

## **Nonofficial tasktion**

### **Distinguished members of the Security Council,**

**I take this opportunity to congratulate the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of MINUSCA, Mr. Markar Ndaye, for his detailed presentation on the situation in the Central African Republic and warmly thank him and all his team for their welcome and their support during our visit to Bangui, from February 11 to 14**

**A detailed report of this visit was sent to you this morning therefore I would limit my intervention to three elements**

#### **1/ The elections**

**The next electoral deadlines, in this case the presidential, legislative and local elections planned to start from December 2020 will be crucial for the future of the country. All of my interlocutors as well HE the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the members of the Government, the Representatives of Central African institutions and those of the civil society expressed to me their firm commitment for the holding of free, transparent, credible and inclusive elections, within their constitutional deadlines**

**However, the success of the elections will depend on several factors**

**\* Election funding is managed by the UNDP Fund, which estimates needs at \$41.8 million. To date, almost 20 million dollars are missing. I thank the European Union for committing \$17 million while the UNDP and the Government have each disbursed \$2 million. Preparations for the proper conduct of the elections, while respecting the timetable established by the Constitutional Court, are underway but require urgent funds. I intend to continue my efforts by reaching out to CAR partners to inform them on the need to release funds as soon as possible. I am also pleased to announce that Morocco intends to contribute to the financing of these elections, as in 2015. The amount of its contribution will be announced shortly.**

**\* During my various meetings, I stressed the importance of inclusive elections, encouraging the Government to ensure the participation of IDPs and refugees. This call was well received by my interlocutors who are committed in this regard. The concern for inclusiveness also concerns women and youth, who are not sufficiently aware of the importance of this process. This translates into a low registration rate for this segment of the population, hence the importance of awareness raising efforts.**

**\* MINUSCA finalized a security plan for the elections, which was submitted to the national authorities. Beyond the elections, the post-election period will be crucial. It should also be followed closely in order to consolidate the gains obtained.**

## **2/ Implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in CAR**

**The implementation of the Agreement is proceeding resolutely, despite the extent of the planned**

**1 / The next electoral deadlines will be a historic moment and an opportunity to anchor the sustainability of peace in the country. It would be a shame if they could not be held in satisfactory conditions because of a funding shortfall, at the risk of calling into question the efforts and sacrifices made by the United Nations as well as the heavy investments made by the International Community until now in CAR. I therefore appeal to all the countries and partners of CAR to make their contribution with a view to closing the budget as soon as possible.**

**2/ MINUSCA needs the strong support of the Security Council and sufficient human and financial means for the implementation of its Resolution 2499 in order to be able to continue to secure the country and to support the Government for the elections as well as for the implementation of APPR, RCA and RCPCA.**

**3/ The monitoring mechanisms put in place for both the APPR/RCA and the RCPCA are very complex and exert strong pressure on the Government, whose capacities are limited. It would be advisable to simplify the monitoring processes and to further optimize the coordination of partners in order to support the Government's efforts more effectively.**

**4/ The exemplary partnership between the UN, the AU and ECCAS symbolizes the potential of the partnership between the UN and regional organizations, in particular the AU, and should therefore be set up as a model. Partnership with international financial institutions is also crucial and will ultimately allow many structuring projects to materialize.**

**Finally, I would like to send a message of hope and a call for continued mobilization on behalf of the CAR. The international community has done a lot for this country. Although the people still do not necessarily feel the dividends of peace, the foundations for a return to stability are laid, provided that the current support is maintained. I am confident that the Security Council will continue to give full attention and political support to this country, whose people legitimately aspire to stability and peace.**