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**Draft country programme document for the Central African
Republic (2012-2016)**

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I. Situation analysis

1. The Central African Republic has a surface area of 623,000 km²; landlocked, it shares borders with Chad, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon, and is therefore vulnerable to the various sources of instability in the subregion. Much of its territory remains extremely isolated and the continuing insecurity in the north and south seems to be spreading eastward, particularly since the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad from Vakaga and owing to mixed progress in security sector reform and the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The country is rich in natural (forest, mining and water) resources. The environment, nevertheless, is deteriorating gradually as a result of climate change, deforestation, including uncontrolled deforestation, slash and burn agricultural practices and the accelerated exploitation of natural resources. Women make up 50.2 per cent of the population of the Central African Republic, which was estimated at 4.6 million people in 2010, while some 42 per cent accounts for children under the age of 15; 82 per cent of Central Africans live in rural areas.

2. After declining significantly (-7.1 per cent) in 2003, mainly owing to political and military unrest, the gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 2 per cent in 2008 and, following a slight drop in 2009, went up by 3.3 per cent in 2010, as the world emerged from the global financial crisis. In June 2009, the Central African Republic reached its completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC Initiative). Despite this macroeconomic progress, growth is largely dependent on a poorly diversified economy with low productivity and the growth rate (1 per cent per year per capita) is not sufficient to satisfy the needs of the population, which is increasing by 2.5 per cent per year. The economy is driven by the primary sector of subsistence farming, which provides a livelihood for 82 per cent of the population and accounts for 42.5 per cent of GDP. Poverty is rife: in 2009, the poverty rate was 62 per cent, down from 67 per cent in 2007. In urban areas, 49.6 per cent of people live under the poverty line, as against 69.4 per cent in rural areas. According to the 2010 national report on the Millennium Development Goals, most social indicators have deteriorated steadily over the past decade, most significantly for women. The Central African Republic probably will not be able to achieve the Goals by 2015, except in the areas of education and access to safe drinking water, where there appears to be a slight upward trend.

3. Following the elections in 2005, it was imperative to continue and strengthen peacebuilding efforts. In June 2008, the major politico-military groups signed a comprehensive peace agreement; the inclusive political dialogue organized in December 2008 brought together all the key players in the country. A broad-based government was formed in January 2009 and a national peacebuilding strategy, including security sector reform and the promotion of good governance and the rule of law, was developed in February 2009. Security sector reform began officially in 2009. An independent electoral commission, established in October 2009, was charged with preparing and holding the presidential and legislative elections of 25 April 2010. The elections, postponed twice to ensure their inclusive and consensual nature, were held on 23 January 2011. The results nevertheless were contested by much of the opposition, which met in March 2011 within the context of a newly created forum aimed at cancelling the results of the January elections and holding new elections. It was also agreed that much remained to be done to

strengthen and consolidate the capacities of national institutions responsible for electoral cycle support in the Central African Republic.

4. To tackle these challenges, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II) currently being finalized by the Government formed in April 2011 focuses on three priority areas. The first of these deals with peacebuilding, good governance and the rule of law, including security sector reform. The second, on economic revitalization, includes: (a) an accelerated pro-poor growth strategy for high-potential industries such as agriculture and rural development, mining, forestry, tourism and telecommunications; (b) the development of basic infrastructure; (c) the business environment; and (d) regional integration. A third priority area focuses on the development of human capital and basic social services, including issues such as gender and the environment.

5. Following the common country assessment in October 2010, the agencies of the United Nations system in the Central African Republic took into account national priorities to establish a United Nations development assistance framework (UNDAF+) on the basis of three priority areas: (a) peacebuilding, strengthening of good governance, security and the rule of law; (b) investment in human capital, including through the HIV/AIDS response; and (c) the promotion of sustainable and equitable development and regional integration.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

