

CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIONS



Let's shape our future together

An initiative of the Central African United Front
Rassemblement Unitaire



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What's it all about?

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- The collapse of foreign policy

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- Economy and society
- Security and defence
- African integration and international relations

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Let's shape our future together



1.

The Central African People's Consultations

An initiative for reviving the Central Africans' capacity for civic innovation, for the benefit of their country

The political, economic and social impasse in which our country, the Central African Republic, currently stands does not represent an inevitable fate, and is certainly not an insurmountable barrier.

Our history – from the protests of 1979 to the Bangui Forum, via, in particular, the Coordinating Committee for the Convening of the National Conference (4CN) and the Grassroots Popular Consultations (GPC) – teaches us that, at such times, the solution lies in the collective ingenuity of the Central African people, who alone are capable of charting a course of progress for the country we share.



The Central African United Front believes that today, more than ever, it is necessary to give Central Africans the opportunity to come together in order to overcome division, and to give them a voice once again so that they may express their true aspirations and chart their own paths for the future.

That is why we are taking up this initiative to organise People's Consultations, which we see as the primary instrument of the Central African Renaissance, including with a view to contributing to the African Renaissance.

The purpose of the present document is to set out reasons for this initiative and to outline the framework of those consultations.



2.

Why does this initiative stand out?

Our country, the Central African Republic, is currently collapsed and deadlocked

2.1. The collapse is widespread: it affects all sectors

2.1.1. The Collapse of Democracy and the Rule of Law

Our country, the Central African Republic (CAR), has been on a downward trajectory for many years, a situation about which various key players in the country, including the Central African United Front, have repeatedly sounded the alarm.

The processes set in motion have led to the current situation, characterised mainly by:

- The capture of the state and the seizure of political power in the CAR by predatory foreign groups, foremost among which is the Wagner Group, now known as Africa Corps;
- The subjugation of all state institutions (the National Assembly, the Constitutional Court, the National Electoral Authority, the judiciary, etc.) to the benefit of a tiny group and a return to the absolute cult of personality;
- The destruction of the multi-party system and a de facto return to a one-party state, achieved through the subversion of democratic procedures: rigged elections, widespread political corruption and violence;
- The abolition of all civil liberties and a brutal crackdown on political leaders and citizens, condemned to silence, imprisonment or exile, if not to enforced disappearance and death;
- The selective and discriminatory application of the law, at the whim of the monarch;
- Finally, the establishment of an unapologetic dictatorial regime for eternity.

This state of affairs regarding institutions, rights and freedoms has dramatic repercussions for the people. The fact is that they are subjected daily to arbitrary treatment and abuses of all kinds, perpetrated both by the country's institutions and authorities and by the various paramilitary militias that support them, including Wagner/Africa Corps: arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, enforced disappearances and murders.

In addition, the populations of entire prefectures, notably Upper Mbomou, Mbomou, Vakaga, Upper Kotto and Ouaka, are regularly targeted by armed attacks ordered by the authorities in Bangui, as part of what must be described as a covert war of reprisals against the civilian population.

2.1.2. The economic and social collapse

Our country's economic and social situation at the start of 2026, as reflected in World Bank indicators, also bears witness to this failure; a debt-to-GDP ratio that has skyrocketed (65% of GDP), whilst the country remains among the lowest-ranked in terms of the Human Development Index (191st out of 193 countries); 70% of the population living in extreme poverty; 1,100,000 Central Africans still internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries; 90% of the population without electricity; barely 3% of roads paved, etc.

Behind these figures lies a life of misery for the population, even in the capital: no drinking water, no electricity, poverty wages and endemic unemployment, a staggering rise in the price of basic commodities (food and fuel, for example); basic social services (hospitals, clinics, schools, etc.) are nearly non-existent.

The situation described above is the result of a clear lack of vision and planning, but also of an economic governance system whose sole principle is exploitation for the benefit of those at the head of the state and their mafia-like foreign backers: systematic embezzlement of public funds and assets as well as international aid, large-scale plundering of surface and underground resources...

