

## **Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission Country-Specific Configuration on the Central African Republic**

3 October 2025 (10 am), TBC

### **Concept Note**

#### **Context**

The Central African Republic (CAR) has continued its efforts to advance peace, stability, and recovery with the support of the international community, including MINUSCA and the United Nations Country Team, as well as of regional and bilateral partners. Notable progress has been achieved in recent months with a particular focus for the implementation of the peace and political process and the organization of the elections in 2025/2026.

On 19 April, the leaders of the Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation (3R) and Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) signed a peace agreement under the mediation of the Chadian Government, with the CAR Government in N'Djamena, rejoining the peace process within the framework of the 2019 Political Agreement for peace and reconciliation in CAR. This development resulted in a new momentum in the implementation of the national disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme with more than 400 combatants disarmed and demobilized so far. These operations are ongoing.

After several postponements, the CAR Government announced on 11 July that local elections, initially scheduled for 31 August are now scheduled for 28 December alongside presidential and legislative polls. With possible runoffs scheduled for early 2026, these polls are presently scheduled to conclude on 2 June 2026 with the publication of the results of the legislative runoff elections, after which a new Government should be installed. The funding gap for the remaining electoral combined electoral process presently stands at \$20.9 million.

In this context, the Security Council has drawn on the PBC's written advice of 23 June 2025 on local elections, highlighting them as a milestone for decentralization, state authority, and democratic governance. The advice acknowledged CAR's political and legislative efforts, commended MINUSCA and UNDP support for voter registration and safe participation, and emphasized the need for sustained financial, technical, and operational support to ensure credible, inclusive, and peaceful elections, reinforcing CAR's broader peacebuilding and stabilization objectives.

Additionally, the Government's ownership and leadership to further the decentralization of the peace process continue to create the conditions conducive for the consolidation of State authority, foster social cohesion and local reconciliation, as well as the inclusive participation of all segments of the population to the upcoming elections. Despite the numerous gains, the situation remains fragile and the risk of reversal still present. CAR continues to face security and humanitarian challenges, while the growing instability in parts of the sub-region constitutes a threat for CAR.

In this context, the support of United Nations, particularly MINUSCA and the UN Country Team, remains critical as CAR is in a phase of stabilization and consolidation of the hard-won gains. CAR has a window of opportunity to overcome the cyclical violence with MINUSCA's support and the complementary and coordinated engagement of CAR's other partners.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), through its Central African Republic Configuration chaired by H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, plays a dedicated role in mobilizing political, technical, and financial support for CAR's peacebuilding priorities. The Configuration provides a platform for dialogue between CAR authorities, regional organizations, international partners, and civil society, helping sustain international attention, promote coherence among actors, and strengthen national ownership.

The Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of 3 October will aim at discussing two topics, given their importance to sustain political and security gains achieved so far: 1) justice and rule of law sector and 2) the outcome of the high-level Investment Roundtable for the financing of the National Development Plan 2024-2028, that was convened on 14-15 September 2025 in Casablanca, Morocco.

The justice and rule of law sector is a critical pillar in sustaining peace and early peacebuilding. With the support of MINUSCA, progress in the restoration of the police, justice and corrections institutions throughout the country and in the functioning of the Special Criminal Court (SCC), the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR) remains critical to build the national capacity to fight impunity, which is a priority to end the cycle of violence and promote reconciliation. The Special Criminal Court also faces funding shortfalls at a crucial period of its operations, where more cases are ready for trial after significant investigations. Efforts to anchor progress in the rule of law is also essential for the sustainability of the political, security and institutional gains achieved. Numerous financial, technical and capacity challenges remain for effective functioning of the rule of law institutions and these efforts need to continue to be supported under the strong leadership and ownership of the CAR authorities.

In support of CAR's broader peacebuilding and development objectives, a high-level Investment Roundtable for the financing of the National Development Plan 2024-2028 was convened on 14-15 September 2025 in Casablanca, Morocco. This historic event aimed to mobilize support for the country's National Development Plan 2024-2028. The roundtable drew a broad and diverse group of participants from across the globe, with President Touadéra emphasizing the event as a new beginning defined by cooperation, reform, and tangible opportunities. The outcome of the Investment Roundtable, which saw the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding and pledges of financial commitments, presents a unique opportunity to capitalize on the gains achieved with the support of MINUSCA, UNCT, and the PBF by providing funding for the long-term socio-economic development of the country.

In anticipation of the upcoming deliberations of the Security Council on the situation in the Central African Republic to be held in October 2025, the Ambassadorial-level Meeting aims to provide a platform to zoom-in on the two-above mentioned issues to highlight progress achieved, identify remaining gaps, and underscore the importance of sustained international support to national priorities.

The PBC Ambassadorial meeting will help inform ongoing activities to support continued alignment between the CAR Government and partners on priority areas for peacebuilding. The meeting will serve to ensure a concerted and unified approach from all partners in support to CAR's recovery and long-term development, with a view toward the following objectives:

- To review progress and remaining gaps in the rule of law and justice sector, with a focus on the SCC and transitional justice mechanisms.
- To facilitate alignment among the Government, UN, regional partners, and international stakeholders on strengthening rule of law, promoting human rights, and advancing accountability.
- To debrief on the outcomes of the September 2025 Investment Roundtable in Casablanca, with Morocco as Chair of the Configuration, and to discuss next steps and follow-up to ensure effective implementation of commitments.

The discussions will also inform the written advice to guide Security Council deliberations ahead of MINUSCA's mandate renewal in November 2025.

### **Agenda**

- Opening remarks by the Chair of the CAR Configuration, H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations.
- Briefings by (TBC):
  - CAR Government Representative
  - DSRSG/HC/RC MINUSCA
  - Civil Society Representative (woman briefer encouraged)
- Interventions from the PBC Members
- Remarks by Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar
- Closing remarks by the Chair of the CAR Configuration, H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations.