

6. The situation in the Central African Republic

During the period under review, the Council held seven meetings, adopted three resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic.⁸⁴ Four meetings were convened to adopt a decision of the Council and three took the form of briefings.⁸⁵ The Council also held one meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001).⁸⁶ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA, consistent with the four-month reporting schedule established by resolution 2387 (2017).⁸⁷ The Council also heard briefings by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, the African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic, as well as the Managing Director for Africa and the Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace of the European External Action Service.

The briefings were focused on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the country, emphasizing the developments that arose after the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic on 6 February 2019.⁸⁸ In his first briefing to the Council

in February,⁸⁹ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General declared that the Peace Agreement could mark a turning point in the history of the Central African Republic. He stressed that the current agreement differed from previous agreements, in that it reaffirmed from the outset the commitment of the Government and the armed groups to fundamental principles, especially those derived from the country's Constitution, and in that it was sought and signed by a legitimate Government. He also underlined that the implementation of those commitments would be supervised by inclusive monitoring mechanisms, including civil society, political parties, parliamentarians, women's organizations and young people. He nonetheless cautioned that, while the Agreement was an important political advance in the Central African Republic, the real test would be in its full and good faith implementation and that the unified political support of the Council, the countries of the region and the international community remained critical.

Later in the year, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General gave two additional briefings to the Council on the developments on the ground and the implementation of the mandate of MINUSCA.⁹⁰ In his briefings, he addressed, among other issues, the awareness-raising campaign carried out to inform local actors about the Peace Agreement and solicit their cooperation in its implementation, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations conducted and the joint missions by the Government of the Central African Republic, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States and MINUSCA. He also addressed the national consultations on the creation of a truth, justice, reparations and reconciliation commission and the efforts to restore State authority, as well as the challenges that continued to hamper the stabilization of the Central African Republic, including the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and the risk of violence associated with population movements and the radicalization of the political discourse.

In his first briefing in February,⁹¹ the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union said that the Peace Agreement of 6 February was the perfect expression of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. He noted that the commitment of the regional States, including

⁸⁴ In addition to the decisions adopted in 2019, on 13 February, the President of the Security Council issued a press statement welcoming the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic by the national authorities and 14 armed groups in Bangui on 6 February 2019 (SC/13701).

⁸⁵ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁸⁶ Held on 7 November 2019, under the item entitled "Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B"; see S/PV.8662.

⁸⁷ Resolution 2387 (2017), para. 67.

⁸⁸ On 7 February 2019, the Council held informal consultations of the whole to hear the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations on the agreement signed on 6 February by the Government of the Central African Republic and 14 armed groups for the cessation of hostilities (see S/2019/1015).

⁸⁹ See S/PV.8467.

⁹⁰ See S/PV.8558 and S/PV.8646.

⁹¹ See S/PV.8467.

those who had expressed readiness to re-establish bilateral mixed commissions with the Central African Republic, made the new Agreement different from previous ones. He underscored that the Agreement was the successful result of multilateralism and the renewed resolve of the leadership of the United Nations and African Union to weigh in together and in solidarity to silence the guns and foster dialogue and reconciliation. In his briefing in October,⁹² he reported on the joint visits to Bangui by the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union and emphasized the importance of the timely conduct of the 2020 and 2021 elections and the need for sustained attention to the humanitarian situation by the international community. At the briefing in June,⁹³ the African Union Special Representative provided an update on the implementation of the Agreement and recommended, among other things, that the Council appeal to the international community to mobilize the necessary resources for the reconstruction of the Central African Republic and the implementation of labour-intensive development projects and that it lead the call for the strengthening of humanitarian assistance in the fight against malnutrition and the reintegration of displaced persons and refugees.

In his briefing in February,⁹⁴ the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service expressed the support of the European Union for the Peace Agreement, stated that the priority was to put follow-up mechanisms in place and called for inclusiveness at the national and local levels to ensure the success of the Agreement. In his briefing in June,⁹⁵ he said that the European Union remained fully committed to addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic and that governance, justice, the rule of law and support for democratic institutions would remain the core considerations of the actions and engagement of the European Union in the country. At the briefing in October,⁹⁶ the Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace of the Action Service reported on the efforts of the European Union to support the implementation of the Agreement, including the activities of the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic and the funding of humanitarian programmes. He expressed the readiness of the European Union to support the conduct of peaceful, inclusive and transparent elections in 2020 and 2021 and requested that the mandate of

MINUSCA include support for the electoral process in terms of security and logistics.

