Meetings: Peace consolidation in West Africa

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<th>Meeting record and date</th>
<th>Sub-item</th>
<th>Other documents</th>
<th>Rule 37 invitations</th>
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<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</th>
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<tr>
<td>S/PV.8327 10 August 2018</td>
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\(^a\) Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Peru and Sweden.

\(^b\) Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands and Peru.

12. Peace and security in Africa

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings and adopted one resolution under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”. Of the eight meetings held, one was convened to adopt a resolution, one was an open debate and the remaining six were briefings.\(^{157}\) More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2018, the Council held five meetings focusing on the Sahel, including the Lake Chad Basin region, and the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. The remaining three meetings were held to address other issues, namely, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, peacekeeping operations in Africa and drug trafficking in West Africa.

The Council held three meetings concerning the Lake Chad Basin region. On 22 March 2018, one year after the Council’s mission to the Lake Chad Basin region, the Council held a meeting focused on that region, further to the concept note circulated by the Netherlands.\(^{158}\) At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General, a representative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and a senior conflict adviser working with Adelphi (an independent think tank).\(^{159}\) The Deputy Secretary-General briefed the Council via videoconference from Monrovia. She noted that, while considerable progress...

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\(^{157}\) For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.


\(^{159}\) S/PV.8212.
had been made over the previous six months in the fight against Boko Haram, raids, abductions, sexual and gender-based violence and suicide bombings continued. Violations of human rights continued to fuel insecurity, and increasingly Boko Haram was using children, women and girls to carry out suicide attacks. The humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin remained complex and dire, with 10.7 million people in need of life-saving assistance and 2.3 million people forcibly displaced from their homes. The representative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission briefed the Council on climate variability and its impact on the vulnerability of the Lake Chad Basin, as well as on the potential role for the United Nations, specifically the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, in that context. The senior conflict adviser with Adelphi briefed the Council on the conflict dynamics in the region and the possible pathways to peace. During the discussion, Council members highlighted the importance of regional efforts, such as the work of the Multinational Joint Task Force, in addressing the challenges posed by Boko Haram.

On 10 July 2018, the Council held a meeting focused on women and peace and security issues in the Sahel region, further to the joint United Nations-African Union mission to Chad, the Niger and South Sudan. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security on their mission to the region, which was also joined, among others, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was presiding the meeting, also spoke at the meeting, about the overall challenges faced by the region, the interrelated nature of those challenges and the fact that all aspects raised through the mission were not solely a women’s issue but a peace and security issue. During the discussion, several Council members referred to the importance of the participation of women in peace processes and to the linkage between the empowerment of women and gender equality, and peace, stability and security. On 20 December 2018, further to a concept note circulated by Côte d’Ivoire, the Council held a meeting under the sub-item entitled “United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, an integrated response to peacebuilding and sustaining peace”. At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Sahel, who underscored that the region was one of the least developed regions in the world and was facing simultaneous challenges of extreme poverty, climate change, food crises, rapid population growth, fragile governance and terrorist-linked security threats. While the humanitarian situation had only slightly improved in 2018, he emphasized that an exclusively security-based approach alone would not be enough to stabilize the Sahel. At the meeting, the Council also heard a briefing by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, who stated that the Commission had convened a series of meetings on the situation in the region and had focused primarily on deepening partnerships and ensuring the cooperation, coordination and coherence of the United Nations and the international community in support of the Sahel. The Vice-President of the World Bank for Africa, who also briefed the Council, reiterated the need to address the economic and social drivers of conflict in the Sahel. The representative of the Sahel Alliance also briefed the Council, specifically on the activities of the Sahel Alliance, which was launched on 13 July 2017 to contribute to the development of the Sahel and to reduce the region’s social, economic, environmental and institutional vulnerability. During the discussion, Council members stressed the need for a holistic approach in the Sahel that would bring together the political, security and development dimensions.

