



REPUBLIC OF CHAD



Concept Note for the High-Level Side Event on Chad in the margins of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly

“The Journey towards constitutional order in Chad: Challenges & Perspectives”

Monday, 18 September 2023, 11:30 – 13 :30

1. Background

The political transition in Chad continues its course despite the challenges the country faces due to structural fragilities, exogenous factors, and the multiple crises prevailing in the broader region.

The political transition is currently in its second phase. The first phase of the transition, which lasted 18 months, came to an end on 20 October 2022. It served to launch the national reconciliation process, including the conclusion of the Doha peace negotiations which lasted five months from 13 March to 8 August 2022, and the national dialogue in N’Djamena from 20 August to 8 October 2022. The second phase of the transition opened with the implementation of the recommendations of the national dialogue, which amongst others, extended the transition period by 24 months- marked by the tragic events of 20 October 2022. The second phase of the transition will focus on the organization of the constitutional referendum and the presidential and parliamentary elections, the last step in the return to constitutional order.

A successful Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme will be an influential factor for the success of the political transition. The Government has maintained its doors open for political actors and the rebel groups who had not initially signed the Doha agreement to participate in the national dialogue. This has been accompanied by presidential pardons. The Doha Agreement had allowed the return of certain politico-military groups and the establishment of a DDR architecture. The success of the DDR process will make it possible to continue national reconciliation efforts and respond to security challenges linked to violence perpetrated by armed groups that are not signatories to the Doha Agreement.

Chad remains devoted to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A successful political transition will lay the foundations for building of national institutions capable of meeting the needs of all Chadians. Chad is also confronted by a humanitarian crisis of gigantic proportions. While 6.9 million people needed humanitarian assistance at the beginning of the year, the population of refugees in the country has grown to 1 million, drawing on the country’s meagre resources.

Resource mobilization remains a major challenge. A successful transition will require a combination of efforts at both national and international levels, especially as it enters its costliest and most critical phase (organization of the constitutional referendum and general elections). A lot more effort is required to mobilize resources. For instance, only 52% of the budget for the constitutional referendum (\$83 million) has been mobilized to date. Meanwhile, general elections, DDR and other priorities also require significant resources.

DDR and elections as well as the respect of human rights remain critical to the success of the transition. The transitional institutions of Chad have demonstrated openness to consensus on several issues, while



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laying the basis for important reforms. Some relevant initiatives and major framework documents are among the achievements, including the adoption of the transition roadmap, the organization of the National dialogue, the hosting of the UN electoral need assessment mission, and the drafting of the constitution. The success of these important accomplishments requires to strengthen participation, representation, and inclusivity throughout the institutional processes, and to build peace and confidence among political actors. Respect and promotion of human rights remain essential. Elections and DDR are thus critically binding prerequisites for a peaceful and successful transition as well as credible, stable, and durable democratic order. Unless adequately resourced and scrupulously implemented, there will always remain major inclusivity and credibility questions.

Global solidarity needed as the pressure on the state budget to provide essential services for its population, while at the same time maintaining security around its borders in a context of conflict in most neighboring countries is compromising certain development priorities. The response to the crisis in the East, the security situation in the lake Chad area, the need to reinforce security around all its borders, while responding to needs for provision of public services are all heavy costs that are essential to strengthening the social contract and consolidate peace.

Between 2020 and 2021, Chad's receipts in development aid changed from USD 1.4 billion in 2020 to USD 722.1 million in 2021. At the start of the century, when the global average was around USD 400 million annually, Chad received only USD 131.3 million per capita. Although development partners have responded positively to calls for aid, notably through the UNDP supported Basket Fund, only 50% of the projected 67 million have been mobilized.

Going forward, Chad hopes for greater solidarity and for the conclusion of a peaceful and inclusive transition and a timely return to constitutional order while laying the foundations for lasting peace.

2. The Side Event

To provide a lasting response to the above challenges, the Government of the Republic of Chad will co-chair with the United Nations a high-level meeting on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly to discuss current priorities of Chad, challenges, and way forward.

More specifically, this side event aims to:

- Apprise the international community of the unfolding transition journey in Chad, the path travelled and the road ahead.
- Enhance understanding of the complex regional, socioeconomic, and humanitarian contexts and their vicissitudinary impacts on the transition landscape.
- Maintain consistent high-level strategic political dialogue between Chad and development partners and promote global solidarity to the transition in Chad, including development and humanitarian support.
- Mobilize additional support

3. Methodology

Format and Content of the discussions

Discussions will cover Governance (constitutional referendum, elections); Disarmament, Demilitarization and Reintegration; demining and the humanitarian crisis



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- The side event will be co-hosted by H.E. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, State Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chadians Abroad, and International Cooperation, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Participation

- The Chadian Government.
- The United Nations Deputy Secretary General and the representatives of DPPA and UNDP
- Member State delegations at the Ministerial level
- Regional and sub-regional organizations
- Development partners.

The high-level meeting will take place on Monday, 18 September 2023, from 11:30 to 13:30 in Conference Room 1 at the United Nations Headquarters. Participating Member States and organizations are asked to restrict the size of their delegations to two persons, including the head of delegation. Delegations are kindly asked to arrive around 11:00, 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

We kindly ask you to send confirmation of your participation, as well requests to be included in the speakers list, to: dppa-dpo-africa-csad-centralafrica@un.org, copied to goldschmidt@un.org, by 6 pm Friday, 15 September.

Participants registered in the Speakers' list will have the opportunity to make statements of a maximum duration of 2 minutes.

Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English and French is envisaged.

Media

The media will be invited to the session, which will also be broadcast on the UN Webcast (<https://media.un.org/en/webtv>)



The Journey towards constitutional order in Chad: Challenges & Perspectives

18 September 2023, 11:30 – 13:30, Conference Room 1, United Nations HQ, New-York

AGENDA

Segment	Intervenant(s)
<i>Arrival</i> 11.00 -11.25	- Arrival of participants
<i>Welcome</i> 11 :30-11 :35	- Moderation: Martha Pobee, UN Assistant Secretary General for Africa
<i>Video</i> 11.35-11.40	- The political transition in Chad, context, achievements, challenges and perspectives
<i>Opening Remarks</i> 11:40-11.50	- Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed - Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chadians Abroad, and International Cooperation of the Government of Chad, HE. Mahamat Saleh Annadif
<i>Presentation</i> 11:50-12 :20	<i>The current situation, perspectives and needs for support and partnership.</i> - Minister of Economic Prospects and International Partnerships of the Government of Chad, Mr. Moussa Batraki (20 min) - Message from IFIs and other key bilateral and multilateral partners, Managing Director for Operations at the World Bank, Ms. Anna Bjerde (5 min)
<i>Discussions and Contributions</i> 12:20 – 13 :15	- Interventions of participants (maximum 2 minutes per intervention)
<i>Summary</i> 13 :15 -13 :25	- Summary of Key decisions and commitments, way forward Assistant Secretary General, Regional Director for Africa, UNDP, Madame Ahunna Eziakonwa
<i>Note of Thanks</i> 13:25-13 :30	- Minister of Economic Prospects and International Partnerships of the Government of Chad, Mr. Moussa Batraki
<i>Closing</i>	