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### **Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21**

### **Central African Republic**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

#### International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1971) ICESCR (1981) ICCPR (1981) CEDAW (1991) CRC (1992) CRPD (signature only, 2007)	OP-CRC-AC (signature only, 2010) OP-CRC-SC (2012)	ICCPR-OP 2 CAT OP-CAT ICRMW CPED
<i>Reservations, declarations and/or understandings</i>			
<i>Complaint procedures, inquiry and urgent action<sup>3</sup></i>	ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1 (1981)		ICERD, art. 14 OP-ICESCR ICCPR, art. 41 OP-CEDAW CAT, art. 22 OP-CRC-IC

#### Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Palermo Protocol <sup>4</sup> Conventions on refugees and stateless persons <sup>5</sup> Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II thereto <sup>6</sup> ILO fundamental conventions <sup>7</sup> UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	ILO Convention No. 169 (2010) <sup>8</sup>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ILO Convention No. 189 <sup>9</sup> Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions <sup>10</sup> Conventions relating to the status of Stateless Persons and on the Reduction of Statelessness <sup>11</sup>

1. In 2011, the United Nations Secretary-General<sup>12</sup> and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)<sup>13</sup> recommended that the Central African Republic ratify OP-CRC-AC<sup>14</sup> and the conventions relating to statelessness. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict recommended that the Central African Republic undertake the necessary reforms to translate the provisions of OP-CRC-AC into national law.<sup>15</sup>

2. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict recommended that domestic legislation be brought in line with the country's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>16</sup>

## B. Constitutional and legislative framework

3. In 2011, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons recommended the drafting, adoption and implementation of legislation and a policy strategy on internal displacement.<sup>17</sup> In 2013, UNHCR noted that a draft law on internally displaced persons (IDPs) had been prepared. However, it required substantial review.<sup>18</sup>

4. UNHCR recommended that the Nationality Code be reformed and brought in line with international standards on prevention and reduction of statelessness.<sup>19</sup>

## C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

5. In 2013, the United Nations Secretary-General noted that, as a response to the unconstitutional change of government in the Central African Republic, which was condemned by the international community as a whole, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) had taken the lead in defining new transitional arrangements in the country and recommended the establishment of, among other institutions, a National Transitional Council. According to the Secretary-General, the transitional institutions and mechanisms that have been established as a result of the ECCAS decisions are fragile.<sup>20</sup>

6. The Secretary-General was concerned that the National Transitional Council was established without prior consultation with national stakeholders and that many opposition and civil society leaders had criticized the lack of transparency in its establishment. He also noted with concern the reported marked discrepancy between the lists of names submitted by the constituted bodies and those finally selected to participate in the National Transitional Council.<sup>21</sup> He recommended that the National Transitional Council be reformed entirely, through an inclusive and transparent consultative process that would lead to a more credible body, including with gender balance,<sup>22</sup> and highlighted the need to ensure that the political process is inclusive.<sup>23</sup>

7. The Security Council called for the rapid implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration (on the composition and functioning of the National Transitional Council).<sup>24</sup>

8. In 2010, the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted with concern that, despite the commitment made by the Central African Republic at its first UPR to set up a National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles, this institution had not been put in place.<sup>25</sup>

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies<sup>26</sup>

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	1999	-	-	Sixteenth to eighteenth reports overdue since 2006
CESCR	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 1990

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
HR Committee	July 2006	-	-	Third report overdue since 2010
CEDAW	-	2012	-	First to fifth reports pending consideration
CAT				Pending consideration
CRC	October 2000	2011	-	Second report pending consideration

## 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

### Concluding observations

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
CERD	-	-	-
HR Committee	-	-	-
CEDAW	-	-	-
CAT	-	-	-
CRC	-	-	-

### Views

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Number of views</i>	<i>Status</i>
HR Committee	1 <sup>27</sup>	Follow-up dialogue ongoing <sup>28</sup>

## B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>29</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; children in armed conflict; internally displaced persons	Internally displaced persons (follow-up visit)
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	Right to food	Right to food
<i>Visits requested</i>	Working Group on Mercenaries	Working Group on Mercenaries

## C. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

9. As part of the Human Rights and Justice Section (HRJS) of the United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), during the current UPR period, OHCHR contributed to strengthening the capacity of national institutions of the Central African Republic. In particular, HRJS took an active part in the process leading to the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution. The related draft Law, reviewed by OHCHR, was submitted to the parliament for adoption on 27 December 2012.

