



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

High-level dialogue on Human Rights Situation in the Central African Republic

#HRC58 • 1 April 2025



OPENING STATEMENT

Ms. Maarit KOHONEN SHERIFF, Director of the Global Operations Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

On behalf of the High Commissioner, Ms. Maarit KOHONEN SHERIFF highlights the ongoing efforts deployed by the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights in line with its international obligations. She notes **progress in adopting laws and policies aimed at protecting human rights defenders** and acknowledges the Government's cooperation with OHCHR to strengthen fundamental rights.

Despite these advancements, OHCHR underscores the challenging human rights situation in the CAR. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) persist, with all parties to the conflict implicated. In particular, **conflict-related sexual violence and violence against children** remain pressing concerns. The ongoing conflict in Sudan has further exacerbated the situation in the CAR. In this regard, OHCHR expresses concern over the **impunity** enjoyed by members of the defence forces involved in human rights violations and calls on the Government to conduct swift, effective, and transparent investigations. Addressing impunity is crucial to



deterrence, victim compensation, and justice. The Human Rights Division of MINUSCA is actively supporting local governance by re-establishing state authority across the CAR through engagement with defence forces and civil society. OHCHR commends MINUSCA's role in the **disarmament process**.

OHCHR emphasises the importance of the decentralisation process in fostering community participation, particularly in ensuring an **inclusive, participatory, and peaceful electoral process**. It also stresses the need to protect civic space and safeguard women's rights from harassment while ensuring coordination at all levels of government.

While stressing the need for an effective **transitional justice mechanism**, OHCHR welcomes the Special Criminal Court's work and urges the Government to expedite the appointment of new commissioners to the Truth, Reconciliation, and Compensation Commission. OHCHR further highlights the necessity of special measures to facilitate **victims' safe participation in transitional justice** processes and called for enhanced access to complaint mechanisms at the local level. In closing, protecting civic space and fostering an enabling environment for civil society participation are essential to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of decentralisation and local governance in the CAR.

STATEMENTS BY PANELLISTS

H.E. Mr. Arnaud DJOUBAYE ABAZENE, Minister of State in Charge of Justice, Human Rights, and Good Governance, Keeper of the Seals of the Central African Republic

The Minister of State conveys his gratitude for the engagement of the CAR's Government and commends the United Nations' ongoing commitment to human rights, peace, and security in the country. Centring his remarks on the decentralisation and local governance as mechanisms for implementing human rights recommendations at the local level, the Minister describes these processes as vital political and social tools for restoring and consolidating state authority and for advancing peace and reconciliation.

The Minister provides an overview of the CAR's **decentralisation framework**, referencing the 2009 law on national policy for territorial management, which aims to ensure an equitable distribution of manpower and opportunities to reduce inequalities at the local level. This has been supported by successive technical laws. These are now operational across the seven regions, 20 prefectures, 72 sub-prefectures, and 175 communes. The Minister states that decentralisation should ultimately improve people's daily lives and foster development. The Government's sectoral justice policy aims to bridge the gap between state authorities and citizens, particularly through the establishment of Courts of Appeal in all seven regions.

The **upcoming regional elections** in August 2025 will align with the national electoral agenda and promote democracy at the grassroots level. The Minister underscores the necessity of an inclusive approach, particularly regarding women's participation.

The Minister further discusses the **operational readiness of the CAR's army** as a garrison force capable of rapid mobilisation in response to security threats. The armed forces, alongside internal security forces, remain on the front line. He notes the redeployment of judicial and



administrative personnel to various jurisdictions, aimed at increasing access to justice and improving service quality.

The Minister further elaborates on the **national human rights policy** and its strategic framework for 2023–2027, with an allocated budget of USD 5 million. The National Development Plan has replaced the previous recovery strategy (RCPCA), focussing on promoting development, human rights, human capital, and infrastructure to support national recovery. Despite these efforts, insecurity persists due to residual elements of the Coalition of Patriots for Change. In closing, the Minister affirms the Government’s commitment to addressing these challenges and leveraging international support through high-level dialogue.

