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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) until 15 November 2021 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 the Secretary-General of 16 June 2021 ([S/2021/571](#)) and on the reinforcement of MINUSCA authorized in resolution [2566 \(2021\)](#).

II. Political situation

2. The establishment of the new Government generated some momentum in the process leading to the organization of a “republican dialogue”. At the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, a joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic was adopted, in which participants called for an inclusive dialogue in support of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and urged the Government to declare a ceasefire. The peace process continued to progress incrementally in the context of persisting political tensions and continued military operations that contributed to a deepening humanitarian crisis and serious human rights violations.

Political developments

3. The President, Faustin Archange Touadéra, established a new Government on 23 June, comprising 32 ministers, including 3 ministers of State, 28 ministers and 1 minister delegate, at least 20 of whom were members of or closely associated with the ruling Mouvement des coeurs unis party. Seven government ministers were women, representing 21.9 per cent, above the 14.7 per cent in the previous government, but still below the 35 per cent quota established by the gender parity law. Six ministers originated from armed groups that were signatories to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation that had renounced violence, two were from civil society and two were former presidential candidates.

4. On 30 June, President Touadéra established an organizing committee for a republican dialogue, which was inaugurated on 1 September. The political opposition,



armed groups and civil society criticized the committee's composition owing to the large representation of public authorities and those affiliated with the ruling party. On 22 July, the President amended the committee's composition, increasing it from 24 to 29 members, including 3 women, with additional seats for political parties and civil society. The Coalition des patriotes pour le changement-affiliated armed groups remained excluded from the organizing committee.

5. On 29 June, the Constitutional Court proclaimed the final results of the 23 May legislative elections. Residual legislative elections were held in seven constituencies on 25 July, with a voter turnout of some 60 per cent. The Court announced the final results on 30 August, concluding the legislative electoral cycle held in all constituencies, which saw all 140 seats of the National Assembly filled, including 18 women, up from 12 in the prior legislature. The ruling Mouvement des coeurs unis obtained a relative majority (41), followed by independents (35) many of whom were allied with the Mouvement des coeurs unis, the Kwa Na Kwa party (10) and representatives of 22 other parties (54). On 1 October, the National Assembly commenced its second ordinary session of the seventh legislature.

6. On 12 August, the Constitutional Court revoked the parliamentary status of the elected member of the opposition party Chemin de l'espérance and former President of the National Assembly, Abdou Karim Meckassoua, and proclaimed the election of the runner-up, Ibrahim Ould Alhissene Algoni of the ruling Mouvement des coeurs uni. The Court found Meckassoua ineligible to contest the election owing to his involvement in the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement, as imputed in the notice of prosecution against him issued in January 2021. On 15 August, Meckassoua left the country. Members of the political opposition denounced the Court's decision, claiming the Government had used the Court in an attempt to silence political dissent. On 20 September, the Court of Auditors issued a judgment dismissing the allegations against Meckassoua for corruption, which had formed the basis for his removal as President of the National Assembly in September 2018.

7. On 16 September, the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, including President Touadéra, met in Luanda for a mini-summit on the situation in the Central African Republic. The Heads of State and Government adopted a joint road map to revitalize the peace process, notably calling for the declaration of a ceasefire by the Government and reaffirming the continued consultations of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region with leaders of the armed groups for a total renunciation of violence.

Implementation of the Political Agreement

8. Progress on the implementation of the Political Agreement remained limited, with attention focused on preparations for the republican dialogue and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region initiative. The Government appointed a Minister of State for Demobilization, Disarmament, Reintegration and Repatriation and the Monitoring of the Implementation of the Agreement, one of the recommendations from the February evaluation of the Political Agreement by the Government. The Executive Monitoring Committee of the Political Agreement held its eleventh session on 2 August. At that session, its first since 16 April, it validated the recommendations from the evaluation.

9. The Coalition des patriotes pour le changement was weakened during the reporting period by financial challenges and military operations by the national armed forces, as well as bilaterally deployed and other security personnel.

10. The armed group Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique remains internally divided over the implementation of the Political Agreement. On 11 September, the leader of

the group, Ali Darassa, reaffirmed its commitment to the Political Agreement, declaring his intention to withdraw from the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement. Following this declaration, the coordinator of the “dissident” faction of the group, “Général” Hamadou Tanga, addressed a letter to the Minister of State for Demobilization, Disarmament, Reintegration and Repatriation and Monitoring of the Implementation of the Agreement, announcing the formation of the “dissident” faction of the group dissociated from Ali Darassa and requesting the integration of 300 “dissident” elements of the group in the demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and repatriation process.

11. From 27 to 29 September, the international faith-based organization Sant’Egidio community brought together political parties, civil society and religious confessions to discuss and make recommendations for the republican dialogue. The meeting resulted in the “Rome declaration”, which advocates for inclusiveness of the dialogue, a declaration of ceasefire and the creation of conducive conditions for the dialogue to take place.

12. Efforts to operationalize the special mixed security units continued. Living conditions for elements of these units in the Bouar and Paoua camps were improved through a European Union-funded project. At the time of writing, there were 269 elements in Bouar and 206 in Paoua, including former members of armed groups, as well as national defence and internal security forces. Challenges related to delayed payment of salaries by the Government and weak command and control persisted.

13. Regarding the socioeconomic provisions of the Agreement, the Joint Executive Committee of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan continued to reinforce linkages between the national development plan and the Political Agreement by developing a comprehensive approach by the Ministry of Planning and Economy, in collaboration with the United Nations country team and the World Bank to enhance synergies, identify criteria to prioritize and prepare for the strategic deployment of peace dividends. The KoBo toolbox, developed with World Bank support and fully operational since April 2021, allowed real-time monitoring of the implementation of projects related to the National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, including the delivery of peace dividends.