10. As a result of advocacy efforts undertaken by HRJS, the amendment of the Law prohibiting all forms of violence against women (2006) incorporates the provisions of the Great Lakes Protocol on the Prevention and Repression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children. HRJS also cooperated in the organization of seminars to sensitize political leaders and members of civil society on the role of women and youth in the consolidation of peace, including on the implementation of CEDAW and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. Four field visits were conducted to sensitize local community leaders about women's participation in decision-making, and sexual and gender-based violence.

11. In addition, a committee to abolish the death penalty was established and the related draft law was submitted to parliament in 2012. HRJS also assisted with dissemination of the Law on the principles of compliance with international standards by penitentiary administration (2011), and with the reorganization of prison administration.<sup>30</sup>

### **III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Equality and non-discrimination**

12. The United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) encouraged the Central African Republic to adopt further measures to combat discrimination in education, to protect minorities and to promote sex equality in education.<sup>31</sup>

13. In 2011, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons had recommended addressing the primary causes of the crisis — marginalization or discrimination in certain regions, particularly the north of the country — and including displaced persons on an equal footing in programmes to establish centres for development.<sup>32</sup>

#### **B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

14. The United Nations Secretary-General reported that a new rebel offensive had begun in the Central African Republic on 10 December 2012, when various rebel movements organized themselves into the loose coalition Séléka. He further noted that, since the launch of the Séléka attacks in December 2012, the country had been facing a serious security crisis.<sup>33</sup> The Security Council expressed similar concerns and condemned the attacks conducted by militias and the Seleka coalition, in particular in Bangassou and the surrounding region, and the threat of a resumption of hostilities. It called upon all actors, including the media, to refrain from inciting violence.<sup>34</sup>

15. According to the United Nations Secretary-General, the precarious human rights situation worsened during the conflict from December 2012 to March 2013. Before March 2013, serious and widespread allegations of human rights violations were reported both in areas controlled by Government forces and in those controlled by Séléka. The United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) had received many reports of alleged summary executions and targeted assaults, motivated by the victims' religious and ethnic identity, arbitrary arrest and detention — targeting, inter alia, family members and supporters of opposition parties — torture, recruitment of

children child soldiers, rape, disappearances, kidnapping and attacks on schools.<sup>35</sup> The High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed similar concerns.<sup>36</sup>

16. In May 2013, the United Nations Secretary General noted that the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic was reaching horrific proportions.<sup>37</sup> The Security Council called on the competent authorities to restore peace and security by deploying adequate forces and on all parties to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the country. It also called on Seleka leaders to ensure that all Seleka armed groups abstain from all violent actions and be regrouped without delay into cantonment sites, in accordance with the Libreville Peace Agreements (January 2013).<sup>38</sup>

17. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons recommended that all parties to the conflict should respect the fundamental distinction between combatants and civilians and refrain from attacks on civilian persons and objects, the burning of villages, summary and extrajudicial executions, acts of torture or ill-treatment and arbitrary and illegal detention.<sup>39</sup>

18. Further to her visit to the Central African Republic in December 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict expressed concern at the conflict-related sexual violence.<sup>40</sup> The Secretary-General also noted with concern that the prevalent state of lawlessness had had a devastating impact on women and girls, as well as the continuous reports of sexual violence, including rape, in particular gang rape and sexual slavery.<sup>41</sup> The High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that, since the fall of the former government on March 2013, her office had received reports of 19 cases of sexual violence against women and girls in Berberati and three in Bangui. According to the High Commissioner, this figure was most likely a serious underestimate of the actual numbers of victims of sexual violence.<sup>42</sup>

19. According to UNHCR, sexual and gender-based violence was largely rooted in the customs of the populations and exacerbated by a deep culture of silence and denial, fuelled by stigma. Mechanisms to identify, report and monitor sexual and gender-based violence remained inadequate and incidents were therefore seriously underreported, making prevention difficult.<sup>43</sup>

20. The High Commissioner for Human Rights noted with concern that, while female genital mutilation was prohibited by law, it was still carried out. She urged the Central African Republic to make a special effort to eradicate this extremely harmful practice.<sup>44</sup>

21. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions noted that accusations of witchcraft and associated violence had been on the rise and continued to be levied against the most vulnerable elements of society. Suspected witches were frequently victims of mob violence. The Special Rapporteur also noted that, in many cases, they were killed with impunity in the presence of Government and rebel forces.<sup>45</sup> UNHCR indicated that between 2010 and 2011, around 400 victims of witchcraft accusations were reported. It recommended the reinforcement of prevention and response mechanisms to effectively address violence against women, with the assistance of the international community; and increase sensitization campaigns with the local authorities and judiciary to fight violence resulting from witchcraft accusations as well as traditional practices and socio-cultural factors which endanger women and girls in particular.<sup>46</sup>

22. According to the United Nations Secretary-General, BINUCA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have jointly documented cases of enrolment of child soldiers and sexual violence against children, including rape, by Séléka elements. Reports of children killed and maimed while within the ranks of Séléka were also received.<sup>47</sup> There was also evidence of Séléka's re-recruitment of children previously separated by the United Nations from different armed groups.<sup>48</sup> UNHCR recommended that in the context of

negotiations with armed groups, the Central African Republic ensure the immediate release of all children and take all measures required to prevent any future recruitment.<sup>49</sup>

23. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict expressed concern at the use of children by local self-defence militia and called on the Central African Republic to ensure immediate and unconditional release for all children associated with these groups, in particular through the immediate issuance of clear orders, including at the local level, to release children. The Special Representative also urged the Central African Republic to facilitate the preparation of concrete and time-bound action plans to halt the recruitment of children.<sup>50</sup>

24. The United Nations Secretary-General indicated that Government forces have also allegedly recruited and used children, and have committed other grave violations against children, including sexual violence.<sup>51</sup>

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

25. The United Nations Secretary-General noted that the Central African Republic was plunging into a state of general anarchy marked by a complete breakdown of law and order. The situation was particularly alarming in Bangui.<sup>52</sup> The Security Council expressed concern at the weakening of institutions and at the pause in operations to counter the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).<sup>53</sup> The Secretary-General also noted with concern that the LRA, which thrived on lawlessness, was an additional threat to security and the rule of law in the Central African Republic.<sup>54</sup>

26. The Security Council strongly called on all parties to refrain from any acts of violence against civilians and to respect human rights. It emphasized the responsibility of the Government to maintain law and order and to ensure the safety and security of the civilian population.<sup>55</sup>

27. According to the United Nations Secretary-General, the crisis in the Central African Republic underlined the urgency of security sector reform, once the situation has stabilized and important conditions have been met, which included the establishment of new national mechanisms to support the security sector reform process. He further noted that national defence and security forces, concentrated in Bangui, were disorganized and had limited capacity to ensure even minimum security in the capital or its immediate surroundings, and that the recent crisis had left a dangerous vacuum in security sector governance and oversight. The Secretary-General stressed the urgent need to create an effective and inclusive security sector capable of providing security throughout the country.<sup>56</sup>

28. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions noted that impunity for all killings and other human rights violations, regardless of the perpetrator, continues unchecked.<sup>57</sup> The Security Council called for a swift investigation of those cases in order to bring to justice all such perpetrators.<sup>58</sup> The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons made similar recommendations.<sup>59</sup>

29. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed alarm at continuing reports of widespread human rights violations in the Central African Republic. She also pointed out that, given the state of widespread insecurity, the absence of a reliable and functioning police force and justice system and the fear of harassment and stigma, many victims were believed to be unable or too afraid to report abuses. The High Commissioner affirmed that the state of lawlessness, verging on anarchy, must not be allowed to continue, the rule of law must be restored and perpetrators of abuses held accountable. She stressed that those carrying out serious crimes, and especially their leaders, should bear in mind that they may be held individually criminally responsible.<sup>60</sup>

30. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons emphasized that, if the Central African Republic did not wish or was unable to conduct investigations or prosecutions in cases of crimes recognized in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Court should extend its investigations to the country and exercise its jurisdiction over all sufficiently serious crimes committed during the armed conflict.<sup>61</sup>

31. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called for the urgent restoration of the rule of law in the Central African Republic. She further called on all parties involved in the crises to ensure effective implementation of the Libreville Peace Agreements, and to make a serious joint effort to put an end to the prevailing insecurity and violence plaguing the country. She finally called on the National Transitional Council to move quickly to restore the authority of the State and to take all necessary measures to ensure that civilians are protected and can exercise their rights without fear.<sup>62</sup>

32. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons noted that the geographical coverage of the justice system was still very inadequate, particularly in the areas affected by the conflict and displacements.<sup>63</sup> The United Nations Secretary-General noted that the Séléka offensive had destroyed much of the justice system. In the 10 jurisdictions of the Central African Republic, looting and plundering carried out by Séléka elements had destroyed most of the infrastructure that supported the justice system which would need to be rebuilt – including prisons and courts.<sup>64</sup>

#### **D. Freedom of movement**

33. The United Nations Secretary-General noted the difficult humanitarian access in the Central African Republic due to limited road networks and insecurity, which was limiting humanitarian actors' ability to reach those in need of assistance.<sup>65</sup>

34. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons recommended that displaced persons and returnees should be protected from attacks, harassment, intimidation, persecution and any other form of punitive action, and their freedom of movement respected.<sup>66</sup>

#### **E. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

35. The United Nations Secretary-General was alarmed by violence targeted to provoke confessional fears and conflict,<sup>67</sup> and noted that Séléka elements are reportedly targeting non-Muslim citizens, while at the same time protecting Muslims during the pillaging and raiding of some neighbourhoods in Bangui and in the regional prefectures. He also noted that this situation created resentment in Christian communities and fuelled religious tensions, and that, through online forums, some citizens and members of the diaspora have encouraged the population to take up arms and systematically retaliate against any and all Muslims.<sup>68</sup>

36. The United Nations Secretary-General called upon authorities of the Central African Republic to work with religious leaders on an urgent basis to restore interreligious harmony and prevent a tragic cycle of violence and reprisals.<sup>69</sup> According to him, the clashes along religious lines that occurred between Séléka elements and the population of Ouango and Boy-Rabe in Bangui on 13 and 14 April (2013) resulted in the killing and massive displacement of civilians.<sup>70</sup>

37. UNESCO noted reports according to which many journalists continued to exercise self-censorship for fear of reprisals and continued to face harassment and attacks for their work.<sup>71</sup>

38. UNESCO encouraged the Central African Republic to decriminalize defamation offences and to engage in awareness-raising among the judiciary and legal enforcement personnel.<sup>72</sup>

39. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons recommended that all displaced persons should be ensured the opportunity to participate in the forthcoming elections.<sup>73</sup>

40. The United Nations Secretary-General noted with concern that the destruction of administrative files related to birth and citizenship will undoubtedly create a problem during the registration of voters for the upcoming elections.<sup>74</sup>

## **F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

41. The International Labour Organization (ILO) Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations recommended that the Central African Republic take the necessary steps to amend Act No. 09.004 issuing the Labour Code, in order to provide explicitly for equal remuneration between men and women for work of equal value.<sup>75</sup> The Committee also noted that the new Labour Code (Act No. 09.004 of 28 January 2009) did not expressly prohibit discrimination on all the grounds enumerated in article 1 (1) (a) of Convention No. 111 (1958) concerning Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) and did not cover all stages of employment.<sup>76</sup>

## **G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

42. The United Nations Secretary-General noted that more than 80,000 people were estimated to be at risk of severe food insecurity during the lean season, and 57,000 children under five were at risk of moderate or severe malnutrition. These figures were likely to increase with the rise in food prices triggered by the crisis.<sup>77</sup> The Representative of the Secretary General on the rights of internally displaced persons expressed similar concerns.<sup>78</sup>

43. UNHCR noted that many internally displaced persons (IDPs) were surviving in the bush due to insecurity and because their houses had been burnt, their social and sanitary infrastructure looted or destroyed and their livestock stolen.<sup>79</sup> It recommended that the State re-establish and strengthen its presence at all levels in areas that are prone to conflict, by restoring basic services in education, justice, the police and health care as a matter of priority and encouraging devolved and decentralized authorities to return to their localities.<sup>80</sup>

44. UNCHR noted that the lack of adequate education facilities and poverty contribute to child labour, early marriage and pregnancy, and that the existing legal framework for the protection of children remained inadequate. UNHCR recommended that the Central African Republic create or reinforce specialized institutions to deal adequately with the protection of children.<sup>81</sup>

45. According to the Emergency Relief Coordinator, additional funding is urgently needed to restock supplies and enable humanitarian agencies to respond to the increased need in the Central African Republic. Medical supplies, food and nutrition aid, and the provision of critical water, sanitation and hygiene services are essential to save thousands of lives.<sup>82</sup>

## **H. Right to health**

46. The United Nations Secretary-General noted that limited availability of and access to electricity and running water in Bangui have hampered the ability of first-aid responders to provide medical care to the wounded. Incidents of vandalism, armed robbery and car-jacking had been widely reported throughout the country, and various armed groups had also been accused of extortion and the looting of private and public property, including health-care facilities.<sup>83</sup> Similar concerns were expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.<sup>84</sup>

