

STATEMENT by First Secretary Sean Lobo

**31th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Central African Republic**

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*Check against delivery*

President,

Norway welcomes the Central African Republic’s participation in the UPR[, creation of the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and commitment to revise the Criminal Code with the aim to abolish death penalty.]

[The security situation has detrimental effects on the human rights situation. We are particularly concerned about the increase of sexual and gender based violence.]

Norway recommends:

1. Adopt more effective measures to end impunity related to sexual and gender-based violence, including by rehabilitating the judicial infrastructure outside the capital.
2. Ensure a vetting mechanism of all security forces regarding possible human rights abuses and provide thorough training on compliance and promotion of human rights.
3. Ensure protection and assistance for displaced persons, in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
4. Strengthen the efforts to ensure the right to education and health services.

Thank you.