

## **Report of the Central African Republic Partners' Round Table**

**16-17 June 2011, Brussels, Belgium**

### **Introduction**

1. A partners' round table organised by the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR), with the support of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank (WB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) was held at Palais d'Egmont in Brussels on 16 and 17 June 2011. The event was hosted by the Government of Belgium.
2. The round table was the follow-up a high-level event co-organised by the PBC and the WB on 20 September 2010, in the margins of the MDG Summit, to discuss the peacebuilding and reconstruction challenges of the CAR. A commitment by the PBC, the WB and other partners was made at that time to support the country in organising a partners' round table after the holding of elections in CAR.
3. Around 160 participants attended the event, representing 29 member states, 35 international and regional organisations and financial institutions, as well as observers representing civil society, national and international Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs), and the private sector.
4. The CAR delegation was led by President François Bozizé, and included the country's Prime Minister, Minister of State for Planning and the Economy, in addition to several other key Ministers. Additional high-level representation included H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, President of the AU Commission, H.E. José Luís Guterres, Vice-Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. François-Xavier de Donnée, Minister of State of the Kingdom of Belgium, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ouzzine, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Secretary General of the ACP Group, Mrs. Margaret Vogt, Special Representative of the Secretary General in CAR, Mr. Michel Wormser, World Bank, Director, Strategy and Operations, Africa region, Mr. Antoine Ntsimi, President of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and Mr. Elkheshen Kamal, African Development Bank, Vice-President in charge of Fragile States.

### **Observations**

5. The main documentation submitted for consideration by participants to the round table was the country's second generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II), entitled Reducing Extreme Poverty through Peacebuilding and Economic Revitalisation. The proposed strategy elaborates priority actions under three strategic directions for a five-year period covering 2011-2015. The funding requirements for the programme are of US\$ 9.8 billion when including regional infrastructure projects (US\$ 5.5 billion excluding regional projects).

6. The

country. The clear commitments made by the Government to conclude DDR before the end of 2011, the creation of a permanent independent secretariat in charge of organising elections, and the commitment to review the 2009 electoral code were equally welcomed by CAR's partners, who stressed the need to translate these clear commitments into action.

12. Many speakers stressed the need for the Government of CAR to take measures to improve the business environment, and create the conditions conducive for increased private investment interest in the country, recognizing the untapped potential for economic opportunities.
13. It was agreed that a final communiqué of the partners' round table would be finalised in the coming weeks and circulated to all participants. It was also agreed that the event was but the beginning of a longer term effort to strengthen existing and forge new partnerships with a wide range of current and future partners of the Central African Republic. The contacts established during the two-day event would need to be follow-up to lead to more concrete commitments, in particular for new partners.