

Position Paper for General Assembly First Committee

The topics before the General Assembly First Committee are: Illicit Arms Sales; The Control of Conflict Minerals; and Privatization of War - Employing and Arming Independent Militias. The Central African Republic supports the different proposed solutions to eliminate illicit arms sales, engages in the implementation of the Kimberley Process to control the flow of conflict minerals, and appreciates the process of advancing in the jurisdiction of Private Military and Security Companies.

I. Illicit Arms Sales

The Central African Republic ratified the “Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition” as we believe that the easy access to small arms escalates conflicts and leads to political instability and poverty. We assume that the adaptation of an international binding agreement concerning the control and tracking of arms will seriously limit the possibilities of illicit arms sales and increase the transparency of the worldwide stock of arms. Moreover, an increase in information sharing through uniform international IT system and the establishment of clear guidelines for the import and export of arms in the form of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) would help to find and sanction users and suppliers of illicit arms. In order to change things on the continental level, we undertook actions like our program of jobs in exchange to weapons referring to our agreement to the “Mombasa Plan of Action for Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapon Reduction.” Furthermore, we agree to the US plan of conventional weapons destruction in order to decrease the probability of future illicit arms sales and to foster the development of the Central African Republic. Therefore, we created the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (CNDDR) which succeeded in demobilizing more than 7,000 ex-combatants who turned back more than 400 arms.

II. The Control of Conflict Minerals

Diamonds are the most important export good of the Central African Republic, contributing up to 40% of the total export sales. There are plenty of examples of minerals being the reason for a war like in Angola or in our neighbour State, the Democratic Republic of Congo. That is why we are also facing the risk of being involved in a mineral conflict in the future since most of our diamond resources are not explored yet and could arouse interest of different radical groups. Therefore, we support the “Kimberley Process” to control the flow of any conflict minerals, but we believe that the process still has to be

improved to prevent smuggling more efficiently. We want to increase the documentation and tracking of any diamond from the Central African Republic which disables the possibility for any radical armed group to finance a future conflict with diamonds from the mines of our country and increases the stability in the Central African Republic. Other participating countries of the “Kimberley Process” should as well advance their internal control actions to be able to hold dealers and smugglers of diamonds accountable for their activities. The issue of sanctions for non-compliance to the agreed rules of the “Kimberley Process” should be raised again as it could motivate governments to increase their level of internal control of the diamond industry.

III. Privatization of War: Employing and Arming Independent Militias

The amount of Private Security Companies (PSC) and Private Military Companies (PMC) is low compared to neighbouring states like Angola as there are currently only four different PSC and one PSM known in the whole country. As we are aware of the fact that our national army is currently insufficient armed and trained to guarantee the safety for big companies and embassies, we think that in the short-term, PSC help considerably to keep international companies in the country and to increase investment of new companies which supports the development of the whole Central African Republic. In order to strengthen human rights, show clear legal limits and thereby increase the accountability of any private hired militias, we introduced a code of conduct. In addition to that, thanks to the financial support of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, we were able to put in place the Security Sector Reform (SSR) which will strengthen the security sector and contribute to a positive development of the Central African Republic by upholding the law as well as promoting human rights. Therefore, we appreciate the approach of the “Montreux Document” which helps to improve the lack of jurisdiction for PSC and PMC in different countries. Moreover, we appreciate every international help in terms of training or equipment for our national army which would help us to become more independent, decrease the need of PSC and PMC and increase the stability of the country.