



Security Council

Distr.: General
27 October 2005
English
Original: French

Report of the Secretary-General in follow-up to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 22 July 2005 on the situation in the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. The members of the Security Council requested me on 22 July 2005 (S/PRST/2005/35) to explore, in close consultation with the authorities of the Central African Republic and the country's development partners, the possibility of setting up a follow-up committee or enlarging the Committee of Foreign Partners to Follow Up on the Electoral Process in order to support the reconstruction efforts initiated by the Central Africans. The members of the Council invited me to report to them on my consultations through my Representative in the Central African Republic, no later than 31 October 2005. This report highlights the results of the consultations held with foreign partners and with the Government.

II. Agreed development strategy

2. Mechanisms for the implementation of an agreed development strategy exist in the Central African Republic. These include the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Central African Republic and the consolidated appeal process. These mechanisms concern the entire United Nations system in Central Africa.

3. The Central African Government has strategy frameworks for post-conflict reconstruction, such as the results matrix of the road map for the transition which will replace the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper currently being finalized. In elaborating these strategies, the Government benefited from technical assistance from the United Nations system as well as from its bilateral and multilateral partners, including France, the Bretton Woods institutions and the European Union. Once finalized, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper will become the only framework for action, programming and reference for partners, under the coordination of the Government and with the support of the entire United Nations system.

4. This framework plan is based on the priorities that were determined together with the Central African authorities: democratic governance, resumption of post-conflict programmes, and the fight against HIV/AIDS. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), United

Nations agencies and the Government are currently revising the plan in the light of the new priorities determined by the Head of Government and contained in its general policy paper.

5. These priorities are the following:

Short term (2005-2006)

- Immediate streamlining of public finances by improving the collection of receivables so that civil servants could be paid their salaries.
- Resolution of the external debt-servicing problem through the early conclusion of an appropriate programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), aimed at redressing the current macroeconomic imbalance, which will grant the country access to the World Bank's Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative.
- Introduction of a transparent management and good governance mechanism to combat fraud and corruption.
- Limiting the number of civil servants and State officials in order to control the wage bill; this action is under way with technical and logistical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Improvement of the management and functioning of public financial administrations (customs, taxes, revenue departments, public land offices) through foreign technical assistance.
- Providing security throughout the national territory by strengthening the defence and security forces both in personnel and in equipment.
- Expansion and effective development of the private sector by improving the existing legal, judicial and regulatory framework.

Medium term (2007-2010)

- Rehabilitation of the basic infrastructure destroyed during the mutinies and politico-military crises, particularly in the areas of transport, energy and water supply, with a view to increasing production.
- Modernization of the telecommunications sector and its spatial and territorial expansion.
- Development and modernization of the agricultural sector.
- Increased exploitation of mineral and forestry resources in order to increase tax revenues.
- Promotion of a policy of national unity based on tolerance, a culture of peace, dialogue and justice, through public awareness campaigns.

6. For the implementation of these priority actions, the new Government is receiving assistance from its foreign partners and from the United Nations system.

7. At the political level, BONUCA will pursue its efforts to mediate and strengthen the dialogue between the political actors, since the general situation remains fragile, despite the satisfactory conduct of the presidential and legislative elections of March and May 2005. BONUCA will also support the efforts of the

Government to promote national unity and reconciliation. It will participate in awareness-raising campaigns and in activities to promote a culture of peace and social justice, and will contribute to the strengthening of the new constitutional order and of the rule of law as well as to the promotion of dialogue and tolerance, which are the essential foundations of peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

8. In the area of security, the Office will continue to provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the defence and security forces. It will support the efforts of the Government to restructure the army and will facilitate and support all actions aimed at eradicating the phenomenon of transborder insecurity, in keeping with the proposals made at the high-level tripartite meeting held on this problem in Yaoundé on 25 and 26 August 2005 between the political and military authorities of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad.

9. The recommendations adopted at that meeting provide, at the bilateral and trilateral levels, for increased exchanges of security intelligence and information, use of aerial means for border surveillance, reactivation of mixed commissions, increased contacts between civilian and military border authorities, organization of joint operations and evaluation of the security situation. The measures adopted by the quadripartite meeting of 6 October 2005, organized at Geneva by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, complete this picture. The representatives of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad have agreed to intensify the security measures in their border areas and to launch large-scale humanitarian programmes without regard for their national borders in order to facilitate the settlement of their populations and the adoption of a special integrated development plan for the region.

