

presidential elections, and the issue of human rights, in particular women's rights and the rights of the child.

a) DDR

6. The perceived lack of progress in the country's DDR is taking a toll on the overall security situation in the country, as was explained in a briefing by Micopax. Isolated reports of insecurity have increased over the past weeks and months, resulting in a large number of additional internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, fleeing mainly to Chad. While some progress is being made in the DDR Steering Committee, the frequency of its meetings should be increased in order to deal with a set of outstanding questions, which have delayed the start of the DDR proper. The recent split of the MLCJ movement into two smaller groupings is likely to cause additional delays.

7. The capacity of UNDP, as the lead agency for DDR in the country, needs to be considerably beefed up. A UNDP expert has yet to be designated for the DDR technical working group, as well as the agency's permanent DDR expert at country level.

8. Funding for DDR remains critically low. The UN Peacebuilding Fund is the sole contributor to DDR to date, with US\$ 4 million. The Chair raised the question of the US\$ 16 million CEMAC funds with his interlocutors. President Bozizé explicitly agreed to make available the full amount for DDR. To date however, only US\$ 10 million is

UNDP played a lead role in the technical preparations of the 2005 elections and the coordination of donor contributions through a basket fund and is therefore likely to be solicited to play a major role again in the upcoming electoral process

12. The Chair has stressed the importance of making quick progress in updating the country's electoral code, establishing the country's electoral commission and producing a budget for the elections. In this context, the Chair has stressed the importance for the national authorities to make budgetary provisions in the 2010 national budget to cover the sovereign costs of the elections.

c) Human Rights

13. In connection with the recent debate in Geneva of the CAR's periodic report and in line with the commitments contained in the strategic framework, the Chair raised the issue of the situation of Human Rights in the CAR with relevant counterparts. The Chair highlighted in particular the situation of women's rights and the rights of the child, notably the situation of children and armed conflicts as set out in the report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict in the CAR, which was distributed to participants in the forum and journalists. The Chair intends to follow up on this issue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts, Ms. Coomaraswamy.

Annex II: Programme of Visit

Time	Activity
Thursday, 21 May 2009	
<i>10:00 – 11:00</i>	<i>Meeting with Minister of State for Planning, Economy and International Cooperation</i>
<i>11:30 – 12:30</i>	<i>Meeting with Committee of External Partners (COPESPD)</i>
<i>15:00 – 16:00</i>	<i>Meeting with United Nations Country Team (UNCT)</i>
<i>16:00 – 18:00</i>	<i>Meeting with DDR Steering Committee</i>
Friday, 22 May 2009	
<i>9:30 – 10:30</i>	<i>Meeting with Prime Minister</i>
<i>11:00</i>	<i>Courtesy call on the President of the National Assembly</i>
<i>11:30 – 15:00</i>	<i>High-level Forum for the Presentation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic</i>
<i>16:00</i>	<i>Meeting with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) National Steering Committee</i>
<i>17:00</i>	<i>Press Conference</i>
Saturday, 23 May 2009	
<i>09:30</i>	<i>Meeting with the Head of State, President of the Republic</i>