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**Review and implementation of the Concluding
Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the
General Assembly: regional confidence-building
measures: activities of the United Nations
Standing Advisory Committee on Security
Questions in Central Africa**

**Security Council
Sixty-eighth year**

**Letter dated 5 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of
Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

As the representative of the current Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Committee on its thirty-sixth ministerial meeting, which was held in Kigali from 20 to 23 August 2013 (see annex). You will also find the Kigali Declaration annexed to the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures and the activities of the Committee ([A/68/384](#)).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 100 (f), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eugène-Richard Gasana
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 5 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

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I. Introduction

1. The thirty-sixth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Kigali, from 20 to 23 August 2013.
2. The following member States participated in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.
3. The secretariat of the Committee was provided by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by Abou Moussa, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa.
4. The following United Nations entities took part in the proceedings as observers: the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs in New York and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa.
5. The following were also present as observers: the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, the African Union and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States.
6. The meeting of experts opened with a ceremony which included two speeches: one by the representative of the Government of Rwanda, the Permanent Secretary of the Rwandan Ministry of Internal Security, Ambassador Valens Munyabagisha, and one by the Chair of the meeting of experts, Ambassador Raymond Serge Balé. In his address, the representative of the Government, inter alia, drew attention to the grave consequences of the circulation of light weapons and underlined the necessity of creating a safe area in which people could move around unharmed and armed groups were replaced by defence and security forces. In his opening statement, the Chair of the meeting of experts recalled that the Committee at its thirty-fifth meeting and its twentieth anniversary, both of which had been held in December 2012 in Brazzaville, had concluded that the Committee needed to be revitalized and, furthermore, that a new page, with revitalization in mind, should be turned at the thirty-sixth meeting. Accordingly, the current thirty-sixth meeting provided an opportunity to evaluate the recommendations of the thirty-fifth meeting, so that proposals could be made to the ministerial meeting.
7. The opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting featured:
 - Welcoming remarks by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo;
 - A message from the Secretary-General of ECCAS, read out by Mr. Roger Tchoungui, Deputy Secretary-General;
 - A speech by the Special Representative of the African Union for the Great Lakes region and Head of the Office of the African Union in Burundi, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra;

- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read out by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Abou Moussa;
 - An address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Congo, Mr. Basile Ikouébé;
 - An address by the Prime Minister of Rwanda, Mr. Pierre Habumuremyi.
8. The closing ceremony featured two speeches:
- A closing statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Abou Moussa;
 - A closing speech by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo.

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Adoption of the agenda

9. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
- (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Election of the Bureau;
 - (c) Report of the outgoing Bureau;
 - (d) Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa;
 - (e) Consideration and adoption of the report of experts on disarmament in the subregion;
 - (f) Consideration and adoption of the report of experts on peace and security in Central Africa;
 - (g) Discussion on a specific theme: mediation in Central Africa;
 - (h) Implementation of the Libreville Declaration: review of the financial status of the Committee;
 - (i) Venue and dates of the next meeting;
 - (j) Other matters;
 - (k) Adoption of the report of the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting.

B. Election of the Bureau

10. Rwanda was elected by acclamation Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

11. The Committee also elected the other members of the Bureau:

- First Vice-Chair: Chad
- Second Vice-Chair: Angola
- Rapporteur: Burundi.

C. Report of the outgoing Bureau

12. The outgoing Chair briefed the Committee on the activities carried out since the thirty-fifth meeting and the twentieth anniversary of the Committee, which had been held from 3 to 7 December 2012 in Brazzaville. Those activities included:

- Preparing for the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting;
- Reminding member States to implement the Brazzaville Declaration, in particular through contributions to the Trust Fund and ministerial representation at meetings;
- Ensuring that member States ratified the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention);
- Encouraging member States to participate in the Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty.

13. Following the briefing, the outgoing Chair made the following observations and recommendations:

- The momentum imparted by the last ministerial meeting, which had coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the Committee, seemed not to have produced the desired effects;
- The non-payment of contributions and the non-implementation of decisions and recommendations by States remained the principal causes of the Committee's failure to function properly;
- The periodicity and duration of the Committee's meetings were further grounds for concern that needed to be addressed by member States. The delay in the holding of the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting and the shortening of its duration to four days could prompt the United Nations to allocate the resources earmarked for the Committee's meetings to other programmes;
- The principle of two ministerial meetings a year and five days of proceedings should be reaffirmed and defended by every member of the Committee in the appropriate United Nations bodies;
- It was imperative that all member States should fulfil their commitments, in particular by paying their contributions to the Trust Fund. Moreover, it would be desirable for the Committee to report regularly to member States on the use of those resources.

14. The Committee took note of the report of the outgoing Bureau presented by its Chair. It commended the members of the outgoing Bureau for the high quality of the

work accomplished in the discharge of their respective functions and for the preparations made for the thirty-sixth meeting of the Committee.

15. The Committee recommended that an item on the evaluation of recommendations and decisions should be included in the agenda of future meetings.

D. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

16. The document on the review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, which had been prepared by the ECCAS secretariat, formed the basis for the exchange of views among States.

