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Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2709 (2023), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) until 15 November 2024 and requested the Secretary-General to report on its implementation every four months. The present report provides an update on major developments in the Central African Republic since the previous report of 15 February 2024 (S/2024/170).

II. Political situation

2. The Government of the Central African Republic prioritized the implementation of key provisions of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, including advancing preparations for the forthcoming local elections, while pursing efforts to promote and enhance the effective decentralization of the peace process. The Government also intensified diplomatic initiatives with bilateral partners and regional organizations in support of development efforts against the background of a strained socioeconomic environment. Meanwhile, judicial cases against opposition political figures fuelled persistent tensions.

Political developments

3. The Government continued to implement institutional changes to align with the Constitution of 2023. On 27 February, the President, Faustin Archange Touadéra, appointed the 11 members of the Constitutional Council, including three women, which replaced the Constitutional Court. The former President of the Constitutional Court, Jean-Pierre Waboe, was appointed President of the Constitutional Council. The members were sworn in on 22 March.

4. On 3 March, the coordinator of the opposition platform Bloc républicain pour la défense de la Constitution, Crépin Mboli-Goumba, was arrested and detained until 6 March. The Bangui public prosecutor declared that Mr. Mboli-Goumba had been arrested for defamation and contempt of court, as filed by four magistrates whom Mr. Mboli-Goumba had accused of corruption during a press conference on 21 February. The bar association launched a strike to protest the arrest on 5 March,





suspending barristers' participation in all judicial proceedings, including those of the Special Criminal Court.

5. On 27 March, Mr. Mboli-Goumba was convicted and received a one-year suspended prison sentence. He was also ordered to pay the equivalent of \$132,000 in damages to the plaintiffs. The political opposition and civil society condemned the judgment, expressing concerns about the independence of the judicial system and perceived violations of due process. Following the verdict, the bar association resumed its activities.

6. The parliamentarian Dominique Yandocka, Secretary-General of the opposition party Initiative pour une transformation par l'action, has remained in detention since December 2023. Opposition leaders, including Joseph Bendouga, Anicet Georges Dologuélé and Martin Ziguélé, repeatedly called for his immediate release due to his health condition, while advocating for prisoners' rights and investigations into alleged human rights violations. On 24 April, members of parliament presented a petition to the Prime Minister, Félix Moloua, demanding Mr. Yandocka's immediate release for health reasons until the proceedings brought against him by the public prosecutor are remedied in accordance with the law.

7. The Government concluded various agreements and cooperation frameworks during a series of high-level bilateral meetings. It signed a joint statement on promoting the Global Development Initiative of China, developed the scope of its partnership framework with the European Union, endorsed a road map to establish a framework for constructive partnership with France and signed four bilateral agreements with Serbia, including in the areas of national defence and foreign investment.

8. On 12 April, the new Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of the African Union Mission for Central and Eastern Africa, António Egídio de Sousa Santos, presented his letters of credentials to Mr. Touadéra. The Special Representative reaffirmed the support of the African Union for the Government and people of the Central African Republic as co-guarantor of the Political Agreement.

Peace process

9. Central African Republic authorities moved forward with renewed commitment in the implementation of the Political Agreement and the joint road map for peace of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. On 6 February, Mr. Touadéra chaired a special session of the Executive Monitoring Committee of the Political Agreement during which he thanked guarantors and facilitators for supporting the implementation of the Agreement and urged continued collaboration to fulfil remaining commitments for the consolidation of peace, security and national unity in the Central African Republic. The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the Economic Community of Central African States commended the selfdissolution of several signatory armed groups and called on remaining active armed groups to join or return to the peace process.

10. There were major strides in the implementation of the Political Agreement through government-led initiatives, with MINUSCA support. These contributed to advancing some of its fundamental pillars, which are critical for enhancing the protection of civilians, fostering the extension of State authority and addressing some root causes of recurring conflicts in the Central African Republic, while providing an impetus for social reconciliation and development. On 17 April, in the presence of Mr. Moloua, the National Border Management Commission officially launched its activities and presented a border management policy along with a 10-year action plan,

and shared its ambition to develop and establish soon a pilot multi-service border post, possibly along the border with Chad.

11. On 13 May, Mr. Touadéra opened a high-level national conference on peaceful and prosperous transhumance chaired by Mr. Moloua and facilitated by MINUSCA, which gathered local authorities and civil society leaders, as well as international and national partners. The conference devised strategies for reducing seasonal transhumance-related violence, while leveraging its potential economic benefits for peaceful coexistence, stabilization and development. It agreed on a series of priority actions ranging from updating the legal and institutional framework on transhumance, developing agropastoral infrastructure and strengthening the security of transhumance corridors to supporting conflict prevention mechanisms and promoting cross-border dialogue.

12. The Government continued to advance the decentralized implementation of the peace process with MINUSCA support. On 4 April, the Office of the Prime Minister organized a videoconference to guide government officials and prefects in the finalization of decentralized dashboards and the identification of activities to be carried out at the local level to implement the Political Agreement and the joint road map, in alignment with the Government's dashboard approved at the national level.

13. Prefectural implementation mechanisms of the Political Agreement maintained their regular meetings, activities and field missions to violence-ridden areas, with MINUSCA support, enhancing local ownership, fostering political dialogue, sustaining mediation efforts and encouraging armed combatants to demobilize and disarm. Local authorities undertook field missions in Mambéré-Kadeï Prefecture to mediate intercommunal conflicts stemming from transhumance activities, successfully dispelling rumours of Fulani reprisals against farmers and creating conditions for the return of internally displaced persons.

14. On 12 March, the Government launched the second phase of its communication plan on the peace process, with MINUSCA support. Since April, the Office of the Prime Minister has trained 172 civil servants (21 per cent women) serving in seven prefectures on the peace process, its mechanisms and achievements. The Government also organized training for 190 community influencers to raise awareness of the peace process; the influencers have so far organized 57 awareness-raising sessions reaching over 17,100 people (around 20 per cent women) in 19 prefectures.

