



Security Council

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Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2566 (2021), related to the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic” and adopted on 12 March 2021. Resolution 2566 (2021) was adopted in accordance with the voting procedure set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), a procedure agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the related documents:

My letter dated 11 March 2021 addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (annex I), putting to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/242 (enclosure to annex I);

Letters received in reply from members of the Security Council indicating their national positions on the draft resolution (annexes II to XVI);

A statement subsequently submitted by a member of the Security Council providing an explanation of its vote (annex XVII).

This letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**
President of the Security Council



Annex I

Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following.

The members of the Council have discussed a draft resolution, submitted by France, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”. That draft resolution, contained in document S/2021/242 and enclosed herein, has been put into blue.

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I hereby put the above-mentioned draft resolution to a vote. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period for this draft resolution will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 11 March 2021. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period will expire at 1 p.m. on Friday, 12 March 2021.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against, or abstain) on the draft resolution, as well as your possible explanation of vote, by sending a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. within the non-extendable 24-hour voting period set out above to the Officer-in-Charge of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Secretariat (sutterlin@un.org).

It is my intention to circulate a letter listing the outcome of the vote within three hours of the conclusion of the 24-hour voting period. I also intend to convene a video-teleconference of the Security Council to announce the outcome of the vote shortly after the conclusion of the voting period, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 March 2021.

(Signed) Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**
President of the Security Council

Enclosure

United Nations

S/2021/242

**Security Council**Provisional
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Original: English

France: draft resolution*The Security Council,*

Recalling all of its previous resolutions, statements of its President, and press statements on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR),

Expressing its grave concern at the deterioration of the situation in the Central African Republic due to armed group attacks in advance of and following the election of 27 December 2020,

Condemning in the strongest terms violations of the Political Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR (“The Peace Agreement”) and violence perpetrated by armed groups and other militias, including violence aiming at obstructing the electoral process, incitement to ethnic and religious hatred and violence, violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses, including those committed against children and those involving sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, as well as violence directed at civilians from specific communities, resulting in deaths, injuries and displacements,

Taking note of the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Central African Republic of 18 January 2021, ruling on the electoral challenges and proclaiming the election of President Touadéra, and *calling on* all stakeholders to respect the Constitutional Court’s decision, reaffirm their commitment to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in the Central African Republic and contribute to a peaceful and credible conclusion of the electoral process,

Welcoming the roadmap for dialogue proposed by President Touadéra and calling for concrete steps from the government of the Central African Republic and all political actors to engage effectively in dialogue, resolve outstanding issues and conclude the electoral process through the organization of legislative and local elections, *reiterating* that only inclusive, free, fair, transparent, credible, peaceful and timely elections, undisturbed by disinformation and other forms of manipulation of information, can bring lasting stability to the CAR, including through the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, *reaffirming* the importance of the participation of the youth, and *encouraging* the CAR authorities, with the support of relevant partners, to promote the participation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in accordance with the Constitution of the CAR,

Urging all signatory parties to the Peace Agreement to fully honour their commitments and join the path of dialogue and peace and *stressing* the urgent and

imperative need to end impunity in the CAR and to bring to justice perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and of violations and abuses of human rights, while *encouraging* the national authorities to continue their efforts to make the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission operational,

Welcoming the communique of the African Union Peace and Security Council after its meeting on the CAR on 16 February 2021, also *welcoming* the meeting of Heads of States held in Luanda on 29 January 2021, and *encouraging* continued and coordinated mobilization of the region, in particular the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), aimed at strengthening dialogue, easing tensions and seeking concerted political solutions to the crisis,