Electoral preparations

14. On 14 September, the Prime Minister chaired the strategic committee meeting on elections. A new electoral calendar was adopted for the municipal, regional and senatorial elections, the first since 1988, with local elections scheduled for 11 September 2022. Voter registration was scheduled from 2 January to 30 April 2022 to allow internally displaced persons, refugee returnees and new adults to participate.

15. The organization of local elections would require the mobilization of some \$10 million. On 2 September, the Government announced it would disburse \$0.4 million for the electoral mapping scheduled from October to December 2021. The Government committed to providing the National Elections Authority with \$2.7 million from the 2022 State budget. Efforts were ongoing with partners of the Central African Republic to mobilize the remaining resources.

16. The joint efforts of MINUSCA and the United Nations country team to support women’s participation in all stages of the elections, as voters and candidates, helped to increase the representation of women in the new Parliament. The electoral process, however, confirmed that sociocultural barriers continued to impede women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in political life, including gender bias, a lack of political will and the deteriorating security situation.

Local dialogue and reconciliation

17. On 16 July, MINUSCA chaired a consultative meeting with stakeholders to evaluate local peace and reconciliation committees. Women comprised 30 per cent of committee members by end of June 2021, an increase from 21.4 per cent in 2020. As at 1 October, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation had established 52 local peace and reconciliation committees, 14 of which received financial support from MINUSCA.

18. MINUSCA, in collaboration with the United Nations country team, continued to support local conflict prevention and resolution. In June, through a transhumance management system established in collaboration with MINUSCA and the International Organization of Migration, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reported a 19 per cent decrease in farmer-herder conflicts in comparison with the previous year and a 30 per cent improvement in community perceptions of transhumance dynamics, which was seen as the direct result of increased dialogue between farmers and herders.

19. Following the 17 May attacks by ex-Séléka fighters in Grevai, Nana-Gribizi Prefecture, on 20 to 23 June, a local mediation team was deployed in the area with MINUSCA support to prevent intercommunal violence between Banda and Mandja communities. An integrated action plan for the promotion of peaceful coexistence between the communities was implemented through MINUSCA programmatic funds.

III. Security situation

20. The security situation remained precarious, especially in the west and centre of the country. National defence forces, as well as bilaterally deployed and other security personnel, continued their offensive against armed groups, who in turn attacked national security forces and civilians, causing population displacement and tensions among communities. In addition, some armed groups attempted to recapture their former strongholds in the north-west and south-east that had been lost during the military offensive, and in the process committed violence against civilians. The state of emergency expired on 5 August after being in place for six months.

21. As at 1 October, there had been 559 recorded security violations of the Political Agreement, an increase from the 495 recorded during the previous reporting period. Civilians were the target of 380 violations, followed by violations related to illegal military activities (74), restrictions of movement (64) and obstruction of State institutions, humanitarian organizations or the United Nations (41). National defence and internal security forces allegedly perpetrated most of these reported violations (244), up from 78 in the previous reporting period, followed by Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (110), Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (90), anti-balaka (49), Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (36) and Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (17) and Révolution justice-Sayo (3).

22. Since February, the national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel increased their presence on two of the three main trade corridors (west and north) to control migration during the transhumance season in October. However, they had a limited presence on the northeast trade corridor, which had allowed for an increased presence of foreign armed elements in the area since August.

23. In the west, confrontations between Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation and the national defence forces, bilaterally deployed and other security personnel resulted in abuses against civilians and considerable displacement. The group maintained strongholds and a mobile presence near the border with Cameroon, using hit-and-run tactics to avoid confrontation, especially in Nana Mambéré and Ouham-Pende

Prefectures. It began attacking national defence forces' positions mostly in areas where bilaterally deployed and other security personnel were not present, such as in Mann, Ouham-Péndé Prefecture, allegedly planting explosive devices that resulted in civilian casualties. On 25 August, two motorcyclists were killed in two separate incidents involving explosive devices near Ndim and in Bowara. Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation continued hostile acts on the main supply route from Cameroon, including attacks against commercial convoys escorted by national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel, such as on 1 September near Douala Elevage, Nana Mambéré Prefecture.

24. Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique became more active compared with the previous reporting period, as the rainy season affected the Mission's mobility, as well as that of national defence forces, bilaterally deployed and other security personnel. In the centre, fighting between Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique and national defence forces supported by bilaterally deployed and other security personnel resumed in June in Basse-Kotto and Ouaka Prefectures. On 28 June, an estimated 300 Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique combatants attacked the national defence forces' position in Alindao, Basse-Kotto Prefecture, resulting in the withdrawal of the national defence forces from their camp and triggering population displacement. Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique withdrew from its base in Alindao on 29 June following an exchange of fire with MINUSCA and the subsequent arrival of national armed forces and other security personnel; three gendarmes and two civilians were reportedly killed during the clashes.

25. In the east, on 26 June, a group of unidentified armed individuals attacked multiple locations in Obo town, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, including the gendarmerie site, national defence forces' camp, and MINUSCA base. A heavy exchange of fire ensued resulting in the killing of one child and one national defence force soldier, as well as the injuring of one peacekeeper.

26. In June, the Minister of the Interior and Public Security launched initiatives on the themes "security for all" and "voluntary disarmament", aimed at improving the security situation in Bangui. However, insecurity increased in the third and fifth districts of Bangui as compared to the previous reporting period; incidents of population harassment increased from 693 incidents to 714.