At its meeting on 21 February 2019,⁹⁷ the Council also heard a briefing by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on its work and initiatives in support of the Government of the Central African Republic, including a report on his visit to Bangui, conducted jointly with the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support from 13 to 15 February 2019, immediately after the signing of the Peace Agreement. At the same meeting, the representative of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) highlighted the concerns raised by the Government of the Central African Republic with regard to the arms embargo and noted the difficulties faced by the relevant actors in the country with regard to ensuring the proper management of arms and ammunition. He also noted the Chair's intention to visit the country again in 2019, so as to continue his engagement with the relevant parties and other key stakeholders.

In 2019, discussions in the Council were focused on the critical factors for the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement, including the political support of the Council, regional States and the international community. Council members also discussed the role of sanctions, in particular the establishment of key benchmarks to serve as a road map that could lead to the easing of the arms embargo, and the support provided by MINUSCA. With regard to the mandate of MINUSCA, while Council members emphasized that the Mission's priority task was the protection of civilians, they also highlighted its role in supporting the country's security sector reform, including disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration efforts, the restoration of State authority and preparations for and holding of elections in 2020 and 2021.

On 31 January 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended for a period of one year, until 31 January 2020, the sanctions measures in place in connection with the Central African Republic, namely, the arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban imposed against individuals and entities designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#).⁹⁸ The Council also expressed its intent to establish, no later than 30 April, clear and well-identified key benchmarks regarding the reform of the security sector, the disarmament,

⁹² See [S/PV.8646](#).

⁹³ See [S/PV.8558](#).

⁹⁴ See [S/PV.8467](#).

⁹⁵ See [S/PV.8558](#).

⁹⁶ See [S/PV.8646](#).

⁹⁷ See [S/PV.8467](#).

⁹⁸ Resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1–2.

demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process and the management of weapons and ammunition, so as to guide the Council's review of the arms embargo measures with regard to the Government of the Central African Republic. To that end, the Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment on the progress achieved on those key benchmarks and expressed its intention to review the arms embargo measures on the Government of the Central African Republic in the light of that assessment.⁹⁹ In the same resolution, the Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013), until 29 February 2020.¹⁰⁰

On 9 April 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement, in which it welcomed the significant efforts made by the authorities of the Central African Republic, in coordination with their international partners, to advance the reform of the security sector and acknowledged the urgent need for the national authorities to train and equip their defence and security forces to be able to respond proportionately to security threats in the Central African Republic.¹⁰¹ The Council also welcomed the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic by the national authorities and 14 armed groups in Bangui on 6 February 2019, as well as the consensus reached by the signatory parties to the Peace Agreement regarding the formation of an inclusive government, and urged stakeholders to implement the Agreement in good faith and without delay.¹⁰² The Council expressed its readiness to review the arms embargo measures on the Government of the Central African Republic in the light of progress achieved on five key benchmarks, including the effective implementation of the national programme for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation; the establishment of a planning document detailing the needs of the authorities in terms of weapons and ammunition storage facilities; and the establishment of a protocol for the collection and destruction or transfer, to the armed forces and internal security forces, of surplus, unregistered or illicitly held weapons and ammunition seized by the national authorities.¹⁰³

On 12 September 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2488 (2019), by which it decided to review and adjust the arms embargo measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 2399 (2018) by, among other things, exempting supplies of certain arms, weapons and ammunition and other related components and equipment meant for the security forces of the Central African Republic and modifying the exemptions process for supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, pursuant to the letter dated 26 July from the Secretary-General, in which he assessed the progress achieved on the key benchmarks established by the Council on the arms embargo measures in the Central African Republic.¹⁰⁴ Consistent with the adjustment of the measures, the Council decided that the authorities of the Central African Republic would update the Committee by 31 December on the progress achieved in the security sector reform process, the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process and the management of weapons and ammunition and requested the Secretary-General to update the Council, no later than 31 December 2019, on the progress achieved by the authorities on the key benchmarks established in its presidential statement of 9 April 2019.¹⁰⁵

On 15 November 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2499 (2019), by which it extended the mandate of MINUSCA for one year, until 15 November 2020.¹⁰⁶ In the resolution, the Council decided that the mandate of MINUSCA would include five priority tasks, including the protection of civilians; the provision of good offices and support for the peace process, including the implementation of the Peace Agreement signed on 6 February; the provision and coordination of assistance in the preparation and delivery of peaceful elections in 2020 and 2021; the facilitation of the creation of a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and the protection of United Nations personnel, installations, equipment and goods.¹⁰⁷ In the same resolution, the Council urged the authorities of the Central African Republic and the signatory armed groups to implement the Agreement in good faith and without delay, in order to meet the aspirations expressed by the people of the Central African Region for peace, security, justice, reconciliation, inclusivity and development, and called

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 9–10.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 3. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

¹⁰¹ S/PRST/2019/3, second paragraph.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, third paragraph.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, seventh paragraph. For more information on the sanctions measures concerning the Central African Republic, see part VII, sect. III.

