



Briefing on MINUSCA, Central African Republic (CAR), 21 February 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

[I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Malta.]

I thank Special Representative Rugwabiza and PBC Chair Ambassador Omar Hilale for their briefings, and I welcome the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic (Baïpo-Temon) to the meeting.

I also extend my condolences to the families of the six UN personnel who died recently while they were serving in the country.

Our message today is one that looks forward to the achievement of peace and stability in Central African Republic (through a genuine investment in trust).

We understand the need of the Government to extend State Authority, especially when it comes to addressing the threat of armed groups which take advantage of security vacuums to gain footholds in exhausted communities.

However, we are deeply concerned about the findings of MINUSCA's annual report on human rights. We condemn all violations perpetrated by armed groups, FACA and other security personnel, namely Wagner.



In addressing the threats caused by non-state actors, we stress the importance of a resilient justice system. We welcome the first verdict of the Special Criminal Court last 31 October, which found the defendants guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes, and the extension of the Court's mandate until 2028.

Malta is deeply committed towards combating all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and grave violations committed against children. We welcome the decision by the Government to create a strategic committee to prevent and respond to gender-based violence linked to conflict and further urge the development of a strategy to prevent and eliminate the six grave violations against children as recognized by the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict.

Further trust is safeguarded if renewed commitment is dedicated to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. The critical work of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission and progress on the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation program remain central.

We welcome the dissolution of four armed groups among the signatories and encourage the Government to consolidate these gains. Only through ceasefire and continued dialogue between the Government and armed groups can a path towards peace be forged, in partnership with international and regional partners.



We also look forward to the holding of local elections later this year for the first time since 1988. Having inclusive, free and fair elections, and creating a civic space which represents all stakeholders, is crucial for all democratic societies. The full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women, youth, internally displaced persons and refugees, remain of utmost importance.

At the same time, we are concerned about reports regarding the challenges the authorities are experiencing in the holding of the local elections, as well as the recently adopted referendum law and the dismissal of members from the Constitutional Court. We acknowledge the Government's public commitment that current budgetary plans will be adapted in order to facilitate the local elections.

Malta remains supportive of MINUSCA's work. We are pleased with the recent decision concerning the night flight ban which is no longer an impediment to MINUSCA's efforts to ensure the medical evacuation for injured peacekeepers. While we take note of SoFA violations, it is important for MINUSCA to continue to operate without restrictions. On this note, Malta welcomes MINUSCA's efforts in raising awareness of its mandate which is fundamental in fighting misinformation.

We must also work to address the humanitarian situation, as 3.4 million people face limited to no access to basic services, such as water and sanitation. Inflation also continues apace as most basic products have at least



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

doubled in price since the war in Ukraine exacerbating the humanitarian needs of millions already facing acute food insecurity and climate change.

To conclude, we emphasise the importance of engendering trust in MINUSCA's dealings with the people of the Central African Republic. We are convinced that investing in good governance will facilitate dialogue and justice to grow, over violence and impunity. Malta will continue to express its deepest commitment to support Central African Republic in its path toward long-lasting peace and stability.

I thank you.