Unofficial translation

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and in connection with the request of the Office AB/21/RUS/NV/201 of 23 July 2021 to provide comments to the draft report on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), has the honour to inform as follows.

Russian instructors are present in CAR upon the request of the legitimate authorities of the country, headed by President F. Touadéra. The relevant Committee of the UN Security Council, established by Resolution 2127 (2013), has been timely informed of their deployment.

It is well known that the tasks the Russian personnel are strictly implementing in the Central African Republic are related to training the military personnel of the Government army as well as providing consultation assistance to the national security forces.

Owing to the involvement of Russian instructors, the combat-readiness of the armed forces of CAR has significantly increased. The experience of Russian specialists contributes to enhanced effectiveness of the actions of the military personnel of that country as well as strengthened protection of the civilian population.

The report does not present any concrete evidence about the direct participation of Russian instructors in armed activities against illegal armed groups. Thus, the accusations raised in this document are baseless.

The Russian Side proceeds from the fact that the conduct of an investigation concerning persons who might have committed violations of international humanitarian law and their prosecution are an exclusive prerogative of the competent organs of the CAR.

The Russian Side expects that the Office and the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic will base its work on reliable information and not unfounded accusations and information from the media.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office the assurances of its highest consideration.