Geneva International Centre for Justice

63rd Session of the Human Rights Council

ASSESSING THE UNCERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



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I. Executive summary

On 1 October 2026, Mr. Aristide Nononsi, Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic presented his report (A/HRC/63/81) within the discussion of item 10 at the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council. His report highlighted fragile progress in peacebuilding and institutional reform in the Central African Republic, while stressing continued insecurity, human rights violations and humanitarian challenges. It emphasised the need to strengthen justice and transitional justice, protect civilians and civic space, improve access to basic services, and maintain international support, particularly through the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic ("MINUSCA").

The discussions mainly focused on the need to consolidate peace while strengthening the protection of civilians and the fight against impunity. Several delegations welcomed the progress achieved, particularly the electoral process, disarmament and the gradual restoration of state authority, while also stressing the continued insecurity and the commission of human rights violations. The need for independent investigations and prosecutions of those responsible was repeatedly emphasised.

The protection of vulnerable groups was another important theme, particularly the situation of women, children and displaced populations. Participants raised concerns about conflict-related sexual violence, the protection of children formerly associated with armed groups, and efforts aimed at their reintegration and psychosocial support.

Participants also emphasised the humanitarian and socio-economic dimensions of the crisis. Forced displacement, limited humanitarian access, inequalities and insufficient livelihoods remain obstacles to sustainable peace. Transitional justice, the Special Criminal Court, and the participation of civil society and victims were also highlighted as important elements in addressing impunity and strengthening trust in institutions.

Finally, the continued role of the international community, particularly the MINUSCA, was widely emphasised. Participants brought into focus that any transition of the mission should be carefully managed to avoid a security vacuum and that the Central African Republic continues to require financial, technical and institutional support. In conclusion, the

Independent Expert stressed that the progress achieved needs to be consolidated through continued efforts on human rights, justice, civilian protection and development.

Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ) recognises the progress made by the Central African Republic, particularly in strengthening its governmental and democratic institutions, as demonstrated by the smooth conduct of the 2025 electoral cycle. These achievements must be sustained and consolidated over the long term. The Government should further strengthen its efforts to safeguard civic space, uphold effective democratic governance, and ensure the safety and security of all people across the country. GICJ also calls on the Government to intensify its efforts to secure border areas and ensure that civilian populations are protected and able to fully enjoy their economic and social rights.

II. Background

The current situation in the Central African Republic is the result of decades of political instability, armed conflict, weak state institutions and persistent socio-economic difficulties. The 2013 political and security crisis, marked by the overthrow of President François Bozizé and the rise of armed groups, led to widespread violence, population displacement and a significant weakening of state authority. Although successive governments and international partners have worked to restore stability and rebuild state institutions, insecurity has continued in several parts of the country. In April 2014, MINUSCA, a UN peacekeeping mission, was put in place to protect Central African Republic civilians under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation[1] represented an important step towards ending the conflict, and subsequent efforts have focused on disarmament, the reintegration of former combatants, the restoration of state authority and national reconciliation. More recently, the April 2025 N'Djamena agreement[2] and the 2025 electoral cycle marked further steps towards political stabilisation and institutional consolidation.

A particular significant milestone was the most recent elections, held on December 28, 2025, which marked the first time in decades that local and municipal elections were held concurrently with the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Independent Expert's report was prepared against this background of progress alongside continuing human rights and security challenges. While the 2025 elections were conducted peacefully and the Government has made progress in strengthening democratic institutions, its presence and institutional capacity remain limited in some areas. Armed groups continue to operate in parts of the country, exposing civilians to killings, abductions, sexual violence, displacement, looting and other abuses. Between October 2025 and June 2026, MINUSCA documented 1,635 cases of human rights violations and abuses affecting 2,804 victims. The situation is further complicated by humanitarian needs, limited access to justice and basic services, and the regional impact of the conflict in Sudan, particularly in the border areas.

[1] The 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic was signed between the Government and armed groups on 6 February 2019. It aimed to end the conflict, reduce violence, strengthen state authority, and promote disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups. Its implementation has made some progress but remains incomplete.

