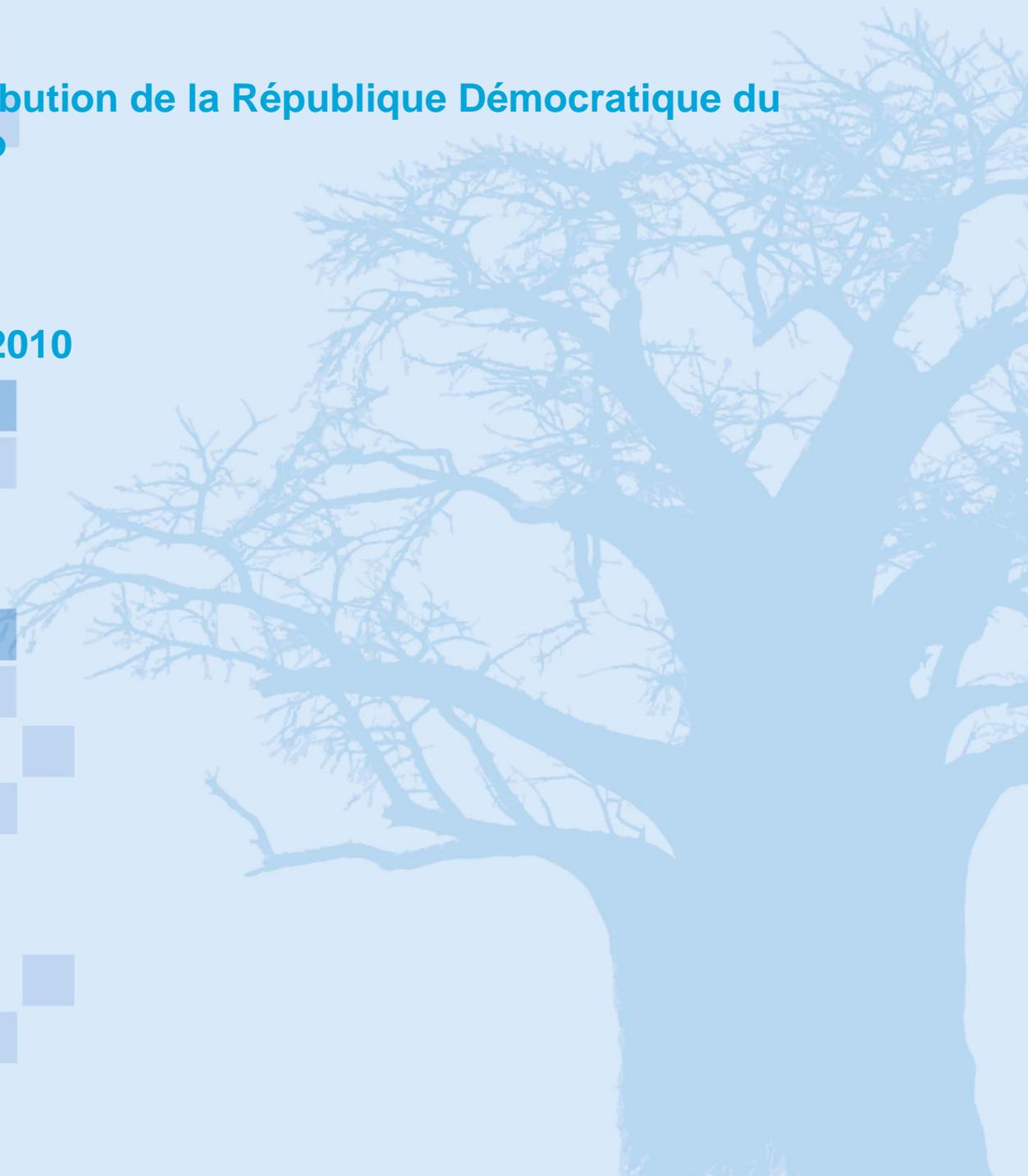


# Dialogue international sur la construction de la paix et le renforcement de l'État

Contribution de la République Démocratique du Congo

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# SUMMARY

## Results

### **Priorities**

A review of the relevant planning documents shows that the initiatives proposed and implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) centred on three main themes:

- democratisation;
- reform of the security sector;
- decentralisation;
- infrastructure rebuilding.