17. The review of the geopolitical and security situation in the subregion focused on four main areas: political and institutional developments; domestic and cross-border security; concerns related to governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights; and the situation in each State.

18. It emerged from the discussion that developments in the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa since the last meeting of the Committee revealed a varied picture. On the one hand, there had been significant progress in the consolidation of democratic processes and the normal functioning of institutions. On the other, some States in the subregion had had to contend with worrisome security situations.

19. At the political level, the subregion had continued to experience difficulties in constructing consensual democratic processes, especially with respect to the electoral ground rules. With that in mind, the Committee urged the eight member States that had not yet done so to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and to apply its provisions.

20. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, calm had been established in some conflict zones. Nevertheless, the period under review was characterized by:

- Narco-terrorism and the activities of Boko Haram;
- Industrial poaching and trafficking in small arms and light weapons;
- Maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea;
- A rise in the number of ritual crimes;
- The persistence of armed rebellions;
- Continued insecurity owing to the armed gangs in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo that were destabilizing the region: the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), the Mayi-Mayi militias, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA);
- The deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic since 24 March 2013.

21. With respect to governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights, significant efforts had been made by member States. Appropriate legal and

institutional instruments regulating matters in those areas continued to be adopted and applied by individual countries.

22. The Committee commended the ECCAS secretariat for the high quality of the document provided.

23. The following were the geopolitical and security situations in the individual countries:

Angola

24. The political and security situation in Angola since the last meeting had been characterized by the authorities' efforts to consolidate the democratic process and carry out national reconstruction. In a calm political atmosphere, the Government had pursued its major infrastructure policies throughout the country, with the ultimate aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and principally the eradication of poverty.

25. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, the large-scale arms recovery and mine-clearance operation had gone ahead convincingly. By way of illustration, it should be mentioned that the security situation had improved and that the crime rate had fallen throughout Angola, and particularly in Luanda, thanks to the efforts of the police authorities and the cooperation of the population, a development recognized by the government authorities.

26. The Angolan Government, under the national plan to disarm the civilian population, had, between March 2008 and August 2013, taken control of 87,174 weapons of varying calibres, 47,730 chargers, 436,645 munitions and 451,745 explosives. To address the scourge of arms, the National Police had decided, inter alia, to adopt a new strategy that relied in part on close cooperation with the civilian population.

27. Also in relation to security, a case of ritual crime had occurred in the Cuango region (Lunda Norte Province), which had led among other things to the amputation of genital organs among certain ethnic groups, and which called for the attention of the competent authorities.

28. Angola had continued to face heavy migratory pressure from neighbouring countries despite the strict measures that were already in place: mass expulsions, effected in conformity with the norms of international law and human rights, as well as prosecutions, border monitoring and so on.

29. During the period under review, the Angolan Government, working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, had made good on its commitment to repatriate and reintegrate into society Angolan refugees who were living in neighbouring countries and who had expressed a desire to return voluntarily to Angola.

30. In the context of the good governance policy, the Angolan Presidency, in implementing its national plan to engage the youth in dialogue, was to be commended for its knowledge of the basic problems of young people and other segments of society, a situation that augured well for future joint efforts to find solutions to their social problems.

Burundi

31. Burundi was engaged in the process of bringing stability to political life and consolidating political and security conditions.

32. At the political level, all eyes were focused on the preparations for the 2015 general elections. To that end, a political dialogue among Burundians had been initiated and included formerly exiled opponents, almost all of whom had returned to Burundi, a development which meant that, for the first time since 2010, all the political stakeholders were present to discuss the future of their country. The goal was not only to avoid the exclusion of certain political stakeholders, but also to agree on the rules that would govern the general elections.

33. Meanwhile, Burundi had continued to face up to the job of managing more than 50,000 refugees, most of whom were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and of dealing with serious economic and financial difficulties.

34. Many of the pledges made by donors at the Partners' Conference in Geneva in October 2012 had not been fulfilled. Therefore, even though the projected growth rate for 2013 was positive, it had not contributed to poverty eradication. There was a risk that Burundi's financial situation might affect its stability.

35. In terms of security, the situation as a whole was positive, although there had been cases of banditry and criminality, which were due in particular to the incursions of armed gangs from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

36. Regarding respect for human rights, the breaches noted by the United Nations Office in Burundi in a report to the Security Council in July 2013 principally concerned 20 cases of extrajudicial execution, 11 cases of torture and 80 cases of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment during the first six months of the year. The Government of Burundi had refuted the report and had set up a judicial commission. The commission had issued its own report and proceeded to prosecute those who had broken the law. In the interests of maintaining good relations with our partners, prior consultations with the national authority and other State and non-State partners were a prerequisite for ensuring the reliability of any reports produced (balanced reports).

Cameroon

37. Since the last ministerial meeting, Cameroon had maintained intact its achievements of peace and stability. In that climate, it had, in June 2013, successfully organized the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, an initiative for which it had been commended by the United Nations Secretary-General.