Mr. Yao AGBETSE, Independent Expert (IE) on the Human Rights Situation in the Central African Republic (CAR)

The IE reaffirms the importance of MINUSCA’s presence in the CAR and acknowledges the Government’s cooperation and the contributions of civil society. The IE highlights several **positive developments**, including:

- The appointment of 11 commissioners to revitalise the Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Reconciliation Commission (CVDJRR).
- The adoption of laws protecting human rights defenders, while urging the President to sign the legislation into effect.
- The approval of the National Development Plan for 2024–2028 to align with commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Reforms in the justice sector.

Despite these advances, the IE notes **continued reports of human rights violations**, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups, and hence stresses the need for immediate action to promote social cohesion. He also cites the fires in February 2025, which resulted in severe human rights violations, calling for thorough investigations and prosecutions.

Furthermore, the IE highlights inconsistencies between the CAR’s 2017 Human Rights Law and the Paris Principles, advocating for harmonisation. The IE proposes the establishment of regional teams within institutional mechanisms to combat impunity and promptly address human rights violations. Additionally, the IE urges the Government to implement **MINUSCA’s recommendations** and prioritise security sector reform, including equipping the armed forces, improving rations and mental health support, and enforcing military justice to address human rights violations.

Emphasising the ongoing need for **international aid and cooperation**, the IE points to the necessity of regulating the mining sector and improving tax mechanisms for natural resources. Infrastructure remains a pressing concern, with urban populations requiring better access to water, sanitation, and transport, while rural areas need year-round road networks to support trade. **Education, healthcare, and cultural development** are also critical, requiring the reconstruction of schools, health centres, and facilities destroyed during the conflict. He highlighted the importance of addressing daily violence to restore the social fabric and ensure fundamental rights, including access to work, healthcare, and adequate living conditions.



The MINUSCA's presence is deeply embedded in the CAR's governance, with some citizens even conflating it with the National Government. This underscores the Organisation's significant role in enhancing social services, education, healthcare, and administrative access. In the IE's view, international support remains crucial for the country's stability. In this regard, the IE concludes by outlining five key areas where the international community must assist the CAR.

- Organisation of regional elections in August 2025.
- Support for local governance initiatives.
- Capacity-building for municipal councillors.
- Funding for local development programmes, in collaboration with the World Bank, the IMF, and the African Development Bank.
- Strengthening the foundations for local governance as part of MINUSCA's exit strategy, ensuring a sustainable transition for justice delivery and human rights protection in the CAR.

Ms. Valentine RUGWABIZA, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of the United Nations for MINUSCA

The SRSG expresses her appreciation for the opportunity to engage in a frank and constructive dialogue on the situation in the Central African Republic, particularly at such a critical and fragile moment. She emphasises that **decentralisation** is key to reconciliation and reflects the aspirations of the CAR's population. The SRSG recalls the 2015 recommendations and the 2019 Peace Agreement, which the Government, with MINUSCA's support, has been working to implement. **Local committees** play an essential role in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, even in remote areas. These committees not only contribute to the peace process, but also promote local participatory governance.

A key issue highlighted is the absence of **local elections** since 1988, which has hindered representation, transparency, and equal access to resources and services. Given the importance of these elections, the SRSG urges the Government and the Human Rights Council to address logistical and financial challenges to ensure their successful organisation. MINUSCA has launched a project to facilitate **female participation in the elections**, particularly by addressing the issue of identity documentation. Many women lacked the necessary identification to register and vote. This issue has now been resolved through the initiative.

Turning to security, the SRSG reiterated MINUSCA's commitment to supporting **national border security efforts**, as border regions are key sites for human rights violations and violence. Enhancing security in these areas will pave the way for decentralisation and stronger governance structures. She acknowledges the **fragile security context**, warning of the risk of identity-based political manipulation. A recent tragic example occurred when combatants attacked a civilian protection patrol near Zemio, killing a peacekeeper. She extends her heartfelt condolences to the Government of Kenya and the families of all peacekeepers, reaffirming that peacekeepers have rights that must be protected. Justice and accountability are essential to addressing such attacks.

The SRSG concludes by stating that the CAR is at a crossroads. The country has made significant progress, presenting a genuine opportunity to extend the rule of law and state authority across



all three branches of Government. However, this extension must be anchored in justice, human rights, and accountability.

Mr. Antonio Egidio DE SOUSA SANTOS, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of the African Union's Mission for the CAR and Central Africa (MISCA)

The Special Representative expresses his gratitude to the HRC for convening this important dialogue, which addresses fundamental issues for the CAR, including decentralisation, local governance, development, and human rights protection.

