



Security Council

Distr.: General
15 June 2023

Original: English

Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution [2659 \(2022\)](#), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) until 15 November 2023 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 16 February 2023 ([S/2023/108](#)).

II. Political situation

2. Political tensions eased during most of the reporting period, with fewer contentious exchanges between the Government and the political opposition through official communiqués. The political opposition maintained its conditions for participating in the local elections, however. Preparations for the first local polls to be held since 1988 continued, although they have been temporarily suspended until September 2023. Facilitated by the good offices of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA, the peace process extended to the local level, with greater interaction between Bangui and the periphery. Meanwhile, an acute economic crisis fuelled existing popular grievances towards the authorities. At the same time, sporadic clashes between the national defence and security forces and armed groups narrowed the space for political dialogue between the Government and the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement.

Political developments

3. On 26 February, the Bloc républicain pour la défense de la Constitution (BRDC), a political opposition platform, issued a memorandum stipulating the conditions for the participation of its member parties in the local elections. Specifically, BRDC called for the President, Faustin Archange Touadera, to renounce his intention to hold a constitutional referendum, cease reported harassment of opposition leaders and initiate reform of the National Electoral Authority, including its local branches. On 10 May, leaders of the Union des forces démocratiques de l'opposition (UFDO), a self-proclaimed opposition platform, met with President Touadera to discuss their participation in the local elections. The Special



Representative, in collaboration with various partners, continued to engage with national stakeholders to promote dialogue and compromise.

4. On 30 May, President Touadera decreed the holding on 30 July of a referendum on a new constitution, with a campaign period from 15 to 28 July. Various political and civil society actors denounced the organization of the referendum, while UFDO welcomed the announcement and called on the Government to ensure the smooth conduct of the polls.

5. The deepening fiscal crisis in the Central African Republic had a negative impact on the functioning of several public sectors, including health, education, animal husbandry and river transport. Since the beginning of February, trade unions and workers in the education and health sectors have led strikes nationwide to demand better working conditions and salary increases. The strike in the health sector caused a dozen deaths and the abandonment of patients, who were left without care. President Touadera engaged with the trade unions on 14 and 15 March, during which he requested them to consider the financial constraints of the country and brokered a temporary suspension of the strikes.

6. The National Assembly held its first regular session of 2023 from 1 March to 31 May. A new bureau was elected for the legislative year, comprising 10 members from the presidential majority and 4 from the political opposition. Four of the 14 members were women, an increase of one from the previous bureau, but less than the 35 per cent quota for women's representation established by law in 2016.

7. On 23 March, the National Assembly adopted an amendment aimed at harmonizing the country's law on cryptocurrency with regional and international financial standards. Specifically, the amendment revoked the non-convertibility of the Sango Coin to the CFA franc and eliminated the obligation for economic agents to accept cryptocurrency for payment. On 19 May, the Assembly adopted a law creating the Central African Digital Development Agency to manage the country's fibre-optic infrastructure, the installation of which was completed on 6 February. On 29 May, the Assembly adopted a bill enabling the sale of land and natural resources through cryptocurrency.

Peace process

8. The Government, under the auspices of the Prime Minister, continued its efforts to harmonize the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. It also expanded its outreach at the local level, with the aim of decentralizing the peace process. MINUSCA supported these efforts in part by facilitating meetings of the prefectural monitoring mechanisms and by encouraging armed groups to disassociate themselves from violent struggle, including through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and return to the peace process. In February, the Special Representative led a United Nations delegation that met with local authorities and members of civil society in Bangassou. Later in the month, following the stabilization of Sam Ouandja, in Haute-Kotto Prefecture, by MINUSCA, the Special Representative visited the remote area with the Prime Minister, other Government officials and international development partners to mark the return of State authority after decades of control by armed groups.

9. On 24 February, the Minister of State in charge of Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation and the Follow-up to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic convened the fourteenth session of the Executive Monitoring Committee of the Political Agreement, attended by representatives of the armed groups who remained committed

to the Agreement and by regional and international partners. Meeting participants assessed progress in dissolving armed groups and integrating ex-combatants into the security sector.

10. The prefectural monitoring mechanisms continued to meet to discuss security concerns, de-escalate conflicts through dialogue, and explore community-oriented ways to re-engage with representatives of armed groups who have left the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement. Since March, MINUSCA has provided financial support to build the capacity of follow-up mechanisms in the Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Lim-Pendé, Mbomou, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Fafa and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures.

11. On 3 March, former President François Bozizé relocated from Chad to Guinea-Bissau, following a process facilitated by regional and international actors. In a declaration made upon his arrival in Guinea-Bissau, he reaffirmed his leadership of the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement and his continued opposition to President Touadera.

12. From 5 to 11 March, the Panel of the Wise visited the Central African Republic to engage with national and international stakeholders on the political and peace processes in the country. In a communiqué issued on 10 March, the Panel stressed the importance of the full implementation of the Political Agreement through the joint road map and recommended using existing implementation mechanisms as a framework for dialogue. The Panel further urged all political actors to invest in creating an environment conducive to the successful holding of the local elections.

13. On 24 March, the Prime Minister chaired a videoconference with 19 prefects to harmonize the peace process and strengthen coordination with the prefectures, with MINUSCA support. The prefects, in their capacity as chairs of prefectural monitoring mechanisms, recommended, inter alia, enhancing communication between national and prefectural monitoring mechanisms, deploying additional national defence and security forces with adequate means and strengthening cross-border cooperation and border security.

14. On 28 April, President Touadera chaired a ceremony to mark the dissolution of two armed groups signatory to the Political Agreement: Révolution et justice-Belanga Branch and Séléka rénovée pour la paix et la justice. Furthermore, factions of three other signatory armed groups were also dissolved, including Abdoulaye Hissène's faction of the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique and factions of the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique and the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain.

15. National authorities took measures to integrate ex-combatants into the national defence and internal security forces, as part of the ongoing recruitment for the internal security forces and following the phasing out of the special mixed security units, which was marked by an official ceremony on 3 May. However, there remains a lack of clarity on the number and origins of candidates selected for integration into the national forces.

16. On 17 May, the Prime Minister chaired the sixth coordination meeting to review progress in the peace process, which was attended by representatives of relevant ministries, as well as international and regional partners, including the guarantors and facilitators of the Political Agreement. Participants reviewed progress made in the implementation of priority activities in the joint road map.

Electoral process

17. On 14 February, the Prime Minister, the President of the National Electoral Authority and the Special Representative signed the integrated elections security plan

for the local elections. The Prime Minister welcomed the adaptation of the plan to the evolving security situation and stated the Government's commitment to implementing it.

18. In February and March, the Special Representative held separate meetings with women political leaders of the Central African Republic to identify challenges to their equal, meaningful and safe participation in the local elections. On 27 March, she engaged with the National Assembly and advocated for the inclusion of gender-specific provisions in the revised electoral code.

19. Persistent financial constraints hampered preparations for the first round of the local elections, initially scheduled for 16 July. On 11 April, the National Electoral Authority suspended the swearing-in of elected members of its local branches due to a lack of funds. The Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued efforts to mobilize resources. As at 1 June, \$640,000 out of the \$14.8 million required for these elections was available in the basket fund managed by UNDP. On 31 May, the National Electoral Authority announced the temporary suspension of preparations for the local elections in order to prepare for the constitutional referendum. On 1 June, the President of the National Electoral Authority announced that preparations for the local elections would be relaunched in September.

III. Security situation

20. As at 1 June, 279 security violations of the Political Agreement had been recorded, a decrease from 314 during the previous reporting period. Most of the violations were criminal activities (216), followed by illegal military activities (53) and violations related to restrictions of movement and obstruction of humanitarian organizations or the United Nations (10). A total of 104 violations targeted civilians. The national defence and internal security forces and other security personnel perpetrated the highest number of violations (131), followed by the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (58); Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (58); anti-balaka (31); and the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (1).

21. Indiscriminate use of explosive ordnance persisted, primarily harming civilians, in particular in Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures. MINUSCA deployed an explosive ordnance disposal team in April to Paoua in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture for mine clearance operations.

22. Coordinated operations between MINUSCA and national defence forces contributed to creating a protective environment for the progressive stabilization of hotspots in Ouandja-Djallé, Vakaga Prefecture, and Sam Ouandja, Haute-Kotto Prefecture. However, there was renewed violence in Haut-Mbomou and other parts of Vakaga Prefecture, where armed groups clashed with national defence and security forces and other security personnel while attempting to regain control of former strongholds, including transhumance corridors and mining sites.

23. In areas where the national defence and security forces and MINUSCA had a limited presence, armed groups engaged in predatory acts for economic gain, kidnapping civilians for ransom and imposing illegal taxation. In response, MINUSCA adjusted its posture and mobility based on information gathered through the early warning mechanism, supported by community alert networks to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian access.

24. In the west, anti-balaka, the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement and Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation intensified their attacks against checkpoints and positions, including a base of the national defence forces and other security personnel

in Bossemptele, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, and a base of other security personnel in Niem, Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, triggering retaliatory operations. On 22 March and 4 April, Retour, réclamation et rehabilitation combatants attacked a national defence force checkpoint in Kadjama, Ouham Prefecture, and a base of other security personnel in Bossemptele; three national defence force soldiers and one civilian were killed. On 15 May, national defence forces and Coalition des patriotes pour le changement/anti-balaka combatants clashed while the former was protecting traders on their way to the market in Benzambé, Ouham Prefecture; four soldiers were killed.

25. In Lim-Pendé Prefecture, Chadian individuals claiming to be members of the Révolutionnaires tchadiens sudistes increased in number after January to a few thousand. This heightened tensions in the area and resulted in criminality in the border area between the Central African Republic and Chad. On 16 May, a joint Central African Republic-Chad military operation dismantled their camp and dislodged some of the Chadian individuals from the Prefecture.

26. The centre of the Central African Republic was marked by violent incidents, in particular in areas surrounding mining sites. On 15 March and 15 April, Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique combatants attacked isolated national defence force positions in Wawa, Ouaka Prefecture; four civilians were killed while four others and one national defence force soldier were injured. On 19 March, nine Chinese mine workers were killed while two others were wounded at the Chimbolo mining site near Bambari, Ouaka Prefecture, under circumstances that have not yet been fully established.

27. In the east, the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement attacked national defence force positions on 14 February in Sikikédé, Vakaga Prefecture, resulting in an unknown number of casualties and the displacement of civilians, while 20 national defence force personnel were taken prisoner. They were released on 4 April in the presence of MINUSCA.

28. In response to the attack, national defence forces and other security personnel conducted operations in the areas of Gordil, Sikikédé and Tiringoulou in Vakaga Prefecture. On 5 May, the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement attacked and regained control of Tiringoulou, causing massive displacement of the population, local leaders and humanitarian partners. The arrival of MINUSCA in the area resulted in the withdrawal of the combatants, allowing the national defence forces to re-establish their position and the population to return.

29. In March, a self-proclaimed self-defence group, Azande Ani Kpi Gbe, emerged in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture. On 15 March, as a result of its confrontation with the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique in Bambouti, the group fled to Mboki, while some 600 civilians were displaced to Yambio, South Sudan. From 21 to 23 April, armed clashes took place between Azande Ani Kpi Gbe and South Sudanese armed individuals in Obo, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture. MINUSCA initiated efforts to restore access on the Zemio-Mboki-Obo-Bambouti road, which prompted retaliation from Azande Ani Kpi Gbe, including an exchange of fire with a MINUSCA patrol in Mboki on 8 May, during which one peacekeeper was injured.

