



MAIN STORIES

**Strategic Review
Meeting of the
Political Process**

Bitcoin

**Russian and Security
Developments**

Cameroon

**Humanitarian
Developments**

HIGHLIGHTS

- At the invitation of the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR), the Strategic Review Meeting of the Political Process in the CAR was held in Bangui on 4 June 2022, under the patronage of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra. A statement issued after the meeting said that the objective of the joint strategic review meeting was to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Luanda Joint Roadmap of 16 September 2021, and identify challenges on the basis of sectoral reports presented by Ministers of the Government and mobilise partners.
- Allies of Touadéra proposed changes to the constitution that could keep him running for office, prompting protests from the opposition.
- Following the opening of the first trial before the Special Criminal Court (SCC), the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim A. A. Khan welcomed this landmark moment and underlined the commitment of his Office to actively support the work of the SCC.
- The CAR has been ranked as the 155 most peaceful country in the world (1=most peaceful; 163=least peaceful) by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in its Global Peace Index (GPI), published in June 2022, rating its state of peace as very low.
- The United States (US) State Department said in its 2021 report on religious freedom, published in June 2022, that during the year, the government increased its control over territory with assistance from the Russia-backed Wagner Group amongst others. International and local observers stated that Muslim civilians were disproportionately targeted, and in some instances were killed indiscriminately, by government security forces and Wagner Group forces.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Touadéra, is unfazed by the recent price slump of crypto assets, indicating that the country's decision to adopt bitcoin remains the right option. Part of the government's project is a plan for CAR to tokenise its minerals. The World Bank said that it would not lend any support.
- The government is reportedly looking at new ways to contain rebel groups under the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) as Russian mercenaries and Central African Armed Forces (FACA) are failing to confront the rebels. Touadéra held a secret meeting in Damara, a town in Ombella-M'Poko, with some legislators, heads of some security services and leaders of the Russian mercenaries to discuss the issue.
- FACA has recently been deserting its positions due to the firepower of CPC and 3R rebels. Sources within Wagner say that despite efforts at training and retraining FACA soldiers, they are still unable to meet the challenges presented by the rebels.
- Opposition parties accused the government of secretly piling up arms with the connivance of its Russian allies in violation of a United Nations embargo on arms. A Central African delegation, led by Prime Minister Félix Moloua, was in Russia to attend the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) from 15 to 18 June 2022. Moloua and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reportedly discussed the increase in the number of Russian 'instructors' in the country and other measures to ensure security. According to Moloua, the establishment of a Russian military base in CAR "is not excluded".
- Russian mercenaries reportedly mounted a series of bloody attacks on artisanal mines in the lawless border zones between Sudan and CAR in an effort to plunder the region's valuable gold trade.
- Between January and May 2022, eight people, all civilians, were killed and 29 injured, in 31 incidents involving explosive devices.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Eleven soldiers and two rebels of the Alliance des Forces pour la Paix et le Développement (AFPD) were killed in a clash on 21 May in Nzako, situated in the Mbomou prefecture.
- On 27 May, two Wagner mercenaries were killed and four others wounded in an ambush by CPC rebels in Djouwe village, 58 km from Gaga in Ombella-Mpoko.
- On 13 June, FACA launched an operation against CPC rebel positions in Sébagoudé village, dislodging them.
- Fighting has been reported since 17 June in Ouanda-Djallé, in the Vakaga prefecture between FACA and CPC rebels. According to local sources, about 7 000 people have fled into the bush.
- The World Bank said in its June 2022 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) that the economy is projected to grow by 3.2% in 2022, an upward revision from the projected growth of 2.8% in its June 2021 GEP report.
- The African Development Bank (AfDB) said in its 2022 Africa Economic Outlook (AEO), published in May 2022, that GDP growth will rebound to 3.8% and 3.9% in 2022 and 2023.
- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) 2022 World Investment Report (WIR), published on 9 June 2022, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2021 was US\$30 million, down from US\$35 million in 2020.
- Cameroon and CAR agreed to demarcate several hundreds of kilometers of their shared border. The countries have competing claims to villages and towns along the porous, undefined border. The two sides also vowed joint efforts to stop violence along the border, where rebels have been hiding and launching raids for supplies.
- Ministers Sani Yalo, Pascal Bida Koyagbele, Fidèle Gouandjika and Rameaux Claude Bireau, as well as his chief of staff, Donatien Maleyombo, are reportedly in the forefront to convince Touadéra to break-off relations with France.

