

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

Delivered by

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Nations

Open Briefing on the Situation in the Central African Republic

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Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the A3+1, namely South Africa, Tunisia, Niger 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, and Head of the United Nations Integrated Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, for his briefing.

Mr. President,

The Central African Republic is at a crossroads in its socio-political history, with general elections set to begin in December 2020. These elections represent a decisive moment for the Central African people in the exercise of their right to elect their representatives, and for their legitimate aspiration for a lasting normalization of the security situation, which we all hope that it will materialise in the near future.

We are convinced that holding of successful elections in the Central African Republic will have a positive impact on the internal situation in the country, in particular, and on the subregional dynamic, in general. That is why we commend the efforts made by the Central African authorities, with the assistance of the UN, the African Union, ECCAS and partners, in the progress made with regard to the restoration of State authority in some areas and the deployment of the security apparatus despite all the difficulties on the ground.

We recognize the significant efforts of the National Electoral Authority (ANE), to register a large number of voters, despite all the technical and logistical obstacles and the inaccessibility of certain areas due to insecurity.

The A3+1 welcome the initiatives undertaken by MINUSCA, the UNDP and UN Women that contributed to the enrollment of women on the electoral lists and to encourage their full participation in the process both as voters and candidates. These efforts will contribute in the fulfillment of the constitutionally mandated 30 per cent minimum of female candidates in elective positions.

Given these positive developments, it is vital for all political actors and armed groups to avoid any action that could jeopardize the ongoing electoral process and to seize the opportunity of utilizing the consultative framework as a platform to address any difficulties through dialogue and consensus.

We welcome the UNDP's basket fund for electoral assistance; however, we are concerned that this facility remains underfinanced. We encourage all partners of the Central African Republic and the international community to accompany the electoral process in the Central African Republic in order to avoid any shortcomings that could cause disruption to the Electoral process, including the constitutional timelines.

Mr. President,

We note, with regret, that the security situation remains precarious in the northeast part of the country. Attacks against civilians and peacekeepers national security forces, MINUSCA peacekeepers, and humanitarian workers, forced displacement of civilians and clashes between armed groups persist.

We are convinced, as we have always expressed in our statements, that inclusive dialogue among Central Africans, first and foremost, is the key to ending the crisis.

In that regard, we welcome the fact that the Central African authorities have taken noteworthy initiatives to promote peace and reconciliation at the local level in collaboration with MINUSCA.

In this regard, we would like to express our support for the Government in its efforts to restore the presence and authority of the State throughout the territory, with the recruitment and deployment of the defense and security forces, strengthening of territorial administration and the judicial institutions.

We also call for the acceleration of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and Security Sector Reform processes. We call upon all signatory armed groups to fulfill their commitments in regards to DDRR and to join the ongoing democratic process. Indeed, that process offers the possibility of expanding the political space in the Central African Republic, which is why we call on them to be more open to mediation and reconciliation and commend MINUSCA for all its efforts in that regard. We condemn the disinformation campaigns targeted at MINUSCA, which call into question the mission's electoral assistance and good offices mandate. In this regard we emphasize the important role of the mission in assisting the CAR authorities to promote a positive political transformation in the country.

We, therefore, welcome the recent deployment of the Joint Special Mixed Security Units in Paoua, and call for their full operationalization. We also welcome the authorization by the AU Peace and Security Council of the deployment of the African Union Military Observers Mission to Central African Republic in July 2020. These initiatives will strengthen the security capacity in the country.

We reiterate our call on the armed groups that are not signatories to the Peace Agreement to engage in all political processes, in particular the cessation of acts against civilians and all acts of violence and intimidation throughout the territory.

The A3+1 commend the efforts of the Central African Government to professionalize the police force, judicial and penitentiary institutions, as well as all the progress made in the establishment of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission.

With regard to the humanitarian situation, we commend all humanitarian actors for their efforts, particularly toward women and children, to reduce the extent and depth of inequalities, exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis, and to bring comfort to this vulnerable groups. To do so, the

donor community and the entire international community must do more and better in closing the \$272.4 billion in humanitarian response plan deficit.

Mr. President,

The A3+1, commend the efforts deployed by the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, in their capacity as guarantors of the Political Agreement, in the search for a solution to the crisis in the Central African Republic and continue to encourage the Government and people of the Central African Republic to fully implement the Political Agreement in order to bring the country out of the cycle of conflict. This political agreement is the only path to lasting peace and security in the country.

We reaffirm our support for the leading role played by MINUSCA in promoting peace, security, and development, primarily through the implementation of the peace agreement, and support the renewal of its mandate for another year.

We welcome the efforts made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of MINUSCA, for the good offices and support for the reconciliation process in the Central African Republic, and all his actions for the re-establishment of a peaceful and stable regional dynamic.

In conclusion, the A3+1 thank the Secretary General, Antonio Guterres for the organization, on 1 October 2020, in collaboration with the African Union and ECCAS, of a High-Level Conference on the Central African Republic. We support the joint appeal to the actors for a political dialogue aimed at peaceful and credible elections within the constitutional timeframe, and remain mobilized to continue to support the aspirations of the government and people of the Central African Republic to achieve lasting peace, stability and sustainable development in the country. We underscore the necessity for all CAR partners to continue to maintain solidarity with the people of the CAR and provide the necessary political, financial and other support in an effort to ensure that there is no reversal of gains made thus far.

I thank you.