15. The Government, with MINUSCA support, continued to implement the national disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme. These efforts targeted individuals in armed groups that had expressed their willingness to join the programme further to the Government's outreach in Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Lobaye and Ouham Prefectures from January to May 2024. A total of 157 dissident combatants (including 18 women) from the anti-balaka movement, the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique, the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique, Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation and the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique, as well as combatants from the dissolved group Unité des forces républicaines, were disarmed and demobilized.

16. To complement the national programme, MINUSCA continued to implement community violence reduction projects. Beneficiaries benefited from vocational training, start-up support for income-generating activities, cash-for-work activities to rehabilitate community infrastructure and awareness-raising to promote social cohesion.

17. On 13 April, in N'Djamena, Chadian authorities apprehended the former Coalition des patriotes pour le changement spokesperson Abakar Sabone, as well as its former leader, Mahamat Al-Khatim, who had announced the withdrawal of the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique from the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement on 3 November 2023. As at 1 June, they were still in detention. On 30 April, the Special Criminal Court announced the issuance of an international arrest warrant on 27 February against the former President, François Bozizé Yangouvonda, for various crimes against humanity allegedly committed between February 2009 and March 2013 by members of his presidential guard and other internal security forces.

18. On 23 May, Mr. Touadéra attended the swearing-in ceremony in N'Djamena of the newly elected President of Chad, Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno.

Electoral process

19. The Government continued efforts to prepare for the local elections scheduled for October 2024. On 28 February, Mr. Moloua formally requested the United Nations to extend its electoral assistance to the Central African Republic for the presidential and legislative elections to be held in 2025 and 2026 and to elevate electoral assistance as a priority mandated task of MINUSCA, while calling for the Mission's increased role in resource mobilization and budgetary support, as well as continuous technical, operational, logistical and security support, including for the local elections in 2024 and 2025.

20. On 1 March, the Constitutional Council issued a decision regarding aspects of the proposed new electoral code that required revision to align it with the Constitution of 2023. Specifically, the Council annulled provisions authorizing the National Electoral Authority to invalidate candidacies and annulled the requirement for government members to resign at least three months before an election in order to be eligible as candidates. On 28 May, the National Assembly adopted the revised electoral code as well as the organic law on the composition, organization and operation of the National Electoral Authority.

21. On 11 April, the elections security working group, composed of the national defence and security forces and MINUSCA, approved a joint security assessment to guide deployment plans during the electoral process.

22. On 28 May, the President of the National Electoral Authority and the Minister of Finance and Budget presented a revised budget for the local elections to the strategic committee for elections amounting to \$14,760,918. Pledges for the electoral process amount to \$6.8 million, including \$4.5 million from the Government, of which it disbursed \$240,000 in November 2022 and on 28 May 2024 reaffirmed a pledge of \$3.5 million, and \$2.3 million from donors, with \$100,000 disbursed in 2022. On 16 May, the Government, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a funding agreement for the disbursement of the European Union contribution.

III. Security situation, protection of civilians and extension of State authority

23. The security situation remained volatile, especially along the borders, subject to periodic armed clashes. Armed groups continued to seek control over mining resources and transhumance corridors, attacking civilians as well as national defence and security force positions. Incidents related to transhumance increased in the Nana-Grébizi, Ombella-Mpoko and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures (see annex I, figure II). In response, the Government, with MINUSCA support, continued to implement a multidimensional approach combining, for instance, an increased force presence with tailored peace initiatives and community violence reduction programmes.

24. The number of violations of the Political Agreement remained largely unchanged during the reporting period (see annex I, figure I), with a concerning security situation in the north-east and north-west amid further deterioration in the south-east. MINUSCA, in coordination with national defence forces, conducted robust patrols and reinforced its presence in hotspots, including in Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Ombella-Mpoko and Vakaga Prefectures, to protect civilians and prevent the escalation of violence while advancing local mediation and reconciliation efforts.

25. In the west, civilian casualties increased owing to attacks and violent extorsion practices by armed groups pursuing predatory activities related to mining and transhumance. Military operations by national defence forces and other security personnel in mining areas intensified during the reporting period. On 11 February, in Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation attacked the Yolembé mining site and abducted 18 civilians, who were later released. Local youths retaliated against the Fulani community for alleged links with the armed group, burning nine houses. On 27 February, national defence forces and other security personnel conducted an operation targeting anti-balaka leaders at the Willy mining site, located 35 km south-west of Bossangoa; according to local sources, four civilians were killed and several others wounded.

26. On 2 April, unidentified armed combatants attacked Limé in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, killing 16 civilians as a result of a land conflict involving local farmers and cattle owners in the context of transhumance. MINUSCA dispatched a quick-reaction force, secured the incident area to protect civilians and sent an investigation team. On 3 April and from 12 to 14 April, with MINUSCA support, the prefectural monitoring mechanism conducted field missions to the area to defuse tensions. The Government and the opposition Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricain issued statements accusing Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation of perpetrating the attack, which the armed group denied in a communiqué dated 5 April.

27. An upsurge in violence was observed in the Plateaux region. Tensions heightened around Bossembele, Damara and Yaloké in Ombella-Mpoko Prefecture and Gazi-Béa in Lobaye Prefecture owing to the expanded presence and activities of combatants affiliated with Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation. On 4 March, on the Yaloké-Gaga axis, national defence forces exchanged fire with the armed group, preventing the kidnapping of civilians. Following the incident, Yaloké residents vandalized a mosque as well as buildings owned by members of the Muslim community. MINUSCA established a temporary operating base in Yaloké to protect civilians and prevent an escalation of violence.

