



Security Council

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Letter dated 2 November 2021 from the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is my pleasure to share with you, in my capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the advice of the Commission pertaining to the upcoming renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (see annex). The advice, presented to you by the Commission in its advisory capacity to the Security Council, is the outcome of a consultative process within the Commission.

I remain at the disposal of the Security Council to provide further information and clarifications, as may be required. The Peacebuilding Commission, through its Central African Republic configuration, will continue accompanying the Central African Republic and informing the Council on peacebuilding-related developments, as appropriate.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Omar **Hilale**
Ambassador

Chair of the Central African Republic configuration
of the Peacebuilding Commission



Annex to the letter dated 2 November 2021 from the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

October 2021

Consistent with Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#), the Peacebuilding Commission is providing the following observations and advice to the Council ahead of the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), with a view to supporting ongoing and required efforts for peacebuilding and sustaining peace and stability in the country.

Despite the deterioration of the security situation due to various disruptions, including an armed rebellion, as well as the constraints imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Government of the Central African Republic remained engaged alongside its partners, including MINUSCA, to move forward with the implementation of its commitments for peace and stability.

This engagement has resulted in many achievements, the most important of which were the presidential elections in December 2020, the conclusion of the legislative elections in July 2021, the launch of preparatory works for the republican dialogue by President Touadéra, the adoption of the Joint Roadmap for Peace of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on 16 September 2021, followed by the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire by President Touadéra on 15 October 2021.

Building on the practice established since 2018, and in order to continue supporting the Government's efforts, the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission wishes to bring the following elements to the attention of the Security Council.

Continued support to the implementation of the Political Agreement

- In 2021, the Government undertook an assessment of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic in an effort to revitalize it. The assessment identified the weaknesses and bottlenecks of the peace instrument and ways to remedy them. Renewed commitment to the effective implementation of the Political Agreement, by all the signatories and the formal guarantors of the Agreement, remains essential for peace, and even more so after the adoption of the Joint Roadmap of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the declaration of the unilateral ceasefire, as well as the republican dialogue initiative, scheduled for December 2021.
- In complementarity with its mandate for the protection of civilians, MINUSCA should support efforts aimed at implementing the Joint Roadmap. Mediation and good offices initiatives to facilitate a rapprochement between the parties are required in this regard, as well as continued support for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programmes and the continuation of community violence reduction activities, in particular in the context of voluntary disarmament operations. The Mission's good offices, strategic advice and coordination will also be critical to foster the coherence and sustainability of national security sector reform efforts in line with the Government's

commitments on security sector reform, the Joint Roadmap and the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

- The ceasefire should contribute to launching the operational phase of the Joint Roadmap of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and help to create an environment conducive to the revitalization of the implantation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the smooth running of a transparent and inclusive republican dialogue. In support of these efforts, the mandate of MINUSCA should emphasize its political and convening role to facilitate inclusive, concerted and coordinated efforts by the national stakeholders and the Central African Republic's partners towards the coherence and effectiveness of the broader political process. MINUSCA could continue supporting dialogues at the local and community levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in particular women and youth representatives, centred on promoting social inclusion and respect for human rights.
- The continued lack of funding prevents the bodies responsible for the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation from discharging their mandates. MINUSCA should also support the mobilization of the funds pledged by the international partners, including international financial institutions, for the execution of the Political Agreement and provide support for the Government to take further ownership of this process. The continued advocacy, advice and support of MINUSCA with regard to developing national institutions' coordination and leadership capacities, in view of their roles and responsibilities in the political peace process, remain a major priority for the national reconciliation and social cohesion processes.
- Given the regional and transboundary dimensions of the conflicts in the Central African Republic, MINUSCA should continue to provide technical expertise to the country's authorities in its engagement with neighbouring countries, for example through bilateral joint commissions and regional and subregional organizations, in consultation and coordination with the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, to resolve issues of common and bilateral interest and to promote their continued and full support for the peace process in the Central African Republic with a view to addressing the root causes of conflicts. Good offices and consultations with the guarantors of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, as well as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, will be necessary to coordinate and consolidate regional support and to address the root causes of conflicts.