6. Despite the fact that the economy is still recovering and that security conditions remain very unstable, an assessment of the projects and programme undertaken between 2008 and 2011 points to a number of successful results. In the area of democratic governance and crisis prevention, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assistance contributed to: (a) the smoother functioning of the country's institutions; (b) the drafting of seven bills on decentralization and local communities and the positioning of the Office of the High Commissioner for Decentralization and Regionalization as the key player in the forthcoming implementation of the national decentralization policy; (c) the creation of a national anti-corruption committee and the development of a national anti-corruption strategy; (d) the preparation and organization of presidential and legislative elections for 2011 by the independent electoral commission and the holding of those elections; (e) the operationalization of the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; (f) access to justice in conflict zones in the north of the country, through the rehabilitation of infrastructure, the supply of necessary equipment and materials, and the training of justice officials, criminal investigation police officers and prison personnel; and (g) support for the development of a security sector reform strategy.

7. With regard to poverty reduction, UNDP support contributed to: (a) national ownership of the elaboration of the PRSP II; (b) the adoption of a national inclusive finance strategy for 2010-2014; (c) the adoption of a national environmental policy paper; and (d) the adoption of a national plan of action to combat land degradation and of a medium-term investment plan. As for the country's response to HIV/AIDS, UNDP support has helped: (a) to disseminate information about the law on the rights and obligations of people living with HIV to legal institutions and organizations for people living with HIV; (b) to manage two grants from the Global

Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and (c) to establish several public institutions and non-governmental organizations with a budget for an annual action plan on the implementation of the “Three Ones” approach, which is the agreed framework for the HIV/AIDS response.

8. The main lessons learned from past cooperation are the following: (a) fragmented support provided by UNDP hampered the programme’s effectiveness owing to the poor synergies between its various components and with other technical and financial partners; (b) the cumbersome procedures of UNDP resulted in delays in starting projects and therefore in the disbursement of funds; (c) the absence of a monitoring and evaluation system was a handicap; and (d) the impact on issues dealing with gender and the empowerment of women was mediocre.

III. Proposed programme

9. The UNDP programme for 2012-2016 reflects the UNDAF+ goals, which themselves are based on the national priorities outlined in the PRSP II. It will focus on two priority areas in which UNDP has a comparative advantage, namely: (a) the promotion of good governance and the rule of law; and (b) poverty reduction and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. All efforts have been deployed to ensure improved internal coherence of the programme and better coordination of its various components. The components will be implemented through comprehensive and incremental capacity-building strategies over a five-year period and will be tailored to the specific situation of the Central African Republic in a limited number of areas in order to optimize the impact and transformative effects. All UNDP actions will be carried out based on the principles of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth.

10. **First priority area: promotion of good governance and the rule of law.** The overall objective of UNDP with regard to good governance and the rule of law is to foster an enabling environment for the implementation of initiatives to reduce poverty and consolidate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This objective will be pursued through support for democratic governance, local governance and human rights governance.

11. In the area of democratic governance, the objective is to set up a permanent electoral administration for the preparation and management of electoral cycles, in accordance with international standards accepted by the Central African Republic, and to foster increased participation by women and youth in the electoral process. UNDP will provide support primarily for the elaboration of a capacity-building strategy aimed at improving the legal and institutional framework of the electoral administration, the enactment of legislation establishing quotas for women members of representative bodies and the holding of regional and community elections with increased participation of women and youth.

12. The objective with regard to local governance is to create closer ties between administrations and the communities which they service in order to increase the participation of people, especially women and youth, in governance at the national and local levels. UNDP will specifically support a capacity-building strategy for: (a) disseminating information about laws and regulations on decentralization and territorial administration; (b) the development of a strategy and policy on decentralization and territorial administration; (c) the drafting of an implementation

plan for pilot areas; and (d) the elaboration of strategies on mobilizing resources for implementation in pilot areas.

13. In the area of human rights governance, the objective will be to facilitate access to justice and to civil registration for people living in target areas, especially women and children, and to help establish conditions of legal security necessary for economic development. UNDP will specifically support a capacity-building strategy aimed at: (a) successfully completing the revision of legislation and standards; (b) providing initial and ongoing training for personnel working in the judicial, penitentiary and criminal investigation systems; (c) improving working conditions (by providing equipment and infrastructure) in legal administration, law enforcement, the gendarmerie and national anti-corruption institutions; (d) improving prison conditions in prisons; (e) raising public awareness about human rights; and (f) capacity-building of civil society regarding human rights and mechanisms designed to protect those rights.