28. A government delegation visited the area on 7 March and during a subsequent emergency security meeting, on 9 March, it was decided to create an expanded security committee for the remainder of the transhumance season in the Plateaux region, comprising representatives from Christian and Muslim communities, national defence and security forces, youth associations, local authorities and MINUSCA. The integrated committee is monitoring transhumance-related developments in the areas of Boali, Bossangoa, Bossembele, Lambi and Yaloké.

29. In the centre of the country, armed combatants mainly affiliated with the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique and anti-balaka armed groups engaged in ambushes, extortion, illegal taxation and kidnapping of civilians, with a concentration of incidents in Ouham-Fafa Prefecture.

30. On 29 March, suspected Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique and Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique combatants attacked the market in Ouogo, 63 km north-west of Batangafo, wounding six civilians. Later, explosive ordnance left behind by the armed elements was accidentally detonated by a civilian, killing two people and wounding six others.

31. MINUSCA is maintaining temporary operational bases in Boyo, Grimari, Kouango, Mbrès, Tagbara and Zangba to prevent violence and increased its long-range patrols in Alindao and Bambari to protect civilians and the activities of humanitarian actors, further reducing the number of attacks recorded, in particular in the Ouaka Prefecture.

32. National defence forces and other security personnel conducted multiple military operations in Basse-Kotto and Kémo Prefectures to deter activities of anti-balaka and Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique armed combatants and limit their movements across the prefectures. Armed combatants usually vacate areas targeted by these operations and return following their completion. On 3 May, in Kouango, the anti-balaka leader Sionimene and 29 of his combatants based in Ndjoukou sub-prefecture reportedly agreed to voluntarily disarm and surrender to other security personnel in the presence of national defence forces and local authorities.

33. The security situation deteriorated in some areas in the east, prompting a tailored coordinated response from the Government and MINUSCA. In the north-east, incursions by armed actors from the Sudan raised protection concerns, triggering MINUSCA and Central African Republic authorities to implement an integrated response to contain the situation in Vakaga Prefecture. Leveraging the MINUSCA temporary base established on 21 January in Am Dafok, the Mission facilitated the deployment of national defence forces and logistical support in this locality. On 7 March, alleged Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique combatants attacked a national defence force position in Sikikédé, in the west of the prefecture, killing five soldiers. The national defence forces and other security personnel conducted an immediate counteroffensive, killing over 40 armed combatants according to the Government. MINUSCA continues to launch regular long-range patrols from its bases in Am Dafok, Birao and Ouanda Djallé to deter armed elements' movements in the prefecture and support the control of border areas.

34. The security situation in Haute-Kotto Prefecture, in particular the Ouanda Djallé/Ouadda/Sam Ouandja triangle, remains precarious owing to the persistent presence of armed individuals along axes and the border area and around mining sites. On 27, 28 and 31 March and 4 May, a total of 23 former Lord's Resistance Army hostages and combatants arrived in Sam Ouandja, reportedly fleeing a violent internal conflict at their camp in "Yemen", Haute-Kotto Prefecture, close to the border with the Sudan. National defence forces together with other security personnel transported 11 of them to Bangui on 1 April and subsequently handed them over to an international non-governmental organization (NGO) on 29 April for repatriation to their countries of origin.

35. In the south-east, clashes escalated at the end of February between Azande Ani Kpi Gbe and the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique with religious and ethnic overtones, despite the commitment expressed by both armed entities to cease destabilizing activities and commit to the free movement of people and goods in line with local peace agreements signed on 20 November 2023 by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe and on 10 February by local representatives of the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique. The armed combatants sought to take control of strategic locations and expand the illegal collection of taxes, including on the axis leading to the border with South Sudan. Azande Ani Kpi Gbe received reinforcement from the Azande militia based in South Sudan, whose combatants mostly returned to South Sudan in mid-April.

36. On 19 February, Azande Ani Kpi Gbe ambushed a civilian truck in Kere, killing 4 of the 20 passengers and kidnapping one woman. The incident was followed by clashes between the two armed groups in Kitessa, Maboussou and Manza on 22 and 23 February, killing 10 persons and triggering displacement towards Zemio. At the end of February, MINUSCA immediately reinforced its presence in the prefecture, strengthening and deploying quick-reaction forces in Obo and Zemio. On 5 March, a delegation led by the Minister of Defence arrived in Obo to assess the security situation and held a joint meeting with local authorities and representatives of Azande Ani Kpi Gbe to defuse tensions. In a separate development, other security personnel and national defence forces offered military training to two groups of 100 Azande Ani Kpi Gbe combatants between 18 March and 1 May and between 5 and 29 May for reported integration within the national defence forces.

37. MINUSCA strengthened its presence to stabilize the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, establishing a temporary operating base in Bambouti on 7 May and mobilizing special forces, extensive resources and air assets.

38. The Mission continued to support the national disarmament programme by promoting social cohesion initiatives through cash-for-work projects targeting local communities as well as Azande Ani Kpi Gbe members who have opted to renounce violence, including a community violence reduction programme in Obo for a total of 300 beneficiaries.

39. In Mbomou Prefecture, clashes between national defence forces supported by other security personnel and armed groups were concentrated in particular around the Bakouma and Nzako mining areas and resulted in the dispersal of armed individuals across the prefecture. On 14 April, MINUSCA found nine bodies around Kologbota, located 29 km south of Bakouma, and provided an escort for 36 surviving villagers to the village of Bago. MINUSCA confirmed 11 deaths, including those of two health workers, and deployed special forces in Bakouma to curtail violence in the area.

40. In Bangui, the security situation remained relatively calm; the crime rate increased by 5 per cent compared with the previous period. On 20 and 29 April and 4 May, internal security forces together with other security personnel conducted mass arrests for identity checks, as well as targeted arrests of former self-defence group members in the fifth district of the capital.