38. At the political level, the consolidation of the democratic process had continued and had included the very first election of senators in the nation. Accordingly, the first Senate in the history of Cameroon had been established. Moreover, preparations were in full swing for the legislative and municipal elections on 30 September 2013.

39. The involvement and enthusiasm evoked by the consultations in political gatherings had been due to expectations, in the light of a number of indicators, of a

probable handover of political leadership. The tenuous arguments made were: no boycott was registered any longer; and even the internal squabbles within the Union des Populations du Cameroon (the oldest political party in Cameroon) had temporarily died down.

40. As to governance, the authorities had continued their campaign to improve public morality, in particular by dismissing or prosecuting persons suspected of misappropriating public funds.

41. The security situation remained mixed. First, banditry, criminality and ritual crime had persisted in the big cities, with one district in Yaoundé gaining notoriety on account of all the ritual crimes there.

42. Secondly, cross-border security had been disrupted in the eastern part of the country, owing particularly to the incursions of armed thugs from the Central African Republic. In the wake of the coup d'état in that country, many uncontrolled elements had crossed the border with weapons. Several reliable sources had, for example, told the Central African Early Warning Mechanism that it was easy to purchase a Kalashnikov rifle in the eastern part of the country for the moderate sum of 50,000 CFA francs.

43. Thirdly, the presence of Boko Haram in north-west Cameroon, on the border with Nigeria, had been corroborated by the fact that a family of French tourists had been taken hostage.

44. While the authorities had made commendable efforts to secure maritime areas and the border with Nigeria by deploying quick-response battalions as a deterrent, there was no denying the need for the security indicators in Cameroon to continue to be monitored. It should be noted that two illegal shipments of arms had been seized in the port of Douala during the period under review.

Central African Republic

45. Since the last review, the political and security situation had been marked by the destructive presence of Joseph Kony's LRA in the eastern part of the Central African Republic and by the rupturing of constitutional order that had occurred on 24 March 2013, when the Séléka coalition had taken power.

46. That outcome seemed to have been the result of a combination of political, security and socioeconomic factors, including:

- The resistance of the former regime in the face of the desire of the other members of the political class to modify the Constitution with a view to their being represented in the forthcoming elections;
- The impasse in the political dialogue among the principal stakeholders;
- The growing impoverishment of the people;
- The coveting of the abundant natural wealth in the Central African Republic;
- Poor governance.

47. In the end, a new regime had taken over in Bangui. But, unfortunately, under the new regime the Central African Republic had experienced, in every domain, the worst problems in all its history: mass pillaging, summary killings, the disappearance of public services.

48. The humanitarian situation, described as disastrous by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, cried out for urgent action. Some observers, for example, questioned the motives behind the pillaging and the destruction of the courts and the vital records registry, as there would clearly be difficulties when the new electoral roll was drawn up and the elections at the end of the current transition were organized.

49. The enormous challenge to be met in the Central African Republic was therefore the reconstruction of the State, with its sovereign services: the army, the police, the judiciary and the financial administration.

50. Meanwhile, there were nevertheless grounds for legitimate hope, thanks to the decision of the African Union to deploy another peace mission in the country (the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic), which had been given a strong mandate, to replace the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic. All such efforts merited the logistical, financial and diplomatic support of the international community, including the United Nations. The subregion was already providing financial and logistical support and a troop contribution, including the deployment of 2,000 elements of the defence and security forces out of the 3,652 required for the International Support Mission.

51. The swearing-in of the Head of State of the Transition on 18 August 2013 had marked the official start of the transition mandate in the Central African Republic.

52. The Committee wished to encourage the concerted efforts of the African Union-led mission and the States involved in the counter-LRA operations. It expressed the hope that the operational capacity of the units deployed would be strengthened in order to improve their effectiveness.

53. The Committee wished also to commend the important work begun by the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, which, in Addis Ababa on 8 July 2013, had held its second meeting and had, inter alia:

- Encouraged the African Union and ECCAS to pursue their cooperation in order to facilitate the deployment of the new Mission;
- Reiterated the need for the transitional authorities to take all the measures stipulated in the transitional road map, a process that would culminate in the holding of elections on the dates scheduled.

Congo

54. Throughout the period under review, the Congo had continued to make the usual efforts in the areas of peace, security, stability and national reconciliation.

55. At the political level, the Government, the parties of the presidential majority and the parties of the opposition, with a view to the organization of the peaceful local elections scheduled to be held before the end of the year, had agreed on the joint organization of a special administrative census in order to facilitate management of an electorate that was beyond dispute.

56. To that end, a second political consultation had been held in Dolisie (Niari) in March 2013. It had recommended, inter alia, that there should be consensus on the rules that would govern the elections.

57. With a view to the implementation of that recommendation, beginning in June 2013, the necessary operations had been carried out following numerous consultations between the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization and the political blocs, including the majority and the opposition.

58. However, an opposition fringe had decided not to join the process.

59. Following the tragedy of 4 March 2012, a trial involving high-ranking officers of the Congolese Armed Forces had opened in Brazzaville on 6 August 2013.

