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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
1302<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

19 SEPTEMBER 2025  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BN/1302 (2025)

**BRIEFING NOTE**

**ON THE SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

## THE SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Central African Republic (CAR) is at a pivotal point as it prepares for the organization of harmonized elections on 28 December 2025. Although the publication of the final voter register, the electoral calendar and the initial progress of the peace process are encouraging, the country is facing significant challenges in the form of persistent political deadlock, surging insecurity, a deepening humanitarian crisis and structural socio-economic weaknesses, which threaten to undermine this progress. This Briefing Note covers the latest developments in the situation in the CAR, namely, political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian situations, including challenges that need urgent attention as well as recommendations on the way forward for consideration by Council.

### II. POLITICAL SITUATION

2. On 31 August 2023, the new Constitution of the Central African Republic was promulgated by President Faustin-Archange Touadéra. The government implemented institutional changes to reflect this. Between 17 and 26 January 2024, the National Assembly examined several legislative proposals, including bills relating to the organizational structure and functioning of the National Elections Authority and the High Council for Communication. The Code introduces several provisions, including gender quotas for party lists and seven-year terms for presidents, vice presidents, regional representatives and municipal councilors. The Code also introduces several provisions, including gender quotas for party lists and stricter eligibility criteria for candidates for presidential and legislative elections. On 26 January 2024, the National Assembly adopted the new Electoral Code, which among others provides the political parties that fail to meet the 35% threshold will not be eligible to take part in the election process.

3. Furthermore, five consecutive changes have been made to the election calendar in CAR due to technical, financial, and logistical reasons, reflecting the complexity of the process. The local election had been delayed, leading to recommendations such as the temporary suspension of Article 18 of the Electoral Code. The decision to postpone the revision of the Voters Roll raised concerns among the opposition political parties, who feared that democratic principles would be circumvented. The opposition political parties also argued that technical and logistical shortcomings undermined the quality, reliability, and integrity of the Voters Roll, making it impossible to carry out credible elections in accordance with the country's constitution.

4. On 11 July 2025, the CAR authorities decided to combine the presidential, legislative, and local elections, to utilize resources more rationally and more efficiently. On August 23, 2025, the National Electoral Authority announced the final publication of the Voters Rolls for the harmonized elections scheduled for 28 December 2025, which lists 2,398,158 valid voters. Among these voters: 1,641,083 voters were registered in 2020. 757,075 valid voters were registered in 2025. With regard specifically to those newly registered in 2025, the data, which is broken down by gender, shows that 1,252,406 are men and 1,145,752 are women.

5. The opposition political parties suggested reforms to the country's Constitutional Council and to the National Electoral Authority and insisted on direct dialogue with President Faustin-Archange Touadéra who reaffirmed his willingness to reach out to the opposition. Since 2 September 2025 the CAR Government and the Republican Bloc for the Defence of the Constitution (BRDC) have continued talks to foster mutual trust among the political actors in the CAR. The parties will submit items on the agenda, proposals, and timelines.

6. The calendar for the harmonized elections is as follows:
- a) 29 September 2025: Decree convening the electorate;
  - b) 2 to 11 October 2025: Registration of Election candidates;
  - c) 13 to 26 December 2025: Election campaign;
  - d) 28 December 2025: Election Day;
  - e) 5 January 2026: Provisional results: Presidential/Legislative;
  - f) Final results through March; run-offs in February/April if applicable;
  - g) 30 March 2026: Inauguration of the elected president.

### III. SECURITY SITUATION

7. The security situation in the CAR remains volatile. The CAR authorities engaged in consultations with leaders of armed groups to promote their participation in the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. These leaders had previously expressed a desire to rejoin the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR), from which they had disengaged. The peace process that began several months prior in Chad, which played a central role in the political process that led to the Ndjamena agreements with a strong commitment to resolving the crisis, was finalized on July 10, 2025, in Bangui, to put an end to the clashes and open a new chapter of national reconciliation. Recognizing the importance of this phase for stability, President Touadéra reaffirmed the government's commitment to peace, security and unity.

### IV. ECONOMIC SITUATION

8. The CAR continues to face economic challenges due to a combination of factors. As the country is entering a decisive phase, there are no financial resources in the pooled Fund. Mobilization of financial resources remains a challenge for the estimated budget of \$24.3 million. The new election timetable may be delayed if necessary financial resources are not availed urgently.

9. The CAR recently hosted high-level meetings. From 30 July to 01 August 2025, it hosted the African Caucus, organized in partnership with the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, which discussed financing development in Africa in the context of growing budgetary pressures in the post-global financial crisis. African ministers and bank governors adopted a “*Bangui Declaration*” ahead of the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings.

