



## PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

### Written Advice to the United Nations Security Council on Local Elections in the Central African Republic 23 June 2025

The following advice is provided ahead of the 26 June Security Council briefing on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), with a view to supporting required efforts for the upcoming local elections.

1. The Commission notes the importance of the upcoming local elections as the first in over three decades, representing a significant milestone in the country's efforts to consolidate peace, democratic governance, and long-term development. They are critical to advancing decentralization and restoring state authority at the local level. Efforts to improve security, advance the peace process, and support inclusive and participatory governance, by securing civic and political space should be sustained for the broader objectives of peacebuilding and stabilization.
2. The Commission acknowledges that challenges to revise the voter's list may truncate the set date of 31 August 2025 for the local elections. In that regard, while the national authorities are trying to finalize the updating of the voter's list, the Commission notes that discussions with relevant United Nations' entities are underway to examine alternatives, including the possibility of combining the local elections with the planned general elections (presidential and parliamentary) in December. The Commission encourages the finalization and publication of the updated voter list as a matter of urgency, and to ensure that the voter registration process is completed in a timely, inclusive and transparent manner while noting that the National Electoral Authority's (ANE) temporary suspension of the publication of the provisional list was a responsible decision and a demonstration of responsiveness to citizen concerns, as well as a commitment to transparency and electoral integrity.
3. Despite these challenges, the Peacebuilding Commission commends the CAR Government's diligent efforts to organize the local elections, including through:
  - a. At the political level: Sustained political commitment by H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra the President of CAR and his Government to hold the upcoming elections, including through regular convening of the inclusive national coordination mechanisms that promote dialogue, accountability, and public participation.
  - b. At the legislative level: The promulgation of the new Electoral Code on 2 July 2024, which incorporated gender-sensitive provisions and addressed long-standing legal gaps, and the National Assembly's adoption of the law on 17 May 2025 derogating Article 18 of the Electoral Code and its promulgation by the President of the Republic on 6 June 2025, enabling elections to proceed despite delays in finalizing the updating of the voter list.
4. The Commission also commends the significant achievements made under challenging conditions in the current voter list. The two-phase voter registration exercise reached all 20 prefectures and included registration in 15 countries for the diaspora, resulting in a provisional figure of over 648,000 newly registered voters. These efforts contribute to upholding the right to participate in public affairs, and to ensuring the inclusion of all eligible citizens in the democratic process.
5. In this context, we recognize the support rendered to the CAR Government by MINUSCA and UNDP in:
  - A financial contribution of \$1,341,727 by MINUSCA to the UNDP-managed electoral basket fund, which, in conjunction with contributions from other partners, allowed for kickstarting the preparations.
  - Procuring and distributing over 2 million registration forms and 4,300 kits;

- Training and paying more than 3,000 voter registration agents;
  - Securing voter registration operations and ensuring a safe environment for the participation of all segments of the population, including the most vulnerable.
  - Data processing, including addressing duplicate registration and incomplete records, through ANE's Data Processing Centre.
6. The Commission welcomes the Government's efforts, with UN support, in ensuring a safe environment during all stages of the electoral cycle, enhancing public awareness and encouraging the participation of women, youth, returned refugees and internally displaced persons and targeted initiatives to promote women's participation in the electoral process, both as voters and candidates. In this context, it commends the launch of a joint UN Women-MINUSCA initiative, with \$400,000 in Mission funding, to overcome barriers stemming from many women lacking ID documents. Further, it recognizes the High-Level Dialogue on "Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women During Electoral Time" in May 2025, which engaged over 250 participants, including the Prime Minister and civil society leaders. We further acknowledge PBF funding of \$1.5 million for a joint UNDP-UN Women project supporting peaceful and inclusive elections.
  7. Despite this, the Commission remains concerned about the lack of visibility over the consolidated financial requirements for the elections scheduled in 2025-26, in particular given the delays in the revision of the voter list. We take note of the revised total cost for local elections: \$21.8 million, with \$12.4 million managed through the UNDP-administered Basket Fund and \$9.4 million directly by the Government. We acknowledge that \$8.4 million has already been disbursed to the Basket Fund for local elections but remain concerned that the current funding gap amounts to \$9 million.
  8. The Commission further stresses that sustained international financial support and timely disbursement of funds are critical to ensuring procurement of outstanding electoral materials, deployment of operational teams, and implementation of logistical plans, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, in order for the local elections to be conducted on schedule, while ensuring credibility, accessibility and inclusiveness. Bridging these gaps will send a strong signal of international commitment to CAR's democratic governance and the broader peacebuilding agenda.
  9. The Commission therefore calls on Member States and Regional Organizations to consider urgent financial, including to the UNDP-managed electoral Basket Fund, and multifaceted support (political, technical, operational, logistical and security-related), which will be key to fostering a conducive environment for free, transparent, fair peaceful and inclusive local elections, in line with the principles of democratic participation and advancing the decentralization of governance for durable peace and stability in the country.