



ADVISORY GROUP OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

INTERACTION BETWEEN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS AND UN COUNTRY TEAMS

**Mission by the Advisory Group to the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs
Côte d'Ivoire, 17-19 June 2013**

As part of its mandate to examine UN operations at the national level, the Advisory Group to the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs undertook a field mission to Côte d'Ivoire from 17 to 19 June 2013. The mission was organized in close cooperation with the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Political Affairs.

The initiative stemmed from the 2012 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, which had focused on Parliamentary approaches to conflict prevention reconciliation and peacebuilding (<http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/unga12.htm>). Following the Hearing, the IPU Advisory Group had expressed an interest in conducting a field mission to examine interaction between UN country teams and national parliaments in support of peacebuilding and national reconciliation efforts. It was proposed that such a mission be undertaken to Côte d'Ivoire, a country where the United Nations has been playing a major role in building peace and securing long-term stability, and where the IPU is currently developing a project of support to the Parliament.

As reflected in its terms of reference, the mission's main objective was to build on the findings of the 2012 Parliamentary Hearing, and enhance interaction between UNOCI, the UN Country Team and the national Parliament in peacebuilding efforts. Based on the experience of previous field missions conducted by the Advisory Group since 2008, the mission to Côte d'Ivoire would examine how and to what extent UN efforts at the country level involve the parliament generally, and more specifically, parliament's role in helping secure lasting peace in the country.

The IPU delegation was led by Committee President Mr. Mélégué Traoré (Burkina Faso) and included Advisory Group members Ms. Katri Komi (Finland), Mr. José Carlos Mahía (Uruguay), Mr. Abdeslam Bouchouareb (Algeria) and Mr. Alhassan Ado Garba (Nigeria), as well as IPU staff members Ms. Anda Filip and Ms. Laurence Marzal, and Uruguayan parliamentary adviser Ms. Carina Galvalisi. Senior parliamentary experts Mr. Moise Ebondje Mve (Cameroon) and Mr. Robert Myttenaere (Belgium), present in Abidjan for a two-week audit of the parliamentary administration conducted by the IPU in support of the National Assembly, also participated in several of the delegation's talks.

Throughout the mission, the IPU delegation was accompanied by four prominent members of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, who contributed in a significant way to the success of the mission: Ms. Emilienne Bobi Assa (President of the External Relations Committee), Mr. Augustin A. Thiam (President of the national Inter-Parliamentary Group), Mr. Jean-Albert Agbre and Mr. K. Gngangbo (members of the national Inter-Parliamentary Group).

In preparation for the mission, the Advisory Group was guided by the Special report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2013/197 of 28 March 2013 - <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/2013/197>). The report provides a comprehensive overview of the political, security and humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire, a country emerging from over a decade of political crisis and post-electoral violence in late 2011.

During its mission, the IPU delegation was received by Speaker Guillaume Soro and held discussions with the Bureau of the National Assembly, as well as a joint meeting with the members of the Committee on General and Institutional Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. At the government level, the delegation met with Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, as well as with the Minister of Planning and Development, the Minister of Defence, and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The IPU delegation also held meetings with the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) and with representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Côte d'Ivoire. It visited a UN-sponsored operation in the field, the Anyama Centre for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, areas which are key to sustainable peace in the country. Last but not least, the delegation met with the acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Arnauld Akodjenou, and with the UN Country Team in Côte d'Ivoire.

Progress and challenges

Despite the huge challenges before it, the Government formed in 2011 by President Ouattara had demonstrated leadership and commitment to addressing immediate security challenges, accelerating economic recovery and initiating sensitive processes such as: disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; security sector reform; and dialogue, truth and reconciliation.

In turn, after more than a decade of political paralysis due to the war, the newly elected National Assembly, though still not comprising all political factions (the December 2011 elections having been boycotted by the main opposition party), had made significant efforts to become more effective, legislate on the major issues facing the country, and contribute to the overall stabilization and national reconciliation processes.

The discussions highlighted the magnitude of the challenges facing the country in the aftermath of the crisis of 2011, as well as progress being made to address them. With an estimated 1 million refugees and internally displaced persons, the vast majority of Ivorian refugees abroad have already returned to the country. The natural riches of Côte d'Ivoire, combined with significant foreign investments in the past few years and a new approach to governance, have boosted the country's economic recovery: 9 per cent growth was recorded in 2012 and GDP growth for 2013 and 2014 is expected to exceed 10 per cent.

