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EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Note to the Secretary-General

MINUSCA: Visit to the Republic of the Congo, Chad and the CAR

1. Further to the adoption of Resolution 2149 (2014) and the subsequent transfer of responsibility for the Central African Republic (CAR) from DPA to DPKO, I travelled to the Republic of the Congo, Chad and the CAR from 30 April to 4 May. In Brazzaville, I met President Denis Sassou Nguesso on 30 April, followed by a meeting with President Idriss Déby in N'Djamena before my arrival in the CAR on 1 May. In Bangui, I met a range of stakeholders, including the Head of State of the Transition, Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza, members of her Government, as well as representatives of civil society and the international community, and paid a visit to a Church and Mosque in Bangui. I also travelled to Kaga-Bandoro in the northern part of the country. SRSB Gaye accompanied me throughout the visit.

**Republic of the Congo and Chad**

2. My meetings in Brazzaville and N'Djamena were positive and encouraging. Recognizing the seriousness of the complex and multilayered crisis in the CAR, both President Sassou Nguesso, the Mediator of the crisis in the CAR, as well as President Déby, the current Chairperson of ECCAS, reaffirmed their willingness to remain engaged and continue to support the international response to the crisis, in spite of the recent controversy surrounding the withdrawal of the Chadian contingent from MISCA. With regard to immediate priorities, President Sassou Nguesso identified stabilizing the security situation and stemming the violence as the most pressing priority, while for President Déby disarmament is the pre-condition for progress in any other area.

3. Both Heads of State agreed on the need for a political process and dialogue once conditions are met. I underscored that the continued engagement by the Mediator and ECCAS remained essential. They also indicated some concerns regarding the ability of the Transitional authorities to hold the country together and provide the political leadership required to lead the country through the transition. I encouraged President Déby to support the urgent disbursement of ECCAS funds for the payment of salaries. The issue of the recent relocation of Muslim communities from Bangui to the northern part of the country was raised in Brazzaville and N'Djamena. I assured both Heads of State that such action would be a measure of last resort and carried out in consultation with the Government and the United Nations, and that urgent action is needed to prevent further relocations of Muslim populations where feasible. I also underscored the need to do everything possible to preserve the national territorial integrity and that partition would be unacceptable.

**Central African Republic**

4. My visit to the CAR confirmed the daunting challenges the country is facing. The Head of State of the Transition recognized the enormity of the tasks ahead with competing

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priorities. She reiterated the willingness of her Government to address immediate challenges but stressed the need for help in order to enable a return to normalcy. She identified the restoration of security and law and order as the utmost priority, adding that this was the reason why she had requested the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. Ms. Samba-Panza expressed concern about the increasing religious and ethnic dimension and an increasing number of violations in the eastern part of the country. She noted that a strategy had been developed to support reconciliation at the community level, while discussions were underway on the format for national political dialogue.

5. Ms. Samba-Panza agreed on the immediate need for concrete measures to restore the penal chain and to reach agreement to move forward with regard to disarmament. She expressed concern about reports of re-armament by both the ex-Séléka and anti-balaka, stressing the need for a strong police component in MINUSCA. With regard to the elections, the Head of State of the Transition reiterated that the Government would continue working towards meeting the 15 February deadline. She welcomed my initiative to meet Presidents Sassou Nguesso and Déby, noting that she was grateful for the continued support of these neighbours. She added that she had recently dispatched a delegation to Chad as part of efforts to maintain good neighbourly relationships and to ease tensions following the withdrawal of the Chadian contingent from MISCA.

6. My visit to Kaga-Bandoro in northern CAR confirmed the suffering of the local population outside Bangui where State authority is absent and they continue to be subjected to attacks and killings. Ex-Séléka elements are in control of the city, while the presence of anti-balaka groups in the vicinity of the city has led to armed clashes. In addition, the increasing presence of armed Peuhl cattle herders has been described as an emerging threat to the local population. Ex-Séléka are not paid and live from taxes levied at checkpoints erected in the city. The prevailing insecurity restricts the freedom of movement of the population and access to basic services, including medical treatment. Interlocutors were unanimous in calling for a stronger MISCA and more international troops to restore security and disarm armed groups present in the area. Commanders of the international forces -- MISCA, Sangaris and EUFOR -- in Bangui noted the importance of close interaction with the local population and the need to start working with local stakeholders to ensure the acceptance of the UN force in areas where there is no state authority, including through a communications strategy.

7. My visit to the CAR confirmed that the expectations are high across the board with regard to the deployment of MINUSCA and that we will need to step up efforts to ensure the Mission achieves initial operating capability by 15 September. There is an urgent need for MINUSCA to devise a political strategy on how to strengthen the political framework and facilitate an inclusive political process aimed at reaching minimum national consensus with regard to disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration and kick start discussions around the reconstitution of the national army. My meeting with leaders of ex-Séléka illustrated the need for political engagement to convince them to lay down their arms. Efforts should start with a comprehensive mapping of key stakeholders, including armed groups and their grievances. At the same time, while rebuilding the state will take time, efforts to reconstitute the police and gendarmerie, the justice system and the redeployment of state administration across the country should be given priority. I will continue to advocate for support to building the

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capacities of the police and gendarmerie, including the possible deployment of a European Union Training Mission.

8. As a most immediate step, MINUSCA should take concrete measures to restore the penal chain in priority locations, for example Bangui. While MISCA and Sangaris have the authority to arrest, the United Nations should support the Transitional authorities in reconstituting a minimum judicial capacity to ensure swift prosecutions and punishment. This would entail strengthening the capacity of the prisons and oversight as well as security arrangements for magistrates. Holding some of the perpetrators accountable as soon as possible will set an important example in the fight against rampant impunity.

9. Finally, I would like to underscore that all my interlocutors commended your personal engagement in responding to the crisis in the CAR, including during your recent visit. Ensuring the swift establishment of this operation will be a challenge for the Organization considering our procedures exacerbated by financial constraints. In this regard, your continued support will be essential to overcome these challenges.



Hervé Ladsous  
5 May 2014

cc: Mr. Eliasson  
Ms. Malcorra  
Mr. Feltman  
Ms. Haq  
Ms. Amos  
Ms. Pillay  
Ms. Clark  
SRSG Gaye