



MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP ON THE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 3 May 2013

Delivered by Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun,

Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

"I would like to thank our host, His Excellency President Sassou N'Guesso, for inviting the United Nations to participate in the first meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic (CAR).

I commend the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for its efforts to bring about peace and security in the CAR. In this regard, I strongly support the roadmap adopted during the ECCAS Summit held in N'Djamena, Chad, on 18 April 2013.

This first meeting of the International Contact Group is an opportunity for the international community to come together and coordinate action in support of a peaceful resolution of the crisis in the CAR.

We must work together around four priority areas of intervention.

First, we should continue efforts to restore constitutional order in the CAR as soon as possible, building on the Libreville Agreements as the framework for the political transition. I am encouraged by the progress that has been made to ensure an expanded and more representative and inclusive National Transition Council (NTC).

Second, I remain deeply concerned by the unprecedented level of insecurity, as well as the total breakdown in law and order in the country. I welcome the ECCAS decision to send additional troops to the CAR, and I call on the African

Union and the international community to support the ECCAS initiative. I thank the African Union for inviting the United Nations to participate in its mission to evaluate the potential assistance that could be provided to the regional peacekeeping force. The results of the assessment should help to inform all who are in position to give practical support.

Third, the serious violations of human rights, including targeted attacks, looting, sexual violence, and the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of international norms, must stop. The international community must work together to protect civilian populations and ensure that the perpetrators of such atrocities are held personally accountable.

Finally, I am extremely preoccupied by the dire humanitarian situation facing the population of the CAR. We must ensure access to local populations and mobilize the requisite resources to be able to respond to their needs.

I would like to reassure you of the willingness and determination of the United Nations to work within the framework of this International Contact Group, in search for durable solutions to the crisis in the CAR.

I thank you for your attention and wish you successful deliberations.”



**Opening Remarks by H.E. President Zuma at the Central African
Republic International Contact Group meeting**

Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

3 May 2013

**Your Excellency, President Dennis Sassou-Nguesso, President of the Republic of
Congo,**

Honourable Ministers,

Your Excellency Ms Margaret Vogt, Representative of the United Nations,

Your Excellencies representatives of the African Union and all its organs,

Your Excellencies representatives of the International Contact Group,

Your Excellencies representatives of the ECCAS Region,

Esteemed delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Let me begin by thanking His Excellency the President of the Republic of Congo for
the exceptionally warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in
Brazzaville.**

We feel truly at home in this beautiful sister country.

Your Excellencies,

We are gathered here because of our belief that the future of the Central African Republic should be that of law and order, stability, safety, and respect for human rights.

There can never be peace and prosperity without stability. All of us here today should spare no effort in finding a solution that will bring about the stability of the entire Central African Region.

Reports of the attempted forceful change of government in the sister country of Chad, just across the border, a few days ago, are very disturbing.

It will become even more urgent that the regional leadership of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) finds a solution to the chronic instability of the region.

We call on all those in positions of responsibility and leadership to ensure that the needless suffering of the people in the Central African Republic is brought to an end.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity this month, we owe it to ourselves and generations to come to continue working tirelessly until we achieve peace, stability and prosperity in Africa.

Our meeting here is designed to contribute to that objective.

Your Excellencies let me use this opportunity to urge each one of you to do whatever you can to assist us in stabilizing the situation in the Central African Republic.

Ultimately, a stable peaceful and prosperous CAR is going to contribute to the wellbeing of the entire Central African Region and the African Continent.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations that will take the continent forward in the quest for peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

Thank you once again Excellency Mr President for inviting us to this meeting. South Africa stands ready to contribute in whatever humble way to finding solutions.

I thank you.