As the world's top exporter of cocoa, coffee and raw cashew nuts, a net exporter of oil, and with a significant manufacturing sector, Côte d'Ivoire is the largest economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WEAMU). To illustrate its influence, the African Development Bank is returning to Abidjan after having been transferred to Tunis during the crisis. This is bolstered by its active political leadership role within the sub-region. Since assuming the chairmanship of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) last year, Côte d'Ivoire has mobilized regional leaders and resources to address a number of issues of common concern, most critically to formulate a common position on the Malian crisis. As underscored on several occasions, decisions and developments taking place in Côte d'Ivoire inevitably impact on and reverberate throughout the entire sub-region.

According to its national development strategy for 2012-2015, Côte d'Ivoire aims to become an emerging market by 2020, with priority given to infrastructure, agriculture and energy. The national census that will be carried out in November 2014 represents a major undertaking that will have a huge impact on planning for the next development cycle. Throughout the process, Côte d'Ivoire relies on an important national reservoir of human talent and expertise. Ivorians with experience working in the global markets or as professionals around the world are now returning to their home country to be part of its reconstruction.

The National Assembly, under the leadership of Speaker Soro, has fast-tracked the ratification of major international instruments, including human rights treaties, and has passed significant pieces of legislation, such as the Civil Marriage Law, which grants both partners equal rights. Over 25 laws have been adopted in less than a year, although it has not always been possible to allow sufficient time for the critical examination of bills received from the Executive, mainly due to a lack of infrastructure and staff.

Important challenges identified as requiring particular attention include widespread poverty (estimated at 50%), high unemployment (estimated at 5 million out of a total population of 21 million), corruption, and violence against women. Despite its economic potential, years of political and military crisis and poor governance have taken a heavy toll on the country, transforming the once-model African nation into a fragile State that continues to struggle for stability and prosperity.

As highlighted in the above-mentioned UN Secretary-General's report, despite overall progress, Côte d'Ivoire also continues to face significant threats to its peace and security. Major threats include the lingering deep political divisions and the continued action by networks affiliated with the former regime to destabilize the government; the reported presence of mercenaries, former combatants and other armed elements along the border with Liberia; the uncontrolled circulation of weapons; slow progress on reconciliation and security sector reform; the halting progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; divisions and limited trust within and among the security agencies; continued human rights violations by formal and informal security agencies and lack of accountability; inadequately trained and equipped law enforcement agencies; a lack of appropriate oversight of the armed forces; difficult national integration, criminal activities and intercommunity violence; and of course the high rates of unemployment and poverty.

A crucially important phase, and a test for sustainable peace and development in Côte d'Ivoire, will be the 2015 general elections. Many interlocutors stressed the importance of electoral reform to ensure that these elections are fair, transparent and inclusive. Experts recommend that such reform should include updating the voters' list and reviewing the composition of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) and the transparent drawing of electoral boundaries for the legislative elections. Some underscored that the role played in the elections by the various media outlets, many of which are affiliated with political parties, would also need to be addressed.

Dialogue, truth and reconciliation

The delegation welcomed the opportunity to meet and engage with the members of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Established in September 2011 by a decision of the President and headed by former Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, the 11-member body includes religious leaders, regional representatives, and footballer Didier Drogba representing Ivorians living abroad. After a "purification ceremony" in March 2012, the Commission organized itself into sub-committees to examine the root causes of the conflict and conduct consultations on seven key thematic areas: land rights; citizenship; communication; gender; security and justice; education and youth; and poverty. A report on the Commission's findings should be submitted to the President before the Commission's two-year mandate expires in September.