2.1.3. The collapse of foreign policy

Under the false pretence of sovereignty, the government in Bangui has for more than 10 years pursued a foreign policy lacking both vision and direction. Driven primarily by a desire for self-preservation and the lure of financial gain, and furthermore under the sway of the regime's foreign backers (Wagner, Rwanda, the United Arab Emirates...), this policy oscillates between general instability, begging and aggression towards external partners, international institutions and neighbouring and brotherly nations alike.

The result is that the whole world no longer trusts our word, our signature, or, even less so, our integrity, whilst our country is being transformed, through the actions of the foreign backers of the Bangui regime, into a rear base for destabilising our neighbours: the DRC, Sudan, South Sudan and Chad.

Our country has thus abandoned the fundamental principles of friendly relations and peaceful cooperation between nations, as well as African brotherhood and unity.



In short, our Central African Republic today is a country that is not only at a standstill, but bankrupt and in crisis on every front: social, economic and political. It is a society that is more divided than ever, where poverty reigns, where violence against Central Africans is rife at every level, and where only anti-values thrive. Worse still, the CAR as a land and as a country no longer belongs to the Central Africans, is no longer governed by them, and is in no way guided by their interests and aspirations.

2.2. A complete deadlock, as the result of the authorities' multifaceted mistrust of the Central African people

2.2.1. The divisive policies of the Central Africans

Divide and rule! The current regime has done its utmost to divide the Central African people. Its main tools are the stigmatisation and demonisation of anyone who does not share the views of those in power or who stands apart from the party-state that the Mouvement Coeurs Unis (MCU) has now become. "Enemy of peace", "enemy of the people", "foreign agent", "supporter of the CPC", these are just some of the labels used in the rulers' speeches to single out honest citizens, silence them, prosecute them and, ultimately, condemn them to exile or imprisonment. And this, whilst those who are the gravediggers of the Central African people and the country—from the leaders and members of armed groups to elements of the Wagner Group—are considered "partners of the government" or "partners for peace", with the right to sit in the Government, Parliament and the Presidency of the Republic.

This division has even been elevated, through the so-called Constitution of August 2023, to the status of a founding principle of our state, with the invention of the concept of "Original Central African" and the new provisions on dual nationality. The implementation of this text shows that there are now several categories of Central Africans, with differing rights and duties, some destined to lead the state and command others who are condemned to obey.

2.2.2. The policies of exclusion and marginalisation of Central Africans

The above-mentioned factors also result in the exclusion and marginalisation of large groups of Central Africans, including all those who cannot prove their "native Central African identity". They are unable to vote, stand for election, or hold high-ranking civil or military posts.

Added to this are de facto exclusions and marginalisations resulting from: the continued displacement of hundreds of thousands of Central Africans (400,000 people) or their status as refugees (700,000 people); the monopolisation of land and the economy by foreign supporters of the Bangui regime; mass unemployment; a lack of protection, including in the workplace; etc.

2.2.3. The removal of any possibility of peaceful civic action

There is also a deadlock because all avenues for peaceful political or civic action in the CAR have been shut down one by one: the suppression of free speech; a ban on all demonstrations except those organised by the regime; the closure of independent media; and opposition parties and civil society groups not subservient to the government being barred from accessing existing media outlets.

Finally, the right granted to citizens by the 2016 Constitution to challenge before the Constitutional Court any acts of the President of the Republic deemed contrary to the Constitution – a right whose exercise in 2022 led to the annulment of the mafia-like cryptocurrency scheme and the constitutional amendment – was simply abolished in 2023. This repeal follows the authorities' refusal to implement the Constitutional Court's decisions in the two cases cited. Central African citizens are thus now completely defenceless in the face of the regime's drift towards dictatorship and the resulting acts of oppression and squandering of national wealth.

2.2.4. The authorities' refusal to engage in any dialogue

CSince at least 2019, opposition political parties and civil society organisations – including organisations that are now members of the Central African United Front (notably Citoyens Debout et Solidaires, G-16 and CRT) and the United Front itself – have consistently called for inclusive political dialogue.