160 Ibid., pp. 2–3.
161 Ibid., pp. 4–5.
162 Ibid., pp. 5–7.
163 S/PV.8306.
166 The concept note was not issued as a Security Council document.
167 S/PV.8435.
168 Ibid., pp. 2–3.
169 Ibid., p. 4.
170 Ibid., p. 5.
171 Ibid., p. 6.
The operationalization of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel was addressed by the Council twice, in the context of two briefings in 2018, following the issuance of the respective reports of the Secretary-General. In both of these meetings, held on 23 May and 15 November 2018, respectively, the Assistant Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations stressed that the security situation in the Sahel remained dire and that delays were preventing the Joint Force from attaining full operational capability. They both called upon the Group of Five for the Sahel to pursue efforts to deploy the remaining troops and clarify the Joint Force’s concept of operations.

The Permanent Secretary of the Group of Five for the Sahel underlined in both briefings that the Joint Force continued to face major equipment shortfalls, capability gaps, insufficient infrastructure and shortcomings at the logistical and financial levels. During both meetings, several speakers discussed the need for a mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter for the Joint Force.

Against the backdrop of the Ebola outbreak in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Council held a meeting on 30 October 2018 at which it unanimously adopted resolution 2439 (2018), sponsored by all Council members as a presidential text. In the resolution, the Council expressed serious concern regarding the security situation in the areas affected by the Ebola outbreak, also condemning all attacks by armed groups, including those posing serious security risks for responders and jeopardizing the response to the Ebola outbreak. The Council also noted the important positive role of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in supporting the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the World Health Organization and other actors to bring the Ebola outbreak successfully under control and in ensuring, within its area of operations, effective protection of civilians. Finally, the Council emphasized the importance of maintaining international support and engagement – financially, technically and in-kind – to bring the Ebola outbreak successfully under control.

On 20 November 2018, the Council held an open debate on strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa, following the concept note circulated by China. Among the questions that were addressed during the meeting, briefer and invitees discussed how the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and African countries could be improved in terms of safeguarding peace and security in Africa in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, while respecting the continent’s leading role in resolving its own security issues. The Secretary-General touched upon the challenges to peacekeeping in Africa and stated that United Nations missions were carrying out complex operations with multidimensional mandates in extremely dangerous environments. He announced that he would be signing a joint communiqué with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to guide the work of the Secretariat and the African Union Commission in strengthening United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa, paving the way for more adequately supported African-led peace operations. In that connection, he emphasized the need for strong mandates and predictable, sustainable and flexible financing, including through United Nations assessed contributions, where appropriate.

At the meeting, the Council also heard a briefing by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, who updated the Council on the areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. During the meeting, several speakers made reference to the negotiations on a draft resolution for the financing of African Union peace operations, which would enable access by the African Union to the United Nations assessed contributions for operations authorized by the United Nations.

On 19 December 2018, the Council held a meeting under the sub-item entitled “Drug trafficking..."
in West Africa as a threat to stability”. 185 At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He illustrated some of the findings of the World Drug Report 2018 and stated that UNODC was observing new, alarming trends in drug trafficking in West and Central Africa, with disruptive and destabilizing effects on governance, security, economic growth and public health. He noted that West and Central Africa, together with the countries of North Africa, accounted for 87 per cent of the pharmaceutical opioids seized globally and added that, along with Asia, Africa had seen the largest rises worldwide in cocaine seizures as well. In that regard, he underscored the linkages among terrorism, illicit drugs and other forms of crime and explained that, within the upcoming phase of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, UNODC would be supporting the police component of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel to strengthen its capacity to tackle terrorism and organized crime, including drug trafficking.186 Following the briefing, Council members focused on the links between drug trafficking, regional stability and security, and sustainable development.187

Meetings: Peace and security in Africa

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<tr>
<td>S/PV.8212 22 March 2018</td>
<td>Representative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, senior conflict adviser with Adelphi</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees</td>
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185 S/PV.8433. In its capacity as President of the Security Council for December 2018, Côte d’Ivoire provided a summary of the meeting in a letter dated 20 May 2019 from the representative of Côte d’Ivoire to the Secretary-General (S/2019/419).

