



Security Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2025

Original: English

Letter dated 23 June 2025 from the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission I have the honour to transmit herewith advice of the Commission for consideration by the Security Council ahead of its meeting on the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (see annex). The advice, presented to you by the Commission in its advisory capacity to the Council, is the outcome of a consultative process within the Commission.

I remain at the disposal of the Security Council to provide further information and clarifications, as may be required. The Peacebuilding Commission, through its Central African Republic configuration, will continue to accompany the Central African Republic and inform the Council of peacebuilding-related developments, as appropriate.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Omar **Hilale**
Chair of the Central African Republic
configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission



**Annex to the letter dated 23 June 2025 from the Chair of the
Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding
Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council
on local elections in the Central African Republic**

The following advice is provided ahead of the Security Council briefing on the situation in the Central African Republic to be held on 26 June, with a view to supporting required efforts for the upcoming local elections.

1. The Commission notes the importance of the upcoming local elections, the first in over three decades, which represent a significant milestone in the country's efforts to consolidate peace, democratic governance and long-term development. They are critical to advancing decentralization and restoring State authority at the local level. Efforts to improve security, advance the peace process and support inclusive and participatory governance by securing civic and political space should be sustained for the broader objectives of peacebuilding and stabilization.
2. The Commission acknowledges that challenges to revise the voter list may affect the date set for the local elections: 31 August 2025. In that regard, while the national authorities are trying to finalize the updates to the voter list, the Commission notes that discussions with relevant United Nations' entities are under way to examine alternatives, including the possibility of combining the local elections with the planned general elections (presidential and parliamentary) in December. The Commission encourages the finalization and publication of the updated voter list as a matter of urgency, and to ensure that the voter registration process is completed in a timely, inclusive and transparent manner while noting that the National Electoral Authority's temporary suspension of the publication of the provisional list was a responsible decision and a demonstration of responsiveness to citizen concerns, as well as a commitment to transparency and electoral integrity.
3. Despite these challenges, the Peacebuilding Commission commends the Government of the Central African Republic for its diligent efforts to organize the local elections, including through:
 - (a) At the political level: the sustained political commitment by the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, and his Government to hold the upcoming elections, including through regular convening of the inclusive national coordination mechanisms that promote dialogue, accountability and public participation.
 - (b) At the legislative level: the promulgation of the new Electoral Code on 2 July 2024, which incorporated gender-sensitive provisions and addressed long-standing legal gaps, and the adoption by the National Assembly of the law on 17 May 2025, derogating article 18 of the Electoral Code and its promulgation by the President on 6 June 2025, enabling elections to proceed despite delays in finalizing the updates to the voter list.
4. The Commission also commends the significant achievements made under challenging conditions in updating the current voter list. The two-phase voter registration exercise reached all 20 prefectures and included registration in 15 countries for the diaspora, resulting in a provisional figure of over 648,000 newly registered voters. These efforts contribute to upholding the right to participate in public affairs, and to ensuring the inclusion of all eligible citizens in the democratic process.
5. In this context, we recognize the support rendered to the Government of the Central African Republic by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated

Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in:

- A financial contribution from MINUSCA of \$1,341,727 to the UNDP-managed electoral basket fund, which, in conjunction with contributions from other partners, allowed for kick-starting the preparations
- Procuring and distributing over 2 million registration forms and 4,300 electoral kits
- Training and paying more than 3,000 voter registration agents
- Securing voter registration operations and ensuring a safe environment for the participation of all segments of the population, including the most vulnerable
- Data processing, including addressing duplicate registration and incomplete records, through the National Electoral Authority's data processing centre.

6. The Commission welcomes the efforts by the Government, with support from the United Nations, in ensuring a safe environment during all stages of the electoral cycle, enhancing public awareness and encouraging the participation of women, youth, returned refugees and internally displaced persons and targeted initiatives to promote women's participation in the electoral process, both as voters and candidates. In this context, it commends the launch of a joint United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)-MINUSCA initiative, with \$400,000 in Mission funding, to overcome barriers stemming from women lacking identification documents. Furthermore, the Commission recognizes the high-level dialogue on preventing and combating violence against women during elections, held in May 2025, which engaged over 250 participants, including the Prime Minister and civil society leaders. The Commission further acknowledges funding from the Peacebuilding Fund in the amount of \$1.5 million for a joint UNDP-UN-Women project supporting peaceful and inclusive elections.

7. Despite the above, the Commission remains concerned about the lack of visibility of the consolidated financial requirements for the elections scheduled in 2025–2026, in particular given the delays in the revision of the voter list. We take note of the revised total cost for local elections: \$21.8 million, with \$12.4 million managed through the UNDP-administered basket fund and \$9.4 million directly by the Government. We acknowledge that \$8.4 million has already been disbursed to the basket fund for local elections but remain concerned that the current funding gap amounts to \$9 million.

8. The Commission further stresses that sustained international financial support and timely disbursement of funds are critical to ensuring procurement of outstanding electoral materials, deployment of operational teams and implementation of logistical plans, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, in order for the local elections to be conducted on schedule, while ensuring credibility, accessibility and inclusiveness. Bridging these gaps will send a strong signal of international commitment to the democratic governance of the Central African Republic and the broader peacebuilding agenda.

9. The Commission therefore calls upon Member States and regional organizations to consider urgent financial support, including to the UNDP-managed electoral basket fund, and multifaceted support (political, technical, operational, logistical and security-related), which will be key to fostering a conducive environment for free, transparent, fair, peaceful and inclusive local elections, in line with the principles of democratic participation and advancing the decentralization of governance for durable peace and stability in the country.