



**United Nations Regional Office  
for Central Africa**

## OVERVIEW

The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) is inaugurated in Libreville, Gabon, on 2 March 2011. This political office is the third attached to the UN Department of Political Affairs.

UNOCA is mandated to assist member States and sub-regional organizations in consolidating peace and preventing future conflicts.

Its establishment fulfills a long-expressed desire on the part of countries in the sub-region for the creation of such an office.

UNOCA covers the 10 Member States of the ECCAS :

Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.



## MANDATE

The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa will be headed by a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, and will have among its key functions:

- Cooperating with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) and other key partners and assisting them, as appropriate, in their promotion of peace and stability in the broader Central African sub-region;
- Providing “good offices” on behalf of the Secretary-General in countries of the sub-region, particularly in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Enhancing linkages in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the sub-region, with a view to promoting an integrated sub-regional approach and facilitating coordination and information exchange;



## PRIORITY AREAS

In carrying out its mandate, UNOCA will offer a range of assistance designed to help sub-regional States and other partners to prevent conflict and cooperatively manage possible sources of tensions. It will work to :



- Support conflict mediation and encourage the peaceful conduct of elections in the sub-region, as requested.
- Facilitate cohesion in the work of the UN in the sub-region, including in partnership with UNDP, UNODC, ODA, UN WOMEN and OHCHR on matters relating to good governance and human rights, transnational

organized crime, small arms as well as women and gender.

- Promote activities in partnership with the private sector and civil society networks.

- Coordinate UN efforts in the region against armed groups, such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).



- Undertake studies on sub regional challenges and threats.
- Provide technical assistance to increase early warning and mediation capabilities.

- Help to build the capacity of ECCAS and support its efforts to address multiple challenges facing the region.

- Encourage the formulation of a regional and integrated approach to resolve cross border insecurity and address the maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea.

- Undertake joint mediation effort.



## BACKGROUND

UNOCA's establishment is through an exchange of letters completed in August 2010 between the United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council.

Its budget was approved in December 2010 by the United Nations General-Assembly.

UNOCA has an initial two-year mandate, to be reviewed after 18 months.



Efforts continue to consolidate peace in the sub-region following a long history of instability and armed conflict.

With porous borders, political tension in one country often affects neighboring countries.

As a result, the sub-region faces various cross-border challenges such as arms trafficking, organized crime and armed groups with a record of human rights abuses

including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Elections have the potential to advance peace, but can also be sources of tension.

During 2011, elections are scheduled in numerous countries of the region.

## OTHER REGIONAL OFFICES

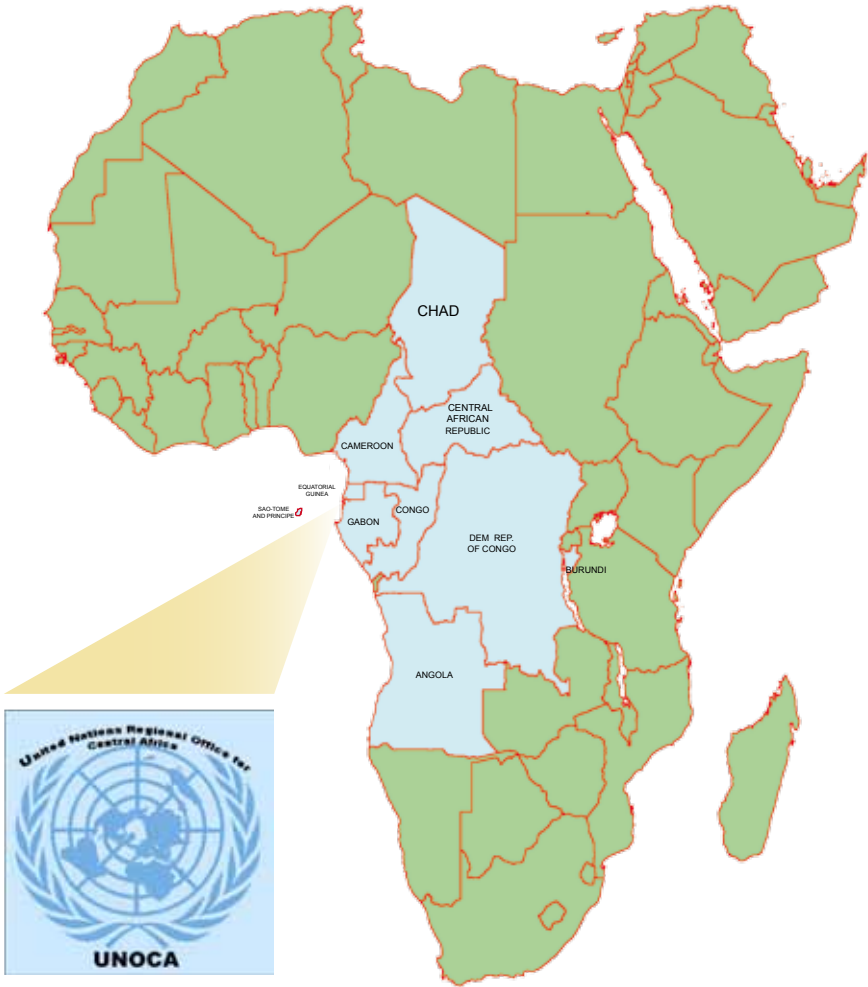
The UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) have demonstrated the value of preventive diplomacy in helping regions to manage shared problems, tensions and crises peacefully.

UNOWA has, for example, lent important support to Guinea's democratic transition in 2010.

All three regional Offices, are based on the principle that conflict prevention is a cost-effective approach to managing problems.

## UNOCA LOCATION

CITE DE LA DEMOCRATIE,  
VILLAS N° 55, 56 et 57  
Tél : (241) 741401 - Fax : (241) 741402  
BP 23773, Libreville-Gabon



**Angola,  
Burundi,  
Cameroon,  
Central African  
Républic,  
Chad,  
Congo, The Démocratic  
Républic of the Congo,  
Equatorial Guínea, Gabon  
and Sao Tome and Principe**