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Topic A: The situation in the Central African Republic
Topic B: Open Agenda

PRESIDENTS

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1. Welcoming letter

“The longer we delay, the more we will pay” Ban Ki-Moon

Dearest delegates,

It is an honor for us Salomé Beyer to give you a warm welcome to ENVMUN 2018 and to the United Nations Security Council. We are really grateful for being able to be your presidents during these two days, and wish good luck to all of you. With this said, we are indeed expecting great preparation from each and every single one of you, especially considering that this is the most important organ of the UN regarding international security and peacekeeping.

In the committee we are going to discuss one of the most impactful issues in the world right now, the situation in the Central African Republic. For this, we have given you many resources in which you can investigate and inform yourself about the current situation and the conflicts history. We invite you to prepare each one of you to argue your delegation's ideas, creating a pleasant atmosphere for the discussion of solutions.

We also encourage you to seek help from us if needed and to take a look at the Delegate's Handbook to see the procedure in English. Please, be very conscious with the use of parliamentary language.

If you have any doubts regarding the topic or the procedure of the committee, please contact us through the email scenvmun@gmail.com.

Best wishes,

Salomé Beyer



2. Introduction to the committee

2.1 History:

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

The Security Council will be composed of fifteen members of the United Nations. The People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, these five will be permanent members of the Security Council and have a veto, which means that any of the five vetoes votes against will automatically discard the resolution that is being voted in the Security Council. The General Assembly will elect another ten Members of the United Nations that will be non-permanent members of the Security Council, paying particular attention, in the first place, to the contribution of the Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, as well as an equitable geographical distribution.

The Security Council held its first session on January 17, 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London; that is, it arose almost simultaneously with the same Organization. Currently, the Security Council is permanently installed at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It has also moved to many cities and held sessions in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 1972; Panama City (Panama), in 1973; and Geneva (Switzerland), in 1990.

2.2 Functions:

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.



Maintaining Peace and Security

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means.

The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
- dispatch a mission;
- appoint special envoys; or
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.

When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:

- issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
- dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:

- economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
- severance of diplomatic relations;
- blockade;
- or even collective military action.

A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

3. Topic A: The situation in the Central African Republic

3.1 Historical Background

Political History (1800 – 2012)

To understand the current crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) there must be a fundamental understanding of its history. The roots of the problem can be dated back to its colonial era which began in the late 19th century after France established total control over the "French Congo" which included what later would become the Central African Republic,



Republic of the Congo, Chad and Gabon. The ruling of the French over the territory can be described as oppressive and exclusive due to the privatization of the land allowing foreign companies to exploit the ground and its people. Locals couldn't cultivate their own fields because of the strenuous labor demand and as a consequence they experienced extreme famine. Mortal diseases such as malaria increased due to the extreme environments they were forced to work on. Additionally, nor the government or the companies provided any type of basic facilities for the local population.