He notes that the CAR has historically suffered from cycles of exclusion, instability, and regional marginalisation, largely due to excessive centralisation of governance structures. However, the 2020 adoption of the Law on the Organisation and Functioning of Territorial Collectivities marked a significant step forward not only for administrative and territorial reorganisation, but also for the development of regions and democratic governance. The upcoming local elections will be crucial in strengthening local governance, fostering civic participation, and enhancing government accountability.

The Government's commitment to **decentralisation and grassroots democracy** is evident in its efforts to elect local officials who will help implement the National Development Programme. These initiatives must be consolidated to ensure lasting stabilisation. The African Union (AU) fully supports the CAR's decentralisation strategy, as it promotes equitable access to resources and improved governance. The Government has also undertaken reforms to expand access to justice, including the development of a National Human Rights Defence Policy.

Progress in **accountability and the fight against impunity** has been notable, with new judicial officers and security forces being trained and deployed. This has strengthened legal, institutional, and operational frameworks within the national judicial system. Similarly, interior security forces have been recruited and stationed across the country, reaffirming state authority and fostering stability. With the gradual improvement of security conditions, armed groups have been urged to remove illegal roadblocks, stop interfering with administrative deployment, and facilitate state restoration.

In closing, the Special Representative emphasizes that human rights, decentralisation, and local governance must go hand in hand with efforts to strengthen institutions, improve transparency, and promote civic participation. In his view, decentralisation is both a social and political project for inclusion and reconciliation.

Ms. Chantal SOLANGE TOUABENA, Chairperson of the African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN) in the CAR and Coordinator of the Women's Consortium of CSOs and the CSOs' Platform on Penitentiary Reforms

Ms. Chantal SOLANGE TOUABENA provides an overview of the CAR's demographic and socio-economic landscape, highlighting that the country has a population of approximately six million people, 50.2% of whom are women. While the CAR possesses significant natural resources, these resources have also made it a target for external exploitation and conflicts.



Decades of military and political conflicts have severely impacted social cohesion and solidarity within communities, leading to high casualties and widespread displacement. **Sexual violence** remains a major concern, though reliable data on the number of victims is lacking. However, reports indicate that a significant number of women and girls experience sexual violence daily.

She acknowledges the international community's contributions to stabilisation efforts and welcomes constitutional reforms prioritising peace and security. The National Policy for Decentralisation and Territorial Development, adopted in April 2024 with UNDP's support, represents a **significant step towards democratic governance** by empowering local authorities and communities.

Despite this progress, **security concerns** persist, particularly in the northern and southern regions, where armed groups continue to commit massacres and destroy villages. Additionally, the CAR's borders remain porous, making it difficult to prevent incursions by external actors.

The challenge of **women's participation in decision-making** is still ongoing. While the Law on Gender Parity was passed in 2016, it has not been fully implemented. While noting that decentralisation efforts have progressed, structural deficiencies hinder their effectiveness, explaining that the Government has 'put the cart before the horse' by moving forward without establishing the necessary institutional framework. **Civil society mobilisation** is essential for fostering government accountability and strengthening relations between state authorities and citizens. The new electoral law, which introduces zipper lists, offers a significant opportunity for women's representation in municipal elections.

However, **women face serious risks** when participating in elections. In past elections, female candidates and voters have been kidnapped, held hostage, and subjected to sexual violence simply for exercising their political rights. Therefore, she calls on the Government and the international community to address these security risks and ensure the protection of women in the upcoming elections. In closing, she reaffirms that peace and democracy in the CAR cannot be achieved without the full and safe participation of women.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ms. Chantal SOLANGE TOUABENA appeals to the CAR's international partners to maintain their support, emphasizing that despite progress, significant challenges remain, particularly regarding human rights violations and insecurity. She advocates for enhanced support for women preparing to stand in local elections, noting that while women are willing to participate, capacity-building efforts are essential to ensure meaningful engagement. She also underscores the Government's commitment to facilitating elections, while expressing deep concern over ongoing cases of rape and sexual violence against women and children.

