



Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

17th Supplement

2010-2011

Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

The situation in the Central African Republic

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings, adopted one resolution and one presidential statement in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic. It received four briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on their respective activities. As such, the Council focused on progress towards the run-up to the presidential and legislative elections, as well as on the challenges of reintegrating ex-combatants, tackling security-sector reform and ensuring security in the north-east of the country.

The Council extended twice the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA)¹ for periods of up to 13 months.²

June 2010 to December 2011: briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and consideration of the electoral process and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme

On 28 June 2010, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General,³ she underlined that the peace process had reached a critical stage, with progress hinged on the successful holding of elections and the completion of the

¹ For more information on the mandates of BINUCA, see part X, sect. II, with regard to political and peacebuilding missions.

² [S/PRST/2010/26](#) and [resolution 2031 \(2011\)](#).

³ [S/2010/295](#).

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of some 8,000 former combatants, which both had so far been delayed. She also stated that the Independent Electoral Commission had recommended 24 October and 19 December 2010 as the dates for the first and second rounds of the presidential and parliamentary elections, respectively. Turning to the security situation, the Special Representative expressed strong concerns over the continuing attacks of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) on the civilian population in the south-eastern provinces. In that regard, she stressed that BINUCA was working closely with four United Nations peacekeeping missions in the region to monitor the activities of the LRA. At the same time, she acknowledged the need for a more coordinated regional approach in combating the threat posed by the LRA.⁴ The representative of the Central African Republic noted that while both national and international actors had agreed that security was necessary for free, fair and credible elections in a country prone to internal rebellion, the presence of foreign rebels and bandits had not made the situation easier.⁵

On 8 December 2010, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative who introduced the report of the Secretary-General⁶ and provided an update on the preparation of elections and on the security situation in the country. She reported that presidential and legislative elections were scheduled to take place on 23 January 2011 and that the United Nations and international partners had provided considerable technical and financial support to the Independent Electoral Commission, which was entrusted with the implementation of the electoral process. On the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, she stated that while the verification of ex-combatants in the north-west of the country was complete, the parties to the inclusive political dialogue needed to uphold all their commitments for the overall process to move forward. Emphasizing that the Government needed adequate means and resources to address the lack of security, she noted that it had made important efforts to extend its authority and provide services throughout the country.⁷ The representative of the Central

⁴ [S/PV.6345](#), pp. 2-4.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

⁶ [S/2010/584](#).

⁷ [S/PV.6438](#), pp. 2-4.

African Republic stated that his country was preparing the holding of free, equitable and transparent elections. However, there were a number of concerns in several regions, such as insecurity fuelled by rebel groups operating outside the peace process and unidentified armed groups.⁸

On 14 December 2010, the Council adopted a presidential statement⁹ calling upon all national stakeholders to continue their efforts to move forward expeditiously with the preparation and conduct of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, taking note of the presidential decree that had set 23 January 2011 as the new date for the first round of presidential and legislative elections, and of the peaceful completion of the registration process. In addition, the Council acknowledged the progress made so far in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and called on all politico-military groups to take the necessary measures for the transparent and accountable completion of disarmament and demobilization without delay. Moreover, the Council renewed its call to the Government of the Central African Republic to revive the efforts to reform security sector institutions, which was a crucial element of the peacebuilding process and for addressing widespread impunity, promoting the rule of law and increasing respect for human rights.

On 7 July 2011, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative who introduced the report of the Secretary-General.¹⁰ Noting that the reporting period had been dominated by the presidential and legislative elections, she stated that international and national observers had characterized the polls as inclusive and peaceful despite a number of irregularities. She emphasized that the two most immediate challenges were “the political dispensation” following the legislative and presidential elections as well as the implementation of peace agreements with rebel groups, and the sustainable

⁸ Ibid., p. 6.

⁹ [S/PRST/2010/26](#).

¹⁰ [S/2011/311](#).

disarmament and reintegration of former combatants as part of the overall security sector reform.¹¹

On 14 December 2011, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative who introduced the report of the Secretary-General¹² and provided an update on political, security, socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights developments in the Central African Republic. Highlighting positive developments, she said that despite divisions on the political front, the engagement of the Government with the opposition was an unexpected and major breakthrough. She warned that while the positive dynamic initiated between the Government and politico-military groups had offered a real chance for peace in the country, the lack of funding to complete the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process of former combatants and to initiate the second phase of security sector reform could put the country back on the brink of disaster.¹³

On 21 December 2011, the Council adopted resolution 2031 (2011) in which it expressed concern at the lack of State authority outside the capital which had led to a serious security vacuum in many parts of the country, and called on the Government of the Central African Republic and all armed groups to remain committed to the national reconciliation process by fully observing the recommendations of the Inclusive Political dialogue had ended in 2008. It also demanded that all armed groups cooperate with the Government in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. Furthermore, the Council underscored the importance of security sector reform in the Central African Republic, noted with concern the absence of a credible and viable national strategy and, in that regard, called upon the Government to reengage in a meaningful dialogue with BINUCA, in particular by taking into consideration the security sector reform road map drafted by BINUCA in response to the request by the Government for help to revive the reform process.¹⁴

¹¹ [S/PV.6575](#), p. 2.

¹² [S/2011/739](#).

¹³ [S/PV.6687](#), pp. 2-6.

¹⁴ Resolution [2031 \(2011\)](#).

June 2010 to December 2011: briefings by the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission

From 28 June 2010 to 14 December 2011, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission regularly updated the Council on issues related to the implementation of the strategic framework for peacebuilding in the Central African Republic which included the electoral process, security sector reform and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.¹⁵

¹⁵ [S/PV.6345](#), [S/PV.6438](#), [S/PV.6575](#).

Meetings: the situation in the Central African Republic

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
6345 28 June 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2010/295)		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Belgium	All invitees	
6438 8 December 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2010/584)		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6444 14 December 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2010/584)		Central African Republic			S/PRST/2010/26
6575 7 July 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2011/311)		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6687 14 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2011/739)		Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6696 21 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Office in that country	Draft resolution submitted by France, Gabon, Germany, United				Resolution 2031 (2011) 15-0-0

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
	(S/2011/739)	Kingdom, United States (S/2011/785)				
