



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 November 2018

Excellency,

Please find enclosed a letter dated 14 November 2018 from the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, on the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/262 C, whereby the Assembly endorsed the establishment of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations.

In paragraphs 7 and 9 of resolution 72/262 C, the General Assembly had requested information on the functioning and composition of the Standing Principals' Group (SPG), as well as on the organizational structure of the four stand-alone divisions for Africa. The enclosed letter from the Secretary-General and its attachment respond specifically to those two requests.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. ESPINOSA".

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 November 2018

Dear Madam President,

I have the honour to update you on the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/262 C whereby the Assembly endorsed the establishment of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations. The Assembly further expressed its support for my vision for reforming the peace and security pillar and welcomed the whole-of-pillar approach to integrating political and operational responsibilities.

In paragraphs 7 and 9 of resolution 72/262 C, the Assembly requested information on the functioning and composition of the Standing Principals' Group (SPG), as well as on the organizational structure of the four stand-alone divisions for Africa. This letter responds specifically to those two requests.

The SPG will be an internal management mechanism to ensure coherence and unified decision-making between the two Departments and to facilitate the whole-of-pillar approach and cross-pillar coherence at Headquarters and in the field. I will chair the SPG with the participation of the Chef de Cabinet, the Under-Secretaries-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and for Peace Operations, as well as the Under-Secretaries-General of the Offices of Counter-Terrorism and of Disarmament Affairs. Other United Nations entities may be invited to participate on an as-needed basis and in an advisory capacity.

The SPG will meet quarterly, and on an ad hoc basis as required, to facilitate coordination, communication and coherence in the implementation of peace and security priorities; support managerial and leadership coherence at Headquarters and in the field; and resolve possible differences on political and operational issues. The SPG will not duplicate existing strategic-level decision-making mechanisms in the Secretariat but will be a practical and flexible forum to ensure coherence and unified decision-making on peace and security matters.

Her Excellency
Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
President of the General Assembly
New York

With respect to the structure of the divisions for Africa, I have taken into account the decisions of the General Assembly and the views expressed by Member States, including the existing regional delineations within the African Union, in preparing the organizational structure for the following four stand-alone Africa divisions:

- a. Northern Africa;
- b. Western Africa;
- c. Eastern Africa; and
- d. Central and Southern Africa.

I attach a paper setting out the specific responsibilities of each division, which cover the broad spectrum of the work of the United Nations with respect to early warning, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, mediation, sustaining peace and backstopping special political missions and peacekeeping operations.

I remain grateful for the strong political support received by Member States for my efforts to strengthen the Organization's ability to deliver on its mandates in the area of peace and security. I look forward to collaborating closely with you and with the membership as this effort proceeds.

I should be grateful if you would share this letter and its attachment with the members of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Com a sua solicitação de reunião
centralizada*



António Guterres

Information on the establishment and organizational structure of four stand-alone divisions for Africa within the single regional political-operational structure of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations, effective 1 January 2019

I. BACKGROUND

1. The General Assembly, through its resolutions 72/199 and 72/262 C, expressed its support for the vision of the Secretary-General for reforming the peace and security pillar. In particular, the General Assembly endorsed the establishment of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and welcomed the whole-of-pillar approach to integrating political and operational responsibilities. Moreover, the General Assembly "*decid[ed] to establish four stand-alone divisions for Africa, effective from 1 January 2019, within approved resources, and request[ed] the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-third session information on the organizational structure, taking into account views expressed by Member States*" (resolution 72/262 C, section III, operative paragraph 9).

This note is submitted pursuant to the General Assembly's request for information on the four stand-alone Africa divisions to be established within the single regional political-operational structure of DPPA and DPO, effective 1 January 2019.

II. ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FOUR STAND-ALONE DIVISIONS FOR AFRICA

2. Taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly and views expressed by Member States during their consideration of the Secretary-General's report (A/72/772), including on the existing regional delineations within the African Union, the four stand-alone divisions for Africa within the single regional political-operational structure of DPPA and DPO will cover:
 - a. Northern Africa
 - b. Western Africa
 - c. Eastern Africa
 - d. Central and Southern Africa
3. The four stand-alone divisions for Africa will combine the Africa I and Africa II Divisions of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Office of Operations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). They will be led by Directors at the D-2 level reporting to the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa. The divisions will have responsibility for the broad spectrum of United Nations work in early warning, prevention of conflict, peacebuilding, mediation, sustaining peace and backstopping of special political missions and peacekeeping operations in designated sub-regions or geographical areas. The structural integration of Africa-related staff under single directors and a single Assistant Secretary-General should allow for better integration of strategies and strengthen the link between country-specific and regional analysis and strategies.
4. The Integrated Operational Team (IOT) concept will be retained for backstopping peacekeeping operations as relevant, bringing together political, military, police, rule of law, support and other relevant capacities. The current DPA and DPKO teams backstopping UNOAU, which are already co-located, will be merged and placed under the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa.
5. As the Secretary-General underlined in his reports (A/72/525; A/72/72), the proposal is presented in a framework of existing mandates, functions and responsibilities. The overall workload of the four stand-alone Africa Divisions within the single regional political-operational structure of DPPA and DPO divisions will

therefore remain constant as compared to the workload of the combined Africa I and Africa II divisions of DPA and DPKO.

Northern Africa Division

6. The Division will cover the following 6 countries and 1 territory: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara. The Division will provide political and operational backstopping support (including advice and direction) to two special political missions and one peacekeeping operation as follows: 1) the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL); 2) the Office of the Personal Envoy for Western Sahara; 3) the United Nations Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).
7. The Division will be responsible for maintaining relations and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations in Northern Africa, including the Arab Maghreb Union, and other partners, as relevant

Western Africa Division

8. The Division will cover the following 15 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.
9. The Division will provide political and operational backstopping support (including advice and direction) to three special political missions and one peacekeeping operation as follows: 1) the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS); 2) the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC); 3) the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea – Bissau (UNIOGBIS); and 4) the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).
10. The Division will be responsible for maintaining relations and partnerships with regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations in Western Africa, namely the Economic Community of West African States, the Group of Five for the Sahel, the Mano River Union, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in West Africa, and other partners, as appropriate.
11. The Division will also cover regional and cross-cutting issues and mechanisms as mandated by the General Assembly and the Security Council, including the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. It will work closely with the Central and Southern Africa Division on issues affecting both the Western and Central Africa sub-regions, including system-wide efforts to address the scourge of Boko Haram and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

Eastern Africa Division

12. The Division will cover the following 14 countries: Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda.
13. The Division will provide political and operational backstopping support (including advice and direction) to three special political missions and three peacekeeping operation as follows: 1) the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur; 2) the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei; 3) the United Nations Mission in South Sudan; 4) the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia; 5) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan; 6) the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Madagascar.

14. The Division will be responsible for maintaining relations and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations in Eastern Africa, including the East Africa Community, the Indian Ocean Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other partners, as relevant.

Central and Southern Africa Division

15. The Division will cover the following 19 countries: Angola, Burundi, Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sao Tome and Principe, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
16. The Division will provide political and operational backstopping support (including advice and direction) to three special political missions and two peacekeeping operation as follows: 1) the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa; 2) the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region; 3) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General (Burundi); 4) the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic; and 5) the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
17. The Division will be responsible for maintaining relations and partnerships with regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations in Central and Southern Africa, namely the Economic Community of Central African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the International Organization of the Francophonie, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Lake Chad Basin Commission the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other partners, as appropriate.
18. The Division will also cover regional and cross-cutting issues and mechanisms as mandated by the General Assembly and the Security Council, including substantive support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa; the United Nations strategy to address the threat and impact of the Lord 's Resistance Army. It will work closely with the Western Africa Division on issues affecting both the Western and Central Africa sub-regions, including system-wide efforts to address the scourge of Boko Haram and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.