Ms. Valentine RUGWABIZA expresses gratitude to the Human Rights Council and welcomes its recognition of the significance of the upcoming local elections. She highlights that the CAR has not held local elections for over 40 years, and this presents an opportunity to strengthen democratic governance. However, she warns of the risks associated with regional conflict spillover, particularly from Sudan and South Sudan. While the CAR was once a source of insecurity for the region, it has now become a relatively stabilized force. Nonetheless, increased efforts are needed to secure borders, reassert state authority, and strengthen justice



mechanisms. She emphasizes that lasting peace cannot be achieved without addressing impunity.

Mr. Yao AGBETSE thanks the delegations and notes that with 2025 being an electoral year, maintaining open channels of communication is vital for ensuring peaceful elections and fair participation. The IE stresses the importance of combating hate speech and misinformation, calling on the High Council of Communications to fulfil its regulatory role over both conventional and digital media. Regarding international support, the IE identifies key areas for assistance, including the following:

- Implementing the CAR's National Human Rights Policy and the 2023-2027 Action Plan.
- Supporting priority projects within the CAR's 2024-2028 National Development Plan.
- Capacity-building for security forces, including training and equipping them to protect civilians.
- Assisting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in its work with national judicial institutions.

In closing, the IE urges the international community to support the decentralization and territorial development project, as this would ensure the provision of basic services across the country.

Mr. Arnaud DJOUBAYE ANAZENE reflects on the CAR's progress since 2016, noting that while the country was previously in a much worse state, significant advancements have been made, thanks in part to MINUSCA and technical assistance from international partners. While acknowledging these achievements, he emphasizes the urgent need to focus on decentralization, as peace and development must go hand in hand. He urges the international community not to overlook the CAR, stressing that the implementation of the National Development Programme is essential for continued progress. He concludes with a message of unity, stating that collective efforts can provide hope to the people of the CAR.

Ms. Maarit KOHONEN SHERIFF underscores that the upcoming elections are a crucial opportunity to enhance inclusivity and reinforce state authority. However, she points out that civic space remains restricted due to legal barriers, hate speech, and incitement to violence - issues that the Government must address with international support. She emphasizes the importance of empowering women as both voters and candidates, advocating for capacity-building initiatives, media engagement to amplify women's voices, and mentorship programmes where women parliamentarians from other countries guide potential candidates in the CAR. Additionally, she stresses the need for international backing in community awareness campaigns and gender-based violence prevention efforts, including support for survivors. She concludes by calling for unified international support for the CAR's Government, ensuring that elections are conducted in line with human rights principles.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Norway, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomes the adoption of a law on the protection of human rights defenders, recognising it as a significant step forward. However, concerns remain regarding the ongoing violations of human rights by various actors, which



continue to take place in a broader context of impunity. The delegation calls on the Government to ensure that the upcoming elections do not result in the exclusion, discrimination, or marginalisation of any group. In this regard, Norway raises a key question about how the international community could support the Government in ensuring the full, effective, and meaningful participation of women in the electoral process, including as candidates for office.

Morocco reaffirms its unwavering support for the CAR authorities and highlights its contribution to MINUSCA through the deployment of peacekeepers. The delegation commends the measures taken by the Government to organise elections, viewing them as a unique opportunity to advance decentralisation, enhance civic participation, and reinforce state authority across the country. Furthermore, Morocco welcomes the adoption of the National Development Plan for Lasting Peace, recognising its potential to promote sustainable development and stability. The delegation stresses the importance of continued engagement from the international community, calling for greater efforts to mobilise resources in support of the CAR's stabilisation and development.

Malawi expresses concern over the continued human rights violations in the CAR despite the positive steps taken. The delegation highlights ongoing issues such as sexual violence, forced labour, torture, and cruel and degrading treatment, stressing the need for continued stabilisation missions to address these abuses. Malawi also underscores the importance of implementing the judgments delivered by the Special Criminal Court and ensuring the continued work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to strengthen accountability and advance the country's transitional justice efforts.

Togo commends the Government for its efforts to promote and protect human rights. The delegation welcomes the adoption of the historic law on the protection of human rights defenders in December 2024, recognising it as a crucial step forward. Togo further praises the CAR's National Development Plan, viewing it as a key tool for achieving lasting peace and stability. The delegation also acknowledges the Government's commitment to holding elections this year, stressing that the upcoming local elections would be a pivotal moment in the country's future. These elections represent an opportunity to consolidate the progress achieved thus far. However, Togo emphasises that technical and financial partners need to support the CAR in order to ensure that the country's objectives can be fully realised.

