



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
6 June 2014
English
Original: French

**General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session**

Agenda item 100 (f)

**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-ninth year**

Letter dated 30 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as the representative of the country that currently chairs the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I have the honour to transmit to you the attached report on the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting of that Committee, held in N'Djamena from 19 to 23 December 2013 (see annex), as well as three attachments:

- The N'Djamena Appeal concerning the political, security, social and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic.
- Letter dated 28 October 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Gabon and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.*
- The list of participants in the meeting.

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) Mahamat Zene **Cherif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* [A/68/553](#); not reproduced in the present document.



**Annex to the letter dated 30 April 2014 from the Permanent
Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

**Report of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions
in Central Africa on its thirty-seventh ministerial meeting**

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Introduction

1. The thirty-seventh ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in N'Djamena from 19 to 23 December 2013.

2. The following member States participated in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Rwanda.

3. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) served as the Committee's secretariat. The Secretary-General was represented by Mr. Abou Moussa, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA.

4. The following United Nations entities participated as observers: the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Office in Burundi.

5. The following entities also participated as observers: the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the African Union and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

6. The meeting of experts opened with a ceremony that included two statements: one by Mr. Moussa Mahamat Dago, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Chad, representing the Government of Chad, and one by Mr. Amandin Rugira, Ambassador of Rwanda to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chair of the Committee of Experts. In his statement, Mr. Dago stressed, inter alia, the importance of reviewing, during the Committee meetings, political and institutional developments in the subregion, domestic and cross-border security issues, governance, humanitarian and human rights issues, as well as the state of affairs in each State. He noted that the review by the Committee aimed to reflect realities in the member States, adding that the goal of the organization was to encourage Governments to engage in the decision-making process needed to build a stable, peaceful Central Africa, which was a necessary and essential condition for prosperity. In his remarks, the Chair of the Committee of Experts welcomed the collaboration between the secretariat and the member States during Rwanda's term as Chair over the previous four months, one of the briefest in the history of the Committee. Despite that relatively brief period of time, Rwanda had been able to fulfil its mandate on the following matters:

- Evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Committee, held in Kigali in August 2013.
- Preparation of the agenda for the thirty-seventh meeting of the Committee, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Committee during the meeting of representatives of member States in New York.
- Other work concerning the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

7. The opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting featured:

- A statement by the Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Rwanda.
- A statement by the representative of the African Union, Mr. Ki Doulaye Coentien.

- A message from the Secretary-General of ECCAS, read by the Deputy Secretary-General of ECCAS, Mr. Guy Pierre Garcia.
- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa.
- A statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Chad, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat.

I. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Election of the Bureau.
 3. Report of the outgoing Bureau.
 4. Implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting.
 5. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa.
 6. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative.
 7. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa.
 8. Maritime piracy and security.
 9. Combating armed groups in Central Africa.
 10. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security, and General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
 11. Phenomenon of poaching in Central Africa.
 12. Briefing by bodies with observer status with the Committee.
 13. Report by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on the institutional evolution of subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms, as well as the development of its strategic partnerships.
 14. Discussions on the specific theme selected: Central Africa and the threat of terrorism.
 15. Review of the financial situation of the Committee: implementation of the Libreville Declaration by member States.
 16. Venue and date of the next meeting.
 17. Other matters.
 18. Adoption of the report of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting.

II. Election of the Bureau

9. Chad was elected Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa by acclamation.
10. The Committee also elected the following countries as members of the Bureau:
 - First Vice-Chair: Angola.
 - Second Vice-Chair: Burundi.
 - Rapporteur: Equatorial Guinea.

