

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 15 June 2023 from the Chair of the Military Staff Committee addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Military Staff Committee have agreed to undertake a one-week assessment mission to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, tentatively during the period from 1 to 15 October 2023. During the visit, the delegation will also deploy in Addis Ababa to engage with the African Union Peace and Security Council Military Staff Committee to discuss the military approach of the African Union in the conduct of peacekeeping operations.

The provisional terms of reference are provided in the annex to the present letter. The composition of the Military Staff Committee mission will be communicated as soon as it has been finalized.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Carl **Harris**
Colonel (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Chair, Military Staff Committee



Annex to the letter dated 15 June 2023 from the Chair of the Military Staff Committee addressed to the President of the Security Council

Military Staff Committee mission to the Central African Republic and Addis Ababa

Terms of reference

I. Introduction

1. At the direction of the permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Military Staff Committee will undertake a one-week assessment mission to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), tentatively during the period from 1 to 15 October 2023 (exact dates to be confirmed).

II. Objectives of the mission

2. The primary objectives of the mission to MINUSCA are to assess:
- The capability and capacity of MINUSCA to deliver its protection of civilians mandate
 - The military challenges for MINUSCA regarding the implementation of the revised concept of operations, with a focus on the disposition and performance of deployed forces
 - Efforts to improve operational base management and the living conditions of peacekeepers
 - Endeavours by MINUSCA to improve coordination and integration between the civilian and the uniformed components
 - Endeavours by MINUSCA to improve coordination with the Government of the Central African Republic and foreign security forces to facilitate mandate implementation and to counter hostile narratives, in order to:
 - Gain an understanding of MINUSCA support to the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic
 - Determine to what degree MINUSCA has implemented the United Nations human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, and what this has meant in practice
 - Determine to what degree MINUSCA is able to support the Government's efforts to manage weapons and ammunition
 - The capability of MINUSCA to implement effective counter-improvised explosive device measures
 - The use of technology to improve the output of MINUSCA and the protection of peacekeepers
 - Management of and support for temporary operating bases by MINUSCA
 - Challenges for medical evacuation operations and improvements that can be made to increase the speed and performance of medical evacuation

3. The primary objectives of the mission to the African Union are to assess:
 - The main challenges of African Union military peacekeeping
 - How to build a stronger military partnership to enhance African Union and United Nations peacekeeping capabilities

III. Methodology and output of the visit

4. The Committee requests that copies of the mission concept, the military concept of operations and standard operating procedures and any other documents relevant to MINUSCA be made available to the Committee.
5. The Committee requests a briefing from MINUSCA via videoconference that will address the security situation and provide a finalized itinerary.
6. The Committee will conduct the mission over a period of approximately 10 days, including travel days. On its return to New York, the Committee will submit a brief report on its observations and recommendations for consideration by the Security Council.

IV. Visit programme and coordination of meetings in the mission area

7. A detailed visit programme to support the Committee's visit shall be developed jointly by MINUSCA, the United Nations Office to the African Union, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Committee. The programme will cover all in-mission meetings and briefings, as well as visits to selected operating bases. It is proposed that the visit programme should commence with meetings with the MINUSCA leadership and accommodate meetings with key stakeholders in the mission area.

V. Reporting and follow-up

8. The Committee will provide an initial briefing with MINUSCA leaders to share their observations and recommendations. The Committee will complete a report on the visit no later than 30 days after its return to New York.

VI. Logistical and administrative support

9. MINUSCA is requested to provide logistical and administrative support for the Committee's visit, including the development of a visit programme. All costs will be met by the respective offices. In line with the procedure for Security Council visits, it is expected that the MINUSCA budget will fund the travel and expenses of the Military Staff Committee liaison officer.
10. The United Nations Office to the African Union is requested to provide logistical and administrative support for the Committee's visit to Addis Ababa, including the development of a visit programme.