14. ***Second priority area: poverty reduction and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.*** The overall objective of UNDP in striving to reduce poverty and make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals will be to support the national pro-poor strategy for accelerated growth in the sectors that will benefit the largest number among poor or vulnerable populations — including people in rural areas, women, youth and people living with HIV/AIDS — and will consolidate the prospects and foundations for sustainable development in the Central African Republic.

15. With regard to pro-poor growth, UNDP will support the development and management of the growth clusters identified under the PRSP II, namely: (a) agriculture and rural development; (b) mining; and (c) forestry. More specifically, UNDP will provide capacity-building for the coordination mechanism under the PRSP II and the national institutions involved in developing, budgeting for and implementing pro-poor growth action plans and strategies in the sectors of agriculture and rural development, mining and forestry. It will also help mobilize resources from various sources, including national institutions, the private sector, civil society, technical and financial partners and agencies of the United Nations system. It will focus on the creation of jobs and revenue, entrepreneurship among women and youth, the sustainable management of natural resources, environmental protection and climate change adaptation measures.

16. To contribute to more inclusive economic growth by expanding access to decentralized financial services for poor and vulnerable groups, particularly people living in rural areas, women and youth, UNDP will also assist with the development of inclusive finance by increasing the geographical coverage of the financial services available. Specifically, UNDP will support, as part of the national strategy for inclusive finance, the improvement of the legislative and regulatory environment and of the institutional framework, as well as the professionalization and sustainability of microfinance institutions. These actions should serve to increase the income of the most disadvantaged segments of the population by fostering the creation of rural microenterprises.

17. Lastly, UNDP will support the operational implementation of the framework for the accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the specific areas of food security and HIV/AIDS. To do this, it will support the drafting of an agreement on the accelerated achievement of Goals 1 and 6, help mobilize the

various stakeholders (national institutions, civil society, technical and financial partners, and agencies of the United Nations system) in order to ensure their commitment to the process, and monitor the progress made towards achieving the Goals, particularly Goals 1 and 6, by the deadline of 2015.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

18. The programme will be carried out essentially through the national execution modality; UNDP may provide support services and develop programmes to support national execution. The harmonized approach to cash transfers will be used, and additional evaluations of implementation partners will be conducted with the other organizations concerned with a view to identifying the most appropriate terms of transfer and capacity-building needs. In some cases, and only after consulting with the Government, UNDP may choose to use the direct execution modality and request the activation of the accelerated procedure.

19. Ideally, the programme will be implemented through joint programmes, especially as regards agriculture and rural development, food security and the HIV/AIDS response. The timeline and management of the programme will be results-based and will rely on comprehensive and incremental capacity-building strategies for 2012-2016. Annual programme reviews will measure progress in achieving the outcomes and will be reflected in annual reports. Audits will be carried out annually in accordance with UNDP procedures.

21. Resource mobilization will be strengthened on the basis of a strategy devised by the national authorities together with agencies of the United Nations system. New options will be considered and explored, including with non-traditional or emerging financial partners.

Annex

Results and resources framework for the Central African Republic (2012-2016)