Egypt welcomes the ongoing dialogue and reaffirms its support for the CAR Government's efforts to implement the resolution on technical assistance in human rights. The delegation notes that in January 2024, Egypt encouraged the CAR authorities to continue their cooperation with UN initiatives aimed at strengthening technical capacity and institution-building. Egypt reaffirms its belief that sustained engagement with international mechanisms will be vital for the CAR's continued progress in human rights and governance.

Belgium welcomes the CAR's Government's commitment to organising elections, viewing them as an essential step in the country's democratic transformation. The delegation encourages the authorities to take further measures to strengthen civic space, ensuring that civil society and the media can operate freely and that women can participate in the electoral process safely. Belgium expresses deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in the CAR and the ongoing attacks by armed groups against civilians. It reaffirms its strong support for the work of the Special Criminal



Court and underscores the importance of judicial independence and the protection of human rights defenders. In light of the upcoming local elections, Belgium asks what measures should be taken to ensure that the elections contribute to peace and reconciliation. It also asks what role should the international community play in supporting this process.

While acknowledging the gradual reduction in conflict in the CAR, the **Russian Federation** expresses concern over the continued activities of illegal armed groups targeting the civilian population. An aggravating factor is the instability in neighbouring states, particularly Sudan, which is increasing the number of refugees crossing into the CAR. This risks creating a breeding ground for recruitment by existing illegal armed groups, further exacerbating the country's already fragile security situation. Russia stresses the urgent need to strengthen CAR's borders, curb contraband, and prevent the illegal trade of precious materials, which are fuelling instability. The delegation calls for a comprehensive and coordinated approach from the international community, while cautioning against the use of human rights mechanisms to excessively criticise national authorities. Instead, these mechanisms should focus on providing technical assistance and capacity-building to enable the CAR to achieve self-sustained development.

China expresses appreciation for the CAR's Government's efforts, particularly in promoting domestic peace and expanding access to economic and educational services. The delegation emphasises the importance of 'African solutions for African challenges' and stresses that any technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives should be aligned with the wishes of the CAR's Government and its population. China reiterates its longstanding position against the use of human rights as a pretext for interfering in a country's internal affairs. Nevertheless, it encourages UN agencies to continue playing an active role in CAR's stabilisation, disarmament, and development efforts. In this regard, China reaffirms its commitment to accelerating the implementation of various initiatives under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and pledges continued assistance to support CAR's sustainable development and human rights protection.

Cameroon commends the CAR's Government for its efforts in addressing human rights challenges despite persistent security concerns. It recognizes the progress made in implementing peace accords, while emphasizing that ongoing tensions and insecurity necessitate greater international engagement. In particular, Cameroon highlights the importance of increased technical assistance, capacity-building, combating impunity, and promoting sustainable development. The delegation also welcomes the close cooperation between the CAR, the African Union, the United Nations, and other international organizations in addressing the needs of civilian populations.

The **United Kingdom** welcomed the CAR's continued collaboration with the IE and recent legislative and judicial reforms, including laws on human rights defenders, amendments to the criminal code, and efforts to strengthen judicial independence. However, the UK expresses deep concern over the rise in atrocities committed by militias, which are responsible for a 26% increase in human rights violations, as documented in the UN Secretary-General's latest report. The UK urges the Government to investigate these militias and incorporate them into a formal Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programme to prevent further insecurity. Additionally, the UK raises concerns over external interference in CAR's electoral



processes, specifically pointing to alleged attempts by Russian state-backed proxies to influence upcoming elections. The delegation stresses the need for free, fair, and transparent elections and poses a critical question on how the CAR could expand state authority while ensuring the inclusion of signatories of the political agreement.

Venezuela underscores the importance of the CAR's cooperation, particularly in relation to its engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It reaffirms that Item 10 of the Human Rights Council's agenda should be implemented based on constructive dialogue and genuine cooperation, respecting the sovereignty and consent of the country concerned without conditionalities. Venezuela encourages the CAR to continue advancing its peace and reconciliation efforts with the technical assistance it requires.

Ireland encourages the CAR to sustain efforts toward the peace process while addressing humanitarian needs. The delegation expresses concern over continued conflict-related sexual violence committed by various actors and emphasizes the need of transparent investigations and prosecutions as a prerequisite for lasting peace. Ireland also highlights the significance of the August elections as a key moment to enhance women's political participation. Ireland asks how the international community could best support the CAR in ensuring that the 2025 elections are free, fair, and transparent.

