



Human Rights Council – 31st session

Item 10 – Interactive Dialogue the Independent Expert on Central African Republic

Speaker: Albert Hengelaar

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Mr. President,

Caritas Internationalis and the World Evangelical Alliance acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of the Independent Expert and MINUSCA in Central African Republic.

Since December 2012 we have observed significant improvement . At the beginning of the conflict situation, the country seemed to be in a hopeless situation. Anarchy was prevailing and there was too little if any governmental infrastructure.

Today we see a basis for cautious optimism. It is often said that organic growth of societies is important. This is exactly what happened in CAR. We hope that lessons can be taken from this experience and applied to other situations throughout the world.

The process in CAR was geared towards an inclusive political development. Here the “winner take all” approach did not take the day. As a result, the people of CAR were able to rejoice when they received Pope Francis last November. This special group was therefore able to freely visit and encourage the various ethnic groups to put aside conflict and violence and to work together to shape a peaceful future for their children and families. This is an example of responsible and servant leadership by Pope Francis and by the Interfaith Peace Platform in the country that paved the way for him.

Our questions to the Independent Expert are :

- What is the way ahead to bolster further reconciliation throughout the country, but particular in the villages and regions beyond the capital?
- How can we prioritize indigenous and inclusive solutions and at the same time secure the necessary funding?