Although it is not yet clear how the process will continue once the Commission's mandate ends, it was evident to the delegation members that more time would be required for an open and inclusive public debate on the Commission's report. All the more so since 37 local commissions were in the process of being established, with a broad and representative composition (10 members in each local Commission, to include three women, one traditional leader, two religious leaders, one youth and one civil society representative). In light of the public hearings that have yet to be held, there is scope for particularly important interaction between the local Commissions and parliamentarians. Regular and substantive interaction between the Commission and the National Assembly is also of utmost importance, particularly since Parliament will most likely have to legislate on the main outcome of the Commission.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)

The IPU delegation, together with members of the Ivorian Parliament, visited a DDR Centre operating just outside the capital city of Abidjan. Run jointly by the Supreme Army Command and ONUCI, the Centre had processed the cases of over 7,000 former combatants (of an estimated caseload of 64,000 former combatants) since it first opened in October 2012. It is estimated that the full caseload will be processed over a two-year period. The methodology employed is conducive to confidence-building and effective reintegration. It comprises various stages, whereby former combatants are encouraged to come to the Centre, dispose of their weapons, be entered into a central database and receive an identification card, benefit from a medical check-up (including voluntary HIV/AIDS testing) and treatment if necessary, and receive assistance (including financial and training) in order to (re)integrate the regular work force.

As also underscored in the discussion with the Minister of Defence, depending on prior education and training, many former combatants are reintegrated either into the army or public administration, primarily as prison guards or forest rangers, customs officers or border patrollers. It is expected that progress will accelerate more steadily based on a comprehensive strategy that is being developed by the Government with United Nations support. A sustained injection of resources will be required in order to ensure the programme's success. Managing public expectations will also be an important part of the process, including in terms of reinforcing the message that not all former combatants will go back into the regular army or find other jobs.

As a general observation, with some 150,000 civil servants in Côte d'Ivoire, public administration reform and the building of relevant administrative capacities (including in Parliament) constitute major challenges. Both the Government and the Parliament are in the process of preparing an audit of their workforce with a view to producing more efficient and inclusive public policies.

The IPU delegation had an opportunity to meet and interact with former combatants at the Centre. Both men and women, the majority are very young and present different reasons for taking up arms during the crisis: political loyalties, self-defence or to avenge the death of a friend or loved one or unemployment. However, they were all keen to find work and reintegrate into society. In spite of claims that it was mostly former combatants affiliated with the current Government that benefited from the programme, officials at both the Defence Ministry and the DRR Centre underscored that no distinction was made between the two sides, and that prior political affiliation was neither asked nor recorded.

There was an overall sense that the work of the DRR Centre should be better known by the public at large, and certainly by the Ivorian MPs as they are an indispensable relay between the policies put in place at the central level and the realities on the ground. For the MPs to play their natural role of helping build reconciliation and social cohesion within communities, it is important for the Government and international partners, including the United Nations, to be

more forthcoming in submitting relevant information to Parliament, and in engaging parliamentarians in discussions and consultations on such key issues. This would also greatly enhance democratic oversight of the security sector in Côte d'Ivoire.

Gender equality and violence against women

As is common practice during all missions of the Advisory Group, the delegation tried to gain a better understanding of the situation of women in Côte d'Ivoire. There are worrying reports of widespread gender-based violence, although it is generally acknowledged that the incidence of sexual violence has decreased significantly since the end of the post-election crisis.

The United Nations reports that lenient sentencing and the failure to classify sexual- and gender-based offenses as crimes illustrate the systemic obstacles to combating sexual violence. The inadequacy of legal frameworks, the lack of access to justice (resulting in large part from the high cost of medical certificates to facilitate court hearings), and the fear of stigmatization which deters many victims from coming forward, are all significant challenges which will need to be addressed.

At the level of Parliament, and with IPU support, efforts were under way to establish a cross-party caucus of women parliamentarians. A first training and information seminar held by the IPU in Côte d'Ivoire in late April 2013 for newly elected women parliamentarians (representing 10.44% of the total number of MPs) highlighted both challenges and opportunities to improve the situation of women.

Despite the progress made in recent years, including the adoption of a national plan of action for women, the women MPs highlighted the need for further legislative reform, in particular in the areas of the political participation of women and gender-based violence. As a result, they have adopted their own plan of action, aimed at achieving the following basic objectives: solidarity among women; participation of women in public life; education based on equality; women's awareness of their rights; the establishment of a national strategy on equality; the participation of women in national reconciliation; and combating violence against women, girls and children.

Discussions are also under way on the possibility of establishing a quota (as a temporary affirmative-action measure) for women's political participation. Although this has been a positive experience of many other African nations, including certain neighbouring countries, much work and awareness-building is still required in Côte d'Ivoire, given its traditional and deeply-entrenched male-dominated political scene. Overall, there is scope for stronger cooperation between the UN Country Team and the IPU in support of gender equality and the political empowerment of women in Côte d'Ivoire.

