

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
19 February 2021

Original: English

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**Letter dated 16 February 2021 from the Secretary-General  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 12 February 2021, from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations (see annex), which encloses a report on the activities of the French armed forces in the Central African Republic in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, from 1 October 2020 to 1 February 2021.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* António **Guterres**



## Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Secretariat, and has the honour to transmit the following information.

Pursuant to paragraphs 52 and 54 of Security Council resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#), France encloses herewith the report on the actions carried out by French forces in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic from 1 October 2020 to 1 February 2021 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations should be grateful if the Secretary-General would bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

## Enclosure

### **Report on the operational support provided by French forces to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic from 1 October 2020 to 1 February 2021**

#### **References:**

- Security Council resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#) of 12 November 2020 (para. 52)
- Agreement of 24 July 2014 between the Government of the French Republic and the United Nations on the provision of goods and services, on a reimbursable basis, in support of the operations of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA) in the Central African Republic
- Technical agreement of 3 October 2014 between the United Nations and the Minister of Defence of the French Republic concerning the operational support of French forces to MINUSCA

France contributes eight commissioned officers and one non-commissioned officer (i.e., nine integrated officers) to the MINUSCA military staff, including the Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Renaud Sénétaire. Four gendarmes (two non-commissioned officers and two commissioned officers) are currently deployed as United Nations police, including Major General Pascal Champion, Head of the United Nations police component of MINUSCA. Furthermore, directly and indirectly, French forces continue to contribute to the effectiveness of MINUSCA.

#### **1. Operations support**

##### *Direct support*

Pursuant to paragraph 52 of Security Council resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#) of 12 November 2020, France is authorized “to use all the means to provide operational support to elements of MINUSCA when under serious threat”. French fighter jets stationed in the Sahel-Saharan strip can provide ad hoc air support to MINUSCA. Coordination between the Air Adviser of the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic and the (French) Head of Air Operations of MINUSCA is particularly important and necessary for these operations, in order to minimize the risks associated with conducting them (flight safety and the organization of search and rescue (personnel recovery) missions).

It is also beneficial to promote joint close air support training with the joint tactical air controllers of the Portuguese contingent of MINUSCA, in order to ensure that the two units are capable of working together. The two exercises carried out in 2020 led to the conduct of particularly effective missions in December 2020 and January 2021.

At the request of the President, Mr. Touadéra, and in agreement with MINUSCA, two support missions were carried out from the theatre of Operation Barkhane on 23 December 2020 and 9 January 2021, respectively.

Many MINUSCA positions were reinforced during those missions.

More generally, the combined mechanism for the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic, the French forces in Gabon and Operation Barkhane allows for rapid intervention by French forces in support of MINUSCA, should this prove necessary.

*Concurrent actions*

The Air Adviser and the air traffic controllers are providing assistance to MINUSCA in the form of aeronautical expertise on substantive issues, particularly with regard to the future use of class I drones in Bangui.

## 2. Training support, operational military partnership and training of the Gabonese battalion

Despite the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) health crisis, the operational military partnership in Central Africa resumed its activities in September 2020 and continues to contribute to the long-term training of the units deployed from Burundi, Cameroon and Gabon.

French forces in Gabon provided the seventh Gabonese battalion to be deployed to the Central African Republic with 10 weeks of training in Libreville, from September to December 2020, prior to its deployment in February 2021.

In addition, specific activities for tactical personnel from the Cameroonian and Burundian battalions are planned for 2021.

## 3. Logistical support

*Ammunition support*

In accordance with the protocol signed between France and the United Nations, the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic provides MINUSCA with an ammunition storage area, eight 20-foot containers and three ABC dry powder fire extinguishers. It also has the tall grass mowed.

*Transport-transit route*

During the period in question, the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic managed the personnel transport and freight route for the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA, as follows:

	<i>Number of personnel</i>	<i>Freight weight (kg)</i>
In	25	5 851
Out	20	5 676

*Prevention and control of risks during operations*

- Fire support: the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic provided the Portuguese Quick Reaction Force with 15 fire extinguishers.
- Vector control campaign: the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic runs campaigns for the Portuguese Quick Reaction Force every three months.

## 4. Other

The operational support detachment in the Central African Republic shares control of the French camp in M’Poko with entities of MINUSCA and the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic. A common set of internal service regulations is under consideration.