

13. Peace consolidation in West Africa

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held five meetings on peace consolidation in West Africa and adopted one presidential statement concerning Guinea. The Council heard four briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), who presented the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office.²²⁵ The discussions were focused on the challenges facing the subregion, including security sector reform, economic issues, electoral assistance, human rights violations, drug trafficking and governance, and the role of UNOWA in addressing these issues.

12 January 2010 to 8 July 2011: briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

On 12 January 2010, the Council received a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWA. He noted that, while there had been improvements in West Africa in the areas of conflict prevention, recovery and peacebuilding, a number of challenges still remained, such as election-related instability, economic issues, natural disasters, security sector reform, drug trafficking and organized crime. He noted that UNOWA had established close cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union to address the challenge of establishing peace and security in the subregion. Referring to events in Guinea, he cautioned that the crisis there, if left unaddressed, could spill over to the subregion.²²⁶

On 13 July 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in his briefing, underlined the progress made in crisis prevention and peacebuilding in West Africa, amid daunting difficulties and persistent challenges. He highlighted as examples the peaceful conduct of national elections in Togo, as well as the continued commitment of the authorities of the Niger to the transition programme scheduled to end in March 2011. He spoke of efforts to address the crisis in Guinea and noted that the first round of presidential

elections was organized peacefully on 27 June 2010. On the role of women in consolidating peace and stability in the subregion, he reported that UNOWA had engaged women's associations and leaders in Guinea in support of the transition process.²²⁷

On 17 December 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, reporting to the Council, noted that the acute food crisis in the Niger had been efficiently curbed due to efforts by the Government of the Niger and the international community. He added that in Mauritania the Government had initiated a process of political dialogue with the opposition, and he commended the Guinean people and leaders on the election of a new legitimate President. He said that UNOWA would remain engaged in supporting democratic transition in the subregion. It would also continue to promote synergies within United Nations entities in the subregion with a view to enhancing the contribution of the United Nations to peace and development.²²⁸

On 8 July 2011, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who welcomed the peaceful end of the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, the outcome of the Guinean crisis, and the restoration of constitutional order in the Niger. He noted that the invitation extended to those three countries to attend the Group of Eight summit in Deauville and the political and financial decisions taken at that time was a strong signal of support from the international community. Stability was nevertheless fragile and many challenges remained, including chronic food insecurity in the Niger and the implementation of reforms already undertaken in Guinea and elsewhere. Referring to the crisis in Libya, he expressed concern about the impact of thousands of migrants from Libya returning to Mali and the Niger, and the significant increase in arms and explosives circulating in those countries and the Sahel in general. Instability associated with elections remained a significant challenge, especially considering the number of elections to be held in the coming few years; and the scourges of drug trafficking and organized crime must be fought if the actions taken to

²²⁵ For more information on the mandate of UNOWA, see part X, sect. II, "Political and peacebuilding missions".

²²⁶ S/PV.6256, pp. 2-3.

²²⁷ S/PV.6358, pp. 2-3.

²²⁸ S/PV.6455, pp. 2-3.

promote security and stability in the subregion were to produce results.²²⁹

16 February 2010: presidential statement concerning Guinea

On 16 February 2010, the Council adopted a presidential statement, by which it inter alia welcomed the recent positive developments in Guinea, and the appointment of a Prime Minister and designation of a National Unity Government. The Council welcomed the Joint Declaration of Ouagadougou of 15 January 2010, which provided in particular for the establishment of a National Unity Government led by a civilian Prime Minister designated by the opposition, the holding of elections within six months, the commitment that the Head of State of the transition, members of the Conseil national pour la démocratie

²²⁹ S/PV.6577, pp. 2-4.

et le développement, the Prime Minister, members of the National Unity Government and the defence and security forces in active service would not stand in the forthcoming presidential elections. It commended the work of the International Commission of Inquiry established by the Secretary-General to investigate the facts and circumstances of the events of 28 September 2009 in Guinea,²³⁰ and took note positively of the submission by the Commission of its report.²³¹ The Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to update it as appropriate on the situation on the ground, the potential implications for the subregion, the fight against impunity, the efforts of ECOWAS and the African Union, and the actions of the United Nations Secretariat.²³²

²³⁰ S/2009/556.

²³¹ S/2009/693.

²³² S/PRST/2010/3.

Meetings: peace consolidation in West Africa

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6256 12 January 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in West Africa (UNOWA) (S/2009/682)		Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWA	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWA	
6272 16 February 2010		Letter dated 28 October 2009 from the Secretary-General informing the Security Council of the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the events of 28 September 2009 in Guinea (S/2009/556)			S/PRST/2010/3

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
		Letter dated 18 December 2009 from the Secretary- General transmitting the report of the Commission of Inquiry (S/2009/693)			
6358 13 July 2010	Report of the Secretary- General on UNOWA (S/2010/324)		Special Representative of the Secretary- General	Special Representative of the Secretary- General	
6455 17 December 2010	Report of the Secretary- General on UNOWA (S/2010/614)		Special Representative of the Secretary- General	Special Representative of the Secretary- General	
6577 8 July 2011	Report of the Secretary- General on UNOWA (S/2011/388)		Special Representative of the Secretary- General	Special Representative of the Secretary- General	

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,²³³ 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.²³⁴ 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.

²³³ See [S/PV.6282](#), [S/PV.6307](#) and [S/PV.6443](#).

²³⁴ [S/2010/115](#).

The Council extended three times the mandate of MINURCAT to facilitate the smooth withdrawal of the Mission.²³⁵ 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 Nations²³⁶ and the letter dated 11 March 2010 from the Secretary-General²³⁷ indicating that discussions on the future of MINURCAT were still ongoing, decided to

²³⁵ Resolutions [1913 \(2010\)](#); [1922 \(2010\)](#); and [1923 \(2010\)](#).

For information on the mandate of MINURCAT, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

²³⁶ [S/2010/115](#).

²³⁷ [S/2010/129](#).