Preparation and organization of local elections

- Supporting the electoral process was among the priorities of MINUSCA over the latest period. Efforts in this regard have included good offices; technical, logistical and operational support; election security; and the coordination of international support. Despite the extremely complex context, marked by increased violence, including against its personnel, MINUSCA has made every effort to deliver electoral materials throughout the country and enable the restoration of State authority. The conclusion of the presidential and legislative elections was a very important step for institutional renewal and stability.
- The holding of local elections planned for 2022 will maintain this positive momentum and allow for a reinforced democratic process through decentralization and good governance, as well as better security, inclusive engagement, and opportunities for more development at the local level. The provisional budget for these elections is estimated at \$10 million, for which the

Government has mobilized \$3 million. Any delay in funding the organization of these elections would jeopardize the implementation of the peace framework.

- An extension of the electoral assistance mandate of MINUSCA to support local elections is necessary. MINUSCA is particularly needed for mobilizing additional resources, raising awareness about the laws on territorial communities and administrative districts to enhance national ownership and compliance with the electoral code, securing the electoral process and providing technical assistance. MINUSCA has to continue its support to the National Elections Authority's leadership and institutional capacity to prepare the local elections and ensure that all the conditions are met to hold genuine, free, credible, transparent, peaceful and inclusive local elections, with the participation of internally displaced persons and refugees who have voluntarily returned. Particular effort should be made to encourage the participation of women and youth as voters and as candidates in these elections in line with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. Local elected officials need to be supported over time in understanding their mandates and responsibilities, and how to implement them with support from the central Government.

Strengthening of the rule of law

- The deteriorating security situation in the Central African Republic, including the upsurge in explosive ordnance incidents in the west, has had a major impact on civilians and the delivery of humanitarian aid, as well as on the safety and security of peacekeepers and the implementation of the mandate of MINUSCA. The humanitarian situation is particularly alarming: nearly two thirds of Central Africans are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, and nearly 700,000 people are at risk of starvation. The humanitarian response plan remains underfunded. Collaboration among MINUSCA, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional organizations and international, technical and financial partners is essential to support humanitarian efforts in the country. MINUSCA should be provided with robust and necessary resources and capabilities to secure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the populations in need throughout the territory in an enhanced humanitarian-development-peace nexus framework. In addition, MINUSCA, together with relevant national and international partners, should support the Central African Republic authorities in the prevention, mitigation and response to the threat posed by explosive ordnance.
- MINUSCA continues to be the target of attacks and hate speech, resulting from the population's lack of understanding of the Mission's objectives, as well as coordinated disinformation campaigns on social networks and local media. Sustained engagement with local populations to raise awareness about the Mission's role and objectives, as well as enhanced efforts to prevent and counter hate speech and disinformation and support the investigation, arrest, prosecution and judgment of those responsible for attacks against peacekeepers, are necessary to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers and, in turn, ensure the effective protection of civilians.
- The implementation of the ceasefire should allow for the restoration of State authority to different parts of the country. Owing to the violence, administration buildings were destroyed and need to be rebuilt and rehabilitated to facilitate the population's access to justice through the deployment of judiciary and penitentiary actors. The mandate of MINUSCA needs to be reinforced to support the Government in delivering basic social services and upholding the rule of law within the country. Financial support is needed to cover the necessary budget

for the deployment of judiciary and penitentiary actors outside Bangui as well as the efficient operation of the courts. Meanwhile, MINUSCA could continue supporting the deployment of temporary judicial missions to ensure that populations in different parts of the country have access to justice.

- The Government has shown a strong will to put an end to impunity for human rights violations and other grave crimes, including sexual violence. It has operationalized transitional justice mechanisms, notably the Commission on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation and the Special Criminal Court, as well as establishing a special commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights abuses. The support of MINUSCA to the entire judicial system through technical assistance and the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of court premises outside Bangui remains necessary, in particular with a view to facilitating the functioning of the Special Criminal Court in accordance with the national laws and the Central African Republic's international obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. It is worth noting that the Special Criminal Court's budget relies almost entirely on the support of MINUSCA.
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