[2] The April 2025 N'Djamena Agreement was signed between the Central African Government and the armed groups UPC and 3R. It aimed to revive the peace process and contribute to reducing violence and strengthening peace in several regions. In July 2025, the leaders of the two groups announced their dissolution, although armed groups remained active in some areas.

The report therefore seeks to assess whether the progress made towards peace, democratic governance and institutional reform is translating into effective protection of human rights. It places particular emphasis on the protection of civilians, the fight against impunity, judicial and transitional justice reforms, the restoration of state authority, and access to economic and social rights. The Expert considers that consolidating lasting peace will require continued national and international efforts to strengthen institutions, ensure accountability for violations, protect civic space and improve living conditions for the population.

III. Summary of the Presentation of the Independent Expert's report

In his report covering October 2025 to June 2026, the Independent Expert Aristide Nononsi assesses the human rights situation in the Central African Republic in the context of ongoing peacebuilding and institutional consolidation. He recognises significant progress, including the completion of the 2025 electoral cycle, the strengthening of state institutions, the gradual restoration of state authority and continued disarmament and reintegration efforts. However, he stresses that these gains remain fragile and that lasting peace will require stronger human rights protection, justice, accountability and improvements in living conditions.

Security remains a major concern. Armed groups, intercommunal tensions, transhumance-related conflicts and competition over natural resources continue to expose civilians to killings, abductions, sexual violence, looting and restrictions on movement. Between October 2025 and June 2026, MINUSCA documented 1,635 cases of human rights violations and abuses affecting 2,804 victims. Women, girls and children remain particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses, including sexual violence, recruitment and attacks on schools and health facilities. The situation is further complicated by the spillover effects of the war in Sudan, particularly in border areas, where the arrival of refugees and insecurity place additional pressure on local communities and services.

The Expert also highlights progress in the implementation of the 2019 Political Agreement and the April 2025 N'Djamena Agreement, while noting that armed groups remain active and that displacement and limited reintegration resources continue to challenge the peace process. He therefore describes peace as a process still underway. Justice and accountability are considered essential, with particular emphasis on strengthening the judiciary, addressing prolonged pre-trial detention and poor detention conditions, supporting the Special Criminal Court, and advancing transitional justice based on truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

The report further stresses that peace must bring tangible improvements to people's daily lives. Access to healthcare, education, food, water and livelihoods remains limited in several regions, with more than 2.8 million people requiring humanitarian assistance and protection. The Expert also calls for any future evolution of MINUSCA to be gradual, coordinated and based on conditions on the ground, in order to avoid a security vacuum and preserve civilian protection and humanitarian access.

In his oral intervention, the Expert reiterated these main concerns, while highlighting continuing insecurity, the vulnerability of civilians and the importance of justice, socio-economic development and responsible management of the future of MINUSCA. He also referred to violence in Amdafock/Vakaga after the reporting period, which led more than 16,000 people to seek refuge with MINUSCA.

Overall, the Expert considers that the Central African Republic has made meaningful political and institutional progress, but that these gains remain vulnerable. He calls for continued efforts to protect civilians, strengthen the rule of law and accountability, expand state authority and basic services, protect civic space, increase the participation of women and youth, and maintain international political, technical and financial support. The Government welcomed the report and highlighted its own progress, while acknowledging remaining insecurity, justice-sector constraints and the need for continued international support.

IV. Exhaustive Summary of the Interactive Dialogue

1. Statement by the Central African Republic, as the Country Concerned



The speaker reaffirmed the Government's cooperation with the Human Rights Council, the Independent Expert and United Nations mechanisms. He highlighted the progress achieved in strengthening institutions, organising elections, redeploying the administration, advancing the peace process, strengthening the justice system and combating impunity. He described the 2025 elections as an important step towards consolidating democracy and decentralisation, and emphasised progress in implementing the peace agreements, including the disarmament and socio-economic reintegration of former combatants and the restoration of state authority.

