PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DIALOGUE DIPLOMACY DEMOCRACY
GREECE
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2025-2026

Security Council Briefing
on the situation in the Central African Republic - MINUSCA
20 October 2026

Greece's Statement delivered
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Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

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I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Valentine Rugwabiza, for her insightful briefing and I welcome the representative of the Central African Republic in this meeting.

We commend her leadership and commitment as well as the dedication of MINUSCA's military and civilian personnel. We also thank troop- and police contributing countries for their steadfast commitment.

Colleagues,

Over the nearly two years that Greece has had the privilege of serving on this Council, we have witnessed the significant progress the Central African Republic has made towards peace and internal stability. Progress in implementing the 2019 Political Agreement, including through continued disarmament and demobilization, the extension of State authority into areas where an effective State presence had long been absent or only recently established, and MINUSCA's contribution to improving daily life and protecting civilians, are among the significant achievements that deserve recognition.

Institutional consolidation is also advancing, following the historic completion achieved in the recent electoral cycle, and encourage the peaceful, inclusive and transparent conduct of the remaining electoral processes.

These achievements reflect the determination of the Central African people and the sustained efforts of the national authorities, supported by the United Nations.

The message from today's meeting ought to be clear and unequivocal: now is the time to consolidate the gains achieved through peacekeeping and make them irreversible. Yet these gains remain fragile. The increasingly complex regional security environment casts a long shadow over the progress achieved.

The deterioration of security in the northeast, particularly in Vakaga and the CAR–Chad–Sudan tri-border area, underscores the continuing threat posed by cross-border movements and the spillover of regional conflicts.

We are equally concerned by violence and abductions in the southeast, including by elements of the AAKG and the LRA. We commend MINUSCA for the release of hostages, including the sub-prefect, in the southeast region of Babuti that were held capive since 28th of December.

The release follows several months of intense mediation by local leaders and MINUSCA. Yet another example of what the Mission accomplishes in the country.

These developments reinforce the need for vigilance, regional cooperation and a Mission equipped to respond effectively to emerging threats.

Further progress in the Central African Republic would also have positive repercussions across the region, demonstrating that sustained international engagement and national ownership can help break cycles of conflict and instability.

At the same time, we remain concerned about the human rights situation. Protecting civilians must remain paramount, with particular attention to children, who continue to face grave violations, including recruitment and use by armed groups, and to women and girls, who remain disproportionately affected by conflict-related sexual violence. Preventing such violations and ensuring accountability must remain integral to efforts to secure lasting peace.

All security responses must comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, with perpetrators of violations held accountable.

As we approach the renewal of MINUSCA's mandate, the transition of responsibilities to national authorities must be gradual, methodical and firmly grounded in the realities on the ground. It must proceed in parallel with the development of strong, effective and accountable national institutions capable of sustaining security, delivering public services and consolidating a new chapter for the country.

Premature reductions in the Mission's capabilities risk undermining the very achievements we seek to preserve. MINUSCA has demonstrated that United Nations peacekeeping can deliver tangible results.

Our responsibility is to ensure that its transition builds on and preserves those results. The credibility of peacekeeping depends on our ability to match our ambitions with the means and commitment required to fulfil them.

Colleagues,

In closing, what is needed now is patience, strategic foresight and sustained resolve. Consolidating peace takes time. We must allow the achievements of the Central African Republic to take root. This is how we honor the United Nations' founding principles and uphold the Organization's core mission: by turning the promise of peace into a lasting reality.

I thank you.