41. MINUSCA continued to implement initiatives to strengthen community mechanisms to protect civilians and enhance early warning and rapid response systems in priority areas in Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Mbomou, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, Ouham and Vakaga Prefectures. MINUSCA conducted 21 initiatives aimed at mitigating transhumance-related violence in several hotspots, including a cross-border meeting in Bemal bringing together local authorities from the border prefecture of Lim-Pendé in the Central African Republic and transhumant actors from Logone Oriental in Chad. Local authorities, Chadian livestock owners and community representatives from both countries adopted recommendations for peaceful transhumance and for enhanced protection of women against gender-based violence for the next transhumance season; these recommendations will be presented to Central African Republic and Chadian authorities. A committee of livestock owners, community members and MINUSCA will oversee implementation.

42. On 8 March, Mr. Moloua issued a decree creating a ministerial-level steering committee to monitor the implementation of the 10-year action plan for the national border management policy. On 18 March, the Minister of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Development issued a decree creating decentralized border management commissions to be chaired by the governors of the border regions.

43. Protection challenges related to explosive ordnance persisted. Between 2 February and 1 June, the number of explosive ordnance incidents and casualties decreased, however, compared with the previous reporting period. Affected areas included Bangui, Lim-Pendé, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka and Ouham-Fafa Prefectures.

44. Between January and April, national authorities, MINUSCA, the United Nations country team and NGOs implemented an integrated pilot project to mitigate explosive ordnance threats in Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures (see annex I, figure III). Mitigation activities were conducted in a collaborative manner, including explosive hazard risk awareness sessions for local communities as well as for the national defence and security forces in Bocaranga and Paoua. A total of 12 specialists of the national defence forces completed their explosive ordnance disposal training in March in Bangui, with MINUSCA support.

45. In February, the National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and MINUSCA conducted a field assessment in Berberati, as part of the Commission's operationalization and decentralization efforts. On 14 March, Mr. Touadéra endorsed the Commission's national action plan for 2024–2028 to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which will form the basis of the Government's efforts to reduce the illicit circulation of arms. The national defence forces, with MINUSCA support, safely destroyed more than 6,650 pieces of obsolete and collected ammunition in Bangui, Boali and Paoua.

46. Internal oversight bodies within national security institutions continued to strengthen their institutional and operational capacities. The Inspectorate General of the Armed Forces conducted inspection missions in Bangassou and Bria, with MINUSCA support, to assess the working and living conditions of the armed forces, evaluate needs and raise awareness among unit commanders of internal disciplinary regulations. On 14 May, MINUSCA handed over the Inspectorate General premises that the Mission had rehabilitated to the national authorities. To help to enforce military justice, the Government Commissioner of the Bangui military jurisdiction, with MINUSCA support, trained the high military hierarchy and the judicial police officers on the Code of Military Justice during two capacity-building workshops. On 14 and 18 March, the Inspectorate General of National Police and Gendarmerie, with MINUSCA and UNDP support, organized two workshops to review the Code of Ethics and Deontology and finalize the general discipline rules of the national police.

47. In March, the ministry in charge of public services, with MINUSCA support, facilitated a seminar mapping the presence of civil servants across the country, including to ensure their sustained deployment in the field. The Government continued to deploy civil servants to the regions, with MINUSCA support (see annex I, figure IV). On 30 May, Mr. Touadéra appointed seven regional governors (1 woman), 13 prefects (2 women) and 85 sub-prefects (10 women). As at 1 June, 147 prefectural and sub-prefectural authorities out of 174 (84 per cent) were present at their posts. Following ongoing stabilization efforts in the Ouadda Djallé sub-prefecture, an additional 13 civil servants, including six teachers, were deployed, with MINUSCA and UNDP support.

IV. Human rights and the rule of law

Human rights

48. Human rights violations and abuses decreased by 16 per cent during the reporting period, while the number of victims increased by 3 per cent. Recurrent clashes between national defence forces, supported by other security personnel, and armed groups for control over mineral-rich areas, in particular in Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham and Ouham-Fafa Prefectures, contributed to the continued precarious human rights situation, with increased violence perpetrated against the civilian population by armed groups. Attacks by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe as well as members of the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement, especially Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation and the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique, in Haute-Kotto, Haut-

Mbomou, Nana-Mambéré and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, resulted in killings, injuries, abductions, ill-treatment of civilians and looting (see annex I, figure VI). The reported training and integration of armed combatants of Azande Ani Kpi Gbe into the national defence forces raised accountability concerns given the former's alleged involvement in human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.

49. Conflict-related sexual violence persisted throughout the country but was most prevalent in Mbomou and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, reportedly perpetrated primarily by the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement, including Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation, and the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (see annex I, figure VII). National defence forces also reportedly perpetrated conflict-related sexual violence.

50. In March and April, MINUSCA organized awareness-raising sessions on the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence for 83 community members, local leaders and members of civil society organizations, including 32 women, in Paoua, Lim-Pendé Prefecture, and Sam Ouandja, Haute-Kotto Prefecture.

51. Grave violations against children, including killing, rape and maiming (see annex I, figure VIII), increased by 6 per cent compared with the previous reporting period, with Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Fafa Prefectures being the most affected. Armed groups committed most of the reported grave violations against children (49 per cent). On 4 and 5 June, the Government, with support from MINUSCA and the United Nations Children's Fund, organized a workshop to validate the handover protocol for the transfer and protection of children associated with armed groups. The protocol will enable children apprehended by security forces to be handed over directly to government child protection services and partners.