Regarding the security situation, the Government considered that significant improvements have been achieved through the deployment of the Central African Armed Forces and the support of its Russian and Rwandan partners. Nevertheless, it acknowledged that localized cases of insecurity and human rights violations persist in some areas. The Government firmly condemns such violations and stresses that perpetrators must be held accountable. It also calls for greater disaggregation and verification of data on alleged violations in order to facilitate investigations, establish individual responsibility and monitor measures taken by the authorities.

The representative further reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining a relatively open civic space and to guaranteeing freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. He acknowledged persistent challenges within the justice system,

including delays in proceedings and prolonged pre-trial detention, which he attributed primarily to insufficient judicial staff, inadequate infrastructure and longstanding structural and budgetary constraints. He stressed the need to pursue national judicial reforms with continued international support.

Finally, the Government reaffirmed its support for the Special Criminal Court and called on international partners to provide the financial resources necessary for it to fulfil its mandate. Regarding MINUSCA, the Government stressed that any future evolution of the mission should be discussed closely with the Central African authorities and based on objective criteria, measurable progress and an orderly transfer of responsibilities. The Government also called for the establishment of a technical cooperation programme on human rights for the period 2026–2030.

2. Statements Delivered on Behalf of Group of States

The Kingdom of Norway on behalf of the Nordic Baltic Countries



The representative of the Kingdom of Norway welcomed the progress made by the Central African Government in improving security, restoring state authority and strengthening local governance. However, he expressed concern about continued violence and human rights violations and called for investigations and accountability.

He particularly highlighted serious violations against children, including recruitment by armed groups, abductions, mutilation and sexual violence. He urged armed groups to release children and called on the government to ensure their safe reintegration into their families. It also encouraged improved access to education in conflict-affected areas. The speaker of the delegation asked the Independent Expert what urgent measures should be taken to strengthen the protection of children and their rights in the Central African Republic.

The Kingdom of Belgium on behalf of the Benelux Countries



Speaking on behalf of the Benelux countries, the speaker of the delegation welcomed the peaceful elections, efforts to strengthen democratic governance, national human rights institutions and judicial reform. He expressed concern about reports of unlawful killings, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment affecting civilians, including human rights defenders, journalists and humanitarian workers, and called for impartial investigations and accountability. He also reaffirmed its support for the Special Criminal Court and the International Criminal Court and encouraged cooperation with both institutions to advance truth, justice and remedies for victims.

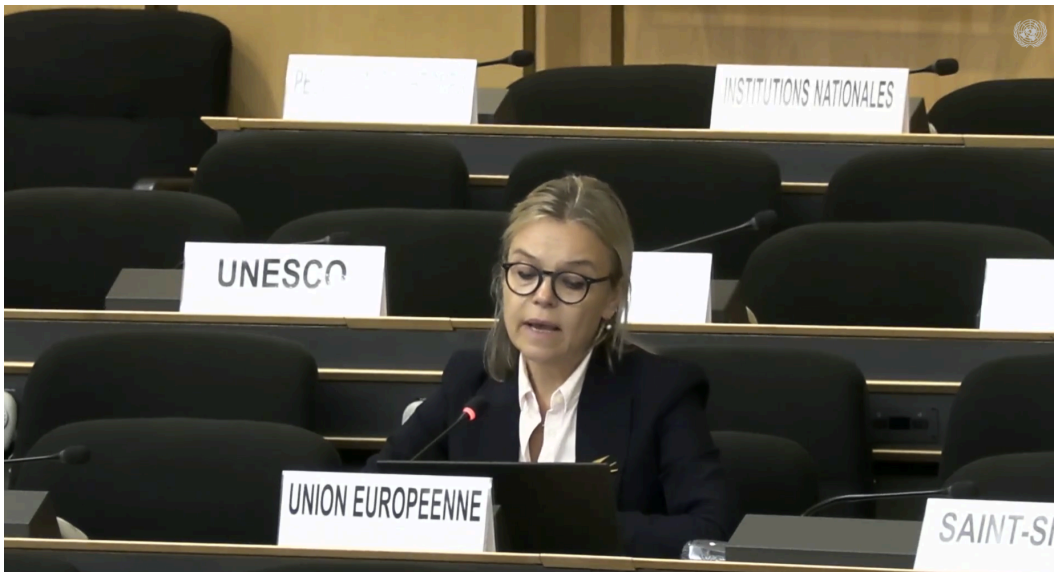
The Republic of Kenya on behalf of the African Group



The representative of the Republic of Kenya recognised the progress in peacebuilding, the rule of law, the fight against impunity and human rights protection, while acknowledging persistent humanitarian, security and institutional challenges.

