

JOINT STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

January 04, 2021

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ambassador Smaïl Chergui; the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Ambassador Gilberto Da Piedade Veríssimo; the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix; and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr. Josep Borrell, take note of the provisional results of the first round of the presidential and legislative elections of December 27 announced by the National Elections Authority (ANE), this January 4, 2021. They recall that it will be up to the Constitutional Court of the Central African Republic to proclaim the final results and to all political actors to respect the decisions of the Court.

Senior officials from the African Union, ECCAS, the United Nations and the European Union also take note of the preliminary reports of national and international election observation missions. They note that Central African citizens have demonstrated their determination to exercise their right to vote, despite the many obstacles. They reiterate their appeal to all political actors to settle all electoral disputes peacefully and in accordance with the laws and the Constitution of the Central African Republic. They call on the Central African government and the entire political class to favor an inclusive, open, constructive and credible political dialogue to promote national stability.

Senior African Union, ECCAS, United Nations and European Union officials strongly condemn speeches and statements of disinformation, hatred and incitement to violence, including against international staff, as well as the violence perpetrated by certain armed groups aimed at compromising the electoral process. In this regard, the senior officials of partner organizations invite the Central African authorities to open investigations to bring to justice those responsible for and instigating such violence, which has unfortunately cost the lives of civilian populations, humanitarian workers, national defense forces and security, as well as blue helmets. They strongly condemn the attacks against MINUSCA.

The senior officials of the African Union, ECCAS, the United Nations and the European Union also condemn the violations by certain armed groups of their commitments under the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, and urge all signatory parties to fully honor their commitments, in particular the cessation of hostilities. They invite them to relaunch the peace process, in particular by favoring consultation, strict compliance with commitments and accountability, because impunity is not a viable option.

The senior officials of the African Union, ECCAS, the United Nations and the European Union reaffirm their continued solidarity and support for the people of the Central African Republic in their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy, as well as to stabilize, sustainable reconciliation and development, in close collaboration with the other partners of the Central African Republic.

Done in Addis Ababa-Brussels-Libreville-New York, January 4, 2021

African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security

Ambassador Smail Chergui,

The President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS),

Ambassador Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Mr Josep Borrell