60. In terms of security, the authorities had embarked on a campaign to manage and control immigration. Accordingly, all persons in an irregular situation, regardless of nationality, had been escorted to the borders by the National Police.

61. In the wake of the sociopolitical events that had occurred in the Central African Republic in March 2013, the northern part of the Congo (Betou locality, Likouala Department) had registered the arrival of almost 7,000 refugees from that neighbouring country.

62. The voluntary repatriation of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo that had started in May 2012 had been ongoing.

63. In accordance with the agreement of 30 June 2013 on the cessation of refugee status for Rwandan refugees, the Congolese Government had issued a statement on the subject on 18 June 2013. A bilateral meeting between the Congo and Rwanda had been held in Brazzaville on 17 and 18 June 2013 to put into operation the process to which the statement had given rise.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

64. The following were the major developments and political events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the period under review.

65. At the political level, the most noteworthy developments had included the start of a political dialogue in the form of national consultations among the national stakeholders.

66. It should be emphasized that the Head of State himself, as custodian of the nation, had been responsible for that meaningful initiative.

67. As to the procedural aspects of the consultations, the various participants were currently in the process of harmonizing at the preparatory level the arrangements for the organization of the forum.

68. With respect to the reform of the Independent National Electoral Commission, over which the political class had been split, the national stakeholders had already appointed and put in place the Chair more than two months earlier.

69. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, the worrisome situation that had prevailed at the time of the Brazzaville meeting had stabilized throughout the country. However, a few pockets of insecurity had disrupted public order in Katanga.

70. In the eastern part of the country, M23 elements, armed with heavy weapons, had continued to clash with the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo in the vicinity of the city of Goma, despite the peace talks that had been held

in Kampala under the auspices of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

71. Nevertheless, the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region had given ground for optimism that a lasting settlement of the crisis was in sight. The Framework involved 11 of the States of the region, and a neutral force with a mandate to put an end to the rebellion had been established.

72. Mention should also be made of the commitment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to carry out certain public service reforms and, first and foremost, of the commitment of the States of the region to refrain in the future from supporting instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Gabon

73. Since the last ministerial meeting, the overall situation in Gabon had remained consistent, marked by the peace and stability that normally prevailed in that country.

74. At the political level, in response to the repeated calls of one opposition party for the organization of a sovereign national conference or an inclusive political dialogue, consultations between the various political players of the majority and the opposition had been held in Libreville in early 2013. The purpose of that gathering had been to reach agreement on the modalities for the introduction of biometrics in the electoral system and for the restructuring of the National Council for Democracy.

75. Consolidation of the democratic process had continued with the effective introduction of biometrics in the electoral system, despite the opposition's protests regarding the ways and means of controlling biometrics. At the time of preparation of the review, voter registration in the biometric electoral rolls had in fact commenced, in readiness for the local elections scheduled for November 2013.

76. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, the period under review had been marked by a number of developments related to urban insecurity, especially in Libreville.

77. The authorities had applied, with a degree of success, some stern measures to deal with that insecurity; in particular, they had stepped up the presence of defence and security forces in Libreville and other major urban centres.

Equatorial Guinea

78. Since the last ministerial meeting, the indicators for peace, security and stability had remained consistent and positive in Equatorial Guinea.

79. At the political level, the stability experienced by the country had made it a preferred venue for major international meetings of ECCAS, the African Union and the United Nations. It had also received visits from many eminent persons, including Heads of State and Government and the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

80. Political events had included the organization of general elections. Balloting had been required to elect the municipal councillors, to renew the National Assembly and, above all, to put in place the very first Senate in Equatorial Guinea.

81. At the very least, it can be affirmed that the elections went smoothly, despite the criticism of the opposition, and that the atmosphere was calm. The party in power won with a large majority, the only jarring note being the relatively low voter turnout.

82. Domestic and cross-border security had continued to be provided effectively, and Equatorial Guinea was heavily involved in maintaining maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, especially in zone D.

Rwanda

83. The security situation in Rwanda remained stable. The parliamentary elections scheduled for September would be held in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere.

84. Those elections would strengthen the democratic process and the participation of the various political blocs through the political expression of the Rwandans, which had been reinforced by the gains achieved in the social, political and economic areas.

85. However, the threat of the genocidal forces — known as the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda — that were operating in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo had remained a security concern for Rwanda and the region. On 26 July 2013, two grenade attacks by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda had killed three innocent victims, including one child, and wounded 50 others. It should be noted that the perpetrators had been apprehended and that justice was taking its course. Since 2009, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda had waged 25 terrorist attacks, killing 14 innocent civilians and wounding 371 others.

86. The reorganizing, regrouping and rearming of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda near the Rwandan border posed a security problem for Rwanda. On 27 November 2012 and 2 December 2012, the attacks by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda against Rwandan territory and their shelling of Rwandan territory left no doubt that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda represented a threat to Rwanda's security.