She stressed the importance of continued international support through dialogue, cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building, while respecting national priorities. She also presented a draft resolution under Item 10, building on the 2025 consensus resolution, and proposed extending the Independent Expert's mandate for one year, with a focus on technical assistance and capacity-building in close cooperation with national authorities and institutions.

The European Union



The representative of the European Union (EU) welcomed the progress made by the Central African Republic in the electoral process, the functioning of national institutions and the fight against impunity. However, she stressed that the human rights situation remains concerning, particularly due to continued attacks against civilians and serious violations affecting women and children, including sexual and gender-based violence.

The EU also emphasised the crucial role of MINUSCA in stabilising the security situation and protecting human rights. It expressed concern over reports of arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as restrictions on freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and freedom of the press, and strongly condemned all forms of intimidation and reprisals. Finally, the EU reiterated its support for the Special Criminal Court and the International Criminal Court and encouraged the Central African Republic and its partners to implement the recommendations.

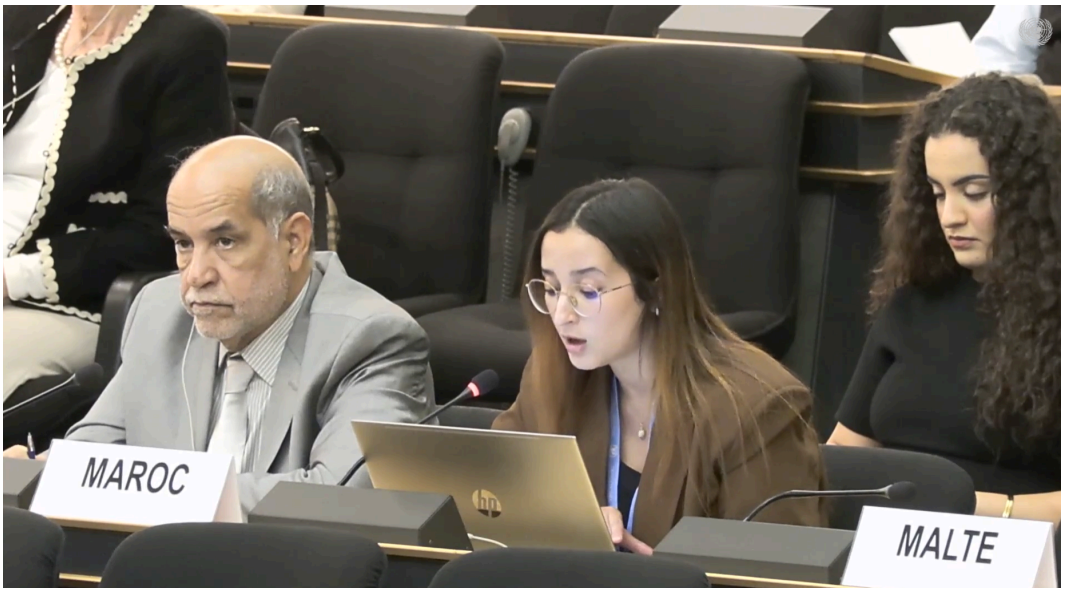
3. Relevant Statements by Other Delegations

The Gabonese Republic



The representative of the Gabonese Republic recognised the tangible efforts made by the Central African authorities between October 2025 and June 2026 to restore peace and stability, and congratulated the country on the peaceful and inclusive conduct of the 2025 electoral cycle and the re-election of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra. She expressed concern about continued human rights violations, particularly against women and children, attacks on civilians and the activities of armed groups in some regions. She also highlighted the use of children in armed conflict and the resulting humanitarian concerns. The speaker of the delegation encouraged the Central African authorities to continue promoting social cohesion and called on the international community to maintain its support for the Central African Republic.

