



Security Council briefing on MINUSCA, 23 October 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I thank SRSG Rugwabiza and Ambassador Hilale for their briefings. I also welcome the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to today's meeting.

Over the past two years, we have observed notable progress in the security situation in Bangui and other regions. We have also seen positive developments in the peace process, particularly during the most recent reporting period. We commend the CAR authorities for their determination to guide the country towards stability.

The Security Council, too, has played a pivotal role.

Considerable compromises were made, which led to the reprioritisation of the mandate of MINUSCA. Other significant steps included the lifting of the arms embargo from the CAR authorities, the retention of all other targeted sanctions to armed groups and associated individuals, as well as the refocused mandate for the Panel of Experts' investigations.



We are now at a critical juncture.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan is having a profound impact on CAR, exacerbating not only humanitarian needs, but also the infiltration of combatants and recruitment efforts. Malta condemns any attempt to further destabilise the region.

We welcome recent efforts by CAR authorities to strengthen security cooperation with neighbouring countries.

While recognising the necessity of addressing armed groups that refuse to disarm, this must be done without undermining the national DDR framework or the country's cultural diversity.

The upcoming local elections have the potential to bring stability, provided there is sufficient funding and adequate preparation. The EU, through its 2.2 million dollars' contribution to the UN basket fund, is in support of these efforts.



This preparation period should also be used to foster dialogue, raise public awareness, and facilitate the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women in the electoral process. Young persons too have an important role to play.

The EU has also extended the mandate of the EU Advisory Mission in CAR for two years, with a 24-million-euro budget allocation for this period.

President

Malta strongly condemns the continued violations and abuses of human rights in CAR, especially the grave violations committed against children.

Recruitment and use of child soldiers, as well as rape, remain disturbingly prevalent. This violence must end, and victims must be provided with the necessary assistance.



We commend MINUSCA's child protection dialogue with the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe in Bambouti. This resulted in the release of 73 children, and the signing of the Handover Protocol for the transfer of children associated with armed groups to civilian authorities.

Additionally, the operationalisation of the Bambari government vocational training centre is a step forward.

The completion and presentation of the revised national action plan on sexual violence in conflict is another significant achievement.

Accountability is key to ensuring social peace and long-term stability in the country. Malta welcomes the first criminal session of 2024 by the Bangui Court of Appeal, supported by MINUSCA, which also addressed cases of sexual violence.

We also commend the work of the Special Criminal Court. International support, alongside capacity-building initiatives, is essential to further assist the CAR authorities in their efforts.



To conclude, President, as this Council prepares to renew MINUSCA's mandate next month, Malta will carefully consider the findings of the recently held Independent Strategic Review.

We support the Secretary-General's recommendation to preserve the gains made since MINUSCA's deployment and endorse a one-year renewal of the mandate at its current authorised military, police, and corrections strength. Additionally, electoral assistance for the upcoming local and general elections will contribute to securing stability.

I thank you.