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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1157TH MEETING

13 JUNE 2023
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1157 (2023)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1157th meeting held on 13 June 2023 on the situation in the Central African Republic;

Recalling its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in Central African Republic (CAR), particularly, Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1116.1 (2022)] adopted at its 1116th meeting held on 31 October 2022; Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1093 (2022)] adopted at its 1093rd meeting held on 25 July 2022, and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1011 (2021)] adopted at its 1101st meeting held on 21 July 2021;

Referring to the Press Statement of the Panel of the Wise issued on 10 March 2023, following a preventive diplomacy mission to the CAR from 5 to 11 March 2023;

Rejecting any form of unconstitutional changes of government, including manipulation of the constitution, on the continent consistent with normative instruments of the AU, especially Article 4(p) of the AU Constitutive Act and Article 7 (g) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

Noting the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Sophia Nyamudeza, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of June 2023, the briefing by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, and the briefing by H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, former President of the Republic of Burundi and member of the Panel of the Wise;

Further noting the statements by H.E. Sylvie Baïpo Temon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Central Africans Abroad of the CAR, H.E. Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the United Nations nations Office to the AU, and H.E. Ambassador Birgitte Markussen, Head of the European Union Delegation to the AU;

Commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR (PAPR-CAR) signed on 6 February 2019, under the auspices of the AU and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and **emphasising** the imperative of its full implementation to achieve durable peace in the CAR;

Reaffirming the solidarity of the AU with the Government and people of the CAR in their legitimate aspiration for peace, security, stability and development of their country, and the unwavering commitment of the AU, as a guarantor of the PAPR-CAR, to continue to support them in their efforts to stabilise the country and to respect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the CAR; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Welcomes** the briefing by the Panel of the Wise on its preventive diplomacy mission to the CAR from 5 to 11 March 2023; and **encourages** the Panel of the Wise to redouble their efforts, working closely with all stakeholders, including ECCAS, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations (UN), to prevent relapse to conflict and promote peaceful, secure and stable societies in the CAR;
2. **Expresses grave concern** about the deterioration of the security situation in the CAR, exacerbated by the spillover of conflict from neighbouring countries, particularly Sudan, leading to the

proliferation of illegal weapons and exploitation of the country's mineral resources, and **requests** the AU Commission to provide technical support to the CAR on illicit circulation of weapons and managing the disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) process;

3. **Expresses deep concern** over CAR stakeholders' disagreement on the organisation of the Constitutional Referendum; in this regard, **calls on** all concerned stakeholders to peacefully resolve their political differences; in this regard, **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to engage with H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa, to use his good offices and redouble his peace efforts by engaging with the Government and people of the CAR ahead of the Constitutional Referendum to promote national unity, social cohesion and stability in the country;

4. **Commends** the efforts made by the CAR Government, in collaboration with its neighbouring countries and partners, towards the implementation of the PAPR-CAR amidst constraints, including scarcity of resources and prevailing insecurity in some parts of the country; **stresses** that the PAPR-CAR remains viable and the recognised framework for addressing the crisis in the country, and **calls** for the strengthening of the ongoing efforts to synergise the PAPR-CAR with the Luanda Joint Roadmap;

5. **Urges** all the signatories of the PAPR-CAR to faithfully honour the commitments made under the agreement and ensure its full implementation to contribute to lasting peace and stability in the country; and **welcomes** the Declaration of the leaders of several armed groups that signed the PAPR-CAR to disband their movements on 6 December 2022 and 28 April 2023 respectively, in line with the letter and spirit of Article 5 para (d) of the PAPR-CAR; **further urges** the other armed groups to unconditionally commit to the peace and reconciliation process, cease hostilities, and comply fully with the disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR), thereby leading to their complete disbandment;

6. **Calls upon** all political stakeholders and armed groups in the CAR to embrace peace and refrain from spreading hate speech, and for them to place the supreme interest of the CAR above all other considerations and collectively pursue dialogue and mediation as peaceful means of addressing the challenges facing the country;

7. **Underscores** the need for the Government and all political and social stakeholders of the CAR to take all necessary measures to ensure that the local elections are held on the scheduled agreed dates in 2023 in a transparent, credible and fair manner; and **emphasises** the need for an inclusive approach that ensures the meaningful participation of all segments of society, particularly the country's women and youth; and, in this regard, **encourages** political stakeholders of the CAR to exercise their right by participating in electoral processes and ensure credibility of processes;

8. **Welcomes** the considerable efforts made by the National Electoral Authority (ANE), in collaboration with all political and social stakeholders in the CAR, as well as with other partners, towards the organisation and successful conduct of the elections; and **strongly encourages** Member States to extend the requisite financial and material support to the Government and the people of the CAR to ensure the success of the forthcoming elections; **requests** the AU Commission to provide technical support, including through deploying technical experts on elections, constitutionalism, and governance;

9. **Encourages** the CAR Government and all political and social stakeholders to redouble their efforts to strengthen national institutions, as well as to promote good governance, constitutionalism and respect for the rule of law as enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act and African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;

10. **Expresses deep concern** over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the CAR, which has been exacerbated by the conflict in Sudan and the prevailing insecurity situation caused by the activities of negative forces as well as armed non-State groups, resulting in the displacement of a considerable number of people; **underscores** the need to ensure full implementation of the 2022 Yaoundé Declaration on addressing the humanitarian situation; and in this regard, **implores** the international community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need, especially women and children;
11. **Strongly condemns** violence and abuses against the civilian population, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and humanitarian stakeholders perpetrated by the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), in complete violation of the commitments made in the PAPR-CAR; and **warns** that appropriate punitive measures, including criminal prosecutions and targeted sanctions, should be applied to perpetrators and anyone found guilty of violating the PAPR-CAR, the laws of the country, as well as universal conventions, including the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law;
12. **Encourages** the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission to redouble its efforts and hasten the implementation of the transitional justice process to deepen national reconciliation, ensure accountability and reparations for victims in an inclusive manner;
13. **Underscores** the urgent need for the AU's Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), in close collaboration with the Government of the CAR, UN and relevant partners, to urgently identify the long-term peacebuilding and development needs and priorities in order to effectively initiate and promote stabilisation, development and post-conflict reconstruction projects aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict, to consolidate the gains made through the implementation of the PAPR-CAR and avoid relapses;
14. **Pays tribute** to MINUSCA and all Troop and Police Contributing Countries for their commitment to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the country, as well as the protection of civilians in the CAR;
15. **Reiterates** its request for the complete lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the CAR to enable the Armed Forces of the CAR (FACA) to effectively carry out their constitutional mandate of defending and protecting the country and its citizens; and **stresses** the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of FACA;
16. **Commends** and **pays a special tribute** to H.E. Ambassador Matias Bertino Matondo, the former Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) for the CAR, for his self-less service in the CAR and **wishes** him every success in his new duties; in this context, **requests** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to take all necessary measures, within available resources, to expedite the appointment of a new SRCC for CAR and to ensure that the AU Liaison Office in Bangui is provided with all the necessary capacity and resources to enable it to function effectively;
17. **Welcomes** the efforts by the AU Commission for dispatching H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, to the neighbouring countries of Sudan, including the CAR, within the framework of the African Union Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan; **looks forward** to the report of his engagement with the CAR; and
18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

2023-06-13

Communiqué of the 1157th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 13 June 2023, on the Briefing on the Situation in the Central African Republic.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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