These calls were aimed to put an end to the shrinking of civic and political space, to political repression notably through the manipulation of the justice system, to the division of Central Africans and the exclusion of entire sections of the people, as well as to the climate of crisis generated by these factors. They thus called for the creation of a peaceful climate necessary for the organisation of inclusive, transparent and credible elections, as well as a refocusing of the country's politics on the vital needs of the population.

These repeated calls, the most recent of which were made by the Central African Unitary Front on the eve of the 2025 elections, have gone unheeded. Instead of genuine dialogue, the authorities in Bangui have consistently preferred hollow proclamations that are not followed up with action, and ultimately the rule of brute force.

Thus, the authorities in Bangui have methodically closed off every possible avenue for breaking the deadlock: Central Africans can no longer speak out on their country's politics without risking repression or death; all democratic channels for civic action have been shut down; meetings and demonstrations are banned; and the authorities have ruled out any dialogue with the nation's driving forces.



3.

The aim of the initiative

Giving Central Africans a voice so that they can shape their own future and that of their country, together

3.1. Meaning: People's Consultations for reconnecting with the democratic spirit of the 2015 Popular Grassroots Consultations

The Central African People's Consultations are, first and foremost, a declaration by us, as citizens of the Central African Republic, that misfortune is not inevitable in our country. They are also, and above all, a call to draw on the positive achievements of our history to bounce back.

Yet our history teaches us precisely that one of the most fundamental and democratic achievements is turning to the people when all other avenues are closed, as is the case today. The most recent expression of this achievement is found in our Constitution of 30 March 2016, which, in Articles 28 and 29, obliges every citizen or group of citizens, in the situation our country finds itself in today, to join forces with others "to thwart illegitimate authority". But it is found even more fundamentally in the "grassroots popular consultations" that gave rise to this 2016 Constitution.

These public consultations, organised in 2015 by the transitional government, enabled us to gather, in every province, town and village across our country, the views of Central Africans, their assessments of their country's current situation and, ultimately, their aspirations regarding governance in the future. They were thus based on the idea that the best way to achieve a lasting resolution to the crisis is to give the people a voice, by taking their views seriously and respecting them.

It is precisely because the current government has failed to respect these views that our country finds itself once again at an impasse today.

It is now up to us, the citizens, to reconnect with the virtuous side of our history and to revive this experience, which remains unique in Africa to this day.

[Access the Report on Popular Grassroots Consultations and other documents from the Bangui Forum](#)

3.2. Principles and values: Consultations guided and inspired by principles that need to be restored, in order to give concrete expression to the core values that underpin the way we live and act together

Designed to kick-start a process of Central African Renaissance, and thus to bring about the New Central African Society, these People's Consultations aim to give concrete form to and embody the following principles, which are regarded as the pillars of the CAR of tomorrow:

- **Inclusivity**

The People's Consultations are intended to be open to all Central Africans who wish to put an end to the decline of our beloved country and to contribute to the emergence of a New Central African Society. Particular attention will be paid to the voices of young people, women and vulnerable groups.

- **Dignity**

Restoring dignity to the Central African people within the framework of a renewed Republic is a central objective. This must be reflected from the very outset of the People's Consultations through the dignified expression and conduct of all participants, as well as through the observance of strict mutual respect amongst them. The requirement for dignity must also guide the overall organisation of the consultations.

- **Citizenship**

Spirit of citizenship must underpin all the work. This means that each participant must endeavour to prioritise the general interest of the country and its people in their contributions. They will also commit to respecting the diversity of opinions expressed and the general will that emerges from them.

- **Solidarity**

The People's Consultations are intended to be a tool for combating division and exclusion, and thus a forum for expressing the unity of Central Africans in the pursuit of a common goal.

- **Responsability**

The Consultations are also intended to be an opportunity to learn about individual and collective responsibility. The analyses and opinions shared must be guided by a concern for the effective transformation of Central African society. Similarly, each participant must commit to upholding the conclusions reached by the consultations.



