

**Advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council on the  
renewal of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central  
African Republic (MINUSCA) mandate  
21 October 2019**

Through Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), the Council expressed its intention to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to ensure the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace is reflected in the review of peacekeeping mission mandates. In this context, in 2018, the PBC provided its written observations ahead of the renewal of the MINUSCA mandate, which focused on the need to foster national ownership and the inclusivity of the peace process, maintain strategic and operational partnerships, support the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation, support the timely preparation and organization of elections, nurture the sense of unity among key stakeholders, provide support to the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA), anchor security sector reform and rule of law efforts in the political process and enhance the government's strategic communication capacity. The observations are attached for reference and remain relevant for the renewal of the MINUSCA mandate in 2019.

Similarly, the peacebuilding components of Resolution 2448 (2018) on MINUSCA's mandate, which strengthened the Mission's political good offices role in support of the peace process and contained references to the importance of nationally-owned solutions, empowering women and young people, the necessity of coordination of all efforts in support of the African Initiative and the need for continued national commitment and international support to the RCPCA. These references should be maintained.

In addition, the PBC invites the Security Council to consider the following points:

*Supporting the implementation of the peace agreement:* The Peace Agreement is the only viable path for peace and there has been important progress in its implementation. Yet, violence against civilians and clashes between signatory armed groups has continued. This is unacceptable and need to stop.

- Emphasizing that the protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of CAR authorities and a priority mandate for MINUSCA, the Council could consider additional measures to support national authorities in gradually assuming full responsibility for protection of civilians in CAR.
- The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) supported measures to de-escalate conflict in the immediate aftermath of the peace agreement, including on security sector reform, rule of law and governance, strategic communications and providing peace dividends to populations. This support should catalyze further donor support, particularly to peacebuilding and sustaining peace initiatives including at the local level essential for durable peace, with a focus on inclusion of all segments of society including women and young people.
- Concrete ways should be found to involve women and young people in the appropriation and implementation of the peace agreement, including through the PBC. MINUSCA should seek to enhance better communication with women leaders in communities to

better understand how to address protection needs that emerge as a result of violations of the peace agreement.

- Focusing on addressing challenges young people face including under-development, unemployment and lack of education opportunities, to better insulate them from the appeal of armed groups would be particularly important. The PBC could assist in formulating a longer-term strategy for young people.
- Sustained strategic and operational partnerships remain essential for the implementation of the peace agreement and to address the multi-dimensional challenges facing CAR. The PBC encourages the Council to consider the PBC as a partnership forum to promote shared analysis and understanding of the multi-dimensional challenges facing CAR.

*Supporting the timely preparation and organization of elections:* While the primary responsibility for holding elections in accordance with established timelines rests with CAR authorities, the presidential, legislative and local elections are essential for the success of the peace process.

- MINUSCA should be provided with a stronger electoral mandate, namely to provide good offices, technical assistance, logistical and security support as well as international coordination, in order to support the process. Of course, the primary responsibility for holding elections in accordance with established timelines rests with Central Africans.
- Political and financial support from international and regional partners must be galvanized to strengthen national capacity, including through full support to the UNDP Basket Fund.
- The Council could use the PBC to draw attention to security, political, financial and capacity related challenges throughout the electoral process, mobilize resources and help promote greater inclusion of all segments of society and address various obstacles for participation, and champion the equal participation and representation of women in the elections.
- The Council could also consider the need to greater international support for the government's strategic communications capacity in support of successful and credible elections, which would include agreement on and dissemination of a code of conduct for elections. In this respect, the launch of the National Plan on the Prevention of Hate Speech is a critical opportunity to mitigate tensions.

*Addressing humanitarian needs while focusing on long-term challenges:* Despite the peace agreement, the humanitarian crisis has worsened and attacks against humanitarian workers have increased. Yet, the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is funded at only 51% and there is inequality in funding between clusters, with the protection cluster almost entirely underfunded. Urgent humanitarian needs must be addressed, yet humanitarian aid cannot remain the only social safety net. Ensuring complementarity between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts, in accordance with respective mandates, and coherence in international donor support, will be critical for durable solutions. Coordinated with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the RCPCA is an excellent basis for ensuring such coherence; its extension for two years until 2023 and the progress achieved in its implementation is commendable. The implementation of the RCPCA and the peace agreement should also be mutually reinforcing and complementary.

- The PBC can continue to provide advice to the Council, upon its request, on RCPCA implementation in the aftermath of the peace agreement to help promote complementarity

between short-term humanitarian measures and longer-term efforts to lay the groundwork for lasting peace, including through working with ECOSOC.

*Strengthening the rule of law, transitional justice and combatting impunity:* The adoption of the National Justice Sectoral Policy, the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court (SCC), increased government coordination with the International Criminal Court (ICC), to which the Central African Republic is a state party, and positive developments with the national court system are welcome developments. As technical capacity and funding gaps could lead to delays in investigations and eventual indictments, continued international community and UN support to the functioning of the SCC and justice sector across the country would be crucial while facilitating the implementation of the peace agreement and fighting impunity. This should be understood as fitting into the broader transitional justice process, to include ensuring complementarity between judicial and non-judicial institutions.

- Progress with the establishment of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (TJRRC) should be maintained, including through setting up a Trust Fund for reparations for victims.