



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Intervention at

PBC Central African Republic – Update on the Rule of Law situation in the Central African Republic, including the Special Criminal Court and the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission

New York, 8 April 2022

Mr. President,

I would like to thank all the briefers. I thank in particular their Excellencies the President of the Special Criminal Court and the Minister of Justice who joined us today.

And I thank you, Mr. Chair, for organizing, on the 23rd of March, the meeting of the Reference Group. It was an excellent preparation for today's meeting.

I would like to make three points today.

First, the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in general was a prominent topic in the third thematic consultations on Our Common Agenda that were held in the General Assembly on the 21st and 22nd of February. I had the honor to chair those consultations. We remain committed for the follow up process. The good work of our configuration is an inspiration for that exercise.

Mr. President,

My second message is about the importance of the fight against impunity, in particular through transitional justice. Transitional Justice can make a valuable contribution to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. It is essential to establish accountability for the most serious human rights violations and crimes, in order to restore the population's confidence in inclusive institutions, and thus achieve lasting peace. We are all conscious that transitional justice is a key priority for the African Union.

Assistance from international partners in support of the transitional justice institutions in the Central African Republic, particularly the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR), and the Special Criminal Court, is essential.

In May 2021, Belgium made a tangible contribution to the Special Criminal Court by offering one of its 12 international judges, for a one year term. That term is now coming to an end.

I am pleased to **pledge** today that by mutual agreement amongst all parties, Belgium extends this appointment with another year.

The first trial expected to start in the coming week. This will allow the Central African citizens to witness justice being served. It is imperative that the independence and impartiality of the Court is respected.

M. le Président,

La Belgique est préoccupée par les exactions contre les populations civiles en République centrafricaine. Et c'est mon troisième message.

Nous encourageons les autorités à prendre diligemment toutes les mesures nécessaires pour mettre un terme à ces violations des droits humains, à enquêter et à amener les responsables présumés - **quelle que soit leur nationalité ou leur affiliation** - à rendre des comptes pour que justice soit rendue aux victimes.

Nous espérons que les autorités communiqueront prochainement sur les suites judiciaires en cours.

I thank you for your attention.