The Kingdom of Morocco



The representative of the Kingdom of Morocco highlighted the importance of the December 2025 municipal elections and the establishment of the first Regional Councils, stressing that their effectiveness would depend on adequate resources and the restoration of public services across the country. She welcomed progress in disarmament, particularly psychosocial support and family reunification for children formerly associated with armed groups, while emphasising the need for sustained support for their long-term reintegration. The representative also highlighted its contribution to peacebuilding in the Central African Republic, including through MINUSCA and support for the country's national development plan.

The speaker of the delegation asked the Independent Expert: what forms of support should be prioritised to enable the new local authorities to effectively perform their functions, particularly in remote prefectures?

The Republic of South Sudan



The representative of the Republic of South Sudan welcomed the Central African Republic's cooperation with the Independent Expert, United Nations institutions and MINUSCA. He recognised the country's efforts to advance peacebuilding, strengthen national institutions and the justice system, and combat impunity. He called on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and international partners to strengthen their political, financial and technical support for the priorities identified by the Independent Expert, particularly under the 2026–2030 technical cooperation programme, in order to consolidate progress in peace, security, the rule of law and gender equality.

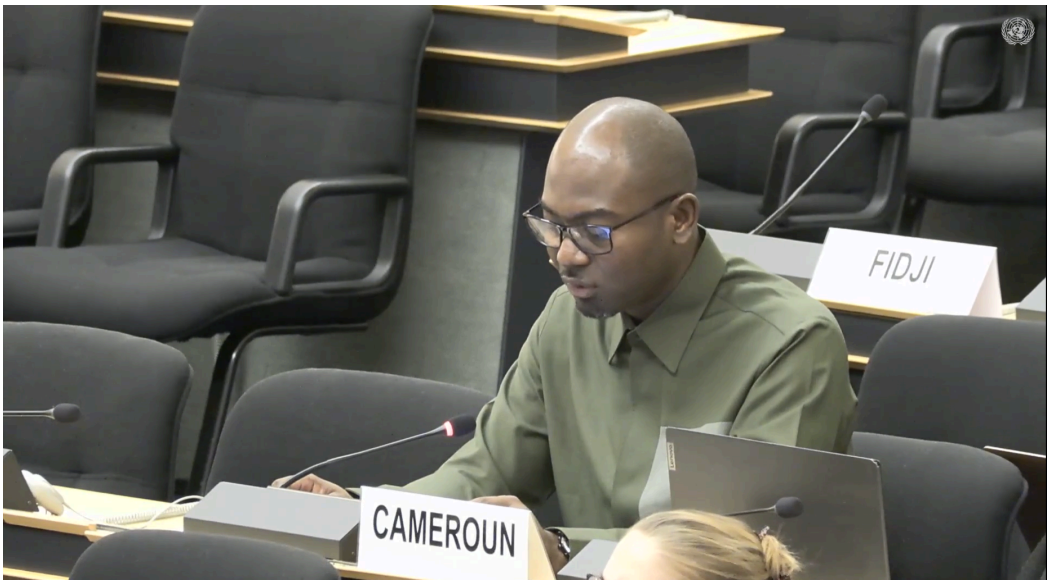
The French Republic



The representative of the French Republic recognised the positive conduct of the latest electoral cycle and progress in transitional justice, while reaffirming its support for the Special Criminal Court and the International Criminal Court. He expressed concern about continued violence against civilians in several regions, particularly linked to armed groups, cross-border insecurity and transhumance-related conflicts, as well as increasing forced displacement and sexual violence affecting women and children. He reaffirmed its support for MINUSCA in protecting civilians and welcomed the Government's efforts to combat impunity and prevent human rights violations.

Finally, France encouraged the Central African Republic to strengthen independent human rights institutions and the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission, stressing that accountability is essential to restoring state authority and public trust.

