armed groups, including the anti-Balaka, were not eligible for the program and were thus not willing to engage constructively. While the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DDRR Advisory and Monitoring Committee (AMC) had reached no meaningful agreement, the attendance of all 14 armed groups was important.
  - Security sector reform (SSR): The SSR texts had been promulgated. The reestablishment of the Central African Armed Forces continued, also due to support to the formation of two battalions by the EU Training Mission (EUTM) despite

is fully funded in light of its impact on the stabilisation of the country and on the other two pillars.

4.

wellbeing of the displaced and facilitate their smooth and secure returns. Finally, the support of the PBC and the PBF to CAR was essential, in ensuring proper follow-up for the country's priorities and supporting it in times of need. He suggested that CAR would be on the right path if a) the international community sustained its engagement with the country, b) the UNSC committed to strengthen MINUSCA c) pledges made in Brussels in November 2016 were secured to ensure that the RCPCA is fully funded. He urged the international community to invest in CAR now; he noted that current funding for Pillar I was not enough to support critical programs; he further recommended to invest more in youth that represents 70% of the population of CAR.

8. Minister of Justice H.E. Mr. Flavien Mbata thanked the PBC for the continued support to CAR. He stressed that the First Pillar of the RCPCA was critical to success, and mentioned some of the recent positive developments including the attendance of 14 armed groups to the AMC meeting. However, violence had to stop and perpetrators had to be brought to justice. This was the only way to reach lasting peace; with this vision in mind, CAR had opted in June 2015 to enact the law for a hybrid criminal court that would ensure "zero impunity" for crimes. While the Special Criminal Court was an important step forward, there was still much to be done. The government had appointed the Court chief prosecutor in February, followed by the appointment of Central African and international judges, but it lacked staff and facilities. Operationalizing the Special Criminal Court in CAR was an historical step; in this regards, he thanked DRC, Burkina Faso, France and Canada for having proposed candidates (magistrates) for this Court; he encouraged other member states to propose candidates for the next round. He stressed that the publication of the report on 'Mapping human rights violations 2003 – 2015' would facilitate the work of the court, and further international support would be needed to ensure a smooth transitional justice process.
9. Ms. Mari Yamashita, Deputy Director of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) pointed out that the PBC meeting on CAR provided a platform to exchange views on how to best ensure coherence in the UN's support to the authorities and people of CAR, including through the implementation of the RCPCA. At the Donors' Conference of November 2016, the then Deputy Secretary General had announced a contribution of \$15 million by the PBF; PBSO was working with the SRSG and the UN system to develop peacebuilding projects under this contribution. These projects, together with the work of the PBC, would strengthen efforts to ensure a coherent approach to the implementation of the RCPCA, also bringing together international and regional organisations and actors. For instance, the new PBF support package included a project on dialogue and mediation, in support of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation. The PBC was a good platform to help mobilise regional actors, and she encouraged the use of this space to engage neighbouring countries and regional organisations that have a key role in the African Initiative and in the stability of CAR overall.
10. Mr. Marc-Andre Franche, Chief of the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch at PBSO reminded the audience that PBF financing had helped CAR in the past in critical financial moments; such as supporting OHCHR to accelerate the deployment of human rights officers in 2013, and paying the salaries of police and gendarmerie officers in 2014. At the Brussels Donor Conference, the PBF had announced its contribution of 15 million \$ in support to the RCPCA, which would support:
  - An SSR Project in support of the overall 5 year plan developed by UNPOL,

- A project supporting gender and women's participation, at the national and community levels and supporting emerging leadership among young girls,
-