87. Fighting between the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and M23 had adversely affected Rwanda's security. Recent fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo had involved the following repercussions for Rwanda:

(a) The launching of bombs that had landed on Kageshi and Gasiza in the Busasana sector of Rubavu District in Rwandan territory on 15 July 2013;

(b) The firing of rockets that had landed on Busigari in the Cyanzarwe sector of Rubavu district in Rwandan territory on 22 August 2013;

(c) The economic and political cost of managing jointly with the international community a large number of Congolese refugees in several refugee camps and the disarmed former M23 combatants, which was a heavy burden for Rwanda.

88. Rwanda was working closely with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to bring about a lasting settlement of the crisis situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, Rwanda was actively engaged in

fulfilling the commitments it had undertaken in the context of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013, together with other regional initiatives relating to that situation.

Sao Tome and Principe

89. Since the last ministerial meeting, the overall situation in Sao Tome and Principe had been marked by peace and stability.

90. At the political level, however, the instability of the Government noted in previous reviews (more than 18 Prime Ministers since 1990) had again manifested itself during the period in question with the eviction of Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada following a motion of censure by the Parliament. Cohabitation had ended badly, plagued by old grudges between leading politicians.

91. The political class was currently divided over whether to hold early legislative elections (the deposed Prime Minister's camp, backed by the Acção Democrática Independente party) or to wait until 2014, as suggested by the President of the Republic and the Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe/Partido Social Democrata.

92. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, the situation had been under control for the most part.

93. However, the danger that political differences might turn into armed violence was an ever-present concern, especially as, during the period under review, the authorities had officially reported that arms were being smuggled into the archipelago and had called on the ECCAS secretariat to help monitor the situation.

94. In addition, there had been reports of the resurgence of crime and acts of banditry in some cities.

Chad

95. The overall situation in Chad since the last ministerial meeting had been one of peace, security and stability.

96. In domestic politics, those in power and the opposition had begun a political dialogue with a view to revising the 2007 political agreement, and a new structure called the national political dialogue framework had been established on 2 April 2013. However, the dialogue had been marked by some profound differences of opinion between the opposition and the presidential majority, especially with regard to the new Independent National Electoral Commission and how its members would be appointed.

97. Those disagreements had been fuelled also by the anger manifested by several dozen political parties at being left off the list of recipients of the subsidy given to political parties.

98. However, consensus had now been reached on the composition of the Electoral Commission, and the ordinance relating to its establishment was before the National Assembly for adoption.

99. In addition, the social climate had been relatively tense owing to such issues as social demands and the question of governance.

100. With respect to governance, mention should be made of the fact that Chad had approved the African Peer Mechanism Review in January 2013 and had established its national secretariat.

101. That situation needed to be carefully watched as it had the potential to turn into a sociopolitical crisis.

102. Against the background described, the authorities had announced that they had thwarted an attempt at institutional destabilization.

103. Similarly, Chad had continued to face a combination of threats, including:

- The risk of a terrorist attack, principally because of the Chadian army's engagement in Mali;
- The activities of Boko Haram, who had currently been driven back by the Nigerian army;
- The recognized threat posed by exiled Chadians in Libya and their allies.

Recommendations on the geopolitical review

104. At the conclusion of the geopolitical review, the Committee issued the following recommendations:

- Member States should adapt and harmonize their national laws on so-called ritual crime;
- The Committee should review at each meeting the implementation of the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa, adopted at the Subregional Conference on Democratic Institutions and Peace in Central Africa;
- The capabilities of the early warning system for Central Africa as a tool for the prevention and settlement of conflicts in Central Africa should be strengthened;
- The geopolitical review should be translated into all the working languages of the Committee;
- Any recommendations from the thirty-fifth meeting that had not been acted on should be renewed;
- The security situation of each country should be reviewed at future meetings;
- A statement on the situation in the Central African Republic should be issued.

E. Consideration and adoption of the report of experts on disarmament in the subregion

Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative

105. The Committee paid close attention to the presentation by ECCAS on the implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative.

106. The Committee took note of the information provided by ECCAS that a number of countries already had a national commission on small arms, although not one that consistently met international benchmarks (Burundi, Congo, the Central

African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Other countries were still without a national commission (Cameroon and Gabon). All those States would receive technical support from ECCAS for the establishment of their structure before the end of 2013.

107. ECCAS stated that its small arms and light weapons unit was now evolving within the anti-crime department, in accordance with its placement in the secretariat's current organization chart. In spite of the steps already taken, the department was still without a head, and his or her appointment was expected to make the department run more smoothly.

108. On the subject of support to civil society, ECCAS noted that, since 2010, the ECCAS secretariat had, encouraged and oriented the activities of a network of civil society organizations in the subregion. The network's principal mission was to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the subregion. The initiative had not yet been accomplished, since the network was awaiting legal recognition by one member of the Committee before support could be provided. The Committee was informed that 17 human rights diplomas had been awarded to Burundian officers.

109. At the national level, the work between ECCAS and the member States that should have been carried out had experienced a substantial delay owing to financial difficulties. The States were to have received the support of the secretariat for the initiation of the activities of their national commissions and the enhancement of capacities in the context of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa. The delay was caused by the partners' lack of available funds during the period under review.