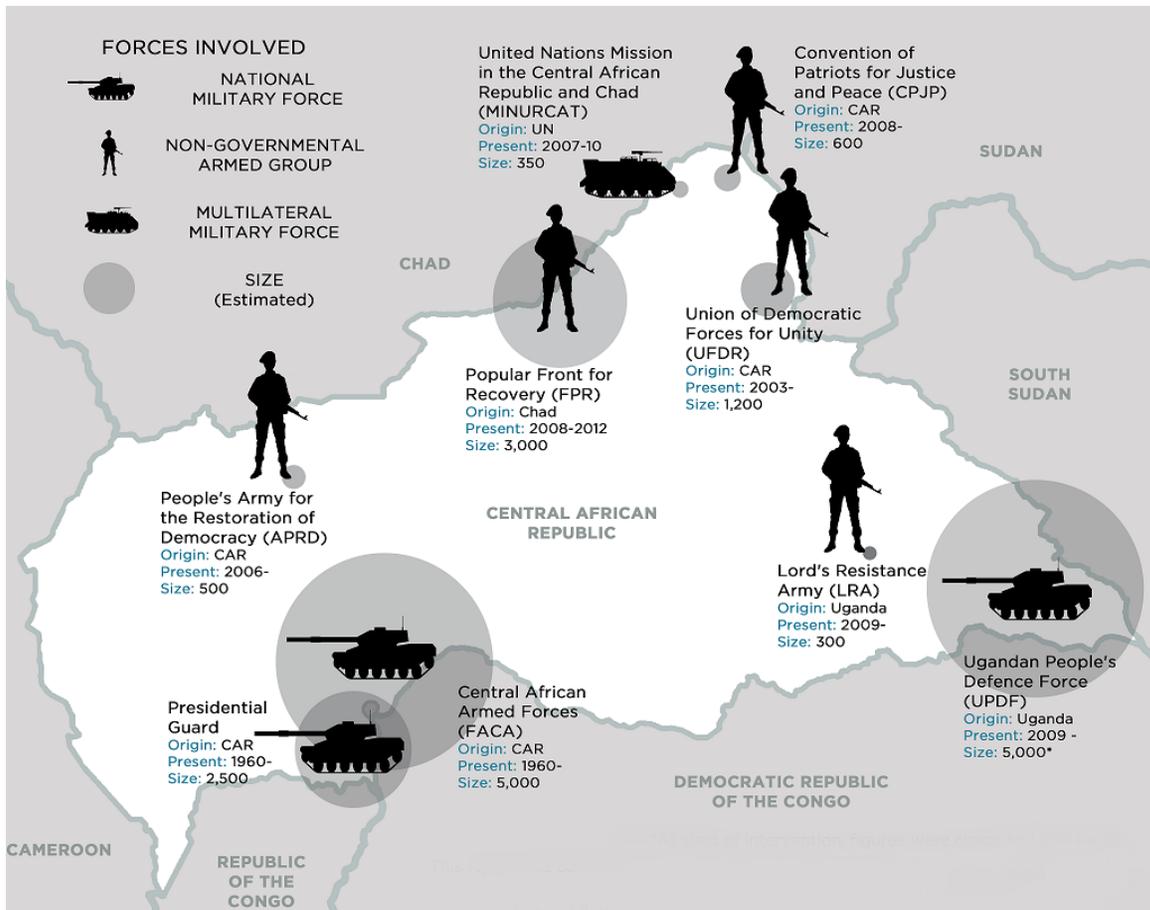
As of today, the World Food Programme reports that 45% of the Central African Republic population are food insecure and according to the Severe Malaria Observatory, malaria is the #1 killer in the country and the leading cause of death in children under 5 years old. Therefore, we can conclude that the country back then was already disadvantaged with the lack of basic facilities, especially education and healthcare, ever since it was a colony. These fueled the country's instability due to the already ineffective administration system, lack of infrastructure and a disempowered population, all of which are still present to a certain extent today.

After gaining independence from France in 1960, the country was flooded with economic decline, humanitarian crisis and most importantly, violent rebel groups emerged on account of the corrupt authoritarian mandates that took place after becoming an autonomous country. It wasn't until January 1997 that the Bangui Accords were signed, it sought to reconcile political and religious factions, boost the economy and restructure the military. However even with the help of the UN peacekeeping mission MINURCA (1998 - 2000), the agreement didn't restore peace and political clashes continued.

In 2004 The Bush War began, shortly after the 2003 elections where François Bozizé became president. The Union of Democratic Forces for Unity Rebels (UFDR), People's Army for the Restoration of the Republic and Democracy (APRD) and government forces fought for almost 3 years resulting in hundreds of civilian casualties and leaving thousands displaced. It was reported in 2006 that 70,000 people fled the nation to seek asylum in neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Chad and Sudan that unfortunately also face their own internal conflicts. The War officially ended in 2007 after the signing of the Birao Peace Agreements that called upon both parties, the government and the UFDR, to end hostilities. Alas, Bozizé's government failed to implement what was promised. In those deals, Bozizé had agreed to provide amnesty for former combatants, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of the rebel forces including the compensation for those demobilized, the integration of former rebels into the official armed forces of the Central African Republic and also the possibility to become a political party.



As a result, in 2013 the rebel group Séléka (alliance between CPSK-CPJP-UFDP) seized power overthrowing the former president Bozizé and establishing a new president, Michel Djotodia.