52. On 6 May, Mr. Touadéra signed a decree creating a steering committee led by the Ministry of Justice to oversee the implementation of the national human rights policy adopted in 2023. The Government, with MINUSCA support, started thematic workshops to raise awareness of the content of the policy and disseminate it to national defence forces, authorities, partners and civil society. On 21 and 22 May, the Government organized an awareness-raising workshop for community leaders from Bangui on the human rights policy and the action plan for its implementation in the 2023–2027 period.

53. The Ministry of Justice, the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the network of parliamentarians on human rights, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and MINUSCA collaborated to build capacity and strengthen partnerships between parliamentarians. This included training from March to May for more than 200 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on their role in the protection and promotion of human rights.

54. Following the dissolution of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission on 7 May, Mr. Touadéra appointed a selection committee consisting of representatives of the National Assembly, the Government, civil society, the African Union and the United Nations to designate new commissioners. MINUSCA continued to implement the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. The Mission trained 157 members of internal security forces and 217 members of national defence forces, including 45 women, on their roles and responsibilities in enhancing respect for human rights.

Rule of law

55. As at 1 June, 18 of the 25 courts outside Bangui were operational (see annex I, figure IX). From February to March, the Obo Court of First Instance was operational

for the first time since the electoral violence of 2020 and 2021, with the deployment of the judicial personnel.

56. On 16 April, the Trial Chamber of the Special Criminal Court resumed the trial hearings in the Ndélé 1 case, which had been suspended in February.

57. On 13 May, the Bouar Court of Appeal held its inaugural criminal session of the year following multiple postponements since January. The delays were attributed to organizational constraints, a boycott by court-appointed lawyers advocating for higher fees and the month-long strike of the bar association related to the Mboli-Goumba case in March.

58. Following the issuance of a decree on 27 February by the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform, 295 civilian prison officers selected, vetted and trained with MINUSCA support were formally integrated into the civil service (see annex I, figure IV). The officers were officially sworn in on 17 May. In April and May, MINUSCA provided refresher training to the officers prior to deployment to their duty stations.

59. The penitentiary system continued to suffer from overcrowding and food shortages, resulting in the death of five prisoners since 2 February. During the reporting period, 20 prisoners escaped from Bambari, Bangassou, Bossembele, Bouar, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Ngaragba, Nola and Paoua prisons.

V. Socioeconomic and humanitarian situation

60. The Central African Republic continued to face challenges with regard to its economic situation. These are related to the anticipated effects of implemented macroeconomic and structural reforms not yet materializing, challenges controlling the fuel supply chain and uncertainties regarding the resumption of aid from some donors.

61. The International Monetary Fund announced on 20 April that the Central African Republic was continuing to make progress in fiscal consolidation, as demonstrated by an increase in government tax revenue amounting to 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023 to 8.8 per cent of GDP. This compares with an average government revenue rate of 16.9 per cent of GDP in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community. Economic growth improved slightly but remained sluggish, with GDP registering a mere 0.7 per cent increase in 2023. To address economic and social challenges, the Government adopted a series of measures under the International Monetary Fund extended credit facility programme, including reforms in the fuel market aimed at addressing supply constraints, increasing tax revenues and easing pressure on consumers.

62. During the reporting period, the fluvial transportation of goods and people was disrupted, with reported implications for the price of goods, after a passenger ferry capsized on 19 April along the Ubangi River, near the sixth district of Bangui, resulting in at least 70 fatalities. After the incident, the Government ordered a one-month suspension of all passenger ferries nationwide and on 10 May the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation ordered a technical inspection of ferries to ensure compliance with regulations. On 22 May, the incremental resumption of the activities of vetted ferries was reported on national media.

63. On 30 April, the Government completed the first draft of its national development plan for 2024–2028, the priorities of which are largely mirrored in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which guides the programme priorities of the United Nations country team. The national validation

process is ongoing. The plan includes five strategic priorities: consolidating security, governance and the rule of law; strengthening human capital and social development; accelerating the chain of production in view of strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; developing resilient and durable infrastructure; and promoting environmental sustainability and resilience against climate crises and the effects of climate change.

64. Humanitarian needs in the Central African Republic remain critical. Delivery of humanitarian assistance was hampered during the reporting period by persistent access challenges, with insecurity as well as poor and limited infrastructure being major obstacles. The needs of 2.8 million people, or 46 per cent of the population, are so severe that humanitarian actors cannot meet them alone. Complementary support from development actors is needed to help to strengthen community resilience and break the cycle of dependency. Notwithstanding, during its visit to the Central African Republic from 14 to 19 April, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs donor support group noted the progressive reduction in the proportion of people in need over the past five years.

65. As at 30 April, the number of internally displaced persons stood at 522,231 (see annex I, figure XI). So far in 2024, nearly 25,000 internally displaced persons have returned to their homes owing to positive perceptions about improvements in security and stability in certain areas and the protection and reintegration environment in localities of origin, in particular in some southern and western prefectures. As at 31 May, the number of people from the Central African Republic taking refuge in neighbouring countries stood at 664,225. As at 30 April, 69,275 refugees and asylum-seekers were in the Central African Republic.

66. From February to May, 7,400 people were affected by heavy rain and floods. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has been working with partners to plan for the upcoming rainy season.

67. On 22 March, the Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of meningococcal disease in Batangafo-Kabo in Ouham-Fafa Prefecture. According to the World Health Organization, the disease is under control, with the number of cases decreasing. As at 31 May, 64 cases and 10 deaths had been recorded, representing a case fatality rate of 16 per cent.

68. The 2024 humanitarian response plan for the Central African Republic targets 1.9 million vulnerable people, close to one third of the total population of the country, with funding requirements of \$367.7 million. As at 31 May, the plan was financed at 28 per cent, leaving a funding gap of \$264.6 million (see annex I, figure X).