110. The Committee took note of other activities carried out by a number of States, including Burundi, the Congo and Rwanda, with a view to the implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative, for which they received the support of such partners as the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

111. The Committee noted with appreciation the fact that, during the period under review, the ECCAS anti-crime department had conducted activities in areas relating to weapons and disarmament, the reform of the security sectors and cross-border crime.

112. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa gave a briefing on disarmament in the Central African subregion. It outlined developments in relation to international, regional and subregional political and legal instruments and mechanisms for the control of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, and weapons of mass destruction. In particular, the Director of the Centre gave an account of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the International Tracing Instrument and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), as well as the growing participation of States in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, the additional ratifications of the Kinshasa Convention and the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty.

113. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa emphasized the importance of the submission of national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and, noting that only half of the States

members of the Committee had sent in reports for 2012, encouraged them to do so for 2013. The Centre also briefed the Committee on the outcome of the second conference to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, which had been held in September 2012, namely the adoption of an ambitious document for the implementation of the Programme of Action in which there were references to human rights, the reduction of armed violence, regional cooperation and the relationship between regional initiatives and the overall process at the United Nations. In addition, the participants were informed about the preparations for the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action, which was scheduled for the week of 16 to 24 June 2014.

114. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa then reminded the Committee that the Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized reporting of military expenditures were tools to ensure transparency and served as measures to build confidence among States. Drawing attention to the fact that the participation rate of Central African States was low and could be improved, the Centre encouraged the States of the subregion to become involved in those two transparency mechanisms.

115. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa also urged the four States members of the subregion that had not yet submitted reports to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to do so as soon as possible and informed the Committee about a regional project designed to assist States that were preparing their initial reports. The Centre suggested that the Committee should discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at a future meeting.

116. The Committee recommended that States that had not yet done so should ratify the Kinshasa Convention, thereby ensuring that it would enter into force in 2013.

117. In conclusion, the Committee strongly recommended that the appointment of the official to head the anti-crime department in the ECCAS secretariat should be made.

Implementation of the Sao Tome Declaration

118. ECCAS gave a presentation on the implementation of the Sao Tome Declaration, emphasizing that, in the light of the mandate it had received from the States members of the Committee and the efforts already made, the ECCAS secretariat had, over the past eight months, focused its action to implement the Declaration on the following two priority areas:

(a) Carrying out the recommendation on providing technical assistance to member States. To this end, the ECCAS secretariat, on 30 and 31 January 2013 in Libreville, had organized a subregional meeting at which member States had held consultations prior to the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. The meeting had enabled member States to familiarize themselves with the draft text of the Treaty, as issued on 26 July 2012 at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held from 2 to 27 July 2012, and to work out the best strategy for ensuring that the representatives of member States would be able to reflect the interests of Central Africa in the final text of the Arms Trade Treaty.

(b) Providing support to States to ensure that its representatives and those of member States could participate more fully in the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty.

119. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa informed member States that several elements of the Sao Tome Declaration were an integral part of the Arms Trade Treaty and invited the Committee members that had not yet done so to join the two States of the subregion that had signed the Treaty and to initiate the ratification process. The Centre also provided information on the financing structure for arms regulation cooperation.

120. The Committee hailed the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty by the General Assembly. It commended Burundi and Rwanda for signing the Treaty and encouraged the other member States to follow suit.

121. The Committee took note of the establishment of a national commission on small arms and light weapons in Burundi and welcomed that country's readiness to share its experience with the other member States.

Status of ratifications of the Kinshasa Convention

122. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa reported that, on 20 August 2013, four States (the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo and Gabon) had submitted instruments of ratification for the Kinshasa Convention to the United Nations Secretary-General. Moreover, a fifth State appeared to have completed the process of ratification. The Centre encouraged all States that were in a position to do so to proceed to ratify the Convention as soon as possible, with a view to securing its entry into force before the fifth biennial meeting of States.

123. The Committee urged States to submit reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and to participate in all transparency mechanisms, including the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized reporting of military expenditures.

Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa

124. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa noted that the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa was an important contribution to the implementation of international and regional instruments on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. The Centre underlined the importance of training the defence and security forces in all aspects of disarmament and encouraged member States to take advantage of the training modules developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Centre also noted that the entry into force of the Code of Conduct would, when the time came, facilitate the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

F. Consideration and adoption of the report of experts on peace and security in Central Africa

Implementation of the Road Map for Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Arms in Central Africa

125. The secretariat reminded the Committee that the first regional workshop on counter-terrorism had been organized in the margins of the thirty-fifth ministerial meeting, which had been held in Brazzaville in December 2012. The principal result of the workshop had been the establishment of a network of national coordinators for counter-terrorism and the designation of a regional focal point.

126. It had also been decided that a series of thematic workshops would be organized, for the purpose of preparing the regional strategy on counter-terrorism.

127. The first such workshop, on the theme Police and security, was to have been held in Libreville during the first six months of 2013.

128. For practical reasons, it had proved impossible to hold the workshop on the date planned. It would be held instead during the last three months of 2013. The other thematic workshops would be scheduled in 2014.