27. On 5 July in Bria, Haute-Kotto Prefecture, a local national defence forces detachment commander sought refuge inside the MINUSCA base. A convoy of national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel requested his handover, threatening to forcibly enter the base, blocking the entrance and attempting to search MINUSCA vehicles. MINUSCA handed over the commander to national authorities once a formal government request was received.

28. On 6 July, at the Garoua-Boulai border post, Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, Cameroonian authorities handed over to the Government 61 Central African soldiers who had reportedly fled to Cameroon during the electoral crisis. The Cameroonian authorities also returned 52 AK-47 rifles, four rocket propelled grenades and ammunition retrieved from the soldiers.

IV. Regional engagement

29. President Touadéra actively engaged with regional organizations, including the Economic Community of Central African States and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, to mobilize regional support for the peace process and strengthen bilateral cooperation between neighbouring countries. On 12 July, President Touadéra engaged with the President of Angola, João Lourenço, in Luanda

and discussed the lifting of the arms embargo. On 27 August, the Government signed several bilateral cooperation agreements with Rwanda in the areas of agriculture, natural resources and energy.

V. Humanitarian situation

30. Increased armed violence and conflict, displacement, widespread human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law continued to have a negative impact on the humanitarian situation and access to populations in need. In total, 63 per cent of the population, some 3.1 million people, needed humanitarian assistance and protection, among whom 2.2 million were in dire need.

31. In the first nine months of 2021, 342 security incidents against humanitarian actors were recorded, compared with 304 in the same period in 2020. Three humanitarian workers were killed while on duty, including one by an explosive device while on a field mission, and 23 others were injured during the reporting period. Robberies, burglaries, threats and assaults accounted for 55 per cent of the incidents, while the remaining 45 per cent were obstructions to aid delivery.

32. As at 1 October, 60.4 per cent of the funding for the \$444.8 million required to provide life-saving assistance to 1.84 million people as per the 2021 humanitarian response plan had been mobilized, leaving a funding gap of \$176.3 million. The humanitarian community provided multisectoral assistance and services to 1.4 million people.

33. According to data provided by national authorities, of more than 65,000 people tested for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as at 1 October, 11,432 had tested positive, of whom 100 had died. Official figures did not fully reflect the impact of the pandemic owing to limited testing. As at 1 October, more than 140,492 Central Africans had been vaccinated against COVID-19. The second phase of the Government's vaccination campaign is ongoing, supported by United Nations agencies and partners, with over 372,000 new doses received via the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) initiative and bilateral cooperation in July.

VI. Protection of civilians

34. Protection concerns continued to be exacerbated by military operations by national defence and internal security forces, assisted by bilaterally deployed and other security personnel. MINUSCA responded to protection challenges across the country by intensifying patrols and engaging in dialogue with the Government. Pursuant to resolution [2566 \(2021\)](#), MINUSCA continued to adjust its footprint in the main hotspots while enhancing its ability to respond robustly to protect civilians.

35. From 20 to 26 August, MINUSCA deployed a joint protection team to Alindao, Basse-Kotto Prefecture, to assess the Mission's early warning mechanisms, engage local stakeholders and identify ways to improve coordination between the Mission and national and security forces. With the deployment of additional personnel for the MINUSCA formed police unit in Kaga Bandoro, further to resolution [2566 \(2021\)](#), the Mission increased its presence in Batangafo to protect civilians in camps for displaced persons.

36. MINUSCA enhanced the effectiveness of community alert networks, providing 71 refresher training sessions for 1,886 volunteers, including 834 women. By the end of June 2021, community alert networks comprising at least 30 per cent women had increased by 6 per cent since June 2020. Invigorating these networks, along with proactive preventive action by the Force, had been critical to the Mission's ability to mitigate protection threats.

VII. Extension of State authority and the rule of law

37. As at 1 October, 134 out of 174 local officials (prefects, sub-prefects, secretaries-general of prefectures and secretaries of sub-prefectures) were present outside of the capital, representing 77 per cent of all appointed local personnel. Deployment of the appointed local personnel continued to rise. The lack of Government measures to sustain their presence in the regions remained a cause of persistent absenteeism. The Prime Minister's Office, with MINUSCA support, was developing an accountability mechanism to address absenteeism, with a particular focus on redeployment of the justice system.

Security sector reform

38. On 18 August, the strategic committee on demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and repatriation, security sector reform and national reconciliation, chaired by the Head of State, endorsed the recommendations of the national security sector reform strategy review to focus on governance, democratic control and coordination of the security sector. The committee also approved the development of the new national security sector reform road map by the end of 2021, including to update the national security policy and revise the national security sector reform strategy by January 2022.

39. On 23 and 24 September, national authorities, with MINUSCA support, organized for the first time a retreat with the central and general inspectorates of the Ministries of Water and Forests, Customs, National Police, National Gendarmerie, Defence and Justice, as well as key national oversight bodies. The meeting aimed to identify ways to improve governance of the security sector.

National armed and internal security forces

40. As at 1 October, 6,199 internal security forces, including 2,902 police officers (779 women) and 3,297 gendarmes (515 women), were deployed across the country, except in Basse-Kotto owing to access challenges. MINUSCA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the training of 203 police and gendarmes (42 women) on community policing and 72 police and gendarmes (17 women) as certified judicial police officers. On 25 and 31 August, 657 police (187 women) and 651 gendarmes (165 women) graduated from their respective academies.

41. As at 1 October, the European Union training mission completed the training and education of 2,965 students, of whom 1,635 were new recruits. Main efforts focused on the newly created *Bataillon d'infanterie territoriale 7* and *Bataillon des forces spéciales*.