National priorities: peacebuilding, good governance and rule of law					
UNDAF outcomes 1.2 and 1.3: State institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations apply the principles of good governance and people have equitable access to their services. The key institutions and civil society actors responsible for promoting the rule of law and human rights protection are effective and largely accessible. Outcome indicators: Electoral process organized in accordance with international standards. Number of women elected to regional and local councils. Number of prefectures with a functioning court system. Number of human rights violations reported by prefecture, gender and category. Focus area: local democratic governance and human rights.					
<i>Contribution of the Government of the Central African Republic</i>	<i>Contribution of other partners</i>	<i>Contribution of UNDP</i>	<i>Indicators, baselines and targets for UNDP contribution</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Indicative resources (in US\$)</i>
The Government will adopt legislative, regulatory, budgetary and institutional measures to organize regional and local elections in 2016; it will adopt the necessary legislation and regulations, implement the decentralization policy and continue to implement the 10-year plan for justice reform.	The technical and financial partners will support ongoing democratic reform and will help finance the elections; they will provide technical and financial support for implementation of development hubs and local development plans, as well as the rehabilitation of courts, prisons and law centres.	UNDP will focus on capacity-building for national institutions responsible for: (a) contributing to the sustainability of electoral cycles in accordance with international standards; (b) drafting and implementing the decentralization and territorial administration strategy and policy; (c) ensuring equitable access by the most vulnerable groups to justice and legal and judicial assistance; and (d) improve detention conditions.	Indicator: Permanent institution to manage electoral cycles. Baseline: Provisional electoral commission established six months prior to elections. Target: Permanent operational institution to manage electoral cycles. Indicator: Development of a decentralization and territorial administration strategy. Baseline: seven draft laws. Target: Implementation of the strategy. Indicator: Number of mayors and members of regional and municipal councils are trained in community management. Baseline: 0. Target: Training of 21 regional council members, 174 mayors and 200 regional and local council members. Indicator: Number of law centres in target regions. Baseline: 5 centres for 4 target prefectures. Target: 15 centres for every target prefecture. Indicator: Establishment of a system to collect data on legal consultations by gender, age, prefecture and type. Baseline: No system. Target: Collection of operational data in target prefectures.	Institutions and civil society have the competence and capacities to manage without interruption electoral cycles and to organize free, transparent elections that encourage female and young candidates.* People are better informed of their rights: they are therefore able to demand respect and protection and have access to a justice system that respects human rights.	Regular resources 7 592 500 Cost-sharing 14 400 000

* Institutions and civil society have the competence and capacities to implement a policy and strategy on decentralization and territorial administration.

National priorities: economic revitalization, pro-poor accelerated growth strategy					
UNDAF outcomes 2 and 3.1: The most vulnerable Central Africans participate in the development of social programmes, use basic social services and take full advantage of opportunities. Communities and the public and private sectors streamline their use of natural resources, improve food and energy security and are less vulnerable to crises.					
Outcome indicators: % of the population, by gender, living under the poverty line. Prevalence of food insecurity by household category.					
Focus area: poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).					
The Government will finalize the PRSP II, which will include pro-poor accelerated growth strategies for sectors with high growth potential sectors and strategies for the accelerated achievement of the MDGs. It will lead efforts to mobilize external resources for the implementation of the priority action plan under the PRSP II, continue to support implementation of the national inclusive microfinance strategy and adopt a national strategy for environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.	The technical and financial partners will multiply their efforts to ensure sufficient financial and technical resources for effective and efficient implementation of the priority action plan under the PRSP II.	UNDP will focus on capacity-building for national institutions responsible for: (a) coordinating the development of, budgeting for and implementation of the pro-poor accelerated growth strategy in the areas of agriculture and rural development, mining and forestry; (b) the development of, budgeting for and implementation of agreements on the accelerated achievement of MDGs 1 and 6; (c) implementation of the national inclusive finance strategy; and (d) the development of, budgeting for and implementation of the national environmental protection strategy for the sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.	Indicator: Development of pro-poor accelerated growth strategies for agriculture, mining and forests. Baseline: No strategy. Target: Strategy implementation. Indicator: Agreements on the accelerated achievement of MDGs 1 and 6. Baseline: Various national sector-based strategies. Target: Implementation of accelerated achievement agreements. Indicator: Development of a national strategy for environmental protection, sustainable development of natural resources and adaptation to climate change. Baseline: National environmental policy document. Target: Implementation of national strategy.	Institutions, the private sector and civil society have the competence and capacities to implement an accelerated growth strategy for the sectors of agriculture and rural development, mining and forests, and for the expansion and professionalization of financial services available to rural communities, women and youth. Public and private institutions and civil society base their actions on the strategies for the accelerated achievement of MDGs 1 and 6. Institutions and civil society have the competence and capacities to implement a national strategy for environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.	Regular resources 7 592 500
					Other resources Trust Fund: 6 000 000. Cost-sharing: 14 400 000