III. Report of the outgoing Bureau

11. The outgoing Chair briefed the Committee on activities carried out since the thirty-sixth meeting, held from 20 to 23 August 2013, in Kigali. He stressed the following:
 - Overseeing the preparation of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting in collaboration with UNOCA and the Committee secretariat.
 - Leading the negotiations and bilateral and multilateral consultations which led to the adoption by consensus of the resolution entitled “Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa”.
 - Advocating, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, in close collaboration with the other African members of the Council (Morocco and Togo) and the permanent missions of Central African States to the United Nations in New York, for the return of peace in the Central African Republic.
 - Working with Committee members for the implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting, including the ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the Kinshasa Convention, the modernization of the civil registry systems, including the introduction of biometric systems, and the consideration of cross-cutting threats related to peace and security, such as piracy and terrorism.
12. Following his presentation, the outgoing Chair encouraged member States to meet their commitments to the Committee, including with regard to the implementation of the Libreville Declaration.
13. The Committee took note of the report of the outgoing Bureau read by its Chair and commended the members for the quality of the work done and the preparation of the thirty-seventh meeting of the Committee.
14. The Committee commended Rwanda for its commitment within the Security Council to the stabilization of the Central African Republic and for its decision to send a contingent to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA).
15. The Committee also expressed support for the mobilization of the African members of the Security Council, Morocco and Togo, as well as the efforts of France to contribute to the return of peace to the Central African Republic.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting

16. Following a decision taken at the Kigali meeting to review the recommendations made at its previous meetings, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the recommendations made at its thirty-sixth ministerial meeting. It welcomed the implementation of the following measures:

17. Regarding the recommendation to adapt and harmonize national laws of member States on all forms of crime, which affects the subregion as a whole, the Committee called upon ECCAS and UNOCA to hold workshops during the forthcoming meetings of the Committee in order to initiate a discussion with a view to gaining a better understanding of the phenomenon.

18. With regard to strengthening the capacity of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism, the Committee welcomed the efforts to provide that structure with three additional frameworks and thanked the Government of Gabon for providing it with new offices.

19. The Committee welcomed the translation into Portuguese of the geopolitical review.

20. The Committee also reviewed the ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which has been ratified by Cameroon, Chad, Gabon and Rwanda. The Committee urged the other member States to do likewise.

21. The member States each provided information on the progress made in updating their civil registry systems and introducing biometrics into those systems as well as into the electoral system. Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Rwanda reported that the biometric passport was being finalized or was already in use in their countries. Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda reported that their citizens had biometric identity cards. The Democratic Republic of the Congo indicated that biometric identity cards would be used starting in April 2014, while Burundi reported that the process was being finalized. Chad, Gabon and Rwanda informed the Committee that, in their countries, a biometric voting card system was in use. The system was also being finalized in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

22. The Committee also discussed the implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative (Kinshasa Convention). It welcomed the ratification of the Convention by four Committee members, namely the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo and Gabon.

23. The Committee also took note of the information provided by Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo with regard to their ratification of the Convention. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa recalled that six countries needed to ratify the Convention for it to enter into force and called for speedy ratification by other member States.

24. The Committee also requested the Centre to support States parties and signatories of the Kinshasa Convention and the Nairobi Protocol with a view to

harmonizing their national legislation and institutions, and encouraged its members to share their national experiences.

25. The Committee welcomed the inclusion in its agenda of the topic of combating poaching and the initiatives taken by Committee members to alert the international community and combat the phenomenon.

26. The Committee welcomed the inclusion in its regular agenda of an item on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) on women and peace and security, and General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

27. The Committee also took note of the thorough report on current financial contributions from member States submitted by the secretariat.

28. The Committee decided to renew the recommendations of the thirty-sixth meeting that had not been implemented, namely:

(a) The establishment of a regional strategy to combat drugs and other psychotropic substances and the establishment or reinforcement of national commissions specifically for that purpose, as well as the submission of reports on their activities to the Committee;

(b) The establishment of a regional strategy and a framework for cooperation and dialogue on security in correctional facilities to address trafficking in drugs and small arms in prisons, with the support of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

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

29. The document prepared by the ECCAS secretariat on the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa served as the basis for discussion among member States.

30. Consideration of the geopolitical and security situation in the subregion focused on three main areas: political and institutional developments, internal and cross-border security, and governance, humanitarian and human rights issues.

31. The discussions showed that the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa has changed considerably, with peace giving way to chaos in the Central African Republic, and the army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo achieving a military victory over the M23 insurgency.

32. With regard to the political and institutional developments, the Committee noted that, during the reporting period, member States made efforts to address the challenges involved in building consensual political systems and strengthening the rule of law.

33. On domestic and cross-border security, Central Africa is facing a combination of threats, including narcoterrorism and the activities of Boko Haram and Al Shabaab in neighbouring countries in the subregion; poaching; maritime insecurity; so-called ritual killings; illegal exploitation of natural resources; and the phenomenon of armed rebellions.

