



Briefing on MINUSCA (CAR), 26 October 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, I also thank SRSR Rugwabiza for her comprehensive briefing and welcome the presence of the Central African Republic Foreign Minister Silvie Baipo-Temon and the representative of Angola.

We would like to address, firstly, the humanitarian situation in country. CAR is grappling with significant challenges, including a dire socio-economic crisis, escalating commodity prices, internal displacements, and mounting difficulties for humanitarian workers in accessing certain areas, partly due to an increased use of explosive devices. Further compounded by a substantial influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan and Chad, the risks of a further destabilizing effect become real.

We welcome the decision by CAR Authorities to acknowledge refugee status of Sudanese entering the country, and for their endeavours in safeguarding and assisting the most vulnerable.

We reiterate our call for all parties to adopt and swiftly implement action plans to end and prevent grave violations against children.

Turning to political and security matters, we have taken note of the promulgation of a new constitution, and the accompanying tense political climate that marked the referendum process. We strongly encourage a



refocus on the peace process, including addressing deep grievances within the country, encompassing political and socioeconomic exclusion, as well as state investment in essential services and the rule of law.

We also commend progress made in increasing women's participation in the local peace and reconciliation committees and addressing obstacles to women's political participation and inclusive elections.

President

Malta unequivocally condemns violence from all armed groups. We are concerned that 3R stands out as the primary perpetrator of conflict-related sexual violence, violations of the right to physical integrity, and abductions, and that UPC is predominantly responsible for cases of summary executions, killings, abductions, and deprivation of liberty.

In addressing these challenges, the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation remains central to an enduring stabilization in the country. Significant investment in the DDRR process also provides a credible alternative to conflict and violence. The use of proxies both from the Authorities and the Wagner Group will not serve this cause.

We believe in the crucial role of political dialogue, open and secure civic spaces, and confidence-building measures towards facilitating meaningful and representative local elections in the country.



President

We are at a timely juncture as this Council soon approaches negotiations for the renewal of MINUSCA's mandate. We commend SRSG Rugwabiza's efforts and the serving blue helmets for improved relations with the Authorities. While we still observe instances in SoFA violations, we welcome the designation of focal points within all armed bodies of the State to facilitate smoother communication and isolate these cases.

We also commend MINUSCA for interpreting its mandate in a manner that recognizes the importance of extending state authority, as this can have a positive impact on all other priorities. We consider this a natural progression that should continue in harmony with the other mandated tasks of the Mission – all of which we believe contribute holistically to peacekeeping and peacemaking efforts.

While we echo the Secretary-General's call for a renewal of MINUSCA in line with its current mandate and priorities, we remain confident that the annual Human Rights Report will be issued in due time.

To conclude, President, Malta recognizes the critical stabilization factor displayed by MINUSCA, we encourage the CAR Government in progressively addressing the root causes of conflict and stress the need for its partners to remain committed to upholding human rights and international law.



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Together with the EU and other partners, we are confident of support if these milestones are prioritised by all.

I thank you.