(Taken from: <https://lospiegone.com/2017/10/04/dont-forget-us-la-guerra-infinita-della-repubblica-centrafricana/>)

The Uprising (2013-2014)

Two main anti-government militias as well as factions of former rebel movements, which were mainly conformed by Muslims, formed the Séléka rebel group in 2012. On the same year by December the coalition controlled dozens of towns all over the country and terrorized the local population despite the governments army and Chadian troop efforts. Before the attacks the rebels released a statement, which set out a long list of political and military demands, but the most important one was to resume the peace talks of 2007 (Birao Peace Agreements). The rebels were willing to end hostilities if the government agreed to hold talks with them and actually fulfill their compromises. Shortly after the attacks, still without an effective response of the government, the Séléka sought to advance to the capital Bangui. President Bozizé appealed for help to France, the United States and neighboring countries but all ultimately refused.



The offensive against the government swept almost half of the country and by the end of the year the CAR Human Rights Reported that 26,000 were internally displaced and 150,000 fled the country, it was also mentioned that “civilians were often killed, abducted, raped, or displaced from their homes as a result of internal conflicts. Some armed groups included children among their ranks. The government took steps to punish officials who committed abuses; however, most official abuses were committed with impunity.”

Bozizé signed the Libreville agreements, a peace accord with the Séléka rebel alliance on the 11th of January 2013 where the demands of the group were met, signing a ceasefire, the removal of foreign troops and the establishment of a coalition government. However, Séléka quickly condemned the implementation of the deal, claiming that Bozizé failed to honor important aspects of the agreement. In mid-March the group issued an ultimatum for Bozizé. "We don't want to have a dialogue with Bozizé anymore." Declared Arda Akouman a Séléka official, the rebels resumed hostilities a few days later. Séléka advanced toward Bangui, seizing the capital on March 24th resulting in Bozizé fleeing the country.

The rebel leader Michel Djotodia, self-proclaimed to be the head of state becoming the first Muslim ruler. During his mandate violence surged again due to the lawless behavior the Séléka had all over the country like torturing, killing and looting. Djotodia declared the former rebel group to be dissolved but autonomous fighters (ex-Séléka) targeted Christian communities therefore adding a new dimension to the conflict, not just political but also religious. Djotodia resigned in 2014, after failing to restore stability to the nation. On January 23, the Transitional National Council (CNT) elected Catherine Samba-Panza as transitional president until elections scheduled for 2015.

Sectarian Violence (2014 – 2017)

As revenge for the attacks the Anti-Balaka were formed, a Christian militia and Bozizé supporters determined to wipe out the Muslim community of the country. The country was divided by Southern Christians and Northern Muslims who lived in areas bordering Muslim-majority Chad and Sudan. Hence, 2014 till 2016 thousands of people were displaced and massacred as entire Muslim populations abandoned their villages in the south and fled to the north to avoid what has been internationally recognized as “ethnic cleansing” carried out by the anti-Balaka. The International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic released a report, which informed that these massive killings led to the displacement of 99% of the Muslim population of Bangui. Furthermore, 80% of the Muslim population of CAR has since fled to Cameroon and Chad. Reports suggested that out of 436 mosques in the country, 417 were destroyed.

European Union and French troops weren't enough to reduce the genocide. In 2014 the Brazzaville peace talks were carried out and the UN Security Council authorized the



deployment of the peacekeeping mission MINUSCA (2014 - 2018) that partially stabilized the country by scheduling a national referendum and elections in December 2015.



(Taken from: <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/seleka.htm>)

Leader of the Central African Renaissance (FPRC) Nouredine Adam, one of the four Muslim Séléka militias, and Michel Djotodia declared its resistance towards the elections and they will not take place in areas under the control of Séléka militia. Furthermore, it was also announced the creation of a new autonomous state in the north of the country under the name of the “Republic of Logone” with the belief that Muslims and Christians could no longer live together. The international community hasn’t recognized it as an autonomous country but it can be classified as a proto-state. Despite continuous violence and opposition, Faustin Touadera was elected president on February 2016.

During that year new sectarian violence manifested in the form of intra-Muslim fighting, as the different rebel groups under the ex-Séléka fought for dominance. This begun by a massacre of the Fulani ethnic group in November 2016, as the Popular Front for the Renaissance of Central African Republic (FPRC) were engaged in conflict with the Fulani-majority Union for Peace in Central Africa (UPC). As a result, 85 civilians were killed (11 aid workers were also killed making it one of the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian aid) and 11,000 were displaced within that week.