34. Member States have made substantial efforts to address governance, humanitarian and human rights issues. However, the promotion and respect of human rights, the practice of good governance and improvement of the humanitarian situation remain significant challenges in Central Africa.

35. The Committee commended the ECCAS secretariat for its presentation of the working paper on the review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa and urged it to include recommendations in the conclusion of the review.

36. The geopolitical and security situation, country by country, is as follows:

Angola

37. Since the last meeting, in Kigali, the political and security situation in Angola has remained stable. The Government continued to focus its efforts on combating poverty and unemployment and eliminating social inequalities with a view to moving the country out of the group of least developed countries, in accordance with the 2012-2017 development plan. In that connection, the completion of the Lobito corridor railway, an important locus of economic development in the subregion that will enable neighbouring countries to export their products, is worth noting.

38. In the area of good governance, following a national conference, the Government adopted the national social plan aimed at solving basic problems faced by youth.

39. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, the large-scale weapons-recovery and mine-clearance operation had gone ahead convincingly. Despite these efforts, Angola continues to feel the effects of the presence of a large number of anti-personnel mines on its territory.

40. In addition, Angola continues to face strong pressure from migration.

41. Lastly, it should be noted that a border incident between Angola and the Congo occurred during the period under review, but it was resolved in a peaceful manner.

Burundi

42. Burundi continued its efforts to stabilize and consolidate its political life and the security situation. The Committee was briefed on the transition process for the United Nations Office in Burundi under way pursuant to Security Council resolution 2090 (2013).

43. The security situation remains generally positive. Burundi continues to contribute to efforts to restore peace in other countries, including Somalia and the Central African Republic.

44. On the political front, there has been a special focus on preparations for the 2015 general elections, which should be fairly peaceful, given that political opponents have returned to participate in political life and have all agreed on the rules of the game before the elections are held. The same approach is being taken with regard to the proposed review of the Constitution; indeed, Burundi has chosen dialogue as the path to finding solutions to political differences.

45. However, the serious economic and financial difficulties besetting Burundi should spur the country's partners to advocate for increased mobilization of funding

in order to implement the second strategic framework for growth and poverty reduction, so as to prevent the resurgence of tension and violence.

Cameroon

46. Since the last ministerial meeting, Cameroon has continued its progress towards peace and stability.

47. On the political front, consolidation of the democratic process has continued, as exemplified by the legislative and municipal elections held on 30 September 2013. The elections were peaceful and described as free and credible by both national and international observers.

48. The independent body responsible for organizing elections in Cameroon, Elections Cameroon, has gained credibility despite some shortcomings which did not have an effect on the outcome of the elections.

49. On the social front, there were no major public protests in the country during the period under review.

50. With respect to governance, the authorities have continued their campaign to improve public morality, in particular by prosecuting persons accused of misappropriating public funds. Nevertheless, Cameroon's most recent ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index of the non-governmental organization Transparency International clearly demonstrates that additional efforts are needed in this area.

51. The security situation remained under control despite contrasting developments. On the one hand, there was an increase in petty urban crime characterized by home robberies and street muggings. On the other hand, a dozen instances of so-called ritual killings were reported in Yaoundé and Bafoussam and their perpetrators and sponsors were quickly apprehended by law enforcement officers. Judicial proceedings on those cases are under way.

52. Cross-border security was disrupted by armed incursions by elements from the Central African Republic in the east of the country and the terrorist activities of the Nigerian sect Boko Haram in the north. After a family of French tourists which the group had abducted at the beginning of the year was successfully released, Boko Haram struck again, during the night of 13 November 2013, kidnapping a French Catholic priest.

53. With regard to the Central African Republic, following the activities by Séléka described in the preceding review, armed men from that country have been attacking Cameroonian communities, with the undeclared goal of freeing the Central African rebel leader Abdoulaye Miskine, who was arrested and imprisoned in Cameroon during the period under review.

54. In response, Cameroon strengthened security measures along its border with the Central African Republic; increased its presence in MISCA, boosting the number of military personnel from 504 to 850 on 16 December 2013; provided that Mission with important materiel, including an aircraft for the air protection unit; and, in accordance with ECCAS decisions, appointed the military commander of the operation.