30. The withdrawal of the Central African Republic-Chad-Sudan tripartite joint border force created a security vacuum in the border area during the second half of April. On 19 April, the self-proclaimed Rassemblement populaire pour la justice et égalité au Tchad sought the approval of the Government of the Central African Republic to settle in Vakaga Prefecture, which the Minister for Foreign Affairs rejected in a communiqué dated 26 April.

31. In Bangui, the security situation remained relatively calm. Recorded criminal incidents decreased by 18 per cent compared with the previous reporting period. National defence and security forces conducted cordon-and-search operations,

predominantly in Muslim neighbourhoods due to allegations of collusion with armed groups. The national curfew from midnight to 5 a.m. remained in effect.

IV. Regional engagement

32. On 8 February, President João Lourenço of Angola convened a meeting in Luanda with President Touadera and the President of the Transition of Chad, Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, to, inter alia, discuss mutual security concerns of the Central African Republic and Chad, agreeing to strengthen border security and regional ties.

33. On 17 March, President Touadera assumed the rotating presidency of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community during its fiftieth regular summit of Heads of State, held in Yaoundé.

34. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa visited Bangui from 12 to 14 April. He met with President Touadera and other government officials, the diplomatic corps and other stakeholders.

35. On 19 May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic and the Special Representative for the Central African Republic attended the fifty-fifth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in São Tomé. The border situation and armed groups in the Central African Republic were discussed.

V. Humanitarian situation

36. The humanitarian situation and needs in the country remained severe due to the cumulative impact of conflict, displacement and limited access to basic services, compounded by an influx of Sudanese refugees and returnees since April. A high level of food insecurity persisted, as 3 million people faced acute food insecurity, while 40 per cent of children suffered from chronic malnutrition.

37. As at 1 June, 13,765 people had crossed from the Sudan into Am Dafok, Vakaga Prefecture. Humanitarian organizations mobilized to respond to the most pressing needs, including to provide emergency shelter, water, food and health care. Stocks for humanitarian assistance were deployed in Haute-Kotto and Vakaga Prefectures. The crisis in the Sudan has disrupted supply lines, resulting in increased prices in some markets in the Central African Republic, exacerbating vulnerabilities, which will be further compounded by the approaching rainy season. The prices of basic commodities doubled in areas of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga Prefectures, where supplies largely depend on the Sudan.

38. Violence continued to trigger displacement of the inhabitants of the Central African Republic: one out of five is either internally displaced or a refugee. As at 1 May, 489,000 people were internally displaced, while 742,000 had taken refuge in neighbouring countries. Since the beginning of the year, 108,784 returnees have been recorded, following the restoration of stability in some of the country's main cities.

39. Challenges to humanitarian access persisted, including explosive ordnance threats outside of urban areas and the targeting of humanitarian personnel. Nearly 450,000 vulnerable people were affected by limited humanitarian access. Between 1 January and 1 June, a total of 75 incidents against aid workers were recorded in the country, with four workers injured and one killed. Thefts, robberies and looting accounted for 67 per cent of the incidents, primarily in Ouaka and Ouham Prefectures.

40. In 2023, 3.4 million people in the Central African Republic, or 56 per cent of the population, are projected to need humanitarian assistance, with the lives and dignity of 2.4 million people at risk. As at 1 June, 27.3 per cent of the \$533.3 million required in accordance with the addendum to the 2023 humanitarian response plan had been mobilized, leaving a funding gap of \$387.8 million. During the first quarter of 2023, the humanitarian community provided assistance to 658,000 people.

VI. Protection of civilians

41. Predatory acts by armed groups continued to pose threats to civilians, also restricting their movement and hampering economic activity. MINUSCA enhanced its robust and proactive posture, as well as its operational reach, including through long-range patrols and operations in coordination with the national defence forces in Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Ouham and Vakaga Prefectures, to support the extension of the presence of the State and protect civilians. MINUSCA continued its efforts to decrease intercommunal tensions, including through community sessions to foster local dialogue, reconciliation and the acceptance of returnees and refugees.

42. Between 2 February and 1 June, 26 explosive ordnance incidents were registered, in which 13 people were killed and 25 people injured, including eight civilians, three national defence forces personnel and two other security personnel. This represents an 18 per cent increase in the number of incidents and a 153 per cent increase in the number of casualties compared with the previous reporting period.

43. MINUSCA trained 608 military personnel, including 89 women, in practical mitigation of explosive ordnance threats. MINUSCA also trained 20 members of the national defence forces, including one woman, to level 2 explosive ordnance disposal qualification, so as to increase national capacity with regard to the mitigation of explosive ordnance threats. During the reporting period, MINUSCA conducted risk education sessions on explosive ordnance for 8,989 civilians, including 4,400 women and girls, in local communities. The Mission further conducted risk education sessions on awareness of explosive threats for 160 United Nations personnel and 173 other humanitarian actors.

44. From 14 February to 11 March, MINUSCA demining teams worked to open the axis linking Bocaranga, Bozoum and Lim-Pendé Prefecture, and from 8 to 17 May to open the Ndim-Paoua-Pougol axis, to facilitate economic activity and humanitarian access.

VII. Extension of State authority and the rule of law

Extension of State authority

45. As at 1 June, 143 of 174 (82 per cent) administrative authorities (prefects, sub-prefects and secretaries-general of prefectures and sub-prefectures) were deployed to their duty stations outside Bangui, compared with 81 per cent during the previous reporting period. Furthermore, 165 civil servants and State agents other than administrative authorities were deployed across the country during the reporting period, reaching a total of 4,714.