47. The United Nations Secretary-General noted an acute lack of essential health and psychosocial services for survivors of the armed conflict, many of whom remain in hiding.<sup>85</sup>

48. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons had met mothers who had given birth without any assistance, either medical or traditional.<sup>86</sup> The High Commissioner for Human Rights was concerned at the very high number of those cases which inevitably resulted in avoidable deaths of both mothers and babies.<sup>87</sup>

## **I. Right to education**

49. The Secretary-General noted with concern that, with schools closed or occupied and teachers absent, at least 656,000 children had no access to education.<sup>88</sup>

50. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons had met displaced children who had not been to school for several years.<sup>89</sup>

51. UNESCO encouraged the Central African Republic to draw up new legislation on the enforceability of the right to education.<sup>90</sup>

## **J. Refugees and asylum seekers**

52. According to UNHCR, as of December 2012, the Central African Republic was hosting some 16,000 asylum-seekers and refugees. More than 11,000 refugees lived in refugee camps in rural areas located in Lobaye, Haut-Mbomou and Ouaka prefectures.<sup>91</sup>

53. UNHCR noted that, in urban areas, access to sustainable livelihoods for self-reliance remained a challenge for refugees even after a long stay in the Central African Republic, due to the socio-economic situation of the country and the poor quality of essential services.<sup>92</sup>

54. UNHCR noted with concern that, despite the existing national legal framework, processes relating to asylum were not yet in line with international protection standards. Institutions dealing with asylum applications had not held any sessions since October 2009. As a result, approximately 2,500 asylum seekers of various nationalities were awaiting the decisions on their applications and the backlog continued to grow.<sup>93</sup> UNHCR recommended the establishment and implementation of fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures to effectively respond to the situation of all persons in need of international protection,<sup>94</sup> and the continuation of its efforts to deliver birth certificates and national identity cards to all peoples affected by the conflicts, with particular attention to people at risk of statelessness.<sup>95</sup>

55. According to UNHCR, more than 170,000 Central African nationals had found refuge in neighbouring countries, including Cameroon and Chad.<sup>96</sup>

## K. Internally displaced persons

56. UNHCR stated that the estimated number of IDPs in the Central African Republic was 51,000 in October 2012. However, the crisis was believed to have generated fresh displacement of tens of thousands of people. The major causes of displacement were armed group activities, inter-ethnic tensions, and conflicts between herders and farmers. The majority of IDPs lived with host communities or in their fields in the bush; only a minority lived on IDP sites. The humanitarian crisis faced by the country adversely affected IDPs and their host communities.<sup>97</sup>

57. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons said that displaced persons arriving in Kabo had not received any humanitarian assistance from the authorities and were completely dependent on aid from the international organizations and NGOs.<sup>98</sup> He recommended the drafting and adoption of a law and a political strategy on displacement, based on the recommendations of the national workshop held on July 2010 in Bangui.<sup>99</sup> He also recommended that the Government should meet its obligations and commitments under the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and the protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons.<sup>100</sup> UNCHR made similar recommendations<sup>101</sup> and also recommended that urgent and adequate measures be taken to respond to the current plight of IDPs; paying special attention to the needs of displaced women, children, and other persons with specific needs affected by the displacement.<sup>102</sup> The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons recommended that the right of all displaced persons to a lasting solution should be respected.<sup>103</sup>

## L. Right to development and environmental issues

58. According to the UN Secretary-General, the role that the exploitation of the natural resources of the Central African Republic played in fuelling the ongoing conflict needed to be addressed as a root cause of the cyclical instability and a key factor in any future peacebuilding process.<sup>104</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on the Central African Republic from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/5/CAF/2).

<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW

CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
CPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

<sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art.1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art.5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31; Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13; Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12; Urgent action: CPED, art. 30.]

<sup>4</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

<sup>5</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

<sup>6</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).

<sup>7</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

<sup>8</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No.169, concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.

