Position Paper for the Peacebuilding Commission

The topics before the Peacebuilding Commission are: Responding to the Situation in the Central African Republic, Increasing’s Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding and Strategies for Rebuilding Critical Institutions in Post-Conflict Societies. [The introductory paragraph will be developed by the entire group in collaboration with the head delegates. Any information about how the Dominican Republic is in any respect especially advanced, outstanding, dedicated or otherwise important for the UN or your committee is welcome!].

I. Responding to the Situation in the Central African Republic

The Dominican Republic is concerned that the situation in the Central African Republic is deteriorating since the coup by Seleka rebels. Further the Dominican Republic stresses that there is already a security and a humanitarian crisis, which is fuelled by a stalled political transition as well as a collapsed state. In order to restore rule of law the Central African Republic is urgently in need of a sound security sector reform, extensive measures of disarmament, demobilisation and a comprehensive approach in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The Dominican Republic expresses its grave concern at the threat to peace and security in the Central African Republic.

The Dominican Republic draws attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the second biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic PBC/5/CAF/3 stating that clarification is needed on how the stalled disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in Central African Republic can be effectively relaunched. The Dominican Republic endorses the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic S/2013/787 that stresses the worsening of the situation as well as the need for intervention. The Dominican Republic welcomes S/RES/2121 which seeks to reinforce and widen the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office BINUCA in the Central African Republic. Further the Dominican Republic affirms the Security Council Resolution A/RES/2127 that authorizes the Mission internationale de soutien à la Centrafrique sous conduite africaine, MISCA, an African-led and French-backed peacekeeping force to quell the spiralling violence and prevent a divide along religious and ethnic lines. The Dominican Republic also expresses its support for the Libreville Agreements, the N’Djamena Declaration and the N’Djamena Summit Roadmap, which provide the basis for a peaceful political resolution to the crisis in the Central African Republic.

The Dominican Republic suggests the implementation of CAREnneacement to assist in sustaining the peace agreements between the government of the Central African Republic and the politico-military movements. CAREnneacement is a cultural sensitive training program, which in its first stage is offering to train representatives of the conflicting parties in conducting dialogue and conflict resolution strategies. In its second stage, in cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission, CAREnneacement will develop a matrix for the trainees (already trained in stage one) on how to demilitarize the politico-military movements and help integrate them in legitimate policing as well as military institutions.

II. Increasing Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding

The Dominican Republic underlines the importance of women in peacebuilding especially in post-conflict reconstruction, economic recovery and re-establishing the rule of law. Despite their social status, women as well as children, have become specific targets of attack in countries where conflicts prevail. Although being subject to attacks and war crimes and being increasingly recruited into regular and irregular armed forces, the absence of women and children in post-conflict and reconciliation negotiations converts to a direct marginalization of their needs and priorities. Conflict resolution efforts should support the ongoing work of women’s groups therefore capacitating women to participate directly in the peace negotiation process.

The Dominican Republic adheres to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women providing the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access
to and equal opportunities in political and public life as well as education, health and employment. The Dominican Republic also appreciates the founding document of the Peacebuilding Commission S/RES/1645, emphasizing the importance of integrating a gender perspective in all of its programs. Further the Dominican Republic advocates the 7-point action plan of the Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding, outlined in report A/65/354-S/2010/466, and the associated S/RES/2122 on Women and Peace and Security focussing on women’s participation in rule of law and transitional justice as well as other peacebuilding processes.

The Dominican Republic welcomes the previous efforts of the international community to increase women’s participation in peacebuilding, but sees the need for further progress. Therefore, the Dominican Republic recommends Women In Negotiation (WIN), a program, which increases the effectiveness of women participating in the peacebuilding processes. In cooperation with UN Women and UNIFEM, WIN seeks to develop a system of mediation between local women’s organizations and decision makers in post-conflict negotiations. Hence, WIN facilitates and fosters dialogue in order to incorporate women in all domains of the decision-making process. The peacebuilding fund seeks to allocate at least 6% of its expenditure on gender related projects which is rarely realized. Thus, WIN suggests to gather the needed funds for the identifying and training process through the peacebuilding fund.

III. Strategies for Rebuilding Critical Institutions in Post-Conflict Societies

The Dominican Republic recognizes that institution building is a critical part of peacebuilding in countries emerging from conflict, and that post-conflict reconstructions are linked to various specific challenges each country has to overcome. The ability of a state to function effectively is compromised when political, economic, and bureaucratic institutions are weak or seize to exist. The prospect for the restoration of the conditions for sustainable socio-economic development is therefore heavily dependent on a culturally appropriate rebuilding and strengthening of such institutions. The Dominican Republic stresses the need for a sound mix of policies based on universally shared values to strengthen the unique institutions which have to manage the reconfiguration of politics and society, the consolidation of security and order, and the improvement of human welfare after devastating conflicts.

The Dominican Republic appreciates all efforts made by the international community to facilitate a framework for peace and institution building conceptualized by the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/180 on the Peacebuilding Commission. Further the Dominican Republic supports the United Nations Policy for Post-conflict employment creation, income generation and reintegration, highlighting the necessity of comprehensive strategies for post-conflict employment promotion and reintegration. The Dominican Republic welcomes the report A/63/881–S/2009/304 of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict underlining the unique challenges arising from the specific context of early post-conflict situations, especially in the fields of security sector reform and disarmament demobilization and reintegration. The Dominican Republic endorses the recommendations of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated in the Rule of Law Tools for Post-Conflict States, proposing a framework for institution building in countries emerging from conflict.

The Dominican Republic acknowledges the need for strategies to rebuild institutions in post-conflict societies that are adjustable to fit country specific purposes. Therefore, the Dominican Republic highly appreciates previous efforts done regarding this issue with local approval and recommends Approaches to Institutional Development (AID). In cooperation with the peacebuilding fund AID analyzes the situation of vital institutions in post-conflict societies within four parameters, including individual and organizational capacity as well as individual and organizational integrity. The data collected by these fact-finding missions is then communicated and shared with all UN entities as well as the government of the post-conflict country. This information is intended to help all involved parties find the fastest and most cost effective way to ensure a sustainable development and prevent relapse into conflict.