Final Communiqué

of the first statutory ministerial meeting of the Steering Committee of the support platform for solutions in the context of forced displacement related to the Central African Republic crisis

Under the aegis of His Excellency, Professor **Faustin-Archange TOUADERA**, President of the Central African Republic, Head of State, convening in Bangui, Central African Republic, this 31st October 2023, during the first statutory ministerial meeting of the Steering Committee of the support platform for solutions to forced displacement related to the Central African crisis,

We, Ministers or representatives of the Governments of the Central African Republic, the Republic of Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of the Sudan, and the Republic of South Sudan, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),

Pursuant to the provisions of the Yaoundé Declaration adopted on 27th April 2022 during the regional ministerial conference on solutions in the context of forced displacement related to the Central African Republic crisis held from 25th to 27th April 2022 in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon;

Recalling that that over 1.2 million Central Africans remain forcibly displaced in this protracted crisis, with nearly 490,000 internally displaced persons, and almost 750,000 refugees;

Recognizing the commendable commitment and willingness of asylum countries to protect, assist and search for solutions for Central African refugees for more than a decade;

Underlining the notable efforts by the Central African Republic to implement the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, signed in Bangui on 6th February 2019, and the recommendations of the "*Dialogue Républicain*'' held between 21st and 27th March 2022 to consolidate peace, stability, security and reconciliation;

Applauding all the signatory States of the Yaoundé Declaration for the progress made to implement their commitments in strengthening the institutional and normative framework for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and internally displaced persons; promoting the socio-economic inclusion, resilience and empowerment of refugees from the Central African Republic and host communities ; and to create conditions conducive to the sustainable return and the effective reintegration of forcibly displaced persons (returnees and internally displaced persons) in Central Africa Republic;

Acknowledging the need for increased cooperation between the Central African Republic and the main countries of asylum on security, humanitarian, peacebuilding and economic development issues, to find lasting solutions to forced displacement and contribute to the Central African Republic's sustainable

stability and development;

Recalling the provisions of the Global Compact on Refugees regarding context-specific, regional support platforms as an arrangement to achieve more equitable and predictable burden and responsibility-sharing with host countries and communities, and to support the search for solutions, notably through assistance to countries of origin;

Reaffirming our commitment to establish a regional solutions-oriented follow-up and coordination mechanism for countries affected by the Central African crisis, under the leadership of concerned states, and convinced that this mechanism will permit the operationalization of a solutions support platform, conducive to dialogue, consensus-building and partnerships in accordance with the provisions of the Yaoundé declaration;

Underlining the crucial role played by regional organizations, United Nations system agencies, development actors, financial institutions, donors, the private sector, civil society organizations, the international community, and forcibly displaced persons, in achieving the objectives of the solutions support platform in a spirit of shared responsibility and solidarity in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees;

Seizing the opportunity offered by the forthcoming Global Refugee Forum scheduled for 13th to 15th December, through a dedicated side event, to highlight the good practices, the achievements and the potential of the support platform for solutions, and the pledges made by states to achieve the objectives of the Yaoundé Declaration, and to mobilize the international community in pursuance of those objectives and Pledges;

Solemnly declare :

1. The launch and the promotion of the support platform for solutions in the context of forced displacement related to the Central African Republic crisis as the main framework for comprehensive responses to reinforce protection and the search for solutions for persons forcibly displaced by the Central African Republic crisis, with the support of the international community;

2. The approval of the terms of reference of the governance structure of said platform, the terms of reference of the core group of supporting partners, as well as the regional roadmap of the platform for the period from October 2-23 to December 2024, annexed to the present document;

3. The organization of the meetings of the steering committee on a rotation basis. The state willing to host a meeting may request so of the Chair.

Therefore, we:

Encourage States to finalize the processes of signing tripartite agreements relating to the voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees living in countries of asylum;

Thank the members of the Core Group of supporting partners for their commitment to mobilize political, technical, and financial support for protection and the search for solutions for forcibly displaced persons; and to engage a broader base of stakeholders in implementing the objectives of the Yaoundé Declaration;

Thank His Excellency, Professor **Faustin-Archange TOUADERA**, President of the Central African Republic, Head of State, for having reinforced the importance of this meeting with his presence and we also thank the Government and People of the Central African Republic for hosting this important gathering;

Decide to remain resolutely seized of this matter.

Bangui, 31 October 2023

For the Central African Republic

For the Republic of Cameroon

For the Republic of Congo

For the Democratic Republic of Congo

For the Republic of Sudan

For the Republic of South Sudan

For the Republic of Chad