<sup>9</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

<sup>10</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the

- Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).
- <sup>11</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- <sup>12</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic, 13 April 2011, S/2011/241, para. 59, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4dbe869c2.html>.
- <sup>13</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, p. 5.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.
- <sup>15</sup> UNHCR, submission to the UPR.
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>17</sup> A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 46 et 84.
- <sup>18</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR, p. 5.
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- <sup>20</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2013/261), paras. 7–11.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 12–13.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 60.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 15.
- <sup>24</sup> Security Council press statement on Central African Republic, SC/10993, AFR/2608, of 29 April 2013.
- <sup>25</sup> OHCHR press release of 18 February 2010 on the High Commissioner’s mission to the Central African Republic.
- <sup>26</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
- |              |                                                              |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| CERD         | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination        |
| CESCR        | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights            |
| HR Committee | Human Rights Committee                                       |
| CEDAW        | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CAT          | Committee against Torture                                    |
| CRC          | Committee on the Rights of the Child                         |
| CRPD         | Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities         |
- <sup>27</sup> Communication No. 1587/2007, *Mamour v. Central African Republic* (Views adopted on 20 July 2009, ninety-sixth session).
- <sup>28</sup> Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/64/40), vol. II (2009), annex VII.RR, p. 423.
- <sup>29</sup> For the titles of special procedures, see [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx).
- <sup>30</sup> OHCHR Reports 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, annexes on OHCHR in the field: Africa, section on activities of the United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Central African Republic.
- <sup>31</sup> Contribution de l’UNESCO, par. 33.
- <sup>32</sup> A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 85.
- <sup>33</sup> S/2013/261, paras. 22–23.
- <sup>34</sup> Security Council Press Statement on Central African Republic, SC/10948, AFR/2582, 20 March 2013.
- <sup>35</sup> S/2013/261, para. 38.
- <sup>36</sup> OHCHR press release of 16 April 2013.
- <sup>37</sup> S/2013/261, para. 66.
- <sup>38</sup> Security Council press statement, SC/10993, AFR/2608, of 29 April 2013.
- <sup>39</sup> A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 82.
- <sup>40</sup> Press release, 27 December 2012.
- <sup>41</sup> S/2013/261, para. 40.
- <sup>42</sup> OHCHR press release of 16 April 2013.
- <sup>43</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, p. 6.
- <sup>44</sup> OHCHR press release of 18 February 2010.
- <sup>45</sup> A/HRC/11/2/Add.3, paras. 49–50.
- <sup>46</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, p. 7.

- 47 S/2013/261, para. 47.  
48 Ibid. 3, para. 41.  
49 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, p. 7.  
50 Submission of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.  
51 S/2013/261, para. 41.  
52 Ibid., paras. 22–23.  
53 Security Council press statement, SC/10993, AFR/2608, of 29 April 2013.  
54 S/2013/261, para. 29.  
55 Security Council press statement, SC/10877, AFR/2501, of 4 January 2013.  
56 S/2013/261, para. 37.  
57 A/HCR/14/24/add.5, para. 63.  
58 Security Council press statement on Central African Republic, SC/10993, AFR/2608, of 29 April 2013.  
59 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, para. 82.  
60 OHCHR press release, 16 April 2013.  
61 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 82.  
62 OHCHR press release, 16 April 2013.  
63 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 60.  
64 S/2013/261, para. 32.  
65 Ibid., para. 51.  
66 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 85.  
67 S/2013/261, para. 62.  
68 Ibid., para. 26.  
69 Ibid., para. 62.  
70 Ibid., para. 42.  
71 UNESCO submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, para. 25.  
72 Ibid., para. 35.  
73 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 85.  
74 S/2013/261, para. 32.  
75 Observation (CEACR), 2012, Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100).  
76 Direct request, (CEACR), 2012.  
77 S/2013/261, para. 50.  
78 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, para. 63.  
79 UNCHR submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, p. 5.  
80 Ibid., p. 6.  
81 Ibid., p. 7.  
82 Key message of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, 6 May 2013, Issue Number 1, para. 5.  
83 S/2013/261, para. 39.  
84 OHCHR press release, 16 April 2013.  
85 S/2013/261, para. 46.  
86 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 63.  
87 OHCHR press release, 16 April 2013.  
88 S/2013/261, para. 50.  
89 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 63.  
90 Contribution de l'UNESCO, par. 34.  
91 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, p. 2.  
92 Ibid., p. 2.  
93 Ibid., p. 3.  
94 Ibid., p. 4.  
95 Ibid., p. 5.  
96 Ibid., p. 2 (footnote 2) .  
97 Ibid., p. 2.  
98 A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 23.  
99 Ibid., para. 84.  
100 Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> UNCHR submission to the UPR on the Central African Republic, p. 6.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>103</sup> A/HRC/16/43/Add.4, par. 85.

<sup>104</sup> S/2013/261, para. 29.

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