¹⁰⁴ Resolution 2488 (2019), para. 2. See also S/2019/609.

¹⁰⁵ Resolution 2488 (2019), paras. 6–7. On 31 December, the Secretary-General provided another progress update pursuant to paragraph 7 of the resolution (see S/2019/1008).

¹⁰⁶ Resolution 2499 (2019), para. 27.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 32. For more information on the mandate of MINUSCA, see part X, sect. I.

on neighbouring States, regional organizations and all international partners to support the peace process, including the implementation of the Agreement.¹⁰⁸ The Council also urged the national authorities to urgently implement a genuine and inclusive process to support reconciliation in the country by addressing the root causes of the conflict, and to ensure the preparation of inclusive, free, fair, transparent, credible, peaceful and timely presidential, legislative and local elections in 2020 and 2021.¹⁰⁹ In the same resolution, the Council called on the national authorities to take concrete steps to strengthen justice institutions and to continue efforts to restore the effective authority of the State over the whole territory of the country, stressing in this context

the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Commission.¹¹⁰ The Council also reiterated the urgent need to hold accountable all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and urged all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including armed groups, to end sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children.¹¹¹

In 2019, the Council also took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint a new Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA.¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ Resolution 2499 (2019), paras. 2 and 6.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., paras. 9–10.

¹¹⁰ Ibid., paras. 15–17.

¹¹¹ Ibid., paras. 21 and 24–25.

¹¹² See S/2019/75 and S/2019/76.

Meetings: the situation in the Central African Republic

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8455 31 January 2019	Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2399 (2018) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/1119)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2019/90)	Central African Republic		Three Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, France, Russian Federation)	Resolution 2454 (2019) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8467 21 February 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2019/147)		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, Commissioner for Peace and	All Council members, ^a all invitees ^b	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
				Security of the African Union, Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service, Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission		
S/PV.8503 9 April 2019						S/PRST/2019/3
S/PV.8558 20 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2019/498)		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic, Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service	All Council members, all invitees ^c	
S/PV.8617 12 September 2019		Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2019/729)	Central African Republic		11 Council members, ^d all invitees	Resolution 2488 (2019) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8646 25 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2019/822)		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace of the European External Action Service	Two Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, ^e United States), all rule 39 invitees ^f	

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8666 15 November 2019		Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2019/877)	Central African Republic		Three Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, ^e France, Indonesia), invitee	Resolution 2499 (2019) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

^a The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke twice, once on behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic and once in his national capacity.

^b The Central African Republic was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Central Africans Abroad. The Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service participated in the meeting by videoconference from Brussels.

^c The African Union Special Representative and the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service participated in the meeting by videoconference from Bangui and Brussels, respectively.

^d Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire (also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), France, Germany, Indonesia, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

^e The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

^f The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union and the Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace of the European External Action Service participated in the meeting by videoconference from Addis Ababa and Brussels, respectively.

7. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings, adopted one resolution and issued one presidential statement in connection with the situation in Guinea-Bissau. One meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision, while one meeting took the form of a briefing.¹¹³ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau from 13 to 17 February 2019.¹¹⁴

On 10 September,¹¹⁵ the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa on the evolving political situation in Guinea-Bissau. She commended the Government for its efforts in that regard, including its preparations for the presidential election, its unprecedented achievement of gender parity and its appointment of young candidates to the Cabinet, but noted persisting challenges and appealed to the international community to continue to provide the Government with the necessary financial and technical support. She also noted that 2019 was a pivotal year for Guinea-Bissau in terms of seizing the opportunity to end the recurring cycle of instability that had hampered its socioeconomic development for decades. She cautioned

that the risk of further instability in the period leading up to the presidential election was high and appealed to national actors to be mindful of their duties towards the people of Guinea-Bissau and of the need to transcend narrow individual and party interests. In that regard, she said that efforts must be made to ensure the timely holding of an inclusive, credible and peaceful presidential election. She also highlighted new developments ahead of the planned December 2020 drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

At the same meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. He reiterated the Commission's support the international community and the Government in efforts to strengthen national institutional capacity to deliver on peacebuilding and development objectives. He also reiterated the Commission's support for the reconfiguration exercise and its readiness to provide timely and specific advice to the Council in that regard. He stated that he would visit the country in October and subsequently report on his observations to the Council. During the briefing, several Council members¹¹⁶ echoed their support for the continued national reconciliation process through the Conakry Agreement on the Implementation of the Economic Community for West African States

¹¹³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹¹⁴ For more information on the Council's mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, see part I, sect. 33.

¹¹⁵ See S/PV.8614.

¹¹⁶ Côte d'Ivoire, France, Belgium, South Africa, China, United Kingdom, Kuwait and Peru.