10. Furthermore, President Touadéra took part in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Heads of State Summit, which called for the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2717 and welcomed the Lomé, Doha, and Washington processes to restore stability. The Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) met in Bangui from 9 to 10 September 2025 to discuss complementary measures to accelerate growth and consolidate economic recovery with the shared goal of accelerating growth. The holding of the extraordinary session also marked the end of H.E. President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's two-year term at the head of the CEMAC, as he passed the torch to H.E. President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

11. From 14 to 15 September 2025, a roundtable of investors was held in Casablanca under the auspices of King Mohammed VI of Morocco to discuss the implementation of the National Development Plan. The Central African Republic aims to raise \$12 billion to finance its 2024-2028 National Development Plan

## **V. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION**

12. Despite improved security, the Central African Republic (CAR) continues to face significant humanitarian needs in 2025, with more than 45% of the population requiring assistance due to armed group activities and regional tensions. Funding from international partners such as USAID has declined, making it vital for CAR to increase public funding and attract private sector support for development goals. The African Union, sub regional organizations, and the international community should prioritize humanitarian challenges in CAR to ensure long-term stability and progress. The efforts made under the Yaoundé Declaration aim to maintain partners' commitment to the CAR by strengthening national mechanisms for the return and reintegration of affected populations, including more than 469,000 internally displaced persons and 673,000 refugees living in neighboring countries.

## **VI. AU COMMISSION SUPPORT**

13. Against this backdrop, African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf deployed a pre-electoral assessment mission to the Central African Republic, led by H.E. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal. The mission discussed the context in which the 2025–26 elections are being held, including the legal and institutional framework, international support, and the administration and preparation of the presidential, legislative, and local elections on 28 December 2025. The mission also considered the security environment. Stakeholders welcomed the mission to the CAR, viewing it as a testament to the AU's commitment to supporting electoral institutions and promoting democracy, stability and good governance in the country.

## **VII. CONCLUSIONS**

14. The CAR's fragile processes demand a cohesive, multidimensional response, anchored in electoral support, peace-building, economic revitalization and regional cooperation. Timely implementation of the following recommendations, in concert with UN, ECCAS, CEMAC and international partners, is essential to avert regression of peace dividends, secure credible elections and chart a durable path to stability and development.

## **VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. In view of the foregoing Council may wish to consider the following recommendations, namely, to:

- a) Reaffirm the AU solidarity with the people of the Central African Republic and also reaffirm the AU commitment to continue supporting them in their quest to restore durable peace, security, stability, democracy, prosperity and development in their country;
- b) Call for enhanced international support towards the successful organization of the harmonized credible elections in December 2025;
- c) Underline the need for upscaling resource mobilization in favour of the CAR including through the AU Peace Fund towards filling the USD 9 million lection financing gap;

- d) Express the readiness of the AU to facilitate the ongoing political dialogue;
- e) Request the Chairperson of the Commission to deploy a full AU electoral observation mission for the 28 December 2025, elections following the pre-electoral assessment deployed from 7 to 13 September 2025;
- f) Call for enhanced support for the DDRR process particularly the cantonment process under the African Peace Support Mechanism for DDRR and Security Stabilization and call AU members and international community to fully support the ongoing DDRR process with 3R and UPC elements and national DDR program as well as call all negative forces in CAR to comply with national DDR program;
- g) Appeal to African and international donors to urgently scale-up humanitarian and protection efforts to bridge the gap on humanitarian shortfalls;
- h) Express support for Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in CAR while calling for strengthening the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission's operational capacity and outreach;
- i) Express support for the promotion of socio-economic recovery in CAR while advocating for IMF/World Bank debt-relief in support to CAR's National Development Plan;
- j) Underscore the need for engaging the African Caucus to secure innovative financing commitments for CAR's recovery;
- k) Encourage private-sector investment alongside donor commitments in National Development Plan sectors (agriculture, mining, energy);
- l) Call for enhanced Regional & Multilateral Coordination to align security, electoral and development support;
- m) Commend the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States in in the CAR;
- n) Pay tribute to UN MINUSCA and call on the UN Security Council to renew its mandate in October with appropriate resources for electoral logistics and support to the process;
- o) Commend H.E. Ambassador General (Ret.) Antonio Egidio de Sousa Santos for his service as the outgoing Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for the CAR; welcome the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Alice Nzomukunda as the new Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission and Head of the AU Liaison Office in the CAR; assure her of the full support of Council; and request the Chairperson of the Commission to mobilize the necessary resources to enable the Liaison Office to more effectively discharge its mandate; and
- p) Decide to remain actively seized of the matter.