55. While the authorities' efforts to secure the borders with Nigeria and the Central African Republic are to be commended, it must also be acknowledged that

the security situations in both of those countries should be vigilantly monitored, as they have the potential to disrupt the peace in neighbouring Cameroonian communities.

Central African Republic

56. The hopes that were raised in respect of the political and security situation, described in the previous assessment of the Central African Republic, were dashed during the reporting period; the Government of the Central African Republic and its “ideological apparatus”, that is, the army, the police and the justice system, have not failed or collapsed, but have disappeared entirely. Under these conditions, chaos and anarchy have reigned; the Central African Republic has endured the worst challenges in its history in all areas: mass pillaging, indiscriminate killing and the disappearance of State services.

57. The concern previously articulated by the Central African Early Warning Mechanism that the conflict would become religious in nature has become a reality, with clashes between Christians and Muslims resulting in the death of hundreds of people in the city of Bangui over the past few days.

58. Today, the Central African Republic is facing catastrophe. The widespread insecurity has caused the economy to collapse and the humanitarian situation has become extremely urgent.

59. However, a number of developments and supportive actions implemented by the international community for some time are cause for hope. These include:

- Security Council resolutions 2121 (2013), which strengthens the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, and 2127 (2013), by which the Council authorized the deployment of the African-led MISCA, pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.
- Good collaboration between ECCAS and the African Union during preparations for the transition from the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic to MISCA (in force since 19 December 2013).
- The deployment of French forces under Operation Sangaris to support MISCA, pursuant to specific provisions of resolution 2127 (2013).
- The appointment of senior officials to MISCA by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.
- The commitment of ECCAS member States to make a broad range of efforts and uphold the leadership of the Central African Republic within MISCA.

60. The major challenge facing the Central African Republic is the rebuilding of the State, with the restoration of a minimum level of security throughout the country being an absolute priority. Without a minimum level of security, meeting the commitments set out in the transition road map, in particular the elections, will be difficult.

Congo

61. Since the last ministerial meeting, the Congo has maintained its achievements in the areas of peace, security and stability, within the context of a healthy economy.

62. On the political front, the Government, the parties of the presidential majority, the parties of the opposition and civil society have held the meetings and consultations required for the successful conduct of peaceful local elections; these were originally scheduled for the end of 2013 but will be held in 2014.

63. In this regard, the Independent National Electoral Commission organized discussions on the code of conduct for political parties following the joint organization of a special administrative census a few months earlier.

64. However, the so-called radical opposition, which since 2012 has called for the “convening of a national summit to rehabilitate the Republic, renew democracy and save the country from disaster”, remains on the sidelines of this process. This fringe element of the opposition also continues to express its firm objection to a possible amendment to the Constitution, in particular the article that limits the number of presidential terms to two.

65. With regard to security, the Congo was heavily involved in the resolution of conflicts in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Congo holds the chairmanship of the Follow-up Committee on the Libreville Agreements on the Central African Republic and is a major troop contributor to the Central Africa Multinational Force. Those troops were transferred on 19 December 2013 to MISCA, which is led by General Jean-Marie Mokoko, of Congolese nationality, in his capacity as the African Union Special Representative and Head of MISCA. The Congo has also provided significant bilateral and multilateral aid to the Central African Republic.

66. In this context, the Government is preparing for the ECCAS multinational and multidimensional peacekeeping exercise, called “Loango 2014”, to be held in Pointe Noire in 2014. The reporting period was marked by an incident on the border with Angola, in which dozens of Congolese soldiers were held against their will by the Angolan army. Fortunately, the incident was peacefully resolved.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

67. During the period under review, there were a number of major political and security activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

68. At the political level, two major events were the focus:

(a) The conclusion of a political dialogue through “national consultations” between the Government, the opposition and civil society;

(b) The debate concerning the possible amendment to certain provisions of the Constitution, in particular article 220, which places a limit on the number of presidential terms.

69. With regard to the first topic, it should be noted that this valuable initiative was organized by the Government and the presidential majority. The goal was to achieve greater coherence in the institutional response to armed groups. Following those consultations, a “new beginning” was announced, along with several measures for the formation of a Government of national unity and the repatriation of the body of former President Mobutu and former Prime Minister Tchombe. However, a fringe opposition group remained on the sidelines of the consultations.

