

Human Rights Council – 43rd session

High-level Interactive Dialogue on human rights situation in the Central African Republic

18 June 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Independent Expert for his update.

We commend progress by the CAR Government in bringing to justice the perpetrators of human rights abuses, and progressing investigations of potential war crimes.

Following the signing of the Peace Agreement in February 2019, much remains to be done to safeguard the country's progress. We call on the CAR Government to hold violators of the Peace Agreement to account; advance plans to establish a Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission as mandated; and fully operationalise the special mixed security units.

Australia also urges renewed efforts to ensure safe, unhindered humanitarian access and operations across the country. Despite improved security overall, remaining areas of instability are resulting in threats and attacks against local and international humanitarian workers, and other civilians.

We join the Independent Expert in encouraging action by the CAR Government to protect freedom of speech. This will be vital in ensuring free, fair, and inclusive political and electoral processes.

We ask what measures are in train to consolidate good governance and strengthen democratic institutions ahead of scheduled elections in December 2020?

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