42. MINUSCA conducted eight quality assurance visits of weapons and ammunitions storage facilities in Bangui with national authorities. As at 1 October, the Mission had conducted awareness training on explosive ordnance for 389 personnel of the United Nations and humanitarian community and explosive ordnance risk awareness sessions to 1,437 members of the population, including 523 women and 726 children, in Bouar and Bouali.

Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation

43. National authorities resumed strategic discussions on demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and repatriation, including with the holding of the 12 August consultative monitoring committee on the subject. During the 18 August meeting of the strategic committee on demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and repatriation, security sector reform and national reconciliation, President Touadéra

said that armed group elements that officially dissociated from the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement would be eligible for the national programme.

44. As part of the working group established by the Minister of State for Demobilization, Disarmament, Reintegration and Repatriation and Monitoring of the Implementation of the Agreement, MINUSCA supported a mapping exercise to update information on armed groups' active in the country and facilitate planning of upcoming demobilization, disarmament and reintegration activities. From 23 to 25 September, the national demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programme, with support of MINUSCA in Bangui, disarmed and demobilized 50 combatants, including 6 women, in Bangui.

45. Community violence reduction activities continued countrywide to mitigate the risks of young people being recruited into armed groups and contribute to local reconciliation and cohesion efforts. As at 1 October, a total of 3,872 beneficiaries had been registered (including 1,551 women), and 1,393 artisanal weapons, 63 weapons of war, 143 rounds of ammunition and 20 unexploded ordnance had been collected. In the PK5 neighbourhood in Bangui, the 2020–2021 community violence reduction project concluded by the end of June, after benefiting 1,100 people, mainly former members of self-proclaimed defence groups.

Justice and the rule of law

46. The number of first instance and appellate courts operating in the country increased from 57 to 67 per cent since the previous reporting period. The Mission, in collaboration with UNDP, supported outreach efforts of the Ecole nationale d'administration et de magistrature for the recruitment of 100 new judicial personnel. This outreach focused on encouraging the participation of candidates from outside Bangui, in particular women, in the selection process.

47. From 26 to 30 July, the Bangui military tribunal held its second hearing. Fourteen cases were heard, with six defendants acquitted and 20 defendants found guilty of violations of the Code of Military Justice with a penalty of less than 10 years. From 22 September to 1 October, the court martial held its first criminal session in Bangui. Seven defendants were found guilty of violations of the Code of Military Justice with a penalty of more than 10 years, although three defendants had this penalty reduced to three to five years owing to extenuating circumstances.

48. Between 1 June and 1 October, MINUSCA transferred to national authorities in Bangui 36 individuals who had been arrested, including using urgent temporary measures, on suspicion of having committed various criminal offences. A total of 28 investigations into attacks against peacekeepers were ongoing.

49. Between 1 June and 1 October, 10 out of 13 prisons were open in the country, with the remaining three closed due to the security situation in those areas. On 30 June, 146 recruits graduated from the Ecole nationale d'administration et de magistrature as civilian prison personnel. They had yet to be integrated by the national authorities into the public service so as to reinforce national corrections capacity and improve prison security. On 27 August, 150 new civilian prison trainees completed their initial training.

50. The Special Prosecutor's Office of the Special Criminal Court opened three additional preliminary investigations. On 25 August, President Touadéra appointed two International Appeals Chamber judges to the Court. On 10 September, the Special Criminal Court held the first hearing for anti-balaka leader Eugène Barret Ngaïkosset, charging him with crimes against humanity committed in Bossembélé from 2009 to 2010. He was remanded in custody on 22 September. He is on the Security Council individual sanctions list and was arrested by the gendarmerie forces on 4 September in Bangui.

VIII. Human rights and the fight against impunity

51. Between 1 June and 1 October, MINUSCA documented 409 alleged and confirmed incidents of human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law that affected 938 victims (511 men, 174 civilians, 87 women, 34 girls, 71 groups of collective victims, 47 boys and 14 unidentified children) and caused 228 conflict-related civilian deaths. This represents an 18.89 per cent increase in the number of incidents and 49.36 per cent increase in the number of victims since the previous reporting period. The most serious violations documented by the Mission included extrajudicial killings in the region of Bossangoa, Ouham Prefecture, allegedly by bilaterally deployed and other security personnel. In Bambari, Ouaka prefecture, targeted arrests for alleged collaboration with armed groups by national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel disproportionately affected religious and ethnic minorities, such as Muslims and Fulanis, as well as vulnerable communities, such as internally displaced persons. In August, at least 17 members of Muslim and Fulani communities were arrested by national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel for allegedly collaborating with armed groups in Haute-Kotto, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Mambéré, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures and transferred to Bangui, where they were currently being detained.

52. Armed groups signatory to the Political Agreement allegedly perpetrated 42.54 per cent of documented human rights abuses, including killing of civilians. They were involved in 174 incidents that affected 418 victims (51.55 per cent women), of which at least 146 incidents, affecting 377 victims, were attributed to armed groups.

53. MINUSCA documented 233 incidents of human rights violations and abuse, allegedly perpetrated by national forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel, affecting 518 victims, representing an increase of 66.42 per cent and 108.03 per cent, respectively, compared with the previous reporting period. Bilaterally deployed and other security personnel were allegedly responsible for 78 incidents of human rights and international humanitarian law violations, affecting 229 victims.

54. Clashes between armed groups and national defence forces, assisted by bilaterally deployed and other security personnel, resulted in 176 civilian deaths, as compared with 82 in the previous period, representing a 46.59 per cent increase. MINUSCA investigations revealed that most civilian deaths continued to result from indiscriminate, disproportionate and excessive use of force by national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel.