46. National defence and security forces and MINUSCA undertook concerted efforts to extend areas of domination and establish a peaceful environment. After six years of absence, State authority began to return to Sam Ouandja. MINUSCA and international partners contributed to the building of three schools, one hospital, infrastructure and a new market in the area.

Security sector reform

47. In April, the Army Inspectorate General and MINUSCA conducted a joint inspection in Paoua, Lim-Pendé Prefecture, to assess the work conditions of national defence force personnel and to raise awareness of military justice and disciplinary regulations. The Army Inspectorate General submitted his recommendations to President Touadera on 28 April.

48. National authorities continued efforts, with MINUSCA technical support and advocacy, to finalize the new national defence policy, which would provide a new framework to build a national garrison army in six defence areas. On 1 June, the Government endorsed the national policy on the management of border areas, which provides a framework for the delineation of the responsibilities of the various security forces in border management.

National defence and internal security forces

49. As at 1 June, 6,921 internal security forces personnel, comprising 3,591 police officers (899 women) and 3,330 gendarmes (541 women), were deployed across the country, including 5,153 who remained in Bangui. During the reporting period, MINUSCA supported the recruitment of 495 police officers, including 135 women, and 497 gendarmes (139 women), who have been admitted into two training schools. MINUSCA and UNDP supported the training of 188 police officers (46 women) and 159 gendarmes (36 women) on community and justice policing, road safety, public order, conduct and discipline, child protection, and sexual and gender-based violence.

50. On 31 March, the Ministry of Defence appointed the national focal point for the development of a road map to establish a national mine action authority. On 26 April, the Government issued the national protocol for the management of seized or surrendered weapons and ammunition. The National Commission to Combat the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, with MINUSCA support, continued to implement the national strategy and action plan to improve weapons and ammunition management among national defence and internal security forces, through capacity-building activities on weapons and ammunition management and by conducting quality assurance visits to storage facilities in Bangui, Boali, Bossembele, Damara, Kaga Bandoro and Sibut.

Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation

51. From 3 to 6 April, the Government carried out its first disarmament and demobilization operation in Bambari, with MINUSCA support. Eighty *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* combatants, including three women, were disarmed and demobilized, specifically those who had disengaged from the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* and those whose weapons had been removed in 2022 by the national defence forces and other security personnel outside of the national disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme. During the process, 66 weapons of war which had been retrieved by the programme since 2022, as well as one grenade and 4,569 rounds of ammunition, were collected and verified by MINUSCA. On 29 and 30 April, the implementation unit of the national disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme, with MINUSCA support, disarmed and demobilized 46 anti-balaka combatants, including 16 women, in Damara Sub-Prefecture, collecting 40 weapons and 2,000 rounds of ammunition during the process.

52. Community violence reduction activities continued in Bangui and in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Kémo, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham and Vakaga Prefectures. As at 1 June, 4,321 beneficiaries (including 2,118 women) had

been registered. During the reporting period, 209 beneficiaries (80 women) were enrolled in activities in Sam Ouandja. The projects resulted in the rehabilitation of the Sam Ouandja airstrip, the building and furnishing of three primary schools, the rehabilitation of the main roads and the installation of five water points.

Justice and the rule of law

53. From 6 February to 15 March, the Bangui Court of Appeal, with MINUSCA support, held its first criminal session of 2023. Fifty defendants were tried, resulting in 43 convictions and seven acquittals. Charges included murder, conspiracy, conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and the murder of a Burundian peacekeeper on 15 March 2020 in Grimari, Ouaka Prefecture.

54. The presence of judicial personnel outside of Bangui increased, with 21 out of 25 jurisdictions operational as at 1 June, due to the improved security situation in some jurisdictions. The Government also increased the budget of the national judicial oversight mechanism for 2023 by 80 per cent compared with 2022, indicating its willingness to strengthen the accountability of justice actors.

55. Financial constraints delayed the Government's provision of food for prisons, deepening food insecurity and leading to incidents such as a revolt in the Berberati prison on 1 March, during which three prisoners escaped. MINUSCA worked with the Government for the timely transfer of funds allocated to operational prisons, to enable the provision of food and their transparent management. MINUSCA also reinforced its security support to several prisons, including in Bangui, Berberati and Bria.

56. Prison operations continued to be hampered by a lack of personnel, as the 295 civilian prison officers who completed their training in June 2021 and October 2022 were yet to be included on the government payroll. Insufficient national capacity contributed to escapes from several prisons. In April, MINUSCA supported national authorities in restoring order in the Bambari prison, following rioting by prisoners related to their detention conditions.

57. From 30 May to 1 June, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Criminal Court conducted hearings of the appeal of the verdict by the Trial Chamber on 31 October 2022 related to crimes committed during the May 2019 attacks on Koundjouli and Limouna, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture. Between 16 February and 5 June, MINUSCA transferred to national authorities five individuals, including a regional commander of the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique, Hisseine Damboucha, who had been arrested in Sam Ouandja by the internal security forces with MINUSCA support. At the request of the Special Criminal Court, MINUSCA also supported the transfer to Bangui from Bambari of 12 suspects.

VIII. Human rights and the fight against impunity

58. The human rights situation remained concerning, with a 12 per cent increase in the number of human rights violations and abuses and of violations of international humanitarian law. There was a 17 per cent decrease in the number of victims compared with the previous reporting period.

59. Armed groups signatory to the Political Agreement were allegedly responsible for 33 per cent of the documented violations and abuses during the reporting period. State agents were allegedly responsible for 54 per cent of the documented violations during the reporting period. Among the armed groups, the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique and Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation appeared to be the main perpetrators, in particular in Haute-Kotto and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures. MINUSCA

documented 129 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention affecting 547 victims, with Muslim and Fulani communities being particularly affected, including in Bangui.