### **Strategic planning for peace building and state building**

- At state level even with the Plan for Stabilisation and Reconstruction of Areas Emerging from Conflict (STAREC), the fact that there is no institutional framework to formulate peace-building strategies, primarily to help embed emergency and stabilisation projects, or to adopt a longer term vision of development.
- The planning of initiatives related to peace building and state building, often based on international models not always suited to local conditions (for instance, certain ex-combatant demobilisation and reintegration initiatives)
- Geographical imbalance in the scheduling of peace-building activities. While the most severe, long-lasting conflicts are undeniably in the East of the DRC, risks of conflict have emerged in some provinces of the “West” and these, too, should be taken into account in future peace-building strategies.
- Insufficient co-operation in seeking synergies between fund donors. It appears that donors working in similar sectors sometimes take different approaches, as in certain fields relating to security sector reform, for example.

### **Main operating and policy obstacles in international aid in peace building and state building in the DRC**

Representatives of government, the international community and civil society have identified a number of challenges faced by international aid actors in delivering support for peace building and state building in the DRC. The following concerns have been reported.

- Poor consistency among initiatives: over recent years, peace building has suffered from a degree of inconsistency among the initiatives conducted at national level.
- Little recourse to civil society: Congolese civil society organisations feel that their international opposite numbers do not co-operate sufficiently with them and that donors often keep their distance.
- Infrequent consultations with national and provincial legislative bodies: the technical and financial partners are not very actively engaged in consultations with the legislative assemblies, despite the fact that one of their functions is to review action taken by the government.

- Problems with capacity and knowledge transfer: the programmes are heavily dependent on the involvement of technical assistants from outside the country. Personnel turnover can mean a loss of institutional memory.
- Role of the various actors: the evaluation of the Governance Contract (CDG) and the First Priority Action Plan (PAP) concluded that certain initiatives were inefficient and that the division of roles and responsibilities of the various government actors involved in implementing them was not clear.
- Corruption prevention: this is a recurring issue in the comments voiced by technical and financial partners – and in “undertones” in the views expressed by Congolese experts and civil society representatives.

### ***Examples of good practice in the DRC***

- Better alignment of aid with the development initiatives defined by the government: progress has been made on donor alignment with DSCRIP on the one hand and on co-ordination among funders themselves on the other, according to several stakeholders.
- Targeted sectoral programmes: development programmes targeted at a specific sector or sub-sector, where there is a pool of Congolese expertise and institutional structures able to run the programmes, seem to have an advantage in terms of effectiveness (the transport sector, for example).
- Positive impact of small-scale projects: on several occasions small-scale projects, conducted in communities that are often isolated and severely affected by the conflicts in the East, have proved to be really effective from the standpoint of population satisfaction.
- Better definition of performance and evaluation criteria for development plans: evaluation work centring on the PAP, carried out in 2009 under the aegis of the Ministry for Planning, is a “first” for the DRC. Nevertheless, efforts will still have to be made on monitoring/ evaluation.

## **Recommendations for the International Dialogue**

### ***Recommendations on state building***

- Alongside state-building programmes, focus more specifically on initiatives aimed at strengthening the integrity and competence of public administration. Creating and supporting conditions that can help to improve the chances of success of state-building programmes are truly important.
- Support peace-building strategies. It is vital that peace-building programmes, often run on a local scale in order to ensure closer involvement of the communities affected by the conflict, have the support of an institutional framework at government level.
- Improve capacity building. Future capacity-building programmes should focus more specifically on the recruitment of national experts and on the possibility of integrating these experts into the national public administration, which should moreover be reformed.

### ***Recommendations on the links between peace building and state building***

- Recognise the need to improve the links between peace building and state building in planning programmes. It is recommended that planning, as part of state building, be harmonised as far as possible with thinking on current and future peace-building processes.

- Further develop strategic thinking on the transition between humanitarian aid programmes and development programmes. Existing thinking in this domain could usefully be adapted to the specific conditions of post-conflict countries.

***Recommendations on development partners***

- Improve United Nations inter-agency co-ordination at national level. An appreciable increase in co-operation and co-ordination between UN system agencies, beyond issues of planning and finance, is necessary.
- Secure the funds intended for partner countries. Fluctuations in funding and project and the proliferation of projects and programmes are actually a real challenge for the planning of government programmes.