55. Detention conditions remained extremely poor, especially in the camps of national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel. MINUSCA documented instances whereby arrested detainees had been temporarily held in a pit until their transfer to detention centres in Bangui.

56. On 4 August, MINUSCA and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a joint report on human rights violations linked to the presidential and legislative elections. The report, covering the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, detailed 526 incidents of abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that affected at least 1,221 victims across the country, including 144 civilians (16 women). On 1 October, the Minister for Justice announced that the special investigation commission established on 4 May to investigate the allegations of human rights violations by the national security forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel had submitted its report to the Government. Furthermore, on 2 September, the Minister established an information-sharing forum to work with MINUSCA on prevention and response to cases of

violations of human rights. Amid growing concerns regarding the use of mercenaries in the country, the Government indicated its intention to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries and other relevant instruments.

57. MINUSCA continued to implement the United Nations human rights due diligence policy. In the light of the reports of human rights violations by elements of national security forces, the Mission took measures to further mitigate risks, including temporarily suspending the provision of fuel to national security forces on 22 June, in response to the violations committed by these forces.

Transitional justice

58. The 11 members, including 5 women, of the Commission on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation were sworn in by national authorities on 2 July, and the Commission's board members, a woman president assisted by two vice-presidents, were elected on 16 July. UNDP and MINUSCA supported the Commission with a series of strategic planning and training retreats in August and September, as well as with equipment.

Conflict-related sexual violence

59. Between 1 June and 1 October, MINUSCA received allegations concerning 118 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, mostly rape, against at least 154 survivors (87 women, 67 girls). While 15 incidents were verified, the challenging security situation and lack of access to remote locations remained obstacles to conducting comprehensive investigations. Members of armed groups were allegedly responsible for 94 incidents; 7 incidents were attributed to the national defence and internal security forces; and 9 incidents were attributed to bilaterally deployed and other security personnel.

60. MINUSCA continued to support the informal national protection network for victims and witnesses of sexual violence in the prefectures. In Bangui, MINUSCA supported a safe house operated by a national non-governmental organization that offered temporary protection to victims of sexual violence. MINUSCA and the United Nations country team established an integrated working group with a survivor/victim-centred approach in July to assist survivors in the areas of health, justice and psychosocial and socioeconomic support.

Children and armed conflict

61. Between 1 June and 1 October, the country task force on monitoring and reporting verified 282 grave human rights violations committed against 241 children (80 girls and 161 boys). These violations and abuses were committed by armed groups (207), bilaterally deployed and other security personnel (24), national defence forces (19), jointly deployed national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel (13) and unidentified armed individuals (19). Violations and abuses included sexual violence (52), killing and maiming (24) and attacks against schools (6) and hospitals (7). Ten schools were newly used for military purposes.

62. Dialogue with armed groups resulted in 131 children (116 boys and 15 girls) being separated from the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (89) and Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (42) in Haute Kotto Prefecture, and three children (one boy, two girls) separated from the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique in Vakaga Prefecture.

IX. Economic situation

63. In its Central African Republic Economic Update published on 4 August, the World Bank projected that the country would enter recession in 2021, with an expected negative growth rate in gross domestic product of negative 0.6 per cent, attributed to the impact of COVID-19 and the security situation. The update further included that 3.4 million Central Africans were expected to live in extreme poverty in the period 2021–2024 owing to the volatile security situation, food insecurity and limited access to basic public services. The revised 2021 Finance Act projected a 9.1 per cent decrease in total State resources, including a 60.5 per cent decrease in external budget support. The financial situation was expected to further deteriorate with the suspension of over 10 million Euros in bilateral budget support. The International Monetary Fund had put in place a seven-month staff monitored programme to address socioeconomic challenges and contribute to the resumption of the extended credit facility in 2022.

64. The National Assembly held an extraordinary session from 12 to 26 August, during which it adopted the Government's programme and the revised 2021 budget. The programme has three pillars: promoting an inclusive society, building an open and competitive economy and improving public services and social development. The blockage of the Douala-Bangui corridor significantly affected tax revenues, leading to a shortfall of \$8.8 million in expected revenues and a potential liquidity crisis.

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

Military component

65. As at 1 October, the military component of MINUSCA had deployed 11,711 personnel (5.73 per cent women), out of an authorized strength of 14,400, including 355 staff officers (74 women) and 147 military observers (41 women).

66. Pursuant to resolution [2566 \(2021\)](#), in which the Security Council authorized an increase of up to 2,750 military personnel, a total of 413 troops were deployed by 1 October, specifically: (a) advance party (300) of an infantry battalion, 63 troops for an engineering company and 15 force military police; and (b) 52 staff officers.

67. Planning and preparations were under way for the second phase of reinforcement, specifically: (a) the remainder of the infantry battalion (450) to secure the main supply road; (b) three quick-reaction forces (540) in Bangassou, Bouar and Ndélé; (c) an additional infantry company (150) in Carnot and a light battalion in Mbaiki (450); (d) additional engineering capability (250 personnel) and medical (level 2 hospital) capabilities; and (e) 48 staff officers. In total, 75 per cent of the military reinforcement was expected to be on the ground before the end of the year.

68. Assets for air-to-ground targeting and mobile unmanned vehicles to enhance operations and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance capacity were not presently available in the peacekeeping capability readiness system. Generation efforts would continue, while keeping under review the continued requirement to deploy such assets in the light of the security situation in the country and implementation of the Mission's priority mandated tasks.

69. The Force would adjust its layout for improved coherence with the national defence plan and to better address security dynamics in the country. While augmenting its footprint in, around or near main hotspots or key areas, the Force

would maintain the ability to rapidly reach remote areas with sufficient manoeuvrability through various options provided by its air and ground capabilities.