Role of the United Nations

The United Nations has undeniably played a major role in the recent history of Côte d'Ivoire. Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council, through resolution 1528 (2004), established the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). This is a UN peacekeeping operation with a mandate to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreement signed by the Ivorian parties in January 2003. Following the 2010 presidential elections and the ensuing political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCI has remained on the ground to protect civilians and support the Ivorian Government in its reconciliation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. Given the prevailing security situation on the ground and the still-limited capacity of Ivorian institutions, there is today a UN field presence of some 9,000 military and police personnel.

In addition to the protection of civilians, areas of top priority for the UN Operation in the post-2011 period include reform of key sectors (in particular the electoral system, the judiciary and the security sector), political dialogue, and the establishment of a platform for economic and social development with a focus on transparency, anti-corruption and inclusiveness. There is a keen sense of the need to strengthen democratic oversight in all of these areas, as a result of which the role of Parliament is particularly important.

The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Côte d'Ivoire (2009-2013), elaborated in close cooperation with the national authorities, identifies three main areas of focus: (1) political, economic and security governance; (2) revenues for the poor and vulnerable; and (3) social protection and services. The related UN interventions aim to enhance institutional skills, identify resources for food security and a safe environment, and provide services for the poor and vulnerable. As part of its integrated approach, the UN Country Team – which comprises 10 UN programmes, agencies and funds¹ – proposes to work closely with the National Assembly with a view to consolidating its capacity to address and monitor these issues from a prevention perspective.

At the same time, however, it is evident that the United Nations is operating in a complex environment. Government officials and the parliamentary leadership credit the United Nations with certifying the results of the 2011 presidential elections (a novelty in Africa), and thus expediting the transition to a new regime. By the same token, however, supporters of the former regime view the United Nations with some scepticism and suspicion, questioning its neutrality and impartiality. This remains a major challenge in preparing the ground for free, fair and inclusive elections in 2015.

Another highly sensitive political issue that will require a resolution, including through work by Parliament, is the question of nationality. For many decades, Côte d'Ivoire has attracted millions of people from neighbouring Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Mali (an estimated 5 million from Burkina Faso and Mali alone). Nationality and property rights were, in fact, among the root causes of the internal conflict over a decade ago. How this issue will be managed will have a major impact on the transition to sustainable peace in Côte d'Ivoire².

The UN arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire was an issue that came up systematically during the mission. At both the government and parliamentary levels, there was a strong indication that the authorities viewed this as an unjust and counter-productive measure, which undermined the country's sovereignty and its ability to address its security needs. It was also clear, however, that the Parliament had not been engaged in any in-depth discussion with the UN Country Team on the specifics of the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the embargo.

As explained during the meeting with the acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, the resolution – initially adopted in 2004 in response to frequent breaches of the ceasefire agreement and a deteriorating humanitarian situation, and extended on a yearly basis (most recently in April 2013) - does in fact allow for the pre-authorized supply of arms and related materiel to the Ivorian security forces when these are intended for use in civilian protection, national defence and security sector reform. The continued unregulated traffic of weapons in Côte d'Ivoire remains a major concern for the Security Council thus warranting the extension of the arms embargo.

¹ IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC and UN Women.

² The laws on nationality and rural land ownership were passed in an extraordinary session on 23 August 2013.

National Assembly and its interaction with the United Nations and other partners

Discussions with members of parliament, the vast majority of whom are newly elected, underscored an evolving vision of the role and responsibility of Parliament and parliamentarians.

Côte d'Ivoire is a presidential republic, with a strong tradition of concentrating power in the hands of the Head of State. As a result, there is not always sufficient space for the Parliament to fully express itself as a political player in its own right. As a recent example, in a bid to speed up decision-making on post-crisis recovery, the Parliament adopted enabling legislation authorizing the President of the Republic to take decisions by decree on a wide range of budgetary and economic matters for the 2013 financial year. Even if enabling legislation is provided for under the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire, and despite its possible short-term benefits, in the longer term the repeated recourse to this measure undermines Parliament's own constitutional prerogatives to scrutinize and hold the Executive to account.

Members of parliament are keenly aware of their responsibility in working at both the national and local levels to bring about national reconciliation and social cohesion. They view their role as that of mediators, engaging with citizens and communities and helping to overcome divisions and mistrust and heal wounds of the past. As such, there is much scope for Parliament to proactively engage with other national and international partners in the process.

