### 14. The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

#### Overview

In the period under review, the Security Council held 10 meetings, including three closed meetings with the troop-contributing countries, and adopted three resolutions and one presidential statement in connection with the situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion. The Council focused on the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), following a request by the President of Chad in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council. In addition, the Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINURCAT on the different stages of drawdown and options to address the challenges that arose from the withdrawal of MINURCAT.

The Council extended three times the mandate of MINURCAT to facilitate the smooth withdrawal of the Mission. The Mission was terminated on 31 December 2010.

**12 March to 25 May 2010: extension of the mandate of MINURCAT**

On 12 March 2010, by resolution 1913 (2010), the Council, considering the letter dated 3 March 2010 from the representative of Chad to the United Nations and the letter dated 11 March 2010 from the Secretary-General indicating that discussions on the future of MINURCAT were still ongoing, decided to extend the mandate of MINURCAT for three months, to 25 May 2010. The resolution also invited the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the discussions on the future of MINURCAT.

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235 Resolutions 1913 (2010); 1922 (2010); and 1923 (2010). For information on the mandate of MINURCAT, see part X, sect. I, “Peacekeeping operations”.
237 S/2010/129.
extend until 15 May 2010 the mandate of MINURCAT as set out in resolution 1861 (2009).

On 12 May 2010, the Council adopted resolution 1922 (2010), by which, considering the need to examine thoroughly the recommendations for a revised mandate of the Mission included in the report of the Secretary-General, it extended the mandate of MINURCAT until 26 May 2010.

On 25 May 2010, the Council adopted resolution 1923 (2010) by which it decided, inter alia, to extend the mandate of MINURCAT until 31 December 2010 and reduce its military component to 2,200 military personnel (1,900 in Chad and 300 in the Central African Republic). The Council took note of the commitment of the Government of Chad to assume full responsibility for the security and protection of the civilian population in eastern Chad, including refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities. The Council requested the establishment of a joint Government of Chad/United Nations High-level Working Group to assess on a monthly basis the situation on the ground with respect to the protection of civilians. It decided that the Mission would, inter alia, select, mentor, monitor, train, advise and facilitate support to elements of the Chadian Détachement intégré de sécurité.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Austria stated that his country had voted in favour of the resolution although it would have preferred a more gradual approach in the drawdown of MINURCAT, and the continuation of a protection of civilians mandate for the Mission. He trusted that the Government of Chad would do its utmost to fulfil its responsibilities and use all available capabilities for the protection of the population of eastern Chad.239

10 August to 14 December 2010: briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the drawdown of MINURCAT

On 10 August 2010, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General, which contained an assessment of the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, as well as progress towards the implementation of the mandate of MINURCAT. The Special Representative said that, as from 27 May 2010, the Government of Chad had taken over full responsibility for the security and protection of civilians and humanitarian workers in eastern Chad despite the complexities of the situation and logistical and other limitations. In view of the imminent withdrawal of MINURCAT, the Government of Chad and the United Nations had established a joint technical working group that had been working since June 2010 on a plan for the sustainability of the Détachement intégré de sécurité. Turning to the Central African Republic, he said that the lack of progress in combating security threats in the north-east was mainly the result of the weak presence of the country’s armed forces and their lack of logistical and other means. To redress that situation, he recalled the proposals of the Secretary-General, which provided for a United Nations peacekeeping force in the north-eastern region of the country, or for strengthening the armed forces of the Central African Republic complemented by the deployment of joint border patrol forces between the Government of the Central African Republic and those of Chad and the Sudan. 241 The representative of the Central African Republic stated that, with the end of the mandate of MINURCAT, there was a need to protect the future of the still precarious north-eastern region of the country, which could relapse into violence because of many destabilising factors such as transborder insecurity, banditry, pockets of rebellion, inter-ethnic conflict, the limited presence of defence and security forces and other emerging challenges. He said that his Government was working to reactivate agreements relating to joint transborder patrols and intended to increase the number of its armed forces in the north-east. 242 The representative of Chad reiterated his Government’s commitment to protecting civilians, especially refugees and internally displaced persons, until their voluntary return to their places of origin. That would involve the Détachement intégré de sécurité, which would need to be maintained and strengthened in terms of personnel, resources and the support for the Chadian security and defence forces.