Following the dissolution of the Séléka, three former Séléka factions were formed. The Popular Front for the Renaissance of Central African Republic (FPRC), Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC) and the Central African Patriotic Movement (MPC). The division of the former Séléka coalition arose from political differences in 2014 when Nouredine Adam led the FPRC and began demanding independence for the predominantly Muslim north (Republic of Logone). These demands were opposed by



general Ali Darassa, who then proceeded to form his own coalition, the "Union for Peace in the Central African Republic " (UPC).

These political differences have also created other rebel groups such as the Central African Patriotic Movement (MPC) founded by Mahamat Al Khatim. Tensions between these coalitions have resulted in not just violence between the parties, but also serious violations of human rights on the civilians. Civilians accused of supporting opposing parties are executed by rebel soldiers, such as the massacre of the Fulani tribes by the FPRC on the Fulani-majority UPC rebel group.

3.2 Current Situation

After 14 years of ongoing conflict 2.5 million people of the total population of 4.5 million are in need of humanitarian assistance, 700,000 are internally displaced and 580,000 million people are refugees in neighboring countries. Recent meetings of the Security Council have resolved that a coordinated international response must be reach in order to overcome the difficult challenges that have emerged in the Central African Republic. Statements from various delegations emphasized on the need for humanitarian aid as well as military action to break the violent cycle in not just the CAR but in the whole region. Like resolving cross border security, which must be ensured to prevent criminal activities and the illegal trade of weapons between nations.

Delegates are expected to come up with solutions that aim towards long-term sustainability and peace between factions. Peace talks can be considered as a solution for delegates to consider. This allows for peaceful negotiations and is generally a non-violent solution. Peace talks could possibly be used to mediate tensions between Muslims and Christians, as well as between Muslims. However, delegates should not use peace talks to be the only way to end the issue, and should consider how to incentivize rebels to agree to a ceasefire, as well as consider buffering measures to prevent peace talks from breaking down as experienced in the past. On foreign aid as well as peacekeeping operations in order to maintain the authority of the current leadership as well as the country's stability. This is problematic because these peacekeeping operations have been proven to not only be inefficient, but have also introduced violations of human rights, such as the sexual abuses of children. Delegates must consider ways to reduce reliance on foreign aid, in order to develop a long-term sustainable social, political and a prosperous economic environment in the Central African Republic.



4. QUARMAS

1. How can a compromise between multiple rebel groups interests be reached?
2. How can a ceasefire be obtained?
3. What are long-term solutions that can be employed to ensure long-term political stability in the region?
4. How can the rights of civilians be ensured?
5. What role has your country in the solution of this conflict?

5. Glossary

Terrorism: The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

Coup d'état: (Blow of state) A sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.

Militia: A military force that is raised from the civil population to supplement a regular army in an emergency.

Refugees: A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

Internally displaced: Designating a person who has been forced to move within his or her own country as a result of conflict

Sectarian: Rigidly following the doctrines of a sect or other group.

Amnesty: An official pardon for people who have been convicted of political offences.

Definitions from: <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>

6. Useful Links

- <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Central%20Africa%20Republic%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20-%20June%202018.pdf>
- http://www.conflictarm.com/car_publications/NONSTATE_ARMED_GROUPS_IN_CENTRAL_AFRICAN_REPUBLIC.pdf



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glqvXK55mgc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMz8mRlrzE>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=i48sWluKx0Q

Topic B: Open agenda

Delegates during the open agenda you are all going to be challenged to face the possibility of discussing any current international events the committee is concerned about. You as delegates of the Security Council must be prepared for any possible crisis that could be presented at any moment and about any topic.

To actively participate during the open agenda, it is necessary for you to be totally updated with every international affair that the Security Council might have the possibility to interfere in. You must be prepared to treat any current event and be informed about your country's position around it.

We suggest you to make a deep and clear investigation regarding:

- Your nation's internal and external policies
- Conflicts or situations your country is involved with
- Measures your country could take at the time of solving a conflict
- Current conflicts or situations that could concern the international community

Don't forget to watch news, read the papers and keep yourself updated.

8. Delegations

1. United States of America
2. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
3. French Republic
4. Russian Federation
5. People's Republic of China
6. Central African Republic
7. Republic of Cameroon
8. Republic of Chad
9. Republic of Sudan
10. Federal Republic of Germany
11. Republic Federative of Brazil
12. Arab Republic of Egypt
13. State of Libya



14. State of Japan
15. Swiss Confederation

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