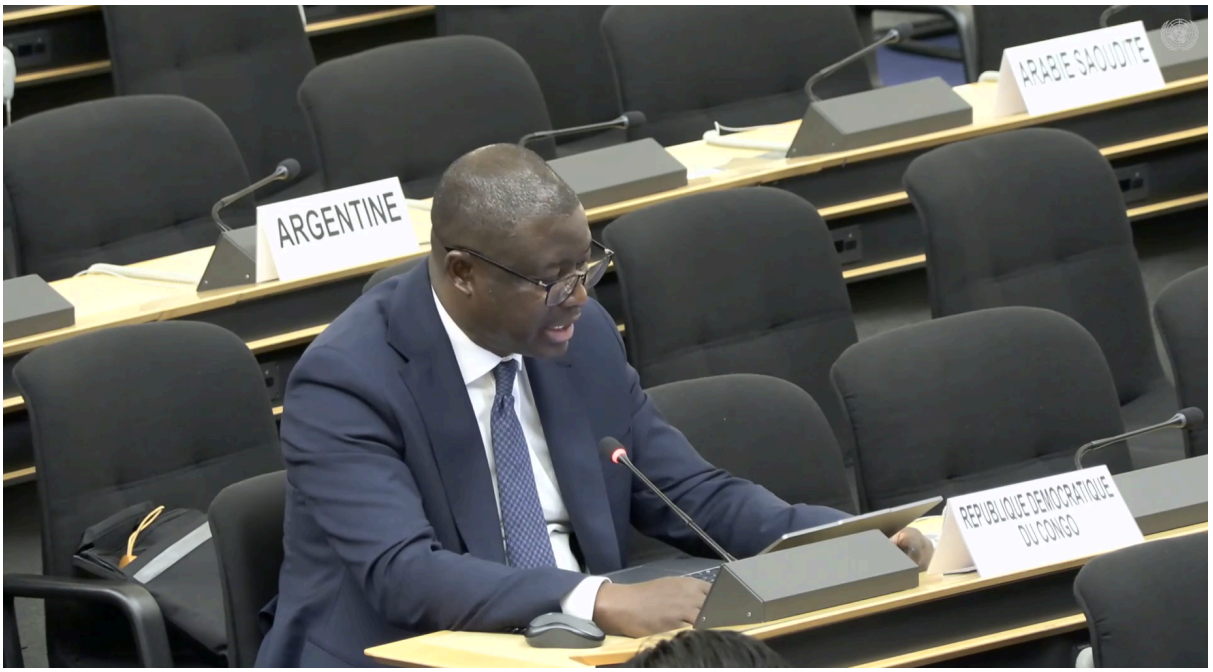
The Republic of Cameroon



The representative of the Republic of Cameroon welcomed the completion of the electoral cycle, the overall peaceful conduct of the elections, and progress in decentralisation and local governance. He also encouraged continued efforts on peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, as well as the gradual restoration of state authority. Cameroon welcomed progress by the Special Criminal Court and the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission and called for sustained support.

Finally, as a neighboring country, Cameroon highlighted the ongoing security and humanitarian challenges and called on the international community to maintain political, technical and financial support for the Central African Republic. He reaffirmed its solidarity with the Central African people and its commitment to supporting peace, security, the rule of law and development.

Democratic Republic of the Congo



The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) welcomed the peaceful conduct of the Central African Republic's electoral cycle, as well as its efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and consolidate peace. As a neighboring country, the representative of DRC highlighted the persistent humanitarian and logistical challenges in border areas and stressed that the stability of the Central African Republic and the wider region are closely interconnected. He therefore encouraged the Government to continue extending state authority throughout the country and to implement the Expert's recommendations to strengthen the rule of law.

Finally, the DRC called on the international community and technical and financial partners to increase their material and financial support to the Central African Republic in order to support reconstruction, sustain peace and address humanitarian needs.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) recognised progress in strengthening democratic institutions and promoting stability following the elections. However, she expressed concern about ongoing human rights violations, insecurity in some regions and their impact on civilians' access to justice and basic services. She supported efforts to strengthen accountability, the rule of law and inclusive dialogue, and acknowledged MINUSCA's important role in protecting civilians and supporting long-term peace and stability.

The representative of the UK also underlined concerns regarding restrictions on civic space, the vulnerability of women, children and displaced communities, and the implementation of peace and reconciliation agreements. She stressed that progress in reconciliation, disarmament and accountability remained essential to sustainable peace and asked the Expert about his priorities for strengthening accountability, protecting human rights and ensuring lasting peace.

