10. Central African region

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings and issued three presidential statements in connection with the situation in the Central African region.

Against the backdrop of the persistent crisis in the Central African Republic and its growing regional impact, the Council focused on the threat of terrorism posed by the expansion of Boko Haram terrorist activities into countries in the subregion. The Council condemned the attacks, war crimes and crimes against humanity carried out by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in the subregion. The Council also focused on the role of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and other United Nations missions in the region in dealing with armed groups, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea and piracy, and terrorism and transnational organized crime in the subregion.\(^{38}\) In an effort to improve international coordination against LRA, the Council called for UNOCA, United Nations missions and other relevant United Nations presences in the region to support the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy, and strongly encouraged the coordination efforts of regional organizations.\(^{39}\) In addition, the Council in 2015 focused on the political tensions arising from the electoral cycles affecting several countries in Central Africa.

During the period under review, the mandate of UNOCA was extended on 21 July 2015 for a period of three years, from 31 August 2015 until 31 August 2018, by virtue of a letter from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General.\(^{40}\)

\(^{38}\) S/PRST/2014/8; S/PRST/2014/25; and S/PRST/2015/12.

Meetings: Central African region

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Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security

11. Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

During the period under review, the Security Council held 46 meetings, including five closed meetings with troop-contributing countries, adopted 16 resolutions and issued four presidential statements in connection with the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council extended the mandates of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

The Council imposed sanctions measures on South Sudan and established a new Committee concerning South Sudan to be supported by a Panel of Experts, and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts assisting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan.

The Council heard several briefings by representatives of the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur and Head of UNAMID on the situation in Darfur and the work of the mission. On three occasions, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court briefed the Council on the activities of the Court since the Council had referred the Darfur situation to the Court in 2005. During her second briefing, in December 2014, citing the lack of progress with regard to arrests of Darfur suspects and obstacles to investigations, and despite reports of ongoing crimes, including alleged mass rapes committed in Thabit in Northern Darfur on 30 and 31 October 2014, the Prosecutor informed the Council that investigative activities in Darfur had been put on hold. By resolution 2148 (2014), the Council streamlined the operations of UNAMID. By resolutions 2173 (2014) and 2228 (2015), the Council extended the mandate of the mission for 10 and 12 months, respectively. By resolutions 2138 (2014) and 2200 (2015), the Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan for 13 and 11 months, respectively. On one occasion, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) briefed the Council at an open meeting.

41 For additional information on the mandates of UNAMID, UNMISS and UNISFA, see part X, sect. I, “Peacekeeping operations”.

42 For sanctions measures concerning South Sudan, see part VII, sect. III, “Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter”. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan and their respective Panels of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.