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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

826<sup>th</sup> MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

9 FEBRUARY 2019

PSC/MIN/COMM(DCCCXXVI)

COMMUNIQUÉ

## COMMUNIQUÉ

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 826<sup>th</sup> meeting, at Ministerial level, held on 9 February 2019, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR):

### **Council,**

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of February 2019, H.E Abdu Razzaq Guy KAMBOGO, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Regional Integration, Francophonie and the Gabonese Abroad, of the Gabonese Republic, as well as in his capacity as Chair of the Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS). Council **also takes note** of the presentation made by Ambassador Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security, on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), as well as of the statements by H.E. Sylvie Baipo-Timon, Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the CAR, and the Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix;
2. **Recalls** its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in the CAR and **reaffirms** its commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the CAR;
3. **Welcomes** the signing, on 6 February 2019, in Bangui, of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, between the Government and the representatives of 14 armed groups, following the Direct Dialogue, held in Khartoum, The Sudan, from 24 January to 5 February 2019.;
4. **Stresses** that the Agreement is a balanced compromise that takes into account the concerns of the various parties, respect for the territorial integrity and unity of the CAR, inclusive and representative governance that brings on board all the components of the Central African nation, bearing in mind the need for mutual tolerance and acceptance of their cultural and religious diversity. Council **further stresses** the interdependence and mutually reinforcing relations between peace, justice and reconciliation in efforts towards sustainable promotion of stability and greater national cohesion in CAR;
5. **Expresses its appreciation** to His Excellency Professor Faustin Archange Touadera, President of the CAR, for his leadership and vision, as well as to the leaders of the armed groups for their patriotism and commitment, which made it possible to successfully organise the Peace Talks, culminating in the signing of the Agreement. Council **underscores** that the Bangui Agreement constitutes a new opportunity for all the Central African actors to put an end to the long period of instability and violence suffered by the Central African people, as well as to restore peace, security and open a new chapter in CAR ;
6. **Expresses its deep gratitude** to His Excellency Omar Hassan El Bashir and the Government of the Republic of The Sudan for having hosted the Talks in Khartoum, as well as for the excellent

working conditions made available. Council **pays tribute** to the leaders of the countries of the Region and the ECCAS, for their resolute support to the CAR in the search for a lasting solution to the conflict that has been tearing apart this country for so long;

7. **Congratulates** the Facilitator of the Political Agreement, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui and **expresses its gratitude** to the United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean- Pierre Lacroix, and the entire UN Team for their valuable support to the mediation.

8. **Commends** the efforts deployed by the Panel of Facilitators of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR, whose prior sustained consultations with the parties made it possible to organize the Khartoum negotiations;

9. **Stresses** the pivotal responsibility of the Central African signatory parties for the implementation of the Bangui Agreement. Council **urges** the parties to demonstrate the same sense of responsibility in the scrupulous respect for their commitments under the Agreement, including by complying with the deadlines set out in the implementation timetable of the Agreement, particularly the immediate cessation of all armed activity and violence against the civilian population. Within this framework, Council **calls upon** the AU Member States, as well as bilateral and multilateral partners to provide the necessary support to the parties for the implementation, in good faith, of the Agreement;

10. **Reiterates its deep concern** at the humanitarian situation in CAR. In this respect, Council **underlines the need** for AU Member States and the international community to address adequately the urgent humanitarian needs of the Central African civilians affected by the conflict, in the framework of efforts aimed at creating conditions for the optimal implementation of the Peace Agreement;

11. **Reaffirms its conviction** that a sustainable solution to the instability in CAR also requires a long term economic and social recovery. In this context, Council **underscores the need** for adequate post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) in CAR. To this end, Council **notes** that the rapid operationalization of the AU Cairo PCRD Center will enable it to contribute in efforts deployed by the CAR for its economic and social recovery. Council **underlines the urgent need** to expedite the mobilization of the financial contributions pledged during the Conference in Brussels, in November 2016;

12. **Reiterates, once more, the importance** for AU Member States and the larger international community to support efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and socio-economic recovery in CAR. In this respect, Council **invites** the Commission to work closely with the UN Peacebuilding Commission, in particular the CAR Configuration, chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco ;

13. **Reiterates the readiness** of the AU to spare no effort in supporting the parties to honour their commitments under the Agreement and to mobilise the necessary support from its various partners to this end. Council **stresses** the determination of the AU to use various relevant instruments at its disposal, with the support of the countries of the Region and the larger international community, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Agreement;
14. **Reiterates its appreciation and support** to the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for its contribution to the peace efforts in the CAR and **calls upon** the United Nations Security Council to take the necessary measures to adapt the mandate of MINUSCA to the provisions of the Peace Agreement, particularly in its aspects related to security and the cessation of hostilities. Council **underlines the need** to ensure periodically that the parties are effectively implementing the Agreement. In this regard, Council **envisages** to undertake another visit to CAR, and if possible, jointly with the UN Security Council;
15. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary steps to mobilise adequate support to assist in the implementation of the Political Agreement, particularly the establishment of the Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism (MOS) in security sector reform, cross-border cooperation and decentralisation;
16. **Further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to transmit this Communiqué to the (A3) African Members of the UNSC, for appropriate action, as well as to the United Nations Secretary-General and its circulation to the United Nations Security Council, to ensure its support for the implementation of the Agreement;
17. **Encourages** the Government of the CAR and the neighbouring countries to reactivate the operations of their respective bilateral Joint Commissions with a view to promoting solutions to the common challenges, such as transhumance and the fight against cross-border crime;
18. **Decides** to carry out a quarterly review of the situation in the CAR and the implementation of the Political Agreement and **requests** the Commission to report to Council on the progress made;
19. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.