Police component

70. As at 1 October, the MINUSCA police component had deployed 2,263 personnel (13.65 per cent women), out of an authorized strength of 3,020, including 466 individual police officers (112 women) and 1,797 personnel (197 women) in 11 formed police units and 1 protection support unit.

71. Pursuant to resolution [2566 \(2021\)](#), the first phase of the authorized increase of 940 police personnel was implemented. A total of 129 police were deployed thus far: (a) 120 additional personnel for three formed police units deployed in Bambari, Bouar and Kaga Bandoro; and (b) 70 individual police officers deployed throughout the country. The second phase aims to deploy by the end of the year: (a) 40 personnel each to reinforce the formed police units in Bouar, Berberati and Bria; (b) 3 formed police units (540) for Bangassou, Batangafo and Ndélé; and (c) 71 individual police officers, deployed throughout the country.

72. The additional capacities would extend the police component's footprint to Batangafo, Mbaiki, Mobaye, Nola and Sibut. The deployment of the new formed police units in Bangassou, Batangafo and Ndélé, as well as the reinforcement of the existing units in the regions, would allow the police component to adjust its layout in coordination with the MINUSCA force and other components to improve early warning and mandate implementation.

Civilian personnel

73. As at 1 October, 1,480 civilian personnel (26 per cent women), including 265 United Nations Volunteers and 110 government-provided correctional personnel, were serving with MINUSCA. This represents 90 per cent of the 1,648 approved positions.

Status-of-forces agreement

74. From 1 June to 1 October, MINUSCA recorded 41 violations of the status-of-forces agreement between the United Nations and the Government, involving members of national defence forces and bilaterally deployed and other security personnel. Serious breaches continued during the reporting period, including obstruction to the freedom of movement of MINUSCA patrols, the arrest or detention of staff members, threats against United Nations personnel and attempts to search MINUSCA vehicles and residences of United Nations personnel. MINUSCA has brought these violations to the attention of President Touadéra and senior government officials and continued its advocacy and engagement with the Government. On 12 August, MINUSCA sent a letter to the Prime Minister regarding 52 incidents that had occurred between February and 6 August 2021, as well as 4 unresolved older cases. The Government-led status-of-forces-agreement meetings between the Government and the Mission resumed as of 25 August.

Safety and security of United Nations personnel

75. Between 1 June and 1 October, 181 security incidents involving United Nations personnel were recorded. Four personnel died: two from illness, one from an armed attack at his residence and one in a road traffic accident. There were 51 road traffic accidents in which 9 personnel sustained injuries; 7 hostile attacks; 18 cases of road harassment by national defence forces; and 9 cases of arrest by internal security forces, including some United Nations personnel temporarily detained by bilaterally deployed forces and other security personnel. The residences of four staff members

in Bangui and one in Bossangoa were searched by national defence and internal security forces in connection with the state of emergency and without prior notification to the Mission. There were 11 cases of medical evacuations of United Nations personnel. The movement of MINUSCA personnel continued to be restricted owing to security risks, including with regard to increased explosive ordnance threats and COVID-19 prevention measures.

76. Coordinated disinformation campaigns on social media against the United Nations and MINUSCA, members of the international community and civil society and opposition continued to spread hate speech and incite violence, largely from platforms and individuals supportive of the ruling party. MINUSCA military contingents from majority Muslim countries were particularly targeted by disinformation and incitement campaigns, including allegations of collusion with armed groups.

77. As at 1 October, MINUSCA had recorded 858 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 823 recoveries, 39 evacuations and 9 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes had registered a total of 187 cases, including 185 recoveries, 7 evacuations and 2 deaths. MINUSCA continued to support the vaccination of United Nations personnel and eligible personnel of international non-governmental organizations against COVID-19, in line with the voluntary United Nations COVID-19 vaccination programme. The second United Nations vaccination campaign was launched on 27 September until 8 October. As at 1 October, 7,350 MINUSCA personnel had been fully vaccinated through this programme. Contingent uniformed personnel represented the highest proportion of fully vaccinated MINUSCA personnel (80 per cent). The Mission continues to make use of its polymerase chain reaction and rapid antigen testing for United Nations personnel to quickly identify and isolate cases. The increased access to testing, continued adherence to preventive measures and vaccinations led to a significant decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Mission.

78. MINUSCA continued to implement the action plan for improving the security of United Nations peacekeepers. This included revising and enhancing contingency planning, increasing security planning, using intelligence surveillance reconnaissance to monitor road access and improving compound security measures.

Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

79. Between 1 June and 31 August, 10 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were reported implicating uniformed personnel, 3 of which related to an incident alleged to have occurred in 2021, while the remainder were from previous years. Newly identified victims were referred to service providers for assistance and support, although the security situation and limited services continued to hinder victims' assistance. The presence of a full-time senior victims' rights officer, deployed in June 2021, has helped to improve the quality and timeliness of support and assistance to victims.

80. On 14 September, the United Nations decided to repatriate a military contingent from MINUSCA over serious allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, which reportedly occurred in Alindao in 2020 and 2021, as well as a lack of action by the troop-contributing country with respect to current and past allegations. The concerned authorities deployed a national investigation team on 19 September in order to investigate jointly with the Office of Internal Oversight Services. MINUSCA dispatched an immediate response team to the location to assess the situation, establish risk management measures and raise awareness among communities on how to report 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. In total, 410 troops were repatriated on 24 September 2021; a residual party of 40 would support the repatriation of the contingent's equipment, which is planned before the end of the year.