10. Knowing that no country in the subregion is capable of implementing these recommendations on its own, BONUCA will, at their request and in partnership with subregional and regional organizations, facilitate cooperation between these countries in order to permanently eliminate the transborder insecurity created by armed groups and those who set up roadblocks. At the subregional level, the Office will increase its cooperation, particularly with the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Economic Community of Central African States and the Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (FOMUC) in the fields of security, early warning and prevention. It will continue to monitor developments in the security situation along the borders between the Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad, but also between the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in order to prevent situations of serious conflict or humanitarian crises from spilling over from one country to the other.

11. With regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, BONUCA will provide greater support for the Government's efforts by contributing to, inter alia, national capacity-building in this area. It will also assist the Government in its efforts to implement its commitments to the restoration of the rule of law and respect for its international obligations, as President François Bozizé reaffirmed at the recent World Summit held at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York, from 14 to 16 September 2005.

12. In the areas of economic governance, reconstruction and economic recovery, the United Nations system will support efforts to inform and mobilize donors and

friends of the Central African Republic, with a view to securing their technical and financial support for the difficult task of economic recovery and implementation of the priorities set by the State.

13. In the area of finance, the country's partners will support the Government's efforts to place public finances on a sound footing by modernizing public financial administrations; improving the monitoring and control of company taxes; introducing an economic and financial good governance charter that each official will be required to sign before assuming any office; and by promoting greater public awareness of public property, from the lowest to the highest rungs of the State.

14. In the social and humanitarian fields, the activities of the United Nations system will be focused on such priorities as the upgrading of health services; improving access by the population to potable water; creating conditions that are more conducive to higher rates of school attendance; and promoting a return to subsistence farming in rural areas to avert the threat of a food crisis. In keeping with the Government's general policy paper, the United Nations system and other partners are currently providing support to the new authorities, particularly in the social and humanitarian fields, where their joint efforts are structured around, inter alia, the consolidated appeal process.

III. Follow-up committee

15. Following a series of consultations and exchanges between BONUCA, the country team, the Government and development partners, a Committee of Foreign Partners comprised of the following members was established: China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, CEMAC, the International Organization of la Francophonie, FOMUC, BONUCA, the European Union, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and the World Bank. With my Representative and the High Representative of France as Co-Chairmen, this Follow-up Committee will be responsible for monitoring developments in the political, security and human rights situation as well as in the area of respect for democracy. A consultative group co-chaired by the Ambassador/Head of Delegation of the European Union and the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, will be responsible for the follow-up to economic, humanitarian and national reconstruction issues under existing mechanisms. These additional consultative mechanisms will allow for an effective and harmonious follow-up to the post-elections process at the political, security and human rights levels, while facilitating the provision of support to the Central African Republic in its efforts to achieve economic development.

IV. Observations

16. Following the successful completion of the agreed transition and of the electoral process in the Central African Republic, which was due to the support of the international community and the establishment of new democratic institutions following the elections of March and May 2005, the country is gradually returning to a path to peace, economic recovery, reconstruction and sustainable development. These efforts, however, require a comprehensive approach and joint action by all of the country's development partners.

17. Since development is intrinsically linked to security, however, an improvement in the internal security situation and in the border areas is necessary for stability in the Central African Republic. This in turn requires closer cooperation at the subregional level and the effective implementation of the recommendations made at the recent high-level tripartite meeting on transborder insecurity, at both the national and tripartite levels between Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad. It also requires the implementation of the decisions taken at the quadripartite meeting held in Geneva.

18. The socio-economic and financial situation of the Central African Republic remains difficult. Existing cooperation frameworks, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the consolidated appeal process, should be strengthened to provide greater support to the country's economic recovery efforts and to prevent any deterioration in the socio-economic situation. The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator should be responsible for the coordination of these mechanisms.

19. I would like to encourage closer cooperation between the United Nations system and other multilateral and bilateral partners. Such cooperation will give impetus to the implementation of the priorities that have been set, provided that the Central African political actors continue to promote dialogue and national reconciliation and foreign partners contribute to efforts to overcome the socio-economic, humanitarian and security challenges with which the Central African Republic is faced.

20. The United Nations system will do everything possible to expand its action in all areas of activity so that, together with other partners, it could contribute to the achievement of the objectives set by the Central African authorities for lasting peace in security and prosperity.