70. The Kampala peace talks were concluded in Nairobi on 12 December 2013 with the signing of three declarations.

71. With regard to the possible amendment to the Constitution, opinion remained divided, despite assurances from the authorities that the letter and spirit of article 220 would be respected.

72. Electoral activities were characterized by the demands of the opposition aimed at making the system more efficient and effective and by the need to complete the electoral process initiated in 2006 through holding local elections. In that regard, an independent national electoral commission has already been established, with the participation of the presidential majority, the opposition and civil society.

73. The authorities continued efforts to be more effective in the area of governance.

74. Domestic and cross-border security has greatly improved in the east of the country, owing to, inter alia, the military victory of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo over M23, and the launch of another military campaign, with the support of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, that targeted other threats, including the Allied Democratic Forces — National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Lord's Resistance Army and the various Mai-Mai militia groups.

75. However, some measure of caution and vigilance should prevail in respect of these latest developments, as the history of conflict in the region has demonstrated how an armed group can disappear and reconstitute itself under another name, sometimes joining forces with other armed movements. This is especially the case when it is clear that, under the strategic plan, the military aims but not necessarily the political goals of a war can be achieved.

76. It should be noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has contributed a battalion, police forces and a civilian contingent to the peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic, with an additional contingent soon to arrive in that country.

Gabon

77. Since the last ministerial meeting in Kigali, the overall situation in Gabon has remained consistent, marked by the peace and stability that normally prevail in that country.

78. On the political front, the Government continued to focus on preparations for the local elections using the biometric system; the elections had initially been scheduled for November but were finally held on 14 December 2013. The main reason for the delay was the fact that the biometric electoral roll was not readily available within the time frame set out in the Constitution.

79. The official results of the election are expected by the end of December. It is worth noting that voter turnout was high, exceeding 60 per cent.

80. Social tensions were documented during the period under review. These included a teachers' strike to demand payment of their annual vacation entitlements and protests by secondary school students against a proposed reform of the ninth-

and twelfth-grade curriculums. Under those circumstances, the reform process was suspended by a decision of the President of Gabon, which led students to resume their regular class schedule.

81. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, the period under review was marked by a number of developments related to urban insecurity, especially in Libreville. The Gabonese authorities continued to successfully implement strong measures to address these problems.

Equatorial Guinea

82. Since the last ministerial meeting, Equatorial Guinea has remained one of the most stable and peaceful countries in Central Africa.

83. Political activity has centred on the formation of a new Government following the recent general elections in the country.

84. The country's stability has helped it to become a prime destination for major international meetings of ECCAS, the African Union and the United Nations, earning Equatorial Guinea the admiration of the international community.

85. Equatorial Guinea has decided to postpone the implementation of the policy of freedom of movement throughout the CEMAC zone, as some elements of the consensual road map, which are necessary to carrying out the decision agreed by the CEMAC Heads of State in Libreville on 14 June 2013, are not yet in place.

86. In that connection, Equatorial Guinea continues to face enormous difficulties in managing the flow of migrants from outside the CEMAC zone and from ECCAS non-member countries, forcing the authorities to carry out mass expulsions.

87. The country's economic growth has remained constant, which has led the General Assembly to remove it from the list of least developed countries.

88. With respect to security in the subregion, Equatorial Guinea has dispatched a military contingent with substantial equipment to the Central African Republic.

89. Lastly, domestic and cross-border security continue to be maintained effectively, despite reports of some isolated incidents of banditry, particularly in Malabo and Bata.

Rwanda

90. Since the last ministerial meeting in Kigali, the positive peace, security and stability indicators that were observed in Rwanda have remained constant.

91. On the political front, the country conducted transparent legislative elections in September 2013 and held the eleventh session of the National Dialogue (Umushyikirano) on 6 and 7 December 2013, which brought together all stakeholders in the country's political life, both those living in Rwanda and those residing abroad, in order to conduct the annual assessment of the country's achievements and lay the groundwork for priority plans for the following year, as provided in the Constitution. The legislative elections were won by the coalition made up of the Rwandan Patriotic Front and four other political parties, with a resounding victory of 76 per cent and a 98 per cent voter turnout.

