



Security Council

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Letter dated 22 November 2013 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 13 November, I convened an informal ambassadorial-level discussion of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), Babacar Gaye, participated in the discussion.

The objective of the discussion was to take stock of recent developments in the Central African Republic and to exchange views on the possible role of the Peacebuilding Commission in support of ongoing United Nations efforts aimed at returning the country to constitutional order and on the path to peacebuilding. The discussion focused on two key questions, namely: (a) are there peacebuilding efforts that the Commission can support, justifying its continued engagement in the Central African Republic? and (b) if there are, how should the Commission support these efforts, while ensuring that its engagement supports the efforts deployed by the United Nations system on the ground?

Taking into account the views expressed by Mr. Feltman, who had just returned from representing the Secretary-General at the third meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, and the overview of the situation provided by Mr. Gaye, members of the Commission concurred that the two immediate priorities for action in the Central African Republic were:

- Restoration of security and public order, as an essential prerequisite for the success of stabilization efforts and in order to address the precarious human rights and humanitarian situation. In this regard, the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic is of utmost urgency;
- A credible disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process involving the armed groups and extensive security sector reform, needed to accompany efforts to restore security, the public order, the rule of law and the protection of civilians.

Members of the Commission expressed the view that peacebuilding must be considered early on in the international community's approach to addressing the crisis in the Central African Republic. In this regard, the primary role of the Commission, at this stage, will be the following:



- To sustain the attention of key partners and actors and promote the attention of potential others, at the United Nations and beyond, as well as to ensure that they are duly mobilized and attentive to the situation and needs of the Central African Republic;
- To ensure coherence of United Nations messages and actions with those of the rest of the international community;
- To provide a platform at the United Nations for the Central African Republic to share national perspectives on needs and challenges.

More specifically, the following areas for Commission re-engagement in the Central African Republic were recommended by the members of the Commission, for further reflection and consultation with the transitional Government, the Security Council and United Nations leadership at Headquarters and in the field:

- Accompaniment of the political transition in the Central African Republic with a view to holding free, fair, transparent and credible elections by February 2015;
- Support for efforts aimed at the redeployment of the local administration, the re-establishment of law and order, the rebuilding of critical State institutions, and the promotion of good governance and transparency in public finance.

In reflecting further on these recommendations, the Commission will approach its future engagement in the Central African Republic, mindful of its role as a political platform for strategic problem-solving, by identifying gaps in the international community's response and by mobilizing broader international support for national, regional and United Nations efforts. The Commission will be guided by the following principles:

- A realistic scope for the Commission's engagement
- The evolving needs and priorities on the ground
- The need to work through United Nations leadership in the field and the region

During the discussion, several members of the configuration expressed their support for the re-engagement of the Peacebuilding Fund in the Central African Republic, and had a particular query on a project proposal aimed at supporting the re-establishment of police and gendarmerie stations in Bangui.

In preparing for active re-engagement in the Central African Republic, the Commission will continue to work closely with the transitional government to identify a chair for the country configuration as an urgent priority.

The Commission will also continue to keep the Security Council updated on the evolution of its engagement with the Central African Republic.

I request that the present letter be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir **Drobnjak**
Chair
Peacebuilding Commission