60. Human rights concerns persisted in the northern triangle of Ouadda, Ouanda Djallé and Sam Ouandja in Vakaga and Haute-Kotto Prefectures, with the activities of combatants from the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique and the Parti pour le rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine having an impact on the freedom of movement of the population. MINUSCA also documented an increased number of human rights violations by the national defence and internal security forces in Basse-Kotto Prefecture and by other security personnel in Ouaka Prefecture.

61. MINUSCA continued to document cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions linked to search and military operations by national defence and security forces conducted in areas primarily populated by Fulani and Muslim communities. On 5 May, Muslim merchants in Bangui closed their shops in protest against the arrest of an imam and his cousin, who were reportedly ill-treated and tortured by other security personnel. A Government delegation led by the Minister of the Interior and Public Security met with the population to defuse tensions. The reporting period was also marked by the targeting of the Fulani community by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe for alleged collusion with armed groups.

62. MINUSCA continued to implement the human rights due diligence policy through its engagement with national defence and security forces. On 15 March, the Mission conducted, jointly with the Office centrafricain de répression du banditisme, an awareness-raising session on human rights aimed at 17 officers from the latter entity, including 2 women, with the intention of mitigating further risks of human rights violations.

63. During the reporting period, MINUSCA continued to monitor hate speech and incitement to violence linked to the political and security situation. MINUSCA recorded cases of hate speech, disinformation and incitement to violence targeted at ethnic, religious and migrant workers, in particular the transhumance communities. Threats of and incitement to violence on social media against dissenting voices continued to stifle civic space.

Transitional justice

64. On 23 and 24 March, the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission organized its first round table in Bangui to update partners on its three-year plan for 2023–2025 and priorities for 2023, which include opening sub-offices in Bambari, Berberati, Birao, Bossangoa, Kaga Bandoro, Obo and Paoua. The Commission has also planned a pilot phase in Bangui and Berberati to collect testimonies from victims and organize internal hearings. However, internal disagreement within the Commission undermined financial and technical support from the Government and caused a delay in the adoption of its revised priorities.

Conflict-related sexual violence

65. Between 2 February and 1 June, MINUSCA documented 25 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, mostly rape, against 28 survivors (17 women and 11 girls). Cases of conflict-related sexual violence continue to be underreported due to the difficulty of accessing victims, as well as the prevailing fear of retaliation and stigmatization. Armed groups were allegedly responsible for 56 per cent of instances of conflict-related sexual violence and 60 per cent of the victims, with Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation appearing to be the main perpetrator.

66. MINUSCA conducted training sessions on conflict-related sexual violence, including on community response, monitoring and reporting. The sessions were

aimed at civil society organizations; community, youth and women leaders; and national defence and security forces.

Children and armed conflict

67. Between 2 February and 1 June, the country task force on monitoring and reporting verified 136 grave human rights violations against children, with 83 per cent of those violations committed by armed groups, 9 per cent by national defence and security forces and 8 per cent by unidentified perpetrators; three children were killed by explosive ordnance. Grave violations included recruitment and use of children (87), killing (3), maiming (9), rape (8), abduction (13), an attack against a school (1) and denial of humanitarian access (15). Coalition des patriotes pour le changement factions accounted for 74 per cent of the violations. Out of the 87 children recruited and used by the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique, 79 self-demobilized (56 boys and 23 girls) and were screened in Haute-Kotto Prefecture following dialogue carried out by MINUSCA.

IX. Economic situation

68. The economic situation continued to deteriorate, as the Central African Republic faced a liquidity crisis, combined with a sharp rise in fuel prices, aggravating the deterioration of the living conditions of the population with a significant decline in household purchasing power. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected an inflation rate of 6.3 per cent for 2023. During its mission to Bangui from 27 February to 3 March, IMF noted the need for humanitarian assistance, concessional budgetary support and the acceleration of reforms to protect the most vulnerable.

69. On 27 April, IMF approved a \$191.4 million extended credit facility arrangement with the Central African Republic, including an immediate disbursement of \$15.2 million. On 29 April, President Touadera issued a statement commending the approval and instructed the Government to promptly implement required measures under the terms of the extended credit facility, including electronic tax reporting and petroleum sector reform, while continuing to fight corruption, preserve social spending and improve the business climate, including by implementing the mining code.

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

Military component

70. As at 1 June, the MINUSCA military component had deployed 14,087 troops (7.53 per cent women), representing 97 per cent of the authorized strength of 14,400 personnel. This included 420 staff officers (106 women), 150 military observers (51 women) and one explosive ordnance disposal reserve platoon.

Police component

71. As at 1 June, the MINUSCA police component had deployed 2,963 personnel (14.37 per cent women), representing 98 per cent of the authorized strength of 3,020. This comprised 550 individual police officers (146 women), 2,413 personnel (280 women) in 14 formed police units and one protection support unit.

Civilian component

72. As at 1 June, a total of 1,503 civilian personnel (29 per cent women), comprising 639 international staff, 584 national staff and 280 United Nations Volunteers, and 101 government-provided correctional personnel were serving with MINUSCA, representing 90 per cent of the 1,671 approved positions.

Status-of-forces agreement

73. Between 2 February and 1 June, MINUSCA recorded four violations of the status-of-forces agreement, compared with 17 incidents recorded during the previous reporting period. The violations included obstruction of the freedom of movement of MINUSCA patrols, the arrest of staff members and delays in visa issuance for MINUSCA contractors and consultants. For example, on 18 March, in Ndiba, Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, a MINUSCA patrol was stopped by the national defence forces and diverted to Zoungbe-Nassala. On 25 March, in Bouar, the national defence forces refused a MINUSCA patrol access to Zembe village. MINUSCA continued to bring these violations to the attention of the President and other relevant national stakeholders, who reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the violations, resulting in a decrease in the number of incidents.