186 S/PV.8433, p. 2.
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<td>S/PV.8306 10 July 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members; all invitees</td>
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<td>S/PV.8407 20 November 2018</td>
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<td>Strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa Letter dated 9 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/1004)</td>
<td>40 Member States' Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer and Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
<td>Secretary-General, all Council members/ 38 invitees under rule 37 and all other invitees'</td>
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## Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/PV.8433 19 December 2018</td>
<td>Drug trafficking in West Africa as a threat to stability</td>
<td>Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</td>
<td>All Council members, Executive Director of UNODC a</td>
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<tr>
<td>S/PV.8435 20 December 2018</td>
<td>United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, an integrated response to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel</td>
<td>Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Vice-President of the World Bank for Africa, representative of the Sahel Alliance</td>
<td>All Council members, all invitees b</td>
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a The Deputy Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Monrovia.
b The senior conflict adviser with Adelphi participated in the meeting via videoconference from Abuja. The representative of Nigeria spoke also on behalf of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger.
c Sweden was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.
d The High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel and the Deputy Secretary-General for Common Security and Defence Policy and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service participated in the meeting via videoconference from Bamako and Brussels, respectively.
e Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
f The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and Ethiopia.
g Although invited under rule 37, the representatives of Fiji and Uganda did not make statements. The representative of Norway spoke on behalf of the five Nordic countries. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union participated in the meeting via videoconference from Addis Ababa.
h The Executive Director of UNODC participated in the meeting via videoconference from Vienna.
i The Vice-President of the World Bank for Africa and the representative of the Sahel Alliance participated in the meeting via videoconference from Washington, D.C., and Paris, respectively.
13. The situation in Libya

During the period under review, the Security Council held 12 meetings, adopted three resolutions, including two under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement in relation to the situation in Libya. Except for those meetings convened to adopt a decision of the Council, all the meetings held under this item took the form of briefings. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2018, the Council was regularly briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). In his six briefings, the Special Representative reported on the ongoing political, security, humanitarian, economic and institutional challenges in Libya and how the progressive expansion of UNSMIL was supporting the country’s political and democratization process, in accordance with the United Nations Action Plan for Libya. With regard to the political and democratization process, the briefings were focused on the status of holding a referendum on the draft constitution and presidential and parliamentary elections, as well as the development of a national conference as a platform for the Libyan people to crystallize their vision for a political transition and to foster institutional progress. He also reported on the visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to Libya from 9 to 12 January 2018 and spoke about the deteriorating security situation in Tripoli and other parts of the country, including the brokering by UNSMIL of a ceasefire between the major parties to the conflict in September. Other briefers included the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The Council was also addressed by the co-founder of Together We Build It, a Libyan civil society organization. Invitations under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure were extended to Libya.

The Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) briefed the Council four times on the activities of the Committee and its Panel of Experts. His briefings were focused on the violations of the sanctions regime, including the arms embargo, the violations in the context of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the illicit exports of crude oil and refined petroleum products from Libya and the implementation of the asset freeze. The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court briefed the Council twice to report on the progress and challenges relating to the investigations in Libya and the status of the Court’s efforts to arrest Saif Al-Islam Qadhafi following the issuance of an arrest warrant in June 2011 by the Pre-Trial Chamber of the Court. She also called upon the Council and all States to effect and lend support to the arrest and surrender of fugitives of the Court in Libya and elsewhere.

During their deliberations in 2018, Council members expressed full support for the United Nations Action Plan for Libya and underscored the importance of the role of the United Nations in facilitating a Libyan-led political solution to the challenges facing the country. The need for the institution of a universally recognized and respected Government at the national level was also discussed, including the need to establish a unified and strengthened Libyan police and security institutions. Speakers also focused on the country’s underlying economic problems and financial corruption, threatening the unity and stability of the country. Council members expressed concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Libya, as well as over the ongoing fight against terrorism and the continuing threat of terrorist groups in Libya.

The above issues were also addressed by the Council in its decisions during the reporting period. On 6 June 2018, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it reaffirmed its endorsement and full support for the United Nations Action Plan for Libya. In the statement, the Council welcomed all efforts to strengthen an inclusive political dialogue among all Libyans within the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement, while bearing in mind that the political and security situation was not sustainable. The Council welcomed the success of the first phase of the national conference and the organization, in a peaceful and organized process, of the first municipal elections in the city of Zawiyah, and encouraged all Member States to fully support the efforts of the