

Implementation Assistance Notice

This note contains information aimed at assisting Member States in the implementation of the arms embargo on the Central African Republic.

Brief History of Arms Embargo

There are currently three distinct exemptions to the arms embargo, contained in resolution 2399 (2018), as renewed by resolution 2488 (2019): exemptions subject to the approval of the Committee; exemptions requiring an advance notification to the Committee; and standing exemptions for which no prior approval from or notification to the Committee is required.

Since its establishment in 2013, the arms embargo had been modified on a number of occasions by the Security Council. In 2015, following a request from the Government of the Central African Republic to ease the embargo and a visit of the Chair of the Committee to the country, the Committee amended its Guidelines to allow the Central African authorities to submit arms embargo exemption requests and notifications, as a confirmation of the Committee's support to the Central African authorities in the reform of the security sector.

In January 2016, with its resolution 2262 (2016), the Security Council eased the arms embargo as regards the provision of non-lethal materiel and operational and non-operational training to the Central African authorities; which were no longer subject to an exemption procedure, and instead, a notification in advance.

With the adoption of resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#) on 12 September 2019, the Council further eased the embargo as regards the provision of arms and ammunition with a caliber equal to or less than 14.5mm to the Central African authorities; now these weapons are subject to a notification in advance instead of an exemption request. For other types of weapons and ammunition (i.e., those above 14.5 mm), the Central African authorities will still be able to benefit from the existing exemption request procedures under the sanctions regime to meet more specific needs.

Also by resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#), the Council also eased the embargo as regards the provision of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance or training,

There are no exemptions under the arms embargo for non-State armed groups in the Central African Republic, which are all prohibited from receiving weapons from any source.

Overview of Arms Embargo and Exceptions

Under the relevant Security Council resolutions, most recently resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#), all Member States are required to take the necessary measures prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the Central African Republic, from or through their territories or by their nationals, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical assistance, training, financial or other assistance, related to military activities or the provision, maintenance or use of any arms and related materiel, including the

provision of armed mercenary personnel whether or not originating in their territories; with the following exceptions:

- Supplies intended solely for the support of or use by MINUSCA and the European Union training missions deployed in the CAR, French forces under the conditions provided by paragraph 69 of resolution 2448 (2018), and other Member States' forces providing training and assistance as notified in advance to the Committee;
- Supplies of non-lethal equipment and provision of assistance, including operational and non-operational training to the CAR security forces, including state civilian law enforcement institutions, intended solely for support of or use in the CAR process of security sector reform (SSR), in coordination with MINUSCA, and as notified in advance to the Committee;
- Supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance or training, as notified in advance to the Committee;
- Protective clothing, including flak jackets and military helmets, temporarily exported to the CAR by United Nations personnel, representatives of the media and humanitarian and development workers and associated personnel, for their personal use only;
- Supplies of small arms and other related equipment intended solely for use in international-led patrols providing security in the Sangha River Tri-national Protected Area and by armed wildlife rangers of the Chinko Project and the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park to defend against poaching, smuggling of ivory and arms, and other activities contrary to the national laws of the CAR or the CAR's international legal obligations, as notified in advance to the Committee;
- Supplies of weapons with a calibre of 14.5 mm or less, and ammunition and components specially designed for such weapons, to the CAR security forces, including state civilian law enforcement institutions, and intended solely for support of or use in the CAR process of SSR, as notified in advance to the Committee;
- Supplies of other arms and related lethal equipment to the CAR security forces, including state civilian law enforcement institutions, and intended solely for support of or use in the CAR process of SSR, as approved in advance by the Committee;
- Other supply, sale or transfer of arms and related materiel, including related ammunition and spare parts, or provision of assistance or personnel, as approved in advance by the Committee.

Notifications and Requests for Approval

Member States should ensure that notifications and requests for advance approval, where necessary as indicated above, contain all relevant information.

For transfers of items, this information consists of the following: the details of the manufacturer and supplier of the equipment; a description of equipment including the type, calibre, quantity as well as serial numbers and/or lot numbers or the proposed date(s) when the serial numbers and/or lot numbers will be provided in the case of an exemption request; the proposed date(s) and place(s) of delivery; the mode(s) of transport and itinerary of shipments; and the purpose of use and end user, including the intended destination unit in the CAR security forces as well as the intended

place of storage; further stresses the importance of a specific focus on detailed explanations for how the requested equipment will support SSR

Where Committee approval is required (vis-à-vis an exemption request), a transfer may proceed only after the Committee has provided its approval.

Where notification is required, a transfer may proceed after the Committee was notified at least 20 days in advance.