

Consistent with the Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), the Peacebuilding Commission is providing the following observations and advice to the Security Council ahead of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) mandate renewal, with a view to supporting ongoing and required efforts for peacebuilding and sustaining peace and stability in the country.

Despite the deterioration of the security situation due to various disruptions, including an armed rebellion as well as the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central African Republic (CAR) Government remained engaged alongside its partners, including MINUSCA to move forward with the implementation of its commitments for peace and stability.

Government has mobilized \$3 million. Any delay in funding the organization of these elections would jeopardize the implementation of the peace framework.

An extension of MINUSCA's electoral assistance mandate to support local elections is necessary. MINUSCA is particularly needed for the mobilization of additional resources, raising awareness about the laws on territorial communities and administrative districts to enhance local ownership and compliance with the electoral code, securing the electoral process and providing technical assistance. MINUSCA has to continue its support to the National Elections Authority's (ANE) leadership and institutional capacity to prepare the local elections and ensure that all the conditions are met to hold genuine, free, credible, transparent, peaceful and inclusive local elections, with the participation of IDPs and refugees who have voluntarily returned. Particular efforts should be made to encourage women and youths' participation as voters and as candidates in these elections in line with the UNSC resolution S/RES/1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. Local elected officials need to be supported over time in understanding their mandates and responsibilities, and how to implement them with support from the central Government.

(iii) Strengthening the Rule of Law

The deteriorating security situation in the CAR, including the upsurge of explosive ordnance incidents in the West, had a major impact on civilians and the delivery of humanitarian aid, as well as on the safety and security of peacekeepers and the implementation of MINUSCA's mandate. The humanitarian situation is particularly alarming, nearly two thirds of Central Africans are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and nearly 700,000 people are at risk of starvation. The humanitarian response plan remains underfunded. Collaboration between MINUSCA, UN agencies, funds and programmes, regional organizations, international, technical and financial partners is essential to support humanitarian efforts in the CAR. MINUSCA should be provided with and necessary resources and capabilities to secure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the populations in need throughout the territory in an enhanced humanitarian development peace nexus framework.

and need to be rebuilt and rehabilitated to facilitate the population's access to justice through the deployment of judiciary and penitentiary actors. MINUSCA's mandate needs to be reinforced to support the Government in delivering basic social services and upholding the rule of law within the country and key social basic services are delivered. Financial support is needed to cover the necessary budget for the deployment of judiciary and penitentiary actors outside Bangui as well as the efficient operation of the courts. Meanwhile, MINUSCA could continue supporting the deployment of temporary judicial missions to ensure that populations in different parts of the country have access to justice.

The Government has shown strong will to put an end to impunity for human rights violations and other grave crimes, including sexual violence. It has operationalized transitional justice mechanisms, notably the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Criminal Court, as well as established a special commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights abuses. MINUSCA's support to the entire judicial system through technical assistance, construction, rehabilitation and equipment of court premises outside Bangui remains necessary, in particular with a view to facilitating the functioning of the Special Criminal Court in accordance with the national laws and CAR's international obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. It is worth noting that the Special Criminal Court's budget relies almost entirely on MINUSCA's support.