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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Abeba, ETHIOPIE B.P.: 3243 Tel.: (251-1) 51 38 22 Télécopie : (251-1) 51 93 21

Courriel: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

495TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

26 MARCH 2015

PSC/PR/COMM.(CDXCV)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUE

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 495th meeting held on 26 March 2015, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR):

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, Head of the AU Mission for the CAR and Central Africa (MISAC), on the situation in the CAR and MISAC's activities. Council **also takes notes** of the statements made by the representative of Chad, on behalf of the Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), as well as by the representatives of France, Nigeria, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, in their capacity as members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, and those of the UN Secretariat and the European Union (EU);
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in the CAR, in particular PSC/PR/COMM(CDLVIII), adopted at its 458th meeting held on 17 September 2014;
3. **Commends** the authorities of the Transition for their efforts and **encourages** them to spare no efforts in ensuring the completion of the ongoing process within the agreed timeline;
4. **Notes with satisfaction** the continued commitment and engagement of the regional leaders, particularly Presidents Idriss Deby Itno of the Republic of Chad, current Chairman of ECCAS, Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo, International Mediator in the CAR crisis, and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the Republic of Angola, current Chairman of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), with a view to completing the process aimed at ending the crisis in the CAR;
5. **Further notes with satisfaction** the support that the international community continues to provide for the completion of the process to end the crisis in the CAR, particularly through the International Contact Group on the CAR (ICG-CAR), and **welcomes** the conclusions of the 7th meeting of the ICG-CAR, held in Brazzaville on 16 March 2015;
6. **Welcomes** the improvement in the security situation in the CAR, thanks to the joint action of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) and other international forces. Council **notes**, at the same time, the persistence of acts of banditry and violence, **stresses** that the spoilers shall be held accountable for their actions, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and communiqués of the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, and **encourages** MINUSCA to take all necessary measures,

within the framework of its mandate, to protect civilians and assist in the process for the restoration of lasting security;

7. **Expresses its concern about** the humanitarian situation prevailing in the CAR, including the internal displacements caused by the violence that took place recently in the northeastern part of the country. Council **demands** that the armed groups put an immediate end to violence against the humanitarian actors and civilians and stop hindering humanitarian access to civilian populations, in compliance with international humanitarian law. Council **encourages** the humanitarian agencies to continue their assistance to the affected population, and **reiterates its gratitude** to the neighboring countries that are still hosting approximately 420,000 CAR refugees;

8. **Encourages** the authorities of the Transition to continue and intensify their efforts towards the restoration of State authority and law and order throughout the CAR territory, the redeployment of the administration and the resumption of the activities of the public services. Council **also encourages** the authorities of the Transition to fight against impunity, including through the resumption of the functioning of the judiciary, and **calls upon** the international community to lend the necessary support to these efforts. Council **notes, with satisfaction**, the establishment of a Special Criminal Court to investigate, hear and prosecute serious crimes committed in the CAR;

9. **Welcomes** the progress made in the political process initiated following the signing, in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 23 July 2014, especially the completion of Phase II of the said process. Council **notes with satisfaction** the inclusive and representative nature of the grassroots consultations held from 21 February to 6 March 2015, in preparation for the National Reconciliation Forum, which is scheduled to take place in Bangui, from 27 April to 4 May 2015. Council **further welcomes** the establishment of the Preparatory Committee of the Forum, and **calls for** an as inclusive participation as possible, noting the crucial role of the Forum in the promotion of national reconciliation. Council **calls upon** the AU Member States and the rest of the international community to provide the necessary financial and technical support for the successful convening of the Forum;

10. **Appeals** to all the CAR stakeholders, including the leaders of the ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka, as well as to all other armed groups that are signatories to the Brazzaville Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, to genuinely embark upon the path of dialogue and contribute to the success of the Bangui Forum;

11. **Expresses its concern** about the delay in the electoral process and **urges** the authorities of the Transition, as well as the National Elections Authority (ANE), to urgently take the necessary political, legal, financial and material measures to expedite the electoral process and facilitate the organization, by August 2015 at the latest, of free, fair and credible elections that will mark the end of the Transition;

12. **Expresses its appreciation** to all members of the international community who have already made contributions to enable the organization of elections within the agreed timeline, and **urges** the AU Member States and other members of the international community to provide the necessary support to the electoral process;
13. **Reiterates** the need to respect the provisions of the Constitutional Charter of the Transition regarding the issue of ineligibility. In addition, Council **stresses** the need for strict compliance with the clause on ineligibility of political actors under sanctions imposed by Council and the UN Security Council;
14. **Welcomes** the improvement of the economic and financial situation in the CAR, and **urges** the authorities of the Transition to continue and accelerate the implementation of the reforms related to public finance management and the promotion of transparency and good governance. Council **calls upon** the international partners to enhance their socio-economic support to the CAR;
15. **Congratulates** MISAC and the Special Representative in the CAR on their efforts, as part of the implementation of the mandate of the Mission, and **encourages** them to pursue these efforts;
16. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

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