

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 31 October 2019 from the Secretary-General  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 15 October 2019 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, enclosing a report on the activities carried out by the French armed forces in the Central African Republic in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, from 1 February to 15 October 2019.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* António **Guterres**



## Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit the following information.

Pursuant to paragraphs 69 and 71 of Security Council resolution [2448 \(2018\)](#), adopted on 13 December 2018, please find attached the report on the actions carried out by French forces in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) from 1 February to 15 October 2019 (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General could bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

## Enclosure

### **Report on the operational support provided by French forces to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic from 1 February to 15 October 2019**

France contributes eight military staff officers to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central Africa Republic (MINUSCA), including the Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Franck Chatelus, and one non-commissioned officer. It also contributes seven gendarmes to the United Nations police, including Major General Pascal Champion, Head of the United Nations police.

The operational support provided by the French forces to MINUSCA is indicated below.

#### **Conduct of operations**

Under Security Council resolution [2448 \(2018\)](#) of 13 December 2018, French fighter jets stationed in N'Djamena can provide ad hoc air support to MINUSCA.

On 2 March 2019, two Rafale fighter jets equipped with the new generation of reconnaissance pod undertook an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission from N'Djamena.

On 13 September 2019, the Mirage 2000D fighter jets based in N'Djamena conducted a show of force mission to Bamingui, and a show of presence mission to Birao at the request of MINUSCA. Alongside these operational missions, fighter jets conducted joint close air support training with the joint tactical air controller of the Portuguese contingent to ensure that the two units are capable of working together.

#### **Operational military partnership**

The aim is to share good practices and provide mentoring to the specialists of the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA. On 29 August, the commanding officer of the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA came to meet with the commander of the French operational support detachment at the M'Poko camp in order to obtain the assistance of France in diagnosing the malfunctions occurring with three of the five armoured forward area vehicles transferred by France in January 2018. It was agreed that Gabon forces would repatriate the three armoured forward area vehicles to Bangui in early October. In liaison with the Defence Attaché, a technical training detachment of the French operational support detachment will be sent to perform the necessary diagnostics and teach the Gabonese specialists how this should be carried out. The latter will order the spare parts from France via Libreville. Once the parts have been delivered to Bangui, another technical training detachment of the French operational support detachment will train mechanics from the Gabonese battalion how to carry out the repairs.

Prior to their training, soldiers from the Gabonese battalion will receive training from French forces in Gabon. This training will total nine weeks per year.

French military air traffic controllers are permanently stationed in the control tower during air traffic activity. They work with air traffic controllers of the Central African Republic to supervise runway security prior to any air traffic activity, with the assistance of a Rwandan battalion from MINUSCA. The latter work to keep the runway clear of local residents and to ensure the safe movement of aircraft.

### **Aeronautical engineering**

Two members of the 25th Air Engineer Regiment are present at all times in Bouar and five additional technicians are scheduled to perform a technical validation of the Bouar runway in early October. While the runway is important for successfully deploying the operational training detachments of French forces in Gabon, it is also useful for the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic and for MINUSCA. MINUSCA will begin the runway construction work by the end of this year, which will provide for a clear improvement in the capacity for medical evacuation.

### **Logistics**

The French operational support detachment, through the J10 joint coordination centre for transport, transit and movement (CCITTM), is permanently responsible for processing the cargo of the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA and for receiving personnel in transit from that contingent, owing to the fact that the aircraft of French forces in Gabon regularly service the Libreville-Bangui M'Poko route. The next rotation for the Gabonese battalion is scheduled for December 2019. Since 1 February, the French operational support detachment has contributed to the unloading of 87 tons for MINUSCA and to the processing of three flights, including a medical repatriation with passengers.

A training session, conducted by a detachment of French forces in Gabon for the maintenance personnel of armoured forward area vehicles, was held in October 2019.

The French operational support detachment also deals with disposal and trans-shipment of equipment for the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA.

The information and communication systems detachment of the French operational support detachment carries out computer maintenance and provides equipment to the Force Commander of MINUSCA and his staff.

### **Health**

The "Role 1" medical unit of the French operational support detachment assists the eight officers and the non-commissioned officer of MINUSCA.

### **Joint support**

The loan of technical equipment to the Portuguese quick reaction force for one week in the context of the installation of their shelters.

Infrastructure of the French operational support detachment is made available during the periods of transit of some authorities.

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