



MINURCAT GUIDANCE

13 March 2009

Transfer of Authority from EUFOR to MINURCAT

On 15 March 2009, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) will take effective control of the international military presence in the two countries in accordance with the mandate set out in UN Security Council resolution 1861 (2009). The military component of MINURCAT, which has an authorized strength of up to 5,200 troops, will replace EUFOR, the European force in place since 15 March 2008.

The deployment and expansion of MINURCAT has been welcomed by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR).

Security Council resolution 1861 expanded MINURCAT's mandate to take over responsibilities previously undertaken by EUFOR, including:

- ◆ Contributing to the protection of civilians in danger, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons;
- ◆ Facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by helping to improve security in the area of operations;
- ◆ Protecting UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and ensuring the security and freedom of movement of its staff and UN and associated personnel.

The MINURCAT military component intends to continue providing a security umbrella in its area of operations and will complement the efforts of the UN-trained Chadian humanitarian police – the *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité* (DIS). The UN military presence will ensure continuity in eastern Chad by providing the same level of protection as that afforded by EUFOR.

MINURCAT also aims to help create the conditions required for the voluntary return of IDPs, including through launching the longer-term civilian reconstruction and development efforts necessary to support their return.

MINURCAT works closely with government authorities to improve the delivery of justice and conditions of detention in correctional institutions in its area of operation. In addition, a team of UN human rights officers monitors and reports on human rights violations in refugee camps and IDP sites in eastern Chad.

MINURCAT's deployment and expansion is a concrete expression of the international community's commitment to work to improve the security situation in eastern Chad and the north east of Central African Republic. The UN military operation is an important addition to overall international efforts to facilitate a solution to the Darfur crisis and its regional implications.

Several nations participating in EUFOR have expressed their willingness to continue their peacekeeping presence under the UN banner. Other nations, including additional African countries, are expected also to join the MINURCAT force. The Force Headquarters (FHQ) for MINURCAT is located in Abéché, eastern Chad.

Background

On 25 September 2007, the UN Security Council in its resolution 1778 approved the establishment in Chad and CAR, in concert with the European Union, of a multidimensional presence intended to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons.



This followed attacks by armed groups in eastern Chad, north-eastern CAR, and in the Darfur region of western Sudan, that had resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands of civilians, and which threatened their security and the conduct of the vast humanitarian aid operation sustaining them.

The Council decided that the multidimensional presence should include MINURCAT and an EU military component, or EUFOR. So far, MINURCAT's mandate has been:

- ◆ Promoting security and the protection of civilians primarily through selection, training, advising and support to the Chadian police,
- ◆ Monitoring and promoting human rights and the rule of law.

MINURCAT is currently composed of some 300 uniformed personnel – most of them police – plus some 325 international civilians.

For more information, please see: <http://minurcat.unmissions.org/>