Safety and security of United Nations personnel

74. Between 2 February and 1 June, MINUSCA recorded 93 security incidents involving United Nations personnel, including direct attacks, threats, criminal acts and traffic accidents. Five personnel were injured: one in armed clashes, one in an armed robbery and three in traffic accidents. Thirty-eight traffic accidents and four fire incidents were reported, while a storm caused material damage to a United Nations premises. Five cases of arrest, two cases of detention, six temporary confinements of United Nations personnel, three armed robberies and two cases of suspected airplane flights over a United Nations compound were registered. MINUSCA conducted four evacuations of personnel during the reporting period.

75. On 8 March, in Sam Ouandja, two United Nations Office for Project Services personnel and one civil servant from the Ministry of Public Works who had been abducted by the Parti pour le rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine in November 2022 were released following negotiations led by the United Nations. The former hostages received medical and psychosocial support in Bangui prior to being reunited with their families.

Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

76. Between 1 January and 30 April, MINUSCA recorded six new allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, all of which related to incidents that occurred between 2014 and 2022, involving military personnel from four troop-contributing countries. For four allegations, national investigation officers were appointed, while the other two allegations are pending a reply from the concerned troop-contributing countries. The Mission referred 25 alleged victims associated with these allegations, including six children, to humanitarian partners for medical, psychological and protection assistance. Twenty-one allegations of other serious misconduct were also reported, including prohibited conduct, fraud and theft implicating uniformed personnel and civilian personnel, and were referred for investigation.

77. On 9 June, the United Nations decided to repatriate a unit of 60 military personnel from MINUSCA over serious allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2272 \(2016\)](#). These incidents allegedly involved failures in command and control. A full investigation is in

progress. The concerned authorities deployed a national investigation team on 26 May and concluded their investigation activities in the mission area on 6 June. Upon receiving the report of the allegations, MINUSCA dispatched an immediate response team to the location to assess the situation, strengthen risk management measures and conduct enhanced awareness-raising activities among communities on how to identify and report possible instances of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Mission referred the victims to humanitarian partners for medical, psychosocial and protection assistance, in line with the United Nations policy on support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

78. MINUSCA, in close coordination with the United Nations country team, continued to implement enhanced preventative measures against misconduct among personnel through training sessions and outreach activities, and remained engaged with members of the local population in the dissemination of information on the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. As at 1 June, MINUSCA had established 43 local prevention and response networks in high-risk areas to enhance a decentralized and integrated approach with United Nations system entities to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Support considerations

79. MINUSCA continued to increase its renewable energy consumption by completing the installation of three additional photovoltaic systems in its field offices in Bossangoa and Bambari in February and May 2023, respectively; it now has a total of five photovoltaic systems mission-wide. MINUSCA continued to improve the conditions of the remaining temporary operating bases following the closure of 14 of them, and intensified the monitoring of wastewater risks and the implementation of mitigation measures.

Mission effectiveness and configuration

80. In line with paragraph 58 (b) of resolution [2659 \(2022\)](#), and in keeping with the Action for Peacekeeping Plus commitments, MINUSCA and the Secretariat continued their efforts to optimize the effectiveness and configuration of the Mission to better achieve its mandated priorities, in particular its strategic objectives.

81. In a context of persistent hostilities between armed groups, ongoing military operations, rising prices and deteriorating living conditions, MINUSCA adapted its political strategy and related security approach to advance the peace process, with a view to fostering decentralized local-level peace and conflict prevention initiatives in alignment with the national monitoring framework of the Political Agreement. The good offices of MINUSCA, along with its convening role and technical and logistical support, contributed to increased decentralization and national ownership in the implementation of the Agreement, with the support of partners. The Mission also sought to solidify gains from the political process by creating opportunities for development actors in historically marginalized areas.

82. In support of the new political strategy, MINUSCA adjusted its security approach by enhancing the robustness of its forces, operational reach and proactivity to conduct operations to deter armed group activity and protect civilians. To that end, the Mission closed 14 temporary operating bases, thereby freeing up 397 troops, affording greater flexibility. This allowed MINUSCA a more mobile posture and the ability to undertake significantly more robust operations, including long-range patrols to hotspots from bases in Bamingui, Batangafo, Berberati, Bossangoa, Bozoum, Damara, Nola and Paoua. It also facilitated more coordinated patrols with national defence and internal security forces in strategically significant locations such as Ouanda Djallé and Sam Ouandja. These areas have historically been controlled by

armed groups and characterized by the absence of State authority and vulnerability to cross-border security dynamics.

83. MINUSCA launched this new approach in Sam Ouandja, where the Mission combined integrated interventions by its uniformed and civilian components to stabilize the area and support the redeployment of national defence and security forces, including by conducting coordinated operations with them. This facilitated the restoration of State authority, which had been absent in this area for decades, and enabled humanitarian and development partners to launch stabilization and recovery projects to provide livelihood opportunities and bridge the gap between peacekeeping and development.

84. MINUSCA also worked actively with the office of the Prime Minister to raise awareness of the harmonization of the joint road map and the Political Agreement and their practical implementation at the local level through strategic communication and outreach. To that end, the Mission has provided technical, financial and logistical support, as well as deployed its good offices.

85. With greater manoeuvrability and decentralized political engagement, MINUSCA was able to facilitate the further extension of State authority across the country. Following the establishment of the Mission, the number of civil servants deployed with the support of MINUSCA increased from 1,315 in 2015 to 4,549 in 2022, including 577 women, deployed in all prefectures providing regular State services. However, the effectiveness of the redeployment of national defence and internal security forces to these areas remains contingent on the ability of the State to sustain the personnel.