81. MINUSCA continued its outreach campaign against sexual exploitation and abuse, engaging women in rural areas, youth groups and internally displaced persons, through radio and text messages. The Mission also worked to expand its awareness-raising activities on sexual exploitation and abuse prevention and reporting mechanisms, conducted jointly with community-based complaint mechanisms and two military contingents deployed in the central and western regions.

Support considerations

82. MINUSCA continued to improve its environmental practices and reduce its environmental footprint. Remediation of the Kolongo landfill continued, and the Mission received 15 incinerators for regular solid waste management on 7 September. The installation of biomedical incinerators was ongoing in Bangui, Birao and Paoua. MINUSCA also began the installation of a photovoltaic system at its PK11 site in addition to the ongoing installation of a full solar energy system in two Bangui bases. In addition, as at 1 October, 90 per cent of security lights had been replaced with LED lights at MINUSCA premises in Bangui.

Action for peacekeeping and performance optimization

83. MINUSCA increased its early warning and information-sharing capacity, despite COVID-19-related challenges. The Mission also conducted tabletop exercises in 11 field offices to strengthen crisis preparedness and improve communication flow.

84. Since June, 15 performance assessment and evaluation sessions were conducted in 12 formed police units. Eleven units were deemed satisfactory, including in terms of mandate, command and control, protection of civilians, training, welfare and health. One unit was rated below satisfactory, with shortfalls in equipment, which is being addressed by the contributing country concerned. MINUSCA police reviewed and corrected identified security lapses and developed exercises on base defence, fire and evacuation plans for formed police unit personnel.

85. The Mission used the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System to conduct a performance assessment and evaluate the impact of the Mission during the period from April to September 2021. The exercise developed recommendations to enhance impact in key areas, including to support in advancing the Political Agreement, information sharing, coordination and strategic guidance.

XI. Financial considerations

86. The General Assembly, by its resolution [75/298](#) of 30 June 2021, appropriated the amount of \$1,036.6 million for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. As at 27 September 2021, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for MINUSCA amounted to \$329.9 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$3,264.0 million. Reimbursement of the costs of troop and formed police personnel, as well as for contingent-owned equipment had been made for the period up to 30 June 2021, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

XII. Observations

87. The conclusion of the legislative electoral cycle in August marked an important milestone for the Central African Republic's fragile democracy. I salute the citizens who exercised their right to vote, thereby contributing to upholding constitutional order. It is now time for the Central African Government and institutions, and especially elected officials, to redouble their efforts to meet the expectations of the population they serve to end persisting conflict, displacement, abuses targeting religious and ethnic minorities, and sexual violence, as well as their expectations to participate actively in the process of building peace, as promised at the 2015 Bangui Forum. No military solution can sustain peace. Further to the 2019 Political Agreement, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region called on the Government to declare a ceasefire. I reiterate this call and encourage the Government to maintain its commitment to a political resolution of the crisis, while redoubling efforts to address root causes of the conflict.

88. I welcome the adoption of the International Conference on the Great Lakes road map, providing a way forward with the support of the region to reinvigorate the peace process, particularly the implementation of the 2019 Political Agreement. I call for a coordinated approach of regional partners to ensure that all efforts are fully aligned in support of the Political Agreement. I urge the Government and the armed groups to take prompt and tangible actions towards its effective implementation, in the first instance by declaring a ceasefire and for all actors to stop hostilities immediately. All actors should continue to use the Agreement as a framework to address the conflict in the country.

89. I welcome the President's invitation to combatants from the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement to disarm and re-join the Agreement's implementation mechanisms, which provided space for genuine dialogue, in particular at the local level, for minority communities, women and young people. I encourage the Government to continue efforts to implement comprehensive demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and repatriation process that leads to the dissolution of armed groups.

90. While preparations for a republican dialogue continue are encouraging, I reiterate that dialogue can only succeed when genuinely inclusive, when grievances are heard and acted upon and when all stakeholders, in particular women and young people, are given a voice, including those who reside outside of Bangui. I hope that the preparations will be concluded quickly so that a truly inclusive dialogue can take place. I condemn the targeting of members of the political opposition, which fuels mistrust.

91. I welcome efforts to advance preparations for the holding of local elections in September 2022 which will, if inclusive, provide an invaluable opportunity to advance the peace process, in particular through the expansion of the political space and decentralization, while also addressing barriers to women's participation. National authorities' plan to update the voter registration list represents a positive development, which would allow internally displaced persons, refugee returnees and other newly eligible citizens to participate. Creating the security and political environment conducive to the safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees remains crucial. It will also be important that the Government mobilize adequate resources not only for the holding of these elections, but also for the new local administrations that will emerge. I encourage partners to provide the necessary financial and technical support, in coordination with electoral assistance from MINUSCA.

92. I commend the adoption of the Government programme, which outlines the commitment to work towards an inclusive society and a more open economy, with the meaningful participation of women and young people. Translating this commitment into reality requires the creation of a conducive economic environment, with improved financial governance. I welcome the Government's efforts to improve financial management in coordination with international partners and call upon the Government to undertake further progress in collecting revenue, controlling expenditures and addressing corruption.

93. I call upon the Government to continue to prioritize a security sector reform process focused on strengthening governance and democratic oversight of security institutions. This would allow the progressive build-up of professional, responsible and accountable national security forces that are able to provide effective protection for civilians and support the State in consolidating its authority. I encourage the national authorities to strengthen the coordination of international assistance supporting the security sector reform process for better coherence and complementarity of efforts and resources.