As witnessed in previous missions by the Advisory Group, the relationship between the national Parliament and the UN Country Team is not clear. Major international commitments, such as the Millennium Development Goals, have not been thoroughly discussed in Parliament, and as a result national ownership is weak, with little engagement by Parliament in follow-up and implementation. This can be explained on the one hand by the fact that the Parliament is new and dealing with its immediate priorities, and on the other by the lingering perception in many parliaments of the region that external relations (and thus the work of the United Nations) are the exclusive prerogative of the government.

Following discussions between the Speaker of Parliament and the UN Special Representative, a framework cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the National Assembly was concluded earlier this year. For the time being, however, this remains a very general document, which needs to be supplemented with content, project proposals, resources and modalities for implementation.

Once again, there appears to be a certain disconnect between how the UN system wishes to work with the legislature, the actual needs of the National Assembly, and initiatives carried out by other organizations and development partners. Direct discussions and consultations, nevertheless, have facilitated a better understanding of the opportunities for joint action and engagement.

For example, an organizational audit of the National Assembly conducted by the IPU and a group of parliamentary experts at the request of the Parliament had highlighted a series of priority areas where assistance was required, including: internal parliamentary procedures (rules of procedure and staff rules); circulation of information; management of human resources; legislative and budget processes; institutional communication; and training (for both MPs and staff). IPU programmes had also been initiated in the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire with a view to providing capacity-building in the areas of reconciliation, promotion and protection of human rights, and gender equality.

Pooling the comparative advantages of both the IPU with its direct access to expertise within parliaments around the world and the United Nations provided a golden opportunity to offer support to the National Assembly for productive and effective reform. It was agreed that a

memorandum of understanding between the IPU and UNDP-Abidjan, based on the positive experience in other countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, needed to be pursued.

Moreover, as part of the working modalities and framework for action of the new Parliament, mechanisms have yet to be put in place to allow for regular consultation and interaction with CSOs.

As evidenced by the discussions held by the IPU delegation with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), there is a very active and diverse civil society in Côte d'Ivoire, open and eager to engage with the national parliament. Working in areas ranging from electoral reform to conflict prevention, transitional justice to gender equality, deforestation to human rights, many NGOs hold expertise and knowledge of realities on the ground, which can serve parliamentarians well in exercising their mandate.

Some NGO representatives pointed to the difficulty of gaining access to the national Parliament, arguing that it is easier to meet with opposition leaders outside parliament than to meet with MPs. It was underscored even the current Committee system in Parliament allows for hearings with experts (as is the case, for example, in the Committee for General and Institutional Affairs), and that such mechanisms could be resorted to on a more regular basis.

Conclusions and recommendations

After three full days of meetings in and around Abidjan, the IPU delegation was keenly aware of the complex challenges facing Côte d'Ivoire, but also of its huge potential, both in terms of human and natural resources, to break the cycle of violence and build a peaceful and prosperous future for its citizens. Parliament, as the cornerstone of this transformation towards democracy and sustainable development, is called upon to play a major role in this process.

Together with the Ivorian legislators who had accompanied the IPU delegation throughout its mission, the following conclusions and recommendations were formulated:

- Significant efforts need to be made to ensure access by parliamentarians to relevant information that impacts their work, particularly as Parliament and its specialized committees are required to examine and adopt major pieces of legislation. The Government, CSOs and the UN Country Team are encouraged to provide access to such information in a timely and systematic manner;
- The mutual benefits of closer interaction between Parliament and CSOs are evident. The lack of physical space (limited meeting rooms) should not be an excuse to avoid such interaction. Efforts can and should be made by both sides to develop regular engagement. The implementation of Parliament's Strategic Development Plan for 2012-2016 which foresees enhanced exchanges with civil society, as well as higher investments in parliamentary infrastructure, are thus crucial measures.
- Political leaders, in both Parliament and Government, should not underestimate the contribution that women can bring to peacebuilding and national reconciliation. Measures such as the establishment of a women's caucus in Parliament (equipped with the necessary resources to function effectively) and quotas for women's political representation can go a long way in bringing about transformational change;
- Dialogue, truth and reconciliation, as well as an end to impunity, are the building blocks of sustainable peace. As such, the findings of the DVR Commission, in particular on the root causes of the conflict and the way forward, will need to be brought forward for an inclusive public debate, which should include deliberations in Parliament as well as within communities at the local level;

