

Speech by H.E. Mr Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

at the UN Security Council

**Briefing: Central African Republic and MINUSCA**

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Madam President,

I would like to thank Special Representative Onanga-Anyanga, Commissioner Chergui, the Director General for Africa of the European External Action Service, Vervaeke, as well as my colleagues Ambassador Désiré and Ambassador Hilale. I also welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic.

Madam President,

The Global Peace Agreement signed in Bangui on 6 February is an opportunity that must be seized. The Secretary-General's report reminds us of the urgent need to put an end to the violence, restore the presence of the State and create the conditions for the return of displaced persons. We salute all those who have contributed to this agreement: the African Union and the United Nations, as well as regional and international partners. We call on them to continue their support for the Central African Republic, particularly within the framework of the Executive Monitoring Committee established by the Peace Agreement. We also salute the courage of President Touadéra's government.

The agreement of 6 February will be truly historic, provided that all parties are sincerely, fully and immediately committed to its implementation.

Firstly, armed groups must cease hostilities and lay down their arms.

As for the government, President Touadéra has made a commitment to address the underlying causes of the conflict; in particular, the country will need an inclusive administration, defence and security forces that are equally so, and it must move towards greater decentralisation.

The fight against impunity is an important dimension. We hope that the Special Criminal Court will soon be able to begin its work. It is possible to establish a culture of peace and reconcile Africans. Other countries have done so. It is now the Central African Republic's turn to set up a transitional justice system to move forward on the path to sustainable peace.

In addition, this Council unanimously decided to renew the sanctions regime on the CAR, including the arms embargo. This is obviously an important signal to the individuals responsible for significant obstacles to the peace process. Sanctions are not an end in themselves, but remain a way of contributing to the objective of peace in Central Africa.

I would now like to turn to the Mission.

In this early phase of the implementation of the Peace Agreement, MINUSCA must continue to fully implement the tasks of its mandate, including the protection of civilians, through vigorous action if necessary, as was the case last month in Bambari, and by ensuring favourable conditions for the delivery of humanitarian aid. The Central African population is in great need of it.

In this new context after 6 February, the task of supporting the peace process takes on a new meaning. In addition, MINUSCA, supported by the European Union Training Mission and other partners, must continue to support security sector reform, the extension of State authority, and the disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and repatriation programmes, which must now be accelerated.

I would not like to conclude without thanking Special Representative Onanga-Anyanga for the work he has done with MINUSCA and for his outstanding efforts.

Thank you.