

Delegation from
Central African Republic

Represented by
ESCP Europe (London Campus)

Position Paper for General Assembly Second Committee

The topics before the General Assembly Second Committee are: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development; Promoting Low-Carbon Economic Growth in the Developing World; and Protecting Developing Countries during the Current Financial Crisis.

I. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development

So far, Central African citizens had the lowest quality and highest cost of Internet and telephone services in Africa. The Central African Republic is still forced by geography to use expensive, poor quality satellite communications networks. It is the interest of the Central African Republic to promote the growth of the Information and Communication Technologies and the affordability and accessibility of these services. We believe that the development of ICT is not only important for the information flow in Central Africa as the World Bank found that “for every ten percentage-point increase in high speed Internet connections, there is an increase in economic growth of 1.3 percentage-points.” The importance of a better ICT development and the lack of these services in the Central African Republic were even acknowledged by the World Bank. As a result the CAB programme was launched, according to which 11 countries should be connected to high speed internet. Even if the internet access improves throughout this project, the question of affordability remains. In Central Africa, citizens still pay “two times more on monthly internet rates than people living in other African countries, and up to three times more than those living in other parts of the world.” Therefore we will try to close agreements with Chad and other African countries which are facing the same problem to reduce access costs for internet.

II. Promoting Low-Carbon Economic Growth in the Developing World

The Central African Republic welcomes Low-Carbon Economic Growth. Environmental sustainability has been a development goal for The Central African Republic for a long time. We believe that reducing carbon emission and promoting renewable energy sources can free not only us but also other countries from a dependence on imported fossil fuels. The

average expected age of living is still very low in Central Africa and we believe that less pollution is certainly a factor which would lead to better health and therefore which could prolong life expectancy. Low-carbon technologies are seen as a good opportunity for growth and the creation of jobs. An early support for the Central African Republic could help us to leap-frog old approaches and therefore help to avoid some of the cost of large grids. Since flawless energy is not ensured in the whole country. There are still many regions which do not have access to electricity. While the Central African Republic sees the importance of Low Carbon Economic growth, we would ask the UN together with other African parties who are in the same situation to support the infrastructural development. We consequently will try to unite with other African countries to make a stronger case in gaining infrastructural support with a sustainable standard from the beginning.

III. Protecting Developing Countries during the Current Financial Crisis

The Central African Republic has gone through 30 years of economic and social decline. In 2008 it ranked 178 of 179 of the UN Human Development index. Clearly ranked amongst the last within the Low Human Development category, the Central African Republic remains one of the only two African countries that have not seen any development progress since the beginning of the 1980s. We therefore ask the UN for particular attention to our country amongst the African countries for supporting growth in times of the financial crisis and post crisis. The Central African Republic being land-locked and hilly does not have many trading opportunities and relies heavily dependent on their sole exports which are diamonds and wood. The Central African Republic has been hit particularly hard and quicker by the financial crisis compared to many other African states, as the demand for diamonds as a luxury product has drastically decreased due to the global decrease in wealth. This consequently means even higher production costs for our country due to small-scale costs and the very high costs of doing business. The social impact has to be seen as especially severe as the lay-offs of many workers in production of diamonds and woods has led to many social tensions. The severe effects on the Central African economy are compounded by a possible reduction in direct foreign support. "After reaching more than \$310m in 2008, total foreign assistance is likely to decline 20 percent to less than \$250m in 2009." The financial crisis represents a severe risk for our country's political system and fragile economy. We therefore ask the UN for an increase in supporting funds, in helping to subsidize the diamond production in the Central African Republic in order to avoid further social tensions which are caused by unemployment which might escalate and lead to further damage of the already over proportionally hit economy of our country.