129. The Committee took note of the announcement of the visit to be paid in December 2013 to the Central African subregion by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in connection with the monitoring of the implementation by the countries of the subregion of Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#). The Committee encouraged the member States to take an active part in the organization and success of that visit.

Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

130. The African Union gave a briefing on armed groups in Central Africa, with emphasis on the LRA, which was considered "a terrorist group". After giving a historical account of the rebel movement and profiling its elements, the African Union drew attention to the negative impact exerted by the atrocities of the LRA on the development of affected countries and to the accompanying humanitarian consequences. For example, 450,000 persons had been displaced by the LRA, including those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

131. The African Union also took stock of the measures under way to put an end to the atrocities. Inter alia, it reported on the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union for the Elimination of the LRA, noting that the military component, the Regional Task Force, had been officially established in March 2012. The Committee was briefed on the status of the Task Force, which was currently composed of 3,350 men, of whom 2,000 were from Uganda, 500 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 500 from South Sudan and 350 from the Central African Republic. All initiatives aimed at strengthening the Task Force and providing the necessary logistical resources for it to become operational were encouraged, particularly in view of the fact that the African Union had expressed its deep concern regarding the possibility that the LRA might exploit the crisis in the Central African Republic and take advantage of the absence of State control in its areas of choice to pursue and extend its operations.

132. To that end, the Committee commended the joint missions which the African Union's Special Envoy on the LRA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa had undertaken to the affected countries to obtain from States a renewal of their political commitments and to further sensitize the regional and international partners. It also expressed its appreciation for the efforts made to implement the Regional Strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the LRA endorsed by the Security Council in June 2012.

133. Lastly, the Committee took due note of the African Union's recommendations on that worrisome issue, including the recommendation on the necessity of establishing practical links between the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union and the African Union-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, together with the recommendation on conducting an investigation into sources of funding for the LRA. It took due note of the connection established between poaching and the funding of the LRA. Lastly, it expressed the hope that all the recommendations would be acted on, so that civilians and all the victims of the LRA could live in security and peace, which were sine qua non conditions for sustainable development.

Maritime piracy and security

134. The Committee followed with close attention the presentation by the ECCAS secretariat on maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea, in the wake of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013.

135. After reminding the Committee of the process which had led up to the Summit, the speaker explained the need for the States members of the Committee to acquaint themselves with and implement the three documents adopted at the Summit, namely: the Declaration of Heads of State and Government, the memorandum of understanding between ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, and the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa with respect to the suppression of crimes at sea and operations to secure maritime space.

136. The representative of ECCAS briefed the Committee on the start made on implementing the Yaoundé Declaration with the organization on 29 and 30 July in Libreville of a technical meeting between ECCAS, ECOWAS, the Gulf of Guinea Commission and the partners whose purpose was, inter alia, to plan the practical aspects of the establishment of the interregional coordination centre, which was to be headquartered in Yaoundé.

137. The Committee urged its member States, including those without a coastline, to be in the vanguard of maritime security by making further logistical and financial efforts. To that end, it encouraged the Central African Republic and Burundi to speed up the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which was the legal basis on which maritime safety and security rested.

138. Addressing that issue, the Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa pointed out that the United Nations Office for Disarmament had developed training modules for maritime security officials in the Caribbean region. He stated that those modules could be adapted for use by the Central African countries, if they so requested.

Poaching

139. Gabon made a presentation on poaching in the subregion. The delegation spoke of two major concerns. The first was how to eradicate the transnational criminal networks that ran rampant in the remote areas of Gabon and to halt the slaughter of forest elephants. More broadly, the proliferation of cross-border criminal activities in the subregion, particularly smuggling, mostly targeting elephants, had become a growing source of anxiety in Central Africa.

140. The second concern followed from the presentation on 29 May 2013, by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa of the most recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the activities of Regional Office, in which it was noted that elephant poaching was rampant in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon.

141. The Gabonese delegation stressed that the slaughter of Gabonese forest elephants, besides being due to poverty, was attributable above all to the massive consumption of ivory in which Asians engaged — with total indifference to the slaughter that the trade inflicted on Africa — either for the therapeutic benefits of ivory powder or for the production of sculptures.

142. The delegation specified that Africa had lost 70 percent of its forest elephants in ten years and added that Gabon had lost 30 percent of the elephants killed during that period. The official in charge of environmental crime for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Secretary-General for the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) had jointly affirmed that the networks responsible for trafficking in animals currently had a similar structure to networks that trafficked in arms and, in some cases, in drugs. The two entities were in agreement that such trafficking had the potential to jeopardize stability and security at the continental level.

143. On the same subject, Chad reported the slaughter in March 2013 of 89 elephants near the town of Ganba in southern Chad.

144. ECCAS confirmed the information relating to Chad and informed the Committee that more than 300 elephants had been slaughtered in 2012 in Bouba Ndjida (northern Cameroon) by heavily armed poachers. It then described the various emergency plans and the anti-poaching strategy that it had recently introduced following a meeting of ministers of water and forestry and ministers of defence of countries members of ECCAS.

