

## **POLITICAL AGREEMENT FOR PEACE IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

We, representatives of HE Mr. Faustin A. Touadéra, President of the Republic, Head of State and of the Government of the Central African Republic,

Representatives of all politico-military groups in the country, from all regions, representing all their components,

Meeting in Rome under the mediation of the Community of Sant'Egidio, which has been working tirelessly for years for peace in the Central African Republic,

In the presence of Central African delegations representing the National Assembly and the Political Class

In the presence of the emissary HE Cardinal Nzapalainga, Archbishop of Bangui,

In the presence of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga,

In the presence of representatives of the European Union, the International Community and the Italian Government,

### **Preamble**

Conscious of the crisis situation in our homeland, and the need to end all violence and to guide the country towards its rebirth and reconstruction;

Conscious of their efforts to establish stability in the Central African Republic, we thank the United Nations, the African Union, ECCAS, CEMAC, the European Union, the ICGLR, the OIC and the OIF and the international community as a whole;

We also thank all those who have made efforts for reconciliation within the Central African Republic and especially their Excellencies Presidents Idriss Deby Itno, Denis Sassou Nguesso, Paul Biya, Ali Bongo Ondimba, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and Jose Eduardo dos Santos, their Excellencies Alpha Conde, President-in-Office of the African Union, and Moussa Paki, President of the African Union Commission;

Conscious that the suffering of the Central African people is great and that all must act to repair the country for the common good, looking beyond any political differences:

Conscious of the need to make victims the focus so that reparations can be made;

Conscious that its tolerant, peaceful and laborious people are one of the country's greatest resources;

Committed to contributing to the consolidation of a united, fraternal and supportive society;

## **Together we reaffirm**

- Our commitment to history, territorial integrity, to the constitutional values and principles of the Republic, to democracy, human rights, and freedom of belief and worship;
- The right and duty of the whole Nation, to participate in building a prosperous and independent country, and to guarantee political and civic participation from all, in all social and political sectors, without any religious, ethnic, or regional bias;
- That the right to life, freedom, and security are sacred and inviolable to every citizen and every person living on our territory, including international humanitarian workers and peacekeepers. These must be defended by law;

## **We commit ourselves:**

### **1. Politically:**

- To the immediate establishment of a cease-fire by all politico-military groups throughout the entirety of the national territory, under the control of the international community, as a fundamental step on the road to peace;
- The government is responsible for obtaining the following: representation from political groups at all levels related to DDDR, Security Sector Reform and National Reconciliation; the assumption of responsibility of the leaders the National DDDR Program; the settlement of any indemnities owed to the representatives of the CCS. This will help achieve better coordination between the United Nations, the politico-military movements and the other international institutions on DDDR, contribute to implementing the country 's other reconstruction programs, and facilitate the role of the National Assembly in managing the process;
- To respecting the legitimate authorities, resulting from the legislative and presidential elections of 2016;
- To the recognition of politico-military groups as part of the reconstruction, which will lead to the registration of new political formations within the legal framework of the state;
- To working to build momentum for the reconciliation process throughout the country, in collaboration with all legitimate political institutions, traditional and religious authorities, and with the support of the international community.

-On the basis of the content of this Agreement, the Government of the Central African Republic, together with the Special Representative of the Secretary General, undertakes to initiate a consultation on lifting sanctions for sanctioned Central African nationals, which will be under the responsibility of the Sanctions Committee of the United Nations Security Council;

-On matters of justice and reparation, this Agreement, taking into account:

- recommendations of the Bangui Forum on the subject,
- the work of the International Penal Court and the Special Penal Court,
- the right of pardon of the President of the Republic,

establishes a "Truth, Justice and Reconciliation" Commission, with a 12-month mandate, which, after having acquired all possible documentation on the matter and before any hearings it deems useful, will produce recommendations on the following matters to be submitted to the President of the Republic and to the National Assembly:

- The traditional approach towards pardoning cases,
- The reinsertion of leaders and executives belonging to politico-military groups,
- The release of captured combatants,
- The adoption of laws on national reconciliation, as signs of calm and stability

## **2. In terms of security:**

-To reopening the national territory to free movement of persons and goods, lifting any illegal barriers as an immediate consequence of the cease-fire;

-To restoring state authority throughout the national territory, by reinstating the administrative authorities and establishing a joint security mechanism;

-To the introduction, after selection according to the pre-established criteria and following a transition phase, of members of the politico-military groups into the defence forces, as well as the consensual regularization of the situation of any former soldiers of the politico-military groups, so that they may resume their careers;

-To securing safe human routes and protecting wildlife;

## **3. At an economic, humanitarian and social level**

-To the implementation of national programs for the reconstruction and development of the Central African Republic, with emphasis on basic socio-economic infrastructures;

-To the free movement of national and international NGOs and the protection of humanitarians;

-To the return of all refugees and displaced persons, as well as the identification of the entire population in order to facilitate it;

-To urgently begin intensive work, directed towards ex-combatants, young people and the community, for the rehabilitation of priority infrastructures (roads, schools, hospitals, etc.);

- To providing food and care for members of politico-military groups and their families during the DDRR period;
- To the distribution of kits (agricultural tools, seeds, livestock, construction equipment or other) for those who choose to return to civilian life;
- To providing politico-military groups with the means necessary for raising awareness and popularizing this agreement;
- To organising technical training courses (electricians, mechanics, carpenters, etc.) and scholarships for those wishing to start a business or seek employment;
- For those already employed by the state, a joint government-politico-military group commission will be established to evaluate each case.
- For those wishing to join the public service or resume studies, appropriate measures must be put in place by the government.

## Crisis Exit

The timeline of this Agreement will be established by a Joint Follow-up Committee for the implementation of all the above-mentioned points, whose members will be chosen by consensus, with the participation of the Sant'Egidio Community.

At the end of the DDRR process there will be no more politico-military groups in the Central African Republic but only political forces. The country will be guarded by MINUSCA and its own defence and security forces, present throughout the whole territory of the country.

We thank the international community for its support towards the Central African Republic, as well as its presence in Rome with observers. We ask them to support the above measures through already existing or new programs.

We also call on the African Union, which has constantly been working for the stabilization of the Central African Republic, to support us at all levels in the implementation of this agreement and in the pacification of the country.

We thank the Community of Haiti for its support towards our national reconciliation and ask it to continue its work of mediation, dialogue and monitoring of the implementation of this Agreement.