- Electoral reform and representation of all political persuasions in Parliament remain key components for the peaceful transition to sustainable democracy. Parliament and the elected representatives can play a major role in engaging with all political forces, including opposition parties currently not represented in Parliament, and bringing about necessary reform;
- Parliamentary Committees should dispose of more time in order to meet and thoroughly examine new pieces of legislation that are sent to Parliament for adoption. The best legislation is not necessarily one that is passed quickly, but rather legislation that results from an in-depth and critical examination. This is particularly relevant in the case of politically-sensitive issues, such as nationality and land ownership laws, which require broad public consultation in order to secure the best possible outcome. Implementation is also critically important, with Parliament called upon to play an important role in exercising its oversight role and monitoring implementation of major legislation;
- In terms of the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature, members of the Government should be available to respond rapidly to Parliament's request for information and hearings. Parliamentarians, in turn, should not shy away from questioning ministers on specific issues;
- Parliamentarians need to be directly exposed to major national peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives in their own country, such as the DDR Centre at Anyama. From this perspective, there is also scope for much closer interaction between Parliament (its Bureau and the select parliamentary committees) and the UN Country Team;
- In implementing the framework cooperation agreement between the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire and the UN Country Team, the United Nations should be keenly attuned to the realities, needs and expectations of the Parliament, and any decisions should be the result of in-depth two-way consultations. When in need of parliamentary expertise and guidance, the United Nations should first tap into the knowledge and experience available within the bodies of the Ivorian Parliament, regional parliamentary organizations and the broader IPU membership;
- More specifically, when considering technical assistance and capacity-building programmes in support of the national Parliament, UN countries teams should more systematically reach out to and partner with the IPU. As the world organization of national parliaments, the IPU is the repository of unique expertise in areas pertaining to the functioning of the Legislature;
- In order to fully exercise its functions, Parliament requires a corresponding infrastructure, budget and personnel. This is a key investment for the success of the current peacebuilding process in Côte d'Ivoire and should be seen as a priority by both the Government and Côte d'Ivoire's development partners, including the United Nations system.

MEETINGS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

National Assembly

- Mr. Guillaume Soro, Speaker of the National Assembly
- Bureau of the National Assembly
- Committee on General and Institutional Affairs, chaired by Mr. Diawara Mamadou
- Committee on External Relations, chaired by Ms. Emilienne Bobi Assa
- IPU Group in Côte d'Ivoire:
 - o Mr. Augustin Abdoulaye Thiam Houphouët, President
 - o Mr. K. Gnangbo
 - o Mr. Jean Albert Agbre

Government of Côte d'Ivoire

- Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Prime Minister, Minister of the Economy and Finance
- Mr. Claude Beke Dassys, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Paul Koffi Koffi, Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Defence
- Mr. A. Toikeusse Mabri, State Minister of Planning and Development
- Mr. Karna Soro, Chief of DDR Division, Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinstatement (ADDR)

Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR)

- Mr. Awoulae Desiré Amon Tanoé, First Vice-President, traditional leader
- Mr. Séry Bailly, Representative of inhabitants from Western Côte d'Ivoire
- Ms. Françoise Kaudhis Offoumou, Representative of inhabitants from Eastern Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr. Abdoulaye Kone, Representative of inhabitants from Northern Côte d'Ivoire

UN Country Team

- Mr. Arnauld Akodjenou, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, ONUCI
- Mr. Hervé Hesse, Head of DDR Operations, ONUCI
- Joint meeting with representatives of the UN Country Team

Civil Society Representatives

- Mr. Kone Ambroise, Board Chair of West Africa Network for Peacebuilding – Côte d'Ivoire (WANEP- CI)
- Mr. Traoré Wodjo Fini, Coordinator, Coalition de Société civile pour la Paix et le développement démocratique en Côte d'Ivoire (COSOPCI)
- Mr. Sindou Bamba, Lead Coordinator, Regroupement des Acteurs Ivoiriens des Droits Humains (RAIDH)
- Ms. Sangaré Namizata, National President, Femme Active de Côte d'Ivoire (OFACI)
- Ms. Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine, Attorney-at-Law, Transparency Justice, Côte d'Ivoire