VI. United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Performance optimization

69. MINUSCA continued to implement its multi-year political strategy and mission plan to strengthen mission-wide integration and coordination for the effective delivery of its mandate. In accordance with its political strategy, over the past two years MINUSCA focused on establishing productive cooperation with the Government, improving and consolidating the security situation, revitalizing the Political Agreement and supporting the extension of State authority in areas where the State has been absent for decades. In future, MINUSCA intends to increasingly prioritize the translation of security gains into stabilization dividends for the population, including through the further mobilization of bilateral and multilateral partners, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and NGOs. 70. MINUSCA advanced the implementation of its peacekeeping intelligence and early warning action plan and achieved improvements to inform leadership decisionmaking, including through the activation of an integrated coordination mechanism, the regular analysis of hotspots and a focus on restoring access to meet mandated objectives, in particular the protection of civilians and extension of State authority. MINUSCA also engaged in inter-mission cooperation, notably with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, with a view to enhancing understanding of security challenges along the border between the countries. Thematic analytical exchanges, including with United Nations country team and humanitarian actors, contributed, inter alia, to the decision to establish an integrated community alert network for explosive ordnance threats in the west.

71. MINUSCA trained 267 uniformed personnel, including 30 women, in explosive ordnance threat mitigation and delivered explosive risk awareness sessions to 111 United Nations and humanitarian personnel, including 34 women.

72. MINUSCA continues to be the subject of targeted disinformation, including false accusations of partiality against some of its contingents. It responded with press statements, social media posts, enhanced monitoring of misinformation on social media and collaboration with the High Communication Council to counter the dissemination of false information.

73. MINUSCA continued to implement recommendations of the comprehensive logistics transportation assessment to address persistent logistical and access challenges that hamper the conduct of operations and affect the safety of peacekeepers. MINUSCA repaired roads and bridges along the Bangassou-Obo and Bossembele-Bossangoa axes to enhance mobility and access to remote areas in order to protect civilians. The Misson also repaired and extended air strips in Paoua and Sam Ouandja and maintained the Bossangoa and Kaga-Bandoro air strips to improve the efficiency of air operations and optimize operability in view of the upcoming deployment of heavy cargo lifts.

74. On 18 March, MINUSCA completed the installation of a solar system in Bangui to increase its renewable energy supply and consumption. It mitigated wastewater risks and secured the distribution of 7 additional portable drum incinerators, now totalling 17, for solid waste disposal in permanent and temporary operating bases in Bamingui, Nana Bakassa, Paoua, Rafai and Zemio.

Safety and security of United Nations personnel

75. From 2 February to 1 June, 129 security incidents involving United Nations personnel were recorded, representing a decrease compared with the previous period (see annex I, figure XIII). In total, 1 member of the personnel died and 10 were injured in road traffic accidents; 2 died owing to illness.

76. Between 2 February and 1 June, MINUSCA recorded four violations of the status-of-forces agreement, compared with four incidents during the previous reporting period. On 8 February, the national customs service at Mpoko international airport impounded equipment for an uncrewed aerial system intended for MINUSCA. The customs service referred to the circular from the Ministry of Defence setting out restrictions on operating uncrewed aerial vehicles and requested proof of government authorization to operate such vehicles in the territory of the Central African Republic. On 14 February, in Ouandago, Ouham-Fafa Prefecture, national defence forces denied passage to a MINUSCA patrol. On 4 March, MINUSCA uncrewed aerial system material was intercepted by other security personnel at the Beloko border post in Nana-Mambéré Prefecture. On 17 April, internal security forces arrested a MINUSCA international staff member at Mpoko international airport, who was released after intervention by the Mission. MINUSCA continued to raise these violations with

relevant national stakeholders, who expressed their commitment to addressing them. The recurrent flights of unidentified uncrewed aerial vehicles over United Nations bases continued.

77. The Government circular revoking standing procedures on the use of uncrewed aerial vehicles in Central African Republic territory remains in force. MINUSCA uncrewed aerial vehicles have been grounded since December 2023, affecting mandate implementation, in particular the protection of civilians and facilitation of humanitarian access. The restrictions impede the acquisition of critical information and the development of comprehensive security analyses for operational planning and pose a risk to the protection of United Nations personnel and installations. MINUSCA held several engagements with the Government at both the technical and political levels about the seizure of the uncrewed aerial system and is pursuing efforts on restricting the use of such equipment.

78. As at 1 February, the military component of MINUSCA had deployed 13,930 troops (7 per cent women) out of an authorized strength of 14,400 personnel, including 406 staff officers (101 women) and 145 military observers (47 women), including one explosive ordnance disposal reserve platoon. The MINUSCA police component had deployed 2,994 personnel (15.97 per cent women) out of an authorized strength of 3,020 personnel, comprising 581 individual police officers (162 women) and 2,413 personnel (316 women) in 14 formed police units and one protection support unit. A total of 1,498 civilian personnel (28 per cent women), comprising 632 international staff members, 580 national staff members and 286 United Nations Volunteers, as well as 103 government-provided corrections personnel, were serving with MINUSCA, representing 90 per cent of the 1,671 approved positions.

Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

79. Between 2 February and 30 April, MINUSCA recorded eight allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, implicating six military personnel from three troop-contributing countries and two civilians. Three allegations reportedly occurred in 2024, and five between 2014 and November 2023. The troop-contributing countries appointed national investigators and the United Nations is investigating the cases concerning civilian personnel.

80. MINUSCA referred victims of sexual exploitation and abuse to humanitarian partners for assistance, and directly assisted several victims on the basis of their specific needs. On 1 April, the Mission started the second phase of the vocational skills training projects for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, funded by the United Nations trust fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Mission has established 40 local prevention and response networks on the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in high-risk areas.

VII. Financial considerations

81. The General Assembly, by its resolution 77/307 of 30 June 2023, appropriated the amount of \$1,145.6 million for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. As at 27 May 2024, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for MINUSCA amounted to \$396.3 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,682.7 million. Reimbursement of the costs of troop and formed police personnel, as well as for contingent-owned equipment, has been made for the period up to 31 December 2023.