With regard to ensuring security in the eastern part of

239 S/PV.6321, p. 2.
241 S/PV.6371, pp. 2-4.
242 Ibid., pp. 5-6.
Chad, he hoped the international community would pursue its efforts to ease his country’s burden.243

On 20 October 2010, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General.244 He informed members that the security situation in eastern Chad remained calm, owing in part to the presence of the Chadian-Sudanese Joint Border Monitoring Force, which would soon reach 4,000 personnel. However, the humanitarian situation in Chad continued to be of concern. With regard to the north-eastern Central African Republic, he stated that the security situation there remained volatile. Given the imminent withdrawal of MINURCAT, the alleged attacks by elements associated with the Lord’s Resistance Army were of concern.245 The representative of the Central African Republic stated that, at the end of the MINURCAT mandate on 31 December 2010, his country’s defence and security forces would ensure the changeover from the international forces to prevent a security vacuum in the north-east of the country. He said however that the Central African armed forces lacked the materiel and equipment to complete their mission to ensure security in the region, and requested the support of the international community to bolster the operational capacity of his country’s armed forces. In conclusion, he noted that the withdrawal of MINURCAT provided an opportunity for security sector reform in the Central African Republic.246 The representative of Chad announced the recent submission to the Council, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1923 (2010), of his Government’s plan to make permanent the Détachement intégré de sécurité, the implementation of which would ensure continued security in the refugee camps, displaced persons sites and surrounding areas, as well as the provision of security escorts.247

On 14 December 2010, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative, who introduced the Secretary-General’s final report on MINURCAT.248 He reported that all of the Mission’s administrative, management and operational responsibilities had been transferred to the Détachement intégré de sécurité under the supervision of United Nations police. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would assist the Government of Chad to sustain the Détachement intégré de sécurité through the creation of a UNDP-managed basket fund and operational assistance provided by UNHCR. He added that the Mission’s civilian programmes would be officially handed over on 21 December to the Government of Chad and the United Nations country team, marking the end of the activities of MINURCAT. Moreover, pursuant to resolution 1923 (2010), all MINURCAT uniformed personnel would have left Chad and the Central African Republic by 31 December. Lastly, he noted that the key findings of a lessons-learned study commissioned by MINURCAT included the necessity of securing and sustaining the consent of the host nations and the creation of a nationally owned, internationally supported security entity for the protection of civilians.249 The representative of the Central African Republic reiterated his appeal for the international community to support the national armed forces so that they could accomplish their mission.250 The representative of Chad stressed that the non-renewal of the mandate of MINURCAT was fully justified and welcomed the successful implementation of the agreement between Chad and the United Nations on the drawdown of the Mission from eastern Chad and the transfer of responsibilities to the Government of Chad.251

20 December 2010: termination of the mandate of MINURCAT

By a presidential statement of 20 December 2010, the Council, in the context of the expiration of the mandate of MINURCAT on 31 December 2010, commended the Mission for its contribution to providing security for refugees, internally displaced persons and humanitarian actors in eastern Chad and its efforts to enhance the capacity of the Détachement intégré de sécurité. The Council called upon Member States to ensure that the necessary donor funds were made available to meet the budgetary requirements of the Détachement intégré de sécurité, and urged the Government of Chad to assume full responsibility for

243 Ibid., p. 7.
244 S/2010/529.
245 S/PV.6406, pp. 2-4.
246 Ibid., pp. 4-5.
247 Ibid., p. 5.
248 S/2010/611.
249 S/PV.6449, pp. 2-3.
250 Ibid., p. 4.
251 Ibid., p. 5.
the sustainment of the Département intégré de sécurité as soon as possible. It requested the Secretary-General to report by the conclusion of the liquidation phase of the Mission on 30 April 2011 on the progress made in eastern Chad on the protection of civilians, and encouraged further cooperation between the Governments of the Central African Republic, Chad and the Sudan in order to secure their common borders. 252

252 S/PRST/2012/29.

29 April 2011: post-MINURCAT report

Pursuant to the presidential statement of 20 December 2010, in which the Council called upon the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in eastern Chad on the protection of civilians, the Secretary-General issued his report on the protection of civilians in Chad on 29 April 2011. 253 The report was discussed in informal consultations on 13 May 2011.

253 S/2011/278.

Meetings: the situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

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