92. This comfortable majority has allowed the Government to pursue its ambitious agenda aimed at making Rwanda a middle-income country by 2020.

93. However, during the reporting period, Rwanda suffered from the fallout from the allegations made by the United Nations Group of Experts, echoed by the United States of America, that it was supporting the M23 rebels. Rwanda has consistently denied those allegations.

94. The domestic and cross-border security situation has remained generally stable.

Sao Tome and Principe

95. Since the last ministerial meeting, the general situation in Sao Tome and Principe has been one of peace and stability.

96. The political class continued to be 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 party Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe/Partido Social Democrata. It is clearly the second option that has prevailed, namely to hold legislative elections in 2014.

97. It is hoped that whichever side wins these elections will secure the parliamentary majority required to maintain a stable Government and peacefully pursue the economic reforms needed by the islands, which are poised to begin oil extraction, a goal that has been frequently promised.

98. It should be recalled that Sao Tome and Principe is one of the most volatile countries in Central Africa in respect of governance.

99. In terms of domestic and cross-border security, the situation had been under control for the most part. While the investigations regarding the illegal entry of weapons into the islands, which had been reported to the ECCAS secretariat, have not yielded concrete results, vigilance and caution are still advised.

Chad

100. Since the last ministerial meeting in Kigali, the overall situation in Chad, as has been observed since 2008, has been marked by progress towards peace, security and stability.

101. With regard to domestic politics, the environment is calm. A new framework for dialogue, which will include civil society, called the National Framework for Policy Dialogue, was established.

102. In addition, the joint Independent National Electoral Commission, which includes members of the majority and the opposition, has been established in order to prepare for the regional and local elections planned for 2014. Chad has also made significant political achievements at the diplomatic level.

103. In addition to participating in the military interventions in Mali and the Central African Republic, which was a welcome step, for the first time in its history, Chad succeeded in being elected to the United Nations Security Council.

104. With regard to domestic and cross-border security, as was discussed at the last ministerial meeting, the peace process has been positive, as it is grounded in a supportive political environment.

105. However, the country's security indicators should continue to be monitored owing in part to the climate of constant turmoil that seriously threatens the States in the region, including Chad. There has been little progress in the conflict in Darfur, which has brought 300,000 refugees into eastern Chad; Nigeria is facing the cross-border impulses of the Boko Haram sect, which is focused on undermining the tolerant form of Islam practised in the country; Libya, now a "collapsed State", presents all of the elements that are conducive to implosion, including tribal, extremist and jihadist militias which have better war arsenals than several States in the region; and further south, there is the Central African Republic, from which more than 75,000 refugees along the entire border have fled to Chad. The army is on permanent alert; this has a significant human and financial cost, since by seeking to protect its own borders, Chad is also protecting the subregion's northern borders.

Recommendations on the geopolitical review

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

(a) A subregional workshop should be organized on the theme "adapting and harmonizing the domestic legislation of member States on so-called ritual crime", with the support of the Committee's secretariat, as a side event of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting;

(b) The Committee secretariat should make the geopolitical review prepared by ECCAS available to member States at least two weeks before the ministerial meetings, in order to be able to obtain their feedback;

(c) ECCAS, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States should work together to support member States, at their request, in implementing the Nairobi Protocol and the Kinshasa Convention;

(d) A strategy and framework for dialogue and reflection on prison security should be implemented in Central Africa, with the support of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

(e) The settlement of border disputes should be part of the ongoing dialogue and consultation among the relevant States of the subregion;

(f) A statement on the situation in the Central African Republic should be issued (see enclosure I, N'Djamena Appeal).

VI. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative

Code of conduct for defence and security forces in Central Africa

107. The ECCAS secretariat introduced the report on the main activities carried out since the last ministerial meeting in Kigali in connection with the development of the code of conduct for the defence and security forces in Central Africa.

108. The Committee noted that, since the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting of the Committee, the activities of the ECCAS secretariat for the development of the code of conduct for defence and security forces in Central Africa had focused on three main areas:

- Reporting, publishing and disseminating information on the promotion of civilian and military relations in Central Africa.
- Developing the technical capacities of law enforcement