VIII. Observations

82. I welcome the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the implementation of the Political Agreement, including the convening of the Executive Monitoring Committee, the organization of the high-level national conference on transhumance and the launch of National Border Management Commission activities, demonstrating the Government's continued ownership and commitment in the advancement of the peace process. These developments provide a basis for integrated action, driven by a whole-of-government approach, in addressing some of the main drivers of the conflict in the Central African Republic. I call for the effective implementation of recommendations made during the aforementioned meetings and conference.

83. I commend the Government for its efforts to sustain the decentralization of the peace process, including continuous engagements with prefectural implementation mechanisms that have proven to be an essential tool in resolving intercommunal tensions, promoting political dialogue and supporting mediation efforts. These initiatives demonstrate the resolve of national and local authorities to build participatory approaches in the implementation of the Political Agreement.

84. The Government's commitment to holding the first local elections in the Central African Republic since 1988 is encouraging. The holding of these elections, which are a provision of the Political Agreement, would be an important milestone towards inclusiveness, the empowerment of communities and the extension of State authority. I welcome recent financial commitments by partners to support these important elections, but I remain concerned about funding shortfalls. I reiterate my appeal for financial support for the UNDP basket fund to allow the timely implementation of electoral preparations.

85. Inclusive, democratic and credible elections will require the Government to advance political dialogue, implement confidence-building measures and ensure the meaningful participation of women. In this regard, an environment in which the people of the Central African Republic can express their views free of the fear of retribution or other adverse consequences is critical.

86. I welcome the constructive and positive momentum in bilateral relations between the Central African Republic and Chad. The porosity of borders continues to pose severe risks, as witnessed by insecurity along the borders with the Sudan and South Sudan. I urge the various border security commissions of the Central African Republic and its neighbours to proactively find durable solutions in managing their common borders. I encourage efforts to support affected border communities, which are indispensable to addressing cross-border security. The United Nations will support national and regional initiatives aimed at transforming border areas into cooperation and prosperity zones, and I call on partners to support these efforts.

87. I welcome the progress in preparing the draft national development plan, an important strategic instrument for mobilizing resources around the Government's priority development objectives, which are mirrored in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. I call on the Government to continue to work with international development and financial partners towards the finalization of the national development plan and to align efforts on its implementation in order to sustain long-term development engagement.

88. I remain deeply concerned about the volatile security situation in various parts of the country. Appalling cycles of violence, in particular around mining sites and cattle herding corridors and in border areas, contribute to the suffering of civilians. The situation in the south-east is concerning. I call on armed groups in the region to remain committed to locally signed peace agreements. MINUSCA will continue to

adopt a robust and proactive security posture in Haut-Mbomou, as highlighted by the historical deployment in Bambouti, while supporting the extension of State authority to defuse tensions as well as promote confidence and stability in the region.

89. I continue to be alarmed by the persistence of the explosive ordnance threat, which continues to harm and pose risks to the local population, national authorities, national defence and security forces and United Nations personnel. The efforts of MINUSCA, including the establishment of local community alert networks and capacity-building, remain essential for a conducive security environment and effective humanitarian delivery.

90. I am concerned about the continued grounding of the MINUSCA uncrewed aerial system, a capability that enhances the Mission's ability to support the Central African Republic in protecting civilians and extending State authority, among other mandated tasks, while also supporting the safety and security of peacekeepers. I urge the Central African Republic authorities to allow MINUSCA to urgently resume the use of its uncrewed aerial system.

91. Strengthening the capacity of the Central African Republic to protect its own civilians remains a priority, and much progress has already been made. Achieving that priority requires the Government to establish a transparent and credible vetting process for recruitment into the national defence and security forces. Monitoring the conduct and discipline of the personnel of national security institutions is also an essential step in the process of improving the national security sector. In this regard, the increased capacities of the Inspectorate General of the Armed Forces and the Inspectorate General of National Police and Gendarmerie are encouraging.

92. The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic remains concerning. I welcome the fact that, in some areas of the country, the stabilization efforts of the Government with the support of a broad spectrum of partners has contributed to the return of displaced persons and improved the conditions of communities. I call on partners and donors to enhance support to the Central African Republic humanitarian appeal in order to address the most urgent needs of the communities in distress, and I call on development partners to provide complementary support that would end the cycle of deprivation and dependence in vulnerable communities.

93. Continued violations and abuses of human rights, grave violations of children's rights, conflict-related sexual violence and violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by all parties to the conflict are unacceptable and must stop. The Government must hold all perpetrators to account. The continued dialogue between the Government and the United Nations on human rights is commendable and paves the way for collaborative efforts aimed at ensuring that the Central African Republic fulfils its obligations under international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. I take note of the commitment by the Government to advance the agenda outlined in its national human rights policy.

94. Cases before the Special Criminal Court in relation to war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Central African Republic should be a reminder to leaders of armed actors and other perpetrators of these crimes that such heinous acts will not go unpunished. Impunity for perpetrators of violence and human rights violations and abuses fuels the cycle of conflict and undermines peace efforts. I call upon the Government to sustain the advances made concerning its national justice, law enforcement and corrections system, including strengthening the independence of the judiciary.

95. Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation to the Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA for her leadership and to the civilian and uniformed personnel of MINUSCA for their steadfast dedication to their

work. I am deeply appreciative of MINUSCA troop- and police-contributing countries. I am grateful for the important work of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and wish to thank regional and multilateral organizations, NGOs and all other partners, including donor countries, for their invaluable contributions to peace in the Central African Republic.

Annex I

I. Security situation, protection of civilians and extension of State of authority

Figure I Violations of the Political Agreement



Source: MINUSCA/Joint Mission Analysis Cell.