86. A total of 2,324 of the additional 2,750 troops authorized by the Security Council in its resolution [2566 \(2021\)](#) have been deployed, including an additional four quick reaction forces covering each sector, providing greater operational cover in line with the new security posture. These reinforcements have also filled capacity shortfalls in engineering and explosive ordnance threats and enhanced medical care for peacekeepers with a new level II hospital in Bouar. All of the additional police personnel have deployed, including three formed police units in Bangassou, Batangafo and Ndélé and individual police officers in six new towns. MINUSCA is finalizing its civilian staffing review, in particular further to the reinforcement of its uniformed component, to ensure that its configuration is fit for purpose within the current operational environment.

87. MINUSCA used its specialized capacities to improve the safety of United Nations personnel and better execute its mandate. To enhance access and mobility, MINUSCA has since July 2022 rehabilitated 704 km of roads and 49 bridges, installed seven metal bridges, maintained airstrips at 14 locations and constructed an aviation apron and taxiway at Bangui M'Poko International airport. To better anticipate threats and protect civilians, the Mission is taking steps to enhance its situational awareness. MINUSCA is also rolling out its action plan for the enhancement of its peacekeeping-intelligence and early warning capacity, which was adopted on 4 April 2022, with the resumption of the Mission's peacekeeping-intelligence coordination mechanism. Gaps in aviation remain, including with regard to security and mobility, requiring commensurate resources.

88. MINUSCA has also enhanced the safety of United Nations personnel by progressively deploying explosive ordnance disposal teams in the regions. The Mission has conducted in-country awareness training on the practical mitigation of explosive ordnance threats for exposed peacekeepers, as well as awareness-raising sessions for United Nations personnel and at-risk civilians. It has established a technical explosive ordnance working group to integrate information-sharing, threat

monitoring and coordination mechanisms and has been conducting post-blast investigation missions since October 2022.

89. MINUSCA continued to prioritize the performance and accountability of its personnel, with a specific focus on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. The Mission implemented its revised prevention strategy, enhanced its misconduct risk management, and facilitated care for victims, as described in paragraph 78 above. The Mission supplemented this support with projects under the trust fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, providing victims and affected communities with assistance in the amount of \$431,000 since 2018.

90. In line with various reviews and audits, MINUSCA also improved operational controls and established a dedicated task force to optimize supply chain and fuel management, including through heightened monitoring to mitigate the risk of fraud. Since July 2022, practical measures have been taken to address issues of underperformance, as demonstrated in the improvement of fuel management and the inclusion of a performance indicator tool on patrolling and the serviceability of equipment in the Force Commander's directive.

91. MINUSCA continued its engagement with national authorities to proactively address compliance with the status-of-forces agreement, in particular with regard to impediments to freedom of movement, restrictions on the utilization of aviation assets and detention of United Nations personnel. Sustained engagement by Mission leadership with national authorities resulted in the lifting of the ban on night flights for medical and casualty evacuations and for support to MINUSCA or national security and defence forces engaged in operations. Restrictions imposed on the flight of MINUSCA unmanned aircraft systems since 3 February were waived, while new notification requirements were stipulated. The full use of these assets remains a key component for situational awareness and the security of peacekeepers during operations.

XI. Financial considerations

92. The General Assembly, by its resolution [76/282](#) of 29 June 2022, appropriated the amount of \$1,074.4 million for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. As at 31 May 2023, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for MINUSCA amounted to \$391.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,755.8 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 2022, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

XII. Observations

93. The extension of the peace process to the local level, a key priority for the enduring success of the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, marked the reporting period. I welcome the efforts of the Government to decentralize the peace process, including through a conference with all prefects, which created a window of opportunity to foster inclusive dialogue and address long-standing regional disparities. I equally commend the commitment of the Government to decentralization and encourage it to continue pursuing these initiatives.

94. It is important that these efforts be accompanied by a sustained expansion of State authority and adequate security, a prerequisite for ending the cycle of violence.

The Mission's initiative in Sam Ouandja, which was a combination of uniformed, logistical and civilian interventions, resulted in the resumption of support by humanitarian and development partners following the deployment of State authority for the first time in decades. I applaud the concerted efforts of the national defence and internal security forces and MINUSCA, working together to establish a peaceful environment in one of the most challenging areas of the country.

95. The local elections present an opportunity to increase participatory, decentralized governance, which can reinforce ownership of the peace process in the prefectures and the extension of State authority. I welcome the signing of the integrated elections security plan. I take note of the announcement of the temporary suspension of preparations for local elections by the President of the National Electoral Authority and his statement that those preparations will resume in September. It is critical that the Government provide clarification on the new calendar for the local elections.

96. Creating conditions for broadening the democratic space and political dialogue is essential for the advancement of the peace process. I take note of the organization of the constitutional referendum in July and urge the Government to constructively engage with the opposition and civil society to ensure inclusive participation and broad consensus. I further call on the national stakeholders, in particular political leaders, to refrain from any action, including hate speech and incitement to violence, that could undermine the implementation of the Political Agreement.

97. I welcome the formal dissolution of two armed groups and factions of three other armed groups that are signatory to the Political Agreement. It is critical to ensure that these dissolutions are sustained, in particular in terms of the disarmament and demobilization of residual elements and their sustainable reintegration into society. I further call on international partners to continue supporting the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme for the effective dissolution of armed groups.

98. I am deeply concerned by the continued violence perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including newly emerged armed and self-defence groups that are not signatory to the Political Agreement. The porosity of the country's borders, combined with the conflict in the Sudan, poses severe risks for civilians, as witnessed in Vakaga Prefecture, where there has been a rapid deterioration of security, including attacks against civilians and national defence forces by armed groups in Tiringoulou and Sikékédé. While the enhanced mobility of MINUSCA and its robust posture contributed to bringing stability to these areas, sustaining these gains requires continued coordination between the Mission and the national defence forces to protect civilians. I encourage the Government to continue intensifying its collaboration with MINUSCA to that end and welcome the adoption of the national policy on the management of border areas. I equally call on the neighbouring countries to continue efforts aimed at strengthening border management, including through the reactivation of their bilateral commissions.