Gabon expresses gratitude to the IE and the panellists, thereby reaffirming its commitment to peacebuilding by deploying troops within MINUSCA. The delegation reiterates Gabon's zero-tolerance policy on conflict-related sexual violence, which has influenced its repatriation programme to prevent recurrence. Gabon welcomes international recognition of the CAR's efforts and reaffirms its continued support for the country's peace and stability initiatives.

Views Expressed by Inter-Governmental Organizations

The **European Union (EU)** acknowledges the progress made by the CAR's Government in meeting the needs of the population and in advancing the fight against impunity. However, it underlines that serious challenges remain, particularly in relation to human rights violations committed against women and children. Civilian populations continue to bear the brunt of abuses perpetrated by armed groups, a situation that remains deeply concerning. The EU reaffirms its commitment to supporting MINUSCA, particularly through its documentation efforts, and highlights its own role in the country through its presence via the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission. Additionally, the EU welcomes the work of the Special Criminal Court in advancing transitional justice and combating impunity. It also calls on all parties to fully implement the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the Rwanda Roadmap. Finally, the EU delegation commends the Government's progress in disarmament and reintegration efforts, which aligns with MINUSCA's recommendations and contributes to greater security and stability in the country.

UNICEF acknowledges the improvements in the human rights situation in the CAR but emphasises that the country remains fragile due to persistent violence, climate-induced crises, and institutional instability. These challenges disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of the population, particularly women and children. UNICEF reports that, in 2025, 2.4 million people - amounting to 40% of the country's population - require humanitarian assistance,



with children making up half of those in need. Furthermore, UNICEF notes a significant increase in violations against children in 2024 compared to the previous year, particularly in relation to the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The use of explosive weapons has also contributed to a rise in child casualties. Given these concerning trends, UNICEF calls for greater accountability for violations against children and emphasises the urgent need for protective policies, including increased access to education. The delegation urges the international community to provide timely and effective funding for the humanitarian response and for essential child protection programmes.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The **Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Association** acknowledges the CAR's commitment to peace, as demonstrated through its signing of a peace accord and roadmap. The Association highlights the urgent need for rehabilitation programmes for former child soldiers and emphasizes the necessity of international support in ensuring accountability. Furthermore, it cautions against an exclusionary interpretation of patriotism, noting that such an approach risks marginalization. The Association calls for greater attention to the 'Patriotic Pact' it has drafted, which seeks to foster inclusive national unity.

Interfaith International expresses gratitude to the IE and recognizes the CAR's efforts to strengthen the rule of law despite ongoing security and economic challenges. However, the organization underscores the chronic insecurity faced by civilians due to persistent violence and the ongoing humanitarian crisis, including widespread sexual violence. Interfaith International also highlights the limited reach of transitional justice mechanisms and calls for a more predictable, human rights-based approach from the international community. Interfaith International asks how to ensure the effective participation of victims and local communities in the transitional justice process, particularly regarding reparations and reconciliation.

The **Human Rights Research League** raises alarm over the enduring humanitarian crisis in the CAR, which has significantly increased displacement and restricted access to livelihoods. The League reports that 37% of the population remains extremely vulnerable, with humanitarian assistance alone insufficient to restore well-being. Additionally, more than one in five individuals have been displaced due to persistent violence. The League expresses grave concern over continued sexual violence and other violations of IHL, stressing that impunity fuels ongoing violence. It urges the CAR, its neighbouring states, and the international community to allocate necessary resources to combat impunity and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO) emphasizes that the upcoming elections present a crucial opportunity to restore the rule of law in the CAR. RADDHO underscores the importance of engaging various international and regional partners to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. Furthermore, RADDHO calls for increased human and financial resources to support the elections and urges UN member states, along with international and regional communities, to provide urgent assistance in addressing food security challenges.

The **International Bar Association (IBA)** expresses deep concern over the prevalence of gender-based violence, conflict-related sexual violence, and the ongoing discrimination and



marginalization of women. Despite the long-standing nature of these issues, the IBA notes that the response has remained inadequate. It calls upon the Human Rights Council to strengthen accountability measures, support investigative efforts, and ensure the provision of psychological support to survivors.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

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