

Summary of the informal meeting
Central African Republic Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission
9 December 2015

On 9 December, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Configuration for the Central African Republic (CAR) held an informal meeting to discuss the current situation in the CAR, with special emphasis on the electoral process and the end of the political transition. On this occasion, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Peter Malberg, was invited to brief the members of the Configuration.

In the opening remarks, the Chair of the PBC CAR Configuration spoke about the volatile security situation in the country following the violent events in late September 2015. On the occasion of the crucial milestones of the transition in the coming days, he stressed the importance of providing continued political and logistical support to stakeholders on the ground, as well as ensuring the security, especially for the elections. With regard to the electoral process, the Chair stated that all possible outcome scenarios of the electoral process should be envisaged and no efforts should be spared to ensure free, transparent and inclusive polling. Turning to national reconciliation, the Chair welcomed the Pope's recent visit to CAR and his messages of peace and tolerance, which he hopes will become the inspiration for all Central Africans to seek to close the rift between communities. The importance of the fight against impunity was highlighted as a crucial step to consolidate the rule of law. On this regard, the Chair welcomed the work of the Special Criminal Court which supports the creation of the CAR Special Criminal Court and which is currently focused on the modalities for the deployment of international judges. On this connection, the need for reliable funding for this and for the elections was underscored. The Chair noted that the active involvement of the regional partners should remain crucial for the foreseeable future to find a way out of the crisis. The efforts of the ICC were highlighted as helpful support, as exemplified by the recent extraordinary summit held in Libreville, Gabon.

Mr. Malberg briefed on issues related to the electoral process and the post-transition phase, and started by welcoming the unanimous decision of the ICC and the International Mediator to extend the transition in CAR until March 2017, however he stressed the need to stick to the set timeline to ensure the credibility of the process. He underscored the historical high level of voters' registration throughout the country, despite the difficult conditions and insecurity in the past months, while acknowledging difficulties which have hampered the registration of refugees. Mr. Malberg also underscored that while recent pledges had been made to safeguard the electoral budget, time is of the essence for the disbursements to materialize and thus avoid a negative impact on electoral operations. On terms of challenges in the wake of the elections in CAR, Mr. Malberg expressed concern about the spoilers exacerbating the insecurity and condemned recent attacks against UN and CAR forces. UN and CAR has since adopted new measures in order to be more effective in protecting civilians. Mr. Malberg stressed the need to discourage spoilers from disrupting the political process and underscored the importance of maintaining a common front with regard to supporting the decision of the Constitutional Court regarding the ineligibility of certain candidates. Beyond the post-election period, the Under-Secretary-General urged all stakeholders to be ready to support efforts to address the

root causes of violence and conflict through reforming the security sector (' ' !), disarming,

national reconciliation to foster an inclusive dialogue across the country, he also announced his next visit to Congo, "proposing discussions? either between the two rounds of elections or as soon as the new authorities are in place"

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