145. The Committee expressed alarm at the resurgence of acts of poaching in the subregion, especially in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon, where several hundreds of elephants were killed every year. It highlighted the fact that the proceeds of poaching were used for illegal activities, including those of the armed groups operating in the region.

146. The Committee called for strengthened cooperation among the member States and with the bilateral and multilateral partners to enhance the effectiveness of the efforts to combat poaching.

147. The Committee recommended that an item on poaching should be included in the agenda of its meetings, so that it could evaluate at regular intervals the progress

made in the efforts to eradicate that phenomenon, which was a serious threat to peace and security in Central Africa.

148. The Committee was informed that President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon would make a presentation on poaching at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2013.

G. Discussion on a specific theme: mediation in Central Africa

149. The representative of the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs briefed the Committee on various aspects of mediation, including a definition of the term, the United Nations mediation system and some elements of relevance to the Central African subregion. Then, drawing on the conclusions of a workshop on capacity-building organized in November 2012 in Libreville for representatives of ECCAS and the Regional Office, he made some operational recommendations for the benefit of the countries members of the Committee.

150. The United Nations expert noted that, in accordance with the Guidance for Effective Mediation, prepared by the United Nations Secretariat after protracted consultations, "Mediation is a process whereby a third party assists two or more parties, with their consent, to prevent, manage or resolve a conflict by helping them to develop mutually acceptable agreements". He specified that mediation had its own logic. It differed from conventional diplomacy in that there was a structured process as opposed to ad hoc diplomatic meetings. He also highlighted the importance of a favourable environment, with consenting parties and supporting international players. Finally, he emphasized that mediation required professional support, since the problems relating to the peace process were currently so complex that the assistance of trained experts was necessary throughout the process and at all levels.

151. The Committee took due note of the existence of the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs and its capacity to respond or be deployed anywhere in the world within 72 hours, thereby ensuring the presence of high-quality expertise.

152. The representative of the Department of Political Affairs stressed how important States and international organizations were to the mediation process. The mediation capabilities of the latter should be enhanced so that they could provide effective support. The representative also mentioned that, if necessary and desirable, the United Nations stood ready to support the various efforts of individual stakeholders according to the different considerations involved.

153. The Committee took due note of the relevant recommendations of the representative of the Department of Political Affairs, namely that: it was important to enhance the mediation support capabilities of the regional organizations, inter alia, through training; it would be helpful to identify and analyse existing capabilities, a task that, for example, a meeting of experts knowledgeable about resources and requirements for developing mediation capabilities might be called upon to undertake; non-governmental organizations should be consulted; the gender aspect was important; and resources at the international level included the Group of Friends of Mediation, which was active within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly.

154. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation for the presentation on mediation in Central Africa. In the discussion, particular emphasis was placed on the need for mediation to be increasingly viewed in a general context of dispute prevention as one of the tools referred to in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, local solutions were important, and the wealth of experience available in the Central African region was highlighted. The Congo expressed its wish to join the Group of Friends of Mediation, as the first country of the subregion to take that step.

155. The Committee underlined the importance of taking into account: the root causes of disputes; the real motivation; the specificities of each dispute; the prevention and settlement of disputes in general terms; local solutions and customary practices in dispute settlement (with Burundi and Rwanda as examples).

156. The Committee stressed the need for a greater involvement of women in mediation forums and initiatives. It recommended that the agenda for future meetings should include an item on Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#), [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1888 \(2009\)](#) and [1889 \(2009\)](#), entitled “Women and peace and security”, and General Assembly resolution [65/69](#), entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”.

H. Implementation of the Libreville Declaration: review of the financial status of the Committee

157. The Committee commended the States members of the Committee that had paid their contributions to the Trust Fund and appealed to States that had not done so to fulfil their commitments.

158. The Committee noted that the non-fulfilment of commitments undermined its smooth functioning.

159. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the political commitment of member States and encouraged them to honour their funding commitments under the Libreville Declaration.

160. The Committee requested the secretariat to submit to it, prior to each meeting, a comprehensive status report on member States’ contributions.

I. Venue and dates of the next meeting

161. The Committee decided to hold its thirty-seventh ministerial meeting in N’Djamena.

162. The meeting would be held from 2 to 6 December 2013.

J. Other matters

163. ECCAS reaffirmed the commitment made in Brazzaville concerning document translation services in Portuguese. At the same time, it drew the Committee’s attention to the financial difficulties it would face in implementing that recommendation.

K. Adoption of the report of the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting

164. The Committee adopted the present report on 23 August 2013.

III. Expression of gratitude

165. The following expression of gratitude was read out:

“We, the representatives of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, assembled in Kigali from 20 to 23 August 2013 for the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting of the Committee,

“Reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of peace, security and stability so necessary for our respective peoples and essential for the socioeconomic development of our subregion,

“Commend the efforts made by our countries, individually and collectively, to promote peace, security, stability and development,

“Welcome the atmosphere of conviviality, fraternity and mutual trust that has prevailed throughout our proceedings,

“Express our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, and to the Government and people of Rwanda for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality we have received during our stay in Rwanda.”