Figure II Transhumance incident map



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: MINUSCA/Joint Operations Centre/Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise.

S/2024/473



Figure III Explosive ordnance risk education in Ouham-Pendé

Note: The Ouham-Pendé pilot project was launched in November 2023 and completed in April 2024. *Source*: MINUSCA/Mine Action Service global information management system.

Figure IV State authorities present at posts

Civil administrators and judicial personnel



Penitentiary personnel



Note: From April to June 2022, some of the 295 newly trained civilian prison personnel were assigned and deployed to duty stations despite not having been formally incorporated into the government payroll. These are shown in the graph as "non-integrated personnel", as opposed to "integrated" personnel. From July 2022 to January 2023, most "non-integrated" personnel went on full or partial strike, resulting in the drop-off seen in the graph.

Source: MINUSCA/Civil Affairs Section and Justice and Corrections Section.





Source: MINUSCA/United Nations police.

As at 31 May, 1,886 internal security forces personnel were deployed outside Bangui, and 6,828 in the capital; 23 per cent of internal security forces personnel are women.

II. Human rights and rule of law



Human rights violations and abuses, February-June 2024

Non-State armed groups



Note: Percentages are based on the number of documented victims. Statistics include both signatories to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and non-signatories. Source: MINUSCA/Human Rights Division.

Armed groups were allegedly responsible for 59 per cent of the total documented human rights violations and abuses, with Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique reportedly the main perpetrator, followed by Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation.





Note: Percentages are based on the number of documented victims. Statistics include both State actors and other security personnel.

Source: MINUSCA/Human Rights Division.

State actors were responsible for 41 per cent of the total number of documented human rights violations and abuses of human rights and 48 per cent of the documented victims.



Figure VII Conflict-related sexual violence, February–June 2024

Note: An increase or decrease in conflict-related sexual violence is no indication of its scale in the Central African Republic as it is largely underreported. Percentages in the chart refer to the number of victims. Statistics include both signatories to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and non-signatories.

Source: MINUSCA/Human Rights Division.

Armed groups were allegedly responsible for 81 per cent of the documented cases of conflict-related sexual violence, while State actors were allegedly responsible for 19 per cent of the documented cases.



Figure VIII Grave violations against children, February–June 2024

Note: Percentages in the chart refer to the number of violations. *Source*: MINUSCA/Child Protection Unit and country task force on monitoring and reporting.

Figure IX Number of operational courts and prisons





Functioning prisons



Source: MINUSCA/Justice and Corrections Section.

III. Humanitarian situation

Figure X

Humanitarian response plan funding

(Millions of United States dollars)



Source: MINUSCA/Integrated Office.

Figure XI Internally displaced persons and refugees



Source: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.





Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined.



Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

IV. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

Figure XIII Security incidents affecting MINUSCA personnel



Source: MINUSCA/Department of Safety and Security.

Annex II

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic: military and police strength as at 1 June 2024

– Country	Military component				Police component	
	Experts on mission	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Individual police officers
Argentina	_	2	_	2	_	_
Bangladesh	11	36	1 373	1 420	-	4
Benin	4	3	_	7	-	4
Bhutan	2	5	180	187	-	-
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2	4	_	6	-	-
Brazil	3	6	_	9	-	-
Burkina Faso	_	8	_	8	-	48
Burundi	8	13	749	770	_	_
Cambodia	4	6	334	344	-	-
Cameroon	2	7	750	759	320	15
China	_	_	_	_	-	5
Colombia	2	_	_	2	_	_
Congo	3	5	_	8	178	-
Côte d'Ivoire	_	4	180	184	-	44
Czechia	3	_	_	3	-	-
Djibouti	_	_	_	_	178	21
Ecuador	_	2	_	2	_	_
Egypt	8	28	990	1 026	140	31
France	_	4	_	4	-	-
Gabon	_	_	_	_	-	-
Gambia	3	5	_	8	_	2
Ghana	4	9	_	13	-	5
Guatemala	2	2	_	4	-	-
Guinea	_	_	_	_	-	11
India	_	3	_	3	-	-
Indonesia	5	10	240	255	140	27
Jordan	3	7	_	10	-	33
Kazakhstan	_	2	_	2	-	-
Kenya	7	11	_	18	-	-
Mali	_	_	_	_	_	21
Mauritania	7	7	448	462	320	5
Mexico	1	1	_	2	-	-
Mongolia	_	3	_	3	_	-
Morocco	5	23	749	777	_	_
Nepal	5	17	1 219	1 241	_	_
Niger	_	4	-	4	-	52
Nigeria	_	6	_	6	_	8

S/2024/473

Country		Military compo	Police component			
	Experts on mission	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Individual police officers
Pakistan	9	31	1 276	1 316	_	-
Paraguay	2	2	_	4	-	-
Peru	5	9	218	232	-	3
Philippines	2	1	_	3	-	-
Portugal	_	9	210	219	-	8
Moldova (Republic of)	3	1	_	4	-	-
Romania	_	_	_	_	_	7
Russian Federation	3	9	_	12	-	-
Rwanda	9	28	2 108	2 145	640	48
Senegal	_	12	180	192	494	45
Serbia	2	4	70	76	-	-
Sierra Leone	4	3	_	7	-	-
Spain	_	_	_	_	_	4
Sri Lanka	_	4	109	113	-	-
Togo	4	6	_	10	-	49
Tunisia	3	11	760	774	_	46
Türkiye	_	_	_	_	-	14
United Republic of Tanzania	_	7	510	517	-	-
United States of America	_	10	_	10	_	-
Uruguay	_	3	_	3	-	-
Viet Nam	1	7	-	8	-	-
Zambia	6	19	910	935	-	-
Zimbabwe	2	2	-	4	_	-
Total	149	421	13 563	14 133	2 410	560



Map



29/29

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