INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP
ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (ICG-CAR)

3 MAY 2013
BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Press Statement of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic
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1. The International Contact Group on the Central African Republic (ICG-CAR) held its Inaugural meeting in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, on 3 May 2013. The opening ceremony was carried out under the high authority of H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo; Chairman of the Follow up Group of the Libreville Agreements and H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa. In their respective Statement during the opening ceremony, the two Heads of State, after having expressed their concern about the deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) strongly stressed the need for coordinated regional, continental and international action to enable the CAR find a lasting solution to the recurrent problems of the country.

2. The Inaugural meeting, which falls within the framework of the support to the CAR, in conformity with the communiqué of the 366th meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), held on 16 April 2013, in Addis Ababa, as well as the final communiqué of the 4th Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of the Central African State (ECCAS). The meeting was attended by the representatives of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the International Organisation of la Francophonie (OIF) and other bilateral and multilateral partners of the CAR, including the representatives of economic and financial institutions.

3. The participants adopted the “Appeal of Brazzaville by the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic”, in which they first expressed their deep concern about the continued deterioration of the political and security situation, marked particularly by serious violations of human rights and the deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation in the CAR. They then stressed that the situation constituted a threat to peace, security and stability of the region and to international peace and security and expressed their concern about the risks of that crisis to the peaceful coexistence between the different community and religious entities in the country as a result of extremist behavior.

4. The International Contact Group, whose establishment meets the concern of its members to make individual and collective contributions to the full restoration of the constitutional order in the CAR, is determined to support this country for the attainment of all the objectives entrusted to the period of Transition of eighteen (18) months. The ICG-CAR intends to work, within the respect of national sovereignty and independence of the CAR, with the authorities of the Transition and all the Central African stakeholders to ensure the protection of civilians, the promotion of human rights, access of humanitarian actors to the people in need, the reactivation of the public administration and services, the reconstruction of central, regional and local institutions of the State, the restructuring of the defense and security sector, the economic recovery activities.
5. The participants underscored the need for the authorities of the Transition and all the Central African stakeholders, to scrupulously and without delay, honor the commitments and other provisions contained in the Political Agreements of Libreville and the Declaration of N’Djamena, by resorting to inclusive dialogue for the establishment of a peaceful climate and the promotion of national reconciliation. The participants further underscored the related individual criminal responsibility of the authors, sponsors and accomplices of the acts, abuses and other violations of human rights, as well as acts likely to be considered as crimes against mankind.

6. The Group reaffirmed its political will to support the CAR in making the necessary efforts to end definitively the recurrent cycle of instability and unconstitutional change of Government. The ICG-CAR appeals to all the Member States of ECCAS and the AU, as well as to all the bilateral and multilateral partners of the CAR to give political, economic and financial support to the Transition of this country for the urgent restoration of security and public order, the protection of human rights and the fight against impunity, the establishment and effective functioning of the Institutions of the Transition, the preparation of a calendar for the elections and the meeting of the conditions for the organization of free, fair and credible elections and the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people in need and for the implementation of an emergency economic programme.

7. The two co-Chairman of the meeting, having taken cognizance of the attempted destabilization of the Chadian Institutions, as stated in the communiqué of the Chadian Government of 1 May 2013, expressed the general feeling of legitimate concern about this situation and strongly condemned this development which was counter to the sustained efforts which Chad makes to promote its socio-economic development and facilitate political dialogue through the establishment of consultation structures between the actors concerned so as to deepen the democratic process.

Done in Brazzaville, 3 May 2013
The International Contact Group on the CAR