Expressing serious concern about the dire humanitarian situation in the CAR and the consequences of the security situation on humanitarian access, condemning in the strongest terms increased attacks against humanitarian workers, *emphasising* the current humanitarian needs of more than half of the population of the country, including civilians under threat from violence, as well as the alarming situation of IDPs and refugees, *welcoming* the collaboration between MINUSCA, UN agencies, the African Union, the World Bank, technical and financial partners of the CAR and NGOs to support development and humanitarian efforts in the CAR and their adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, and *calling* on Member States and international and regional organisations to respond swiftly to the humanitarian needs identified in the humanitarian response plan through increased contributions and to ensure that all pledges are honoured in full and in a timely manner,

Stressing the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in bringing strategic advice, providing observations for the Security Council's consideration, and fostering a more coherent, coordinated and integrated approach to international peacebuilding efforts, and *encouraging* relevant partners to support the efforts of the CAR authorities through the National Strategy for Recovery and Peace Consolidation (RCPCA) to lay the foundation of durable peace in the CAR and sustainable development of all regions of the country, to boost peace dividends for the population and development projects, including critical investments in infrastructure,

Condemning in the strongest terms all attacks, provocations and incitement to hatred and violence against MINUSCA and other international forces by armed groups or other perpetrators, paying *tribute* to the personnel of MINUSCA who sacrificed their lives in the service of peace, *underlining* that attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute war crimes, *calling on* all parties to fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and *urging* the CAR authorities to work with MINUSCA to enhance the safety and security of MINUSCA's personnel, including in line with resolution 2518 (2020), and to take all possible measures to arrest and prosecute perpetrators,

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary-General of 16 February 2021 (S/2021/146), recommending an increase of 2,750 military and 940 police personnel, with the aim of enabling the Mission to enhance its capacity to prevent and reverse a further deterioration in the security situation while creating space for the political process to advance,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, *recognising* that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned, *underlining* that the mandates that

it authorises are consistent with the basic principles, reiterating that the Security Council expects full delivery of the mandates it authorises, and *recalling* in this regard its resolution 2436 (2018),

Taking note of the request of the CAR authorities to lift the arms embargo and of the positions expressed by ECCAS and ICGLR, reiterating its readiness to review the arms embargo measures, through inter alia suspension or progressive lifting, in the light of progress achieved on the key benchmarks established by the Security Council, and stressing the need for the CAR authorities to ensure physical protection, control, management, traceability, and accountability of weapons, ammunition and military equipment transferred to their control,

Determining that the situation in the CAR continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to increase the authorized size of MINUSCA's military component by 2750 and to increase the authorized size of MINUSCA's police component by 940, from the current levels authorized in paragraph 27 of resolution 2552 (2020);

2. *Stresses* that these reinforcements are aimed at enhancing MINUSCA's ability to perform its priority mandated tasks in the current evolving context, in particular protection of civilians and facilitation of humanitarian access, and at enabling the Mission to enhance its capacity to prevent and reverse a further deterioration in the security situation while creating space for the political process to advance, *further stresses* that these new capabilities are not a substitute for the national authorities' primary responsibility to advance the peace process and protect the population, *notes* that these reinforcements should be sequenced through a phased approach, *recalls* the importance of cooperation between MINUSCA and the CAR authorities in line with its mandate, and *requests* the Secretary-General to review implementation, performance and necessity ahead of each phase as part of the reports requested in paragraph 54 of resolution 2552 (2020) and to include in its report of 11 October 2021 a proposal on the overall configuration of MINUSCA's Force;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that decisions regarding deployment of all personnel to MINUSCA adhere to:

(i) peacekeeping performance requirements under resolutions 2378 (2017) and 2436 (2018), including greater utilisation of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) to ensure the recruitment and retention of qualified uniformed personnel;

(ii) implementing resolution 2518 (2020), including by taking all appropriate measures to enhance the safety and security of MINUSCA's personnel;

(iii) implementing resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security, including by seeking to increase the number of women in MINUSCA in line with resolution 2538 (2020), and requests further that such deployment ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of operations;

(iv) the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse as well as to the provisions of resolution 2272 (2016);

4. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Annex II

Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I thank you and your team for the continued strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China votes in favour of draft resolution S/2021/242, submitted by France in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

Annex III**Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to inform you, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, that my delegation votes in favour of draft resolution S/2021/242, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations

Annex IV

Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

I refer to the letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America, in her capacity as President of the Security Council, calling on the members of the Security Council to vote on the draft resolution submitted by France under the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”, put into blue under the symbol S/2021/242. France votes in favour.