The Republic of Cuba



The representative of Cuba affirmed that OHCHR technical assistance and capacity-building for the Central African Republic should be provided at the request, and with the consultation and consent, of the national authorities. She underscored that such assistance should respond to the country's identified needs while respecting its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. She supported strengthening technical assistance and capacity-building to help implement the Government's human rights priorities, including recommendations accepted through the Universal Periodic Review. The speaker of the delegation recognized that respectful dialogue, non-interference and genuine cooperation were essential to effectively promote and protect human rights.

4. Statements by NGOs

Civil society organisations broadly recognised the progress made in the Central African Republic, including the relatively peaceful conduct of the elections, advances in transitional justice, the work of the Special Criminal Court, and efforts towards disarmament and reintegration. They nevertheless stressed that these gains remained fragile in light of continued insecurity, violence against civilians and the humanitarian crisis, particularly in peripheral and border areas.

Particular attention was given to women and children, who remained highly exposed to sexual and gender-based violence, forced displacement, recruitment by armed groups and other serious violations. The NGOs called for stronger protection measures, sustainable reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups, and effective participation of women in the peace process.

The fight against impunity and victims' access to justice and reparations were another central theme. The representatives of civil society called for strengthening the Special Criminal Court, national courts and transitional justice mechanisms, while emphasising that their existence alone was insufficient. Their effectiveness should result in accountability, meaningful access to justice and reparations for victims, and the prevention of further violations. They also stressed the need to protect civil society, human rights defenders and victims from reprisals.

The civil society organisations also highlighted structural factors contributing to instability, including the financing of armed groups through the exploitation and trade of mineral resources, as well as the regional impact of the conflict in Sudan and the porosity of borders. They called for greater transparency and traceability in the mining sector and stronger protection of populations in border areas.

Finally, some organisations emphasised the importance of international support, technical cooperation and the role of MINUSCA, while stressing that any external intervention should respect the sovereignty of the Central African Republic. Overall, they called for consolidating the progress achieved by strengthening civilian protection, justice and the fight against impunity, transitional justice, social cohesion and the participation of civil society.

5. Concluding Remarks by the Independent Expert



The Independent Expert thanked the delegations for their comments and questions and stressed that continued support from the international community is essential to prevent a gap between the Government's efforts and the resources available to consolidate them.

Regarding children, he highlighted the importance of protection measures, psychological support and the reintegration of children through "disarming, demobilising, reintegrating" (DDR) programmes. He also stressed that improving socio-economic conditions was necessary to reduce the vulnerability of children and the wider population. In the justice sector, he noted progress in the expansion of judicial institutions, the strengthening of security, the training of civilian and military personnel, and the development of military and transitional justice.

The Expert particularly emphasised the importance of ensuring the independence and adequate resources of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, which had adopted its internal rules and was expected to extend its work throughout the country. He also welcomed the ongoing work of the Special Criminal Court. Finally, he reiterated the need for sustained material, financial and human support from the international community, the African Union and countries in the subregion to consolidate the progress achieved by the Central African Republic.

Position of Geneva International Centre for Justice

Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ) welcomes the report, which provides an important update on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic. **GICJ** expresses concern about the situation along the country's borders, noting that the Central African Republic is located at the crossroads of several conflict-affected areas and remains particularly vulnerable to human rights violations, armed conflict, trafficking and arbitrary detention. **GICJ** is alarmed by the continued recruitment and use of children by armed groups, including their involvement in hostilities, as well as by the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of serious crimes. **GICJ** stresses the urgent need to maintain close cooperation with the international community, MINUSCA and local partners to ensure the effective protection of civilians.

GICJ urgently calls the government of the Central African Republic to:

- Intensify its efforts to protect the civilian population and to pay particular attention to the rights and needs of women and girls.
- Remove all children from armed groups and provide them with psychosocial support and reintegrate them into their families.
- Adopt all necessary measures to combat impunity for perpetrators of crimes and to expedite the establishment of a transitional justice mechanism capable of delivering reparation to victims.



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