

**Joint Statement on Behalf of A3 (Niger, South Africa and Tunisia) and  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

Delivered by

**H.E. Abdou Abarry**

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Niger to the United Nations

**The situation in the Central African Republic  
Briefing on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization  
Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)**

Security Council Chamber

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**Declaration by A3 and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on the occasion of  
the briefing to Member States on the Central African Republic  
Thursday 20 February 2020**

**Mr. President,**

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of Niger, South Africa, Tunisia, (A3) and the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Head of Mission of the United Nations Integrated Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, for his briefing.

Our meeting today takes place only a few weeks after the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2507 (2009) on 31 January 2020, renewing the sanctions regime imposed on the Central African Republic, followed by the presentation on the same day of the report of the coordinator of the group of experts on the country, in the context of a briefing by the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2009), which I chair.

These developments have, in part, demonstrated the progress made by the Government of the Central African Republic over the past year in restoring peace and stability throughout the territory.

Thus, the situation in the Central African Republic continues to improve. That is why we warmly welcome the celebration, on 6 February 2020, of the first anniversary of the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, as well as all the progress made by the Government in the implementation of that Agreement, which has led to a decrease in violence and human rights violations. We continue to encourage the Government and the people of the Central African Republic to fully implement the Political Agreement in order to bring the country out of the cycle of conflict.

**Mr. President,**

We are convinced that dialogue among Central Africans is the key to ending the crisis, before any other support that the countries of the region and the international community can provide.

We therefore welcome the fact that the Central African authorities have taken notable initiatives to promote peace and reconciliation at both the local and national levels. The recent finalization of the processes for the establishment of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission is commendable. That mechanism, once established, will help the people of the Central African Republic to dispense justice in order to be able to maintain peace.

We take note of the return to Bangui of former Presidents François Bozize and Michel Djotodia, and we hope that their presence in the country will contribute to and give impetus to the ongoing national reconciliation process, in particular the effective implementation of the peace agreement. We commend President Touadéra for convening a meeting with those former presidents with a view to promoting peace and reconciliation.

On behalf of A3 and the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, I wish to express our support for the Government in its ongoing efforts to restore the presence and authority of the State throughout the territory. This mainly involves the effective return of national institutions throughout the territory, including the defense and security forces, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups and the consolidation of democracy.

It is in that context that we wish to stress the importance of providing the Central African defense and security forces with adequate capabilities to enable them to carry out their republican mandate. It is vital for the country to make significant progress within the framework of the criteria set by the Security Council in April 2019 with a view to the eventual complete lifting of the arms embargo imposed, as desired by the authorities.

**Mr. President,**

We commend the Government, the National Electoral Authority, MUNISCA and donors for having begun preparations for the presidential, legislative and local elections

scheduled for 2020 and 2021, in order to consolidate peace and democracy. We call on the international community to provide the necessary support to the Government to ensure the holding of peaceful and credible elections within the constitutional timeframe.

We also welcome the active and continued engagement of the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, as guarantors of the political agreement, to ensure the effective implementation of the Agreement by all parties.

We reaffirm our support for the leading role of MINUSCA in promoting peace, security and development, primarily through the implementation of the peace agreement.

The importance of this role was jointly reiterated by the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States and the United Nations in the joint communiqué issued on 6 February 2020, on the occasion of the commemoration of the first anniversary of the signing of the political agreement for peace and reconciliation. On that occasion, the three organizations reiterated the need for dialogue between all the actors concerned, stressing in particular the following points:

- The cessation of all attacks against civilians, UN personnel and humanitarian workers;
- The establishment of a judicial framework to prosecute all violations of the political agreement and human rights as well as all criminal acts.

To strengthen those positions, we call on the armed groups to exercise restraint and to use the dispute settlement mechanisms provided for in the political agreement to resolve their disagreements. We urge non-signatory armed groups to engage in all political processes, in particular with regard to the cessation of hostilities and all acts of violence and intimidation throughout the territory. At the same time, we welcome the progress made in prosecuting those who have killed civilians and peacekeepers.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the A3 and the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in line with the approach of the African Union, will continue to support the aspirations of the Government and people of the Central African Republic to achieve lasting peace, stability and sustainable development.

**I thank you.**