99. The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic is of grave concern, as the country continues to face protracted conflict amid a limited capacity to absorb external shocks. Following the outbreak of conflict in the Sudan and the rapid deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the north-western part of the Central African Republic bordering Chad, the country is facing an influx of refugees and returnees who are urgently in need of protection and assistance. I appreciate the support of the international community to the Central African Republic humanitarian appeal and call for further support, including to the addendum to the 2023 humanitarian response plan, to address the most urgent needs of the population in distress.

100. I continue to be alarmed by the worsening impact of the explosive ordnance threat on civilians, humanitarian actors and peacekeepers. The continued support of MINUSCA to mitigate this threat is of paramount importance for a conducive security environment and effective humanitarian delivery in the country.

101. The prevailing economic conditions pose a considerable risk of insecurity. Commodity prices continue to rise and have doubled in areas that are dependent on imports from the Sudan. Nationwide strikes are indicative of deepening grievances. In this context, the approval by IMF of the extended credit facility arrangement, and the President's declared priorities related thereto, are important in helping the Central African Republic avoid default and provide services to its people.

102. I remain deeply concerned about continued human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence, committed by all parties to the conflict. I urge the Government to initiate independent and transparent investigations into human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law.

103. The fight against impunity must remain a priority to end the cycle of violence and promote reconciliation. While there have been positive developments, the civilian population still faces obstacles in accessing justice. I call for the continued support of international parties to ensure that the criminal justice system in the Central African Republic and the Special Criminal Court remain operational.

104. The conviction of five individuals for the murder of a Burundian peacekeeper in Grimari in March 2020 is a welcome development in the accountability for crimes committed against peacekeepers. It is critical to continue advancing these investigations and to finalize the pending cases for future trial.

105. I firmly condemn any act of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel and reaffirm my commitment to zero tolerance of such incidents. My recent decision to repatriate a unit from a military contingent is an affirmation of my zero-tolerance policy and is meant to communicate the seriousness with which the United Nations takes all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. I deeply regret the harm caused to victims and reiterate the commitment of the United Nations to work with partners to ensure that every victim receives assistance. I acknowledge that the Member State has been formally notified, has noted the seriousness of the allegations and has reaffirmed its commitment to zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. MINUSCA civilian, troop and police contingents and the United Nations country team will continue to enhance preventative and response measures and strengthen assistance to victims.

106. Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA for her leadership and dedication. I welcome the continued constructive cooperation between the Government and MINUSCA. I am grateful for the dedication of United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel for their efforts in the implementation of the Mission's mandate, and to troop- and police-contributing and donor countries. I also commend regional, multilateral and non-governmental organizations and all other partners for their invaluable contributions.

Annex I

**United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission
in the Central African Republic: military and police strength as at
1 June 2023**

Country	Military component				Police component	
	Experts on mission	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Individual police officers
Argentina	–	2	–	2	–	–
Bangladesh	13	35	1 408	1 456	–	3
Benin	3	3	–	6	–	37
Bhutan	2	5	180	187	–	–
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3	4	–	7	–	–
Brazil	3	7	–	10	–	3
Burkina Faso	–	5	–	5	–	63
Burundi	7	11	748	766	–	–
Cambodia	4	6	342	352	–	–
Cameroon	3	7	750	760	320	15
Colombia	2	–	–	2	–	–
Congo	2	5	–	7	180	1
Côte d'Ivoire	–	2	–	2	–	40
Czechia	3	–	–	3	–	–
Djibouti	–	–	–	–	180	14
Ecuador	–	2	–	2	–	–
Egypt	7	29	987	1 023	137	31
France	–	6	–	6	–	2
Gabon	–	1	–	1	–	–
Gambia	3	6	–	9	–	12
Ghana	4	9	–	13	–	1
Guatemala	2	2	–	4	–	–
Guinea	–	–	–	–	–	17
India	–	2	–	2	–	–
Indonesia	4	10	215	229	140	17
Jordan	3	7	–	10	–	48
Kazakhstan	–	2	–	2	–	–
Kenya	7	11	–	18	–	–
Madagascar	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	24
Mauritania	7	8	449	464	320	–
Mexico	1	1	–	2	–	–
Mongolia	–	3	–	3	–	–
Morocco	5	26	750	781	–	–
Nepal	5	17	1 218	1 240	–	–
Niger	–	6	–	6	–	56
Nigeria	–	6	–	6	–	3

<i>Country</i>	<i>Military component</i>				<i>Police component</i>	
	<i>Experts on mission</i>	<i>Staff officers</i>	<i>Troops</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Formed police units</i>	<i>Individual police officers</i>
Pakistan	9	30	1 276	1 315	–	–
Paraguay	2	2	–	4	–	–
Peru	7	8	220	235	–	2
Philippines	2	1	–	3	–	–
Portugal	–	9	264	273	–	5
Republic of Moldova	3	1	–	4	–	–
Romania	–	–	–	–	–	8
Russian Federation	3	11	–	14	–	–
Rwanda	9	29	2 110	2 148	639	42
Senegal	–	12	180	192	497	12
Serbia	2	4	72	78	–	–
Sierra Leone	4	3	–	7	–	–
Spain	–	–	–	–	–	3
Sri Lanka	–	3	110	113	–	–
Sweden	–	–	–	–	–	4
Togo	4	9	–	13	–	25
Tunisia	3	12	760	775	–	51
Türkiye	–	–	–	–	–	11
United Republic of Tanzania	0	7	568	575	–	–
United States of America	0	9	–	9	–	–
Uruguay	0	3	–	3	–	–
Viet Nam	1	7	–	8	–	–
Zambia	6	12	910	928	–	–
Zimbabwe	2	2	–	4	–	–
Total	150	420	13 517	14 087	2 413	550

Map

