

**Visit of the Chair of the Central African Republic (CAR) configuration
to the World Bank
13 February 2018**

Background:

1. On 13 February 2018, the Chair of the Central African Republic Country Specific Configuration Ambassador Omar Hilale visited Washington D.C. He was accompanied by Ms. Barrie Freeman, Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and members of their respective teams.

2. The purpose of the visit was to review the World Bank ó United Nations partnership on the Central African Republic (CAR), based on the concurrent resolutions of the General Assembly (resolution 70/262) and the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)) on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. It was also meant to consider options for regular exchanges and joint initiatives with key stakeholders, including international financial institutions, to promote sustainable peace in the CAR. I met with Mr. Franck Bousquet, Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence; Mr. Robert Bou Jaoude, Country Manager for CAR (via VTC), and Aileen Marshall, Partnership Adviser for the Africa region.

3. The Chair focused on three specific issues during his exchanges with the World Bank:

a) Addressing resource and capacity gaps hampering the implementation of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA),

b) Deepening the relationship between the CAR and the TERC.

c) Promoting policy coherence among key partners towards CAR.

The Chair is grateful to the World Bank for their interest in advancing their relationship with the PBC.

Meetings:

5. The visit was conducted at a critical time for CAR. The renewed insecurity in the northern and eastern regions of the country, coupled with limited or absent state relationship with the

pledged \$2.2 billion in aid for CAR at the Brussels Conference, which was an important increase in resources committed to the country compared to previous years. However, the absorption capacity of the CAR government, the lack of coordination across the line ministries, and the absence of government and presence of armed groups across the territory hampered the effective and speedy use of these resources. The delays in establishing the RCPCA Secretariat that would contribute to coordinating Brussels conference donors and the government had also been a contributing factor. As such, addressing resource gaps was only part of the problem; there was a strong need to prioritize the provision of technical assistance to the government to address capacity gaps. While most of the pledged \$2.2 billion was not yet disbursed, more projects were expected to be implemented in 2018.

7. Franck Bousquet, Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence, lauded the World Bank partnership with the UN in CAR, declaring that the Bank would not be able to operate as they do today without the support of MINUSCA. J g'g'zr rclpgf "vj cv"vj g"Y qtrf "Dcpnau"ur r qtv"q" CAR focuses on stabilization to break the cycle of violence and support to recovery, economic and social development. He underscored that the United Nations and World Bank Prevention Study ó òRcvj y c {u'hqt "Rgcegö"ó highlighted three areas in which the organizations should change the ways they support conflict-affected countries:

- a) Avoiding sequential responses and sharing tools and approaches across the conflict cycle, based on comparative advantages,
- b) Improving the partnership between development and security actors to ensure inclusive development gains that benefit security objectives and reconciliation processes, and,
- c) Prcelpi "vj g"i qxgtpo gpv"lp"vj g"ftkxgt"ugcv"cpf "gpuwtlpi "vj cv"vj g"pcvklpcn"cwj qtklgu"y gtg" empowered.

8. Vj gug"pgy "y c {u'qh"y qtnlpi "y gtg"dgkpi "r w"lpv"r tceveg"lp"ECT"ctgcf {0'Vj g"önQPF Qö" project provides temporary employment to vulnerable people in conflict prone areas. Bigger infrastructure projects such as the upgrading of water and electricity, investing in solar energy, and ensuring transportation and connectivity (the vital road connecting Bangui to Douala), where the World Bank saw its comparative advantage, are being carried out progressively across the country to improve state-ekkl gp" tgrcvkpu." j qtk qpvcn' lpgs wcklgu." cpf " gucdnkuj " vj g" ucvgá" presence in the periphery. In partnership with the African Development Bank, a project to generate electricity might, in the long term, allow CAR to export electricity to northern DRC. Projects related to health, service delivery and food security are prioritized, to contribute to security by ensuring that the basic needs of people are met by the state and not by armed groups. A Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) is currently under development and will highlight the risks, challenges and capacity and resource gaps in CAR. The SCD would input into the Country Partnership Framework (CPF), developed in close consultations with the Government of CAR, y j lej "y qwf "r tgr ctg"cpf "f grkxgt"vj g"Y qtrf "Dcpnau"tgr qpug"vq"vj gug"tkumu"cpf "ej cmgpi gu."d { " identifying the projects where the Bank has the most comparative advantages.

strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Health, wi

Future Steps:

16. During the