**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of the Central African Republic**

**45th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**January 26, 2024**

**As delivered by Kendrick Baker**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from the Central African Republic.

We commend the Central African Republic for announcing local elections in October 2024 and call for a safe environment to facilitate robust election participation. We urge accountability for past security sector abuses.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that the Central African Republic:

1. Continue to support Special Criminal Court investigators, magistrates and support staff following the renewal of the court’s mandate.
2. Train police, gendarmes, prosecutors, and judges on best practices for investigating and prosecuting cases of gender-based violence, including sexual violence.
3. Prevent the integration of members of armed groups responsible for human rights abuses into the armed forces, police, or gendarmerie.

I thank you.