

**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 VTC on the Situation in the Central African Republic**

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Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3+1 members of the Council, namely Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

At the outset, let me thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, for his comprehensive briefing and reiterate our strong support for his efforts and for MINUSCA's fundamental role in assisting the Central African Republic authorities and people in their quest to achieve lasting peace and stability.

We reiterate our strongest condemnation of the attacks perpetrated by the CPC armed elements since the beginning of its offensive last December 2020 during which several MINUSCA peacekeepers were killed and several others were injured.

We renew our deepest condolences and sympathy to the families of the deceased peacekeepers as well as to Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon, Morocco, Rwanda, and MINUSCA.

We call on national authorities of the CAR to swiftly investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of these heinous acts. Such attacks against peacekeepers may constitute war crimes and should not go unpunished.

We are deeply perturbed by the volatile security situation in the CAR and the continued destabilization efforts by these armed groups and spoilers throughout the country. We are equally disturbed by their recourse to violence to disrupt the electoral process and undermine the political and democratic transition in the CAR.

Moreover, these growing rebel attacks are significantly exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, with nearly 60,000 people already fleeing violence. Likewise, the escalation of violence has disrupted aid delivery to nearly 2.8 million people accounting for 57 per cent of the CAR population in need of essential humanitarian assistance. The blockage of the main route from Cameroon has affected supply of commodities to Bangui and other areas further compounding the situation.

We express our deep concern about the illicit trafficking, trade, exploitation and smuggling of natural resources, illegal taxation and right-of-way taxes which continue to fund and supply armed groups and thus further threatening the peace and stability in the CAR.

While reiterating our full support for MINUSCA and our deep appreciation to its troop- and police-contributing countries, the A3+1 also underscores the crucial importance of strengthening MINUSCA by providing it with the necessary permanent capacities to fulfil its mandate, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2552 (2020). We further express our full support to efforts geared towards strengthening the defense and internal security forces of the CAR to enable them administer control over their territory.

It is important that the Security Council sends a strong message calling on these armed groups to cease their attacks and all acts of violence against civilians as well as all intimidation throughout the country.

Our meeting takes place two days after the official validation of the election results by the Constitutional Court in Central Africa. While commending the authorities of CAR for holding these elections within the constitutional timeline despite the destabilizing actions of the armed groups and thanking MINUSCA and the regional partners for their assistance in this regard, we call on political actors in the Central African Republic to respect the results of these elections, and to settle any post-electoral disputes peacefully in accordance with the country's laws and through its relevant institutions. At this juncture, it is crucial to place the supreme interest of their country and people before any political differences.

The A3+1 is firmly convinced that the holding of these elections, the first ones after the signing of the 2019 Peace agreement, is an important step towards democratic transition and the stabilization process in the CAR.

In this regard, we reiterate our strong conviction that elections remain the only legitimate means of gaining power and we take this occasion to salute the citizens of CAR who demonstrated a real determination to exercise their right to vote, despite the many obstacles.

While reaffirming our continued solidarity and full support to the Central African people in their efforts and legitimate aspirations to lasting peace, stability, and development, we reiterate our strong belief that achieving these objectives is only possible through re-launching the peace process. There is no alternative.

In this regard, we remind all stakeholders of their commitments under the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and urge the signatory parties to fully honor their pledges, in particular the cessation of hostilities.

We call on the Government of the Central African Republic and all political actors to favor an inclusive, open, constructive, and credible political dialogue to promote national stability.

Free and fair elections are undoubtedly an important step towards peace and democracy, but they do not single-handedly hold the key to security and stability in the CAR.

The road to sustainable peace and security is still long.

It requires initiating a genuine and deep reconciliation process to rebuild trust among communities, building strong State institutions able to exercise control over its territories and provide services to its populations,

It requires also addressing the root causes of violence and instability,

It needs as well, a strong commitment from the international community to accompany the CAR in these important endeavors.

In this regard, we underscore the importance of standing with the CAR and its people by providing the necessary political and financial support to help this country get out from the spiral of violence and ensure that there is no reversal of gains made.

To conclude, the A3+1 commends the efforts deployed by the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, in their capacity as guarantors of the Peace Agreement, in the search for a solution to the crisis in the Central African Republic. We also welcome the recent appointment, by ECCAS, of a mediator to the crisis. It is our hope that these regional and sub-regional efforts would help advance the peace process in the country.

We also reaffirm our support for the leading role played by MINUSCA in promoting peace and security primarily through the implementation of the Peace Agreement and commend the unwavering commitment and tireless 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 geared towards the re-establishment of a peaceful and stable regional dynamic.

I thank you.