



OPENING REMARKS

Press Conference

Wednesday 17 June 2026

Good morning to everyone. My name is Florence Marchal, and I am the spokesperson for MINUSCA.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this new MINUSCA press conference.

Whether you are here in this room in Bangui or listening to Radio Guira, you are most welcome.

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To begin this press conference, let us take a moment to reflect on the **handover of seven MINUSCA operational bases** last Wednesday in Mbaïki, in the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic.

Echoing one another, the Head of MINUSCA, Valentine Rugwabiza, and His Excellency Félix Moloua both emphasized in their remarks that this ceremony marked an important milestone in the partnership between MINUSCA and the Central African Government and opened a new chapter.

This handover of buildings and equipment is, in fact, much more than a mere technical formality.

It illustrates the new phase the Mission has entered since the beginning of 2026, namely the **consolidation** of gains achieved in the areas of peace, political and institutional stability, security, and the extension of State authority for the benefit of the population.

In this phase, which follows the stabilization phase, MINUSCA will progressively transfer to the Central African authorities, certain tasks it has been carrying out or supporting since the Mission's establishment in areas that are now stabilized.

This transfer is being carried out in an approach that also helps strengthen the capacities of the Central African institutions that will take over.

A frequently asked question is how we have reached this point.

Here again, the statements made in Mbaïki by the Special Representative and the Prime Minister are in agreement.

Both acknowledged the progress made side by side over the past 12 years, as well as the efforts invested to achieve tangible results in terms of stabilization.

These results are the product of concrete cooperation on the ground between National Defence and Security Forces, local authorities and communities, and both civilian and uniformed components of MINUSCA.

It is also within the framework of close and ongoing consultations between the Special Representative and the President of the Republic, as well as the Prime Minister, that MINUSCA identified the bases to be transferred, following an in-depth analysis of the security situation in the areas where they were located.

Thus, this decision is by no means random. Nor is it driven by a desire to disengage – quite the contrary. It is part of a **planned reconfiguration**

of MINUSCA, while also taking into account the financial constraints facing the Mission.

The adjustment of MINUSCA's physical presence reflects the tangible progress achieved, even though it remains fragile in certain areas. It results in reducing the static footprint in the most stable areas and refocusing efforts on those that require special attention.

In practical terms, the Mission is increasing its agility by prioritizing mobility. This includes more long-range patrols, as well as strengthened rapid deployment capacity, depending on developments on the ground.

MINUSCA is thus focusing its resources where they are most needed, while maintaining its ability to protect civilians wherever they may be, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.

As a reminder, the seven bases concerned by last week's handover are in the prefectures of Lobaye (Mbaïki), Bamingui-Bangoran (Bamingui), Kémo (Dékoa), Nana-Mambéré (Dilapoko), Ouaka (Ippy and Kouango), and Basse-Kotto (Pombolo).

The equipment transferred includes permanent buildings, prefabricated structures, guard posts, heliports, boreholes and water tanks, generators, air conditioners, and one incinerator.

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This consolidation of peace gains is reflected in tangible progress, particularly in the area of **disarmament and demobilization of armed group combatants**.

After a period of several months of inactivity, operations are being planned by the Minister in charge of Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Repatriation (DDRR) over the next two weeks.

The first, scheduled for this week in Kouki, in the Ouham Prefecture, will involve 200-armed elements, including 120 from the UPC and 80 from the MPC. A second operation will target 100 combatants from the 3R in Ndongué-Douane, in Nana-Mambéré.

MINUSCA welcomes this resumption of the process, which is part of the implementation of the strategic directions defined by the Head of State during the 12th session of the Strategic Committee on DDRR, Security Sector Reform and National Reconciliation, held on 14 April.

The Mission reaffirms its commitment to continue providing technical, security, financial, and logistical support to the UEPNDDRR – the implementing unit of the National Program for Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Repatriation – in partnership with the Ministry responsible for DDRR and for monitoring the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the N’Djamena Political Agreement, under the leadership of Minister General Henri Wanzet Linguissara, in order to contribute to the sustainable consolidation of peace in the Central African Republic.

I would like to remind you that, under the N’Djamena Agreement of 19 April 2025, 1,331 combatants, including 35 women, have voluntarily laid down their arms and have been officially demobilized by the UEPNDDRR with the support of MINUSCA since July 2025.

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Finally, today’s last update concerns the upcoming **meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the situation in the Central African Republic**.

This meeting will take place on Tuesday, 23 June. It will be an opportunity for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for

the Central African Republic, Valentine Rugwabiza, to provide an update on the implementation of the Mission's mandate.

This meeting coincides with the Secretary-General's report on the Central African Republic, issued every four months. The report to be considered covers the period from 13 February to 13 June 2026.

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It is 11: 08 a.m. in Bangui, and we will now move on to the Q&A session.

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I now give the floor to Emmanuel Tokolo for the summary in Sango.

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The time has come to bring this press conference to a close.

Thank you all for your participation. I'll see you again next Wednesday

#Confpresse: #MINUSCA's spokesperson made announcements on the Mission reconfiguration, the resumption of disarmament and demobilisation operations and the UN Security Council meeting on CAR on 23 June.

Opening remarks are here

#PressConference: The #MINUSCA spokesperson made statements regarding the reconfiguration of the Mission, the resumption of disarmament and demobilization operations, and the UN Security Council meeting on the CAR scheduled for 23 June.

The opening remarks are available here