94. I remain deeply concerned about continued human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence committed by all parties to the conflict. I deplore the stigmatization and targeting of particular ethnic and religious communities on suspicion of alleged collusion with armed groups. I call on all parties to the conflict in the Central African Republic to adhere to international humanitarian and human rights law. I welcome the Government's decision to establish an information-sharing forum to address human rights violations and call for this entity to be provided with the necessary political support. I reiterate that the primary responsibility to protect civilians rests with the national authorities and call upon them to effectively coordinate all security actors operating in the country to ensure that the human rights of all residents are respected. I welcome the Government's decision to establish a special investigation commission on human rights violations and hope that its findings will help end impunity, hold perpetrators accountable and contribute to peace and stability.

95. I am particularly concerned about the increase in incidents involving explosive ordnance devices. Their toll in terms of civilian casualties and compromised humanitarian and peacekeeping activities is unacceptable. I call upon all parties to cooperate with the United Nations to locate and neutralize such devices.

96. The population of the Central African Republic demands justice and an end to impunity. It is therefore important to continue to build impartial and independent law enforcement and justice systems and address chronic incarceration issues, with the coordinated support of partners. I am particularly encouraged by the progress made by the Special Criminal Court and stress the importance of continued international support. I commend the representation of women (45 per cent) in the Commission on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation and the appointment of a woman as the President of the Commission and call on the Commission to swiftly commence its work.

97. The people of the Central African Republic, and especially its most vulnerable – children, women, the elderly and minority communities – continue to rely on lifesaving humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian actors will continue to respond to the dire needs of the population, despite the increasingly hostile operating environment. I invite all donors to contribute generously to the full funding of the humanitarian response plan.

98. I remain concerned about the unacceptable level of hostile incidents involving national defence and internal security forces as well as bilaterally deployed and other security personnel targeting MINUSCA, as well as persisting disinformation

campaigns. Such actions obstruct mandate delivery and put at risk the lives of peacekeepers and contravene the commitments of President Touadéra and the Government, including as part of the status-of-forces agreement with MINUSCA. I urge the President to continue to take concrete steps to end actions that pose grave risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers and to create an environment conducive to enabling MINUSCA to implement its mandate.

99. My decision to repatriate a military contingent in September 2021 is an expression of my zero-tolerance policy and 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. Furthermore, the United Nations will continue to ensure that every allegation is thoroughly investigated, and I call upon Member States to work jointly with us to that end. I further urge all troop- and police-contributing countries to enact active measures to prevent and combat such violations. I reiterate my commitment to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse and reaffirm my instructions to all United Nations personnel and those working under the United Nations flag to do the same.

100. The presence of MINUSCA in the Central African Republic and its robust security, protection of civilians and independent political roles remain particularly essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of MINUSCA for one year, until 15 November 2022, at its current authorized military and police strength, reinforced through Security Council resolution [2566 \(2021\)](#), while maintaining the Mission's mandate and priorities, including for electoral assistance.

101. I welcome pledges from troop- and police-contributing countries, and appeal to them to expedite deployment of the required military and police personnel to support the Mission's operations and mandate implementation.

102. Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA for his leadership and dedication. I am grateful for the dedication of United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel in performing the Mission's mandate, and for 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 October 2021**

Country	Military component				Police component	
	Experts on mission	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Individual police officers
Argentina	–	2	–	2	–	–
Bangladesh	10	34	1 297	1 341	–	–
Benin	4	2	–	6	–	32
Bhutan	2	3	–	5	–	–
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1	2	–	3	–	–
Brazil	3	7	–	10	–	–
Burkina Faso	–	7	–	7	–	42
Burundi	8	11	741	760	–	–
Cambodia	4	6	204	214	–	–
Cameroon	3	5	800	808	320	15
Colombia	2	–	–	2	–	–
Congo	4	8	–	12	180	1
Côte d'Ivoire	–	1	–	1	–	55
Czechia	3	–	–	3	–	–
Djibouti	–	–	–	–	–	9
Egypt	8	24	990	1 022	139	26
France	–	8	–	8	–	4
Gabon	–	3	44	47	–	–
Gambia	4	6	–	10	–	12
Ghana	4	9	–	13	–	–
Guatemala	2	2	–	4	–	–
Guinea	–	–	–	–	–	14
Indonesia	2	8	220	230	140	4
Jordan	3	7	–	10	–	44
Kenya	8	7	–	15	–	–
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	21
Mauritania	8	10	446	464	279	–
Mexico	1	1	–	2	–	–
Morocco	2	18	747	767	–	–
Nepal	5	14	733	752	–	–
Niger	1	4	–	5	–	36
Nigeria	–	5	–	5	–	3
Pakistan	9	31	1 274	1 314	–	–
Paraguay	2	2	–	4	–	–
Peru	7	6	204	217	–	–
Philippines	2	–	–	2	–	–
Portugal	–	9	180	189	–	9

<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>
Republic of Moldova	3	1	–	4	–	–
Romania	–	–	–	–	–	8
Russian Federation	1	7	–	8	–	–
Rwanda	8	22	1 660	1 690	460	33
Senegal	–	9	–	9	279	26
Serbia	2	3	71	76	–	–
Sierra Leone	4	1	–	5	–	–
Spain	–	–	–	–	–	4
Sri Lanka	–	3	110	113	–	–
Sweden	–	–	–	–	–	2
Togo	4	6	–	10	–	22
Tunisia	2	2	130	134	–	44
United Republic of Tanzania	–	8	448	456	–	–
United States of America	–	8	–	8	–	–
Uruguay	–	3	–	3	–	–
Viet Nam	1	6	–	7	–	–
Zambia	9	13	910	932	–	–
Zimbabwe	1	1	–	2	–	–
Total	147	355	11 209	11 711	1 797	466

Annex II

Map

