



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

29 January 2015

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), by which the Security Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

By the aforementioned resolution, the Security Council decided that, as of 15 September 2014, MINUSCA would initially be comprised of up to 10,000 military personnel, including 240 military observers, 200 staff officers and 1,800 police personnel, including 1,400 formed police unit personnel and 400 individual police officers, as well as 20 corrections officers.

I am pleased to report that since the adoption of resolution 2149 (2014) on 10 April 2014, MINUSCA has deployed approximately 75 per cent of its authorized uniformed personnel. This includes the deployment of nine out of the ten infantry battalions and 260 staff officers and military observers, as well as the generation and ongoing deployment of nearly all the necessary enablers for the military component. In addition, seven of the ten formed police units and 159 individual police officers are currently deployed. It is anticipated that MINUSCA will reach 90 per cent of its full strength by April 2015, including ten infantry battalions and ten formed police units, with the exception of those units for which pledges have yet to be received or accepted, including attack helicopters, one C-130 aircraft and special forces.

The rapid operationalization of MINUSCA alongside the efforts of French Sangaris forces and the European Union Force in Bangui has resulted in a significantly improved security situation, particularly in the capital. The phased deployment of MINUSCA in Bangui and progressively throughout the country has been focused on targeting those areas where civilians have been assessed jointly, with humanitarian partners, to be at most risk, particularly in the central and western parts of the country. In Bangui, through an innovative joint military and police presence, the Bangui Task Force has been instrumental in improving day-to-day life by providing a renewed sense of security through active patrolling and efforts to prevent the deterioration of the security situation. MINUSCA has also contributed to the arrest of more than 240 individuals across the country, including high profile members of armed groups and criminal networks alleged to have committed serious crimes. The relative improvement in the security situation in the capital has been vital to ensuring the continuation of the political process that will culminate in the presidential and legislative elections planned for July and August.

His Excellency
Mr. Cristián Barros Melet
President of the Security Council
New York

SG to SG President
(MINUSCA)
Drafter: DPKO
Proofread by: US/DP/BS
Approved by: [Signature]
Date: 28 January 2015

Despite these improvements, the security situation remains volatile and clashes between the anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka elements continue while criminal activities aimed, inter alia, at controlling the country's natural resources are increasing. Pockets of vulnerable Muslim communities remain under nearly constant threat and in dire humanitarian conditions, despite the efforts of the international forces.

In response to this situation, and in keeping with its flexible and robust approach, MINUSCA has taken some steps to recalibrate its Force deployment. Following the violence in Bangui in October 2014, MINUSCA strengthened the Bangui Task Force in order to secure the capital and critical infrastructure, including with quick reaction capabilities. This has, however, left fewer troops available to deploy outside Bangui, including in the north eastern part of the country, which is an ex-Séléka stronghold area. It has also required committing the Force reserve to tasks in Bangui, thereby limiting the ability of MINUSCA to respond flexibly and rapidly to emerging crises across the country.

In addition, MINUSCA has had to dedicate 280 police personnel to the close protection of senior Central African Republic officials. These tasks, which are currently being performed by two MINUSCA formed police units, have left the police component of MINUSCA overstretched. This has hampered its ability to carry out its mandated activities, including those related to the implementation of the Urgent Temporary Measures, and deploy beyond Bangui, as planned. As I indicated in my report to the Security Council of 28 November 2014 (S/2014/857), additional corrections officers are also needed to cover the operational and security needs arising from the implementation of the Urgent Temporary Measures and the reopening of prisons outside of Bangui.

I would therefore request that the Security Council authorize an increase of 750 military personnel and 280 police personnel for MINUSCA, in order to enable the deployment of one additional infantry battalion and two formed police units (FPU), bringing the complement of FPUs back to ten, as originally envisioned. An additional 20 corrections personnel are also needed in order to perform the above-mentioned tasks.

It will be especially important for these additional capabilities to be made available in time to enhance security before, during and after the electoral period, including in light of the announced drawdown of Sangaris. Having received preliminary commitments from troop and police-contributing countries for these additional capabilities, I am confident that their deployment, if authorized soon, can be achieved by July 2015.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN Ki-moon