(Signed) **Nicolas de Rivière**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Annex V**Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11 March 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/242, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253) from the President of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that India votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) T.S. **Tirumurti**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Annex VI

Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11 March 2021, on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”, document S/2021/242.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council for the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in the letter of the President of the Security Council dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that Ireland votes in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/242.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

Annex VII**Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2021/242) submitted by France in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

In this respect, I wish to inform you that Kenya votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) **Martin Kimani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

Annex VIII

Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter dated 11 March 2021 regarding the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”, submitted by France and contained in document S/2021/242.

In accordance with the procedure outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253) for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that Mexico votes in favour of the aforementioned draft resolution.

(Signed) **Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

Annex IX**Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in response to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 11 March 2021 calling on the members of the Council to express their votes on the draft resolution (S/2021/242) submitted by France in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

In accordance with the agreed temporary procedures for the adoption of draft resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic, I have the honour to indicate that the Republic of the Niger decides to vote in favour of said draft resolution.

(Signed) Abdou **Abarry**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations

Annex X

Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter dated 11 March 2021 by the President of the Security Council relating to the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/242, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of draft resolutions under the current circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, I am pleased to inform you that Norway votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) Mona **Juul**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

Annex XI**Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11 March 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic” (S/2021/242).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation abstains in the voting on the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/242.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Annex XII

Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2021/242) submitted by France in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

Annex XIII**Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Further to the letter dated 11 March 2021, emanating from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America, in her capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the draft resolution submitted by France in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”, as contained in document S/2021/242, I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) Tarek **Ladeb**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

Annex XIV

Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 11 March 2021, the United Kingdom votes in favour on the draft resolution (S/2021/242) in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic”.

(Signed) Barbara **Woodward**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Annex XV**Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On the draft resolution submitted by France in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Central African Republic” (S/2021/242), the United States of America votes in favour.

(Signed) Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

Annex XVI

Letter dated 11 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In reference to the letter of the President of the Security Council dated 11 March 2021 relating to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Central African Republic”, as contained in document S/2021/242, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam votes in favour of the said draft resolution.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

Annex XVII**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations**

[Original: Russian]

The Russian delegation abstained in the voting on resolution 2566 (2021), on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

We would like to stress in particular that we have always supported the activities of the Blue Helmets, who play a prominent role in the country's security. That is particularly vital now, as the current electoral period in the Central African Republic is marked by attempts by a number of illegal armed groups to disrupt the holding of elections.

At the same time, Moscow was disappointed that the authors of the resolution decided not to mention in the text the United Nations guiding principles for emergency humanitarian assistance, as they should have done, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182. Ensuring conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance is not an insignificant part of MINUSCA's mandate.

We cannot accept the policy, adopted by our Western colleagues, of removing all references to the guiding principles from United Nations documents and blurring the strict parameters of humanitarian assistance. That could undermine the principle of respect for the national sovereignty of Member States. Russia is committed to the existing humanitarian rules. We continue to be guided by the need for close coordination with the Governments of recipient countries with regard to the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid on their soil.

Our principled position should come as no surprise to anyone. Last December when the Security Council adopted the resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the co-penholders sacrificed consensus because of their own intransigence on the issue.

It is also our firm belief that, in the selection of contingents to be part of MINUSCA's peacekeeping force, the Secretariat must coordinate closely with Bangui and listen to the views of the people of the Central African Republic, including on the national composition of the troops and police officers to be deployed. Only in that way will it be possible to truly increase the impact of the Mission's activities and improve the quality of interaction between the United Nations and the authorities of the Central African Republic.