3.3. Topics: Consultations aimed at revitalising the Central African Republic according to the aspirations of Central Africans in the key areas of national life

Just as our country's decline is evident in all areas of national life, the People's Consultations are essential for addressing any issue of national interest, conducting a shared assessment sector by sector, and proposing solutions in each area covered.

To ensure the process is clear and the results are organised effectively, four main areas have been identified from the outset.

These are as follows:

- Justice and the rule of law;
- Economy and society;
- Security and defence;
- African integration and international relations.

These broad areas will themselves be broken down into sub-themes, so as to cover the key political, economic and social challenges facing our country, according to the following outline:

Justice and the rule of law. *Judicial reform: justice for all across 623,000 km²; a professional, efficient, impartial and fair justice system. Political governance reform: legitimacy, accountability and relations with citizens. Administrative governance reform: public services (health, education, citizenship, etc.), transparency and good governance.*

Economy and society. *Economic recovery: focused on the three growth clusters (agriculture, mining and forestry). Vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship: particular emphasis on women and young people. Social advancement and cultural development: a society of values, arts and culture. Territorial equity: shared, territorially balanced development.*

Security and defence. *National defence framework. Missions of the defence and security forces (DSF) Status of the DSF: relations between the army, police and the nation.*

African integration and international relations. *Good-neighbourly policy. Sub-regional and continental economic integration. Action within international organisations. Diplomatic representation policy.*

3.4. Organisation: Open consultations conducted with respect for everyone's freedom and with a view to fostering the Central African public interest

• Participation terms and conditions

The People's Consultations are open to all Central Africans, whether they reside in the CAR or abroad, and regardless of the country or continent in which they live. Consequently, and to maximise participation, the consultation sessions will take place in three formats: *in-person meetings, virtual meetings, and written, audio and video contributions*. In-person meetings will take place will be held in any city and in any country wherever possible. Those who are unable to attend in person will be able to contribute via the virtual sessions. Participants may also choose to submit written, audio or video contributions.

• The coordination

The Central African Unitary Front sees its role in the process strictly as that of a mediator between Central Africans, a facilitator of their diverse views and a rapporteur of common positions. Consequently, it will be responsible for organising the meetings, ensuring freedom of expression for all whilst respecting one another, and will, at the end of the process, produce a report summarising the findings and proposals. It undertakes to assume full responsibility for the organisation and management of the process.

In practice, a coordinating committee will be set up by the Central African United Front within its own ranks. This committee may subsequently be expanded to take account of participation and any contributions towards organisational costs. The Committee may establish any contacts deemed necessary for the organisation and smooth running of the Consultations.

• Guarantees: commitments of the Central African United Front

The Central African United Front undertakes:

- *To guarantee freedom of expression for all participants*, strictly within the framework provided for these consultations. It will ensure that debates are conducted in accordance with rules inspired by the values and principles set out above. The content of these rules will be communicated at a later date.
- *To guarantee rigour and integrity in the reporting of results*. Results will be reported throughout the Consultations via a summary drawn up after each session. These will be compiled into a Final Report.
- *To guarantee the transparency of the process*. The overall process will be conducted with complete transparency. However, the Central African United Front will ensure the confidentiality of participants' personal data.



Let's shape our future together



4.

The expected outcomes

A CAR rebuilt by and for the Central African People

01

Justice & Rule of Law

A CAR model of peace and good governance, protecting its citizens and human dignity

02

Economy & Society

An enterprising CAR, reconciled with itself, where the Central Africans form the heart of economic and social progress

03

Security & Defence

A liberated and secure CAR, safe for its inhabitants, and contributing to regional and international security

04

Africa & International

A reliable and respected CAR, committed to African integration & playing a key rôle promoting balanced multilateralism

A revitalised Central African democracy & a Central African Republic that is finally a beating heart of Africa in the World



CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIONS

come and join us

*It's our
Shared Responsibility*



1000 km

