

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 3 November 2020 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 23 October 2020 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations (see annex), enclosing a report on the activities of 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 June to 1 October 2020.

I should 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 United Nations Secretariat, Office of the Secretary-General, and has the honour to transmit the following information.

Pursuant to paragraphs 52 and 54 of Security Council resolution [2499 \(2019\)](#), 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 June to 1 October 2020 (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations should be grateful if the Secretary-General would bring the 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 (MINUSCA) from 1 June to 1 October 2020

References:

- Security Council resolution [2499 \(2019\)](#), adopted on 15 November 2019 (paragraph 52)
- Agreement of 24 July 2014 between the Government of the French Republic and the United Nations on the provision of goods and services, on a reimbursable basis, in support of the operations of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in the Central African Republic
- Technical agreement of 3 October 2014 between the United Nations and the Minister of Defence of the French Republic concerning the operational support provided by French forces to MINUSCA

France contributes eight commissioned officers and one non-commissioned officer (i.e. nine integrated officers) to the MINUSCA military staff, including the Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Sénétaire.

Four gendarmes (two non-commissioned officers and two commissioned officers), including Major General Champion, Head of the United Nations police (UNPOL) component of MINUSCA, are currently deployed within UNPOL.

1. Operations support

A. Direct support

Pursuant to paragraph 52 of Security Council resolution [2499 \(2019\)](#), France is authorized “to use all the means to provide operational support to elements of MINUSCA when under serious threat”. French fighter jets stationed in the Sahel-Saharan strip can provide ad hoc air support to MINUSCA. Coordination between the Air Adviser and the Head of Air Operations (France) of MINUSCA is particularly important and necessary for these operations, in order to minimize the risks (related to flight safety and the organization of search and rescue (personnel recovery) missions).

It is also beneficial to conduct joint close air support training with the joint tactical air controllers of the Portuguese contingent of MINUSCA, in order to ensure that the two units are capable of working together.

Such an exercise was conducted with two Operation Barkhane Mirage 2000 jets in the Bocaranga region on 15 August 2020, together with a show of presence.

More generally, the combined mechanism for the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic, the French forces in Gabon and Operation Barkhane allows for rapid intervention by French forces in support of MINUSCA, should this prove necessary.

B. Concurrent actions

The Air Adviser and the air traffic controllers are providing assistance to MINUSCA in the form of aeronautical expertise on substantive issues, particularly with regard to the future use of class I drones in Bangui.

2. Training support, operational military partnership and training of the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA

At the request of the Institut Pasteur, the Chief Medical Officer of the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic participated in the delivery of two coronavirus disease (COVID-19) training sessions for health actors at MINUSCA clinics. Each session was attended by 17 participants.

Although no other training was carried out during the reporting period, owing to the COVID-19 health crisis, the operational military partnership in Central and West Africa is contributing to the long-term training of the units deployed from Gabon, Senegal, Burundi, Cameroon and Mauritania. The intention is to resume the training as soon as conditions allow, including the training of the Gabonese battalion of MINUSCA in the second half of 2020.

3. Logistical support

A. Ammunition support

In accordance with the protocol signed between France and the United Nations, the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic provides MINUSCA with an ammunition storage area, eight 20-foot containers and three ABC dry powder fire extinguishers.

B. Transport-transit route

During the period in question, the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic managed the passenger and freight route for MINUSCA:

	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Freight weight (kg)</i>
In	25	5,851
Out	20	5,676

The operational support detachment also moved 50 tons of freight, with a volume of 160 m³, from the transit camp of the Moroccan detachment of MINUSCA into an operational support detachment hangar that had been made available.

C. Prevention and control of risks during operations

- Fire support: the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic provided the Portuguese Quick Reaction Force with 15 fire extinguishers.
- Vector control campaign: the operational support detachment in the Central African Republic leads campaigns for the Portuguese Quick Reaction Force every three months.

4. Other

The operational support detachment in the Central African Republic shares control of the French camp in M'Poko with MINUSCA entities. Internal service regulations are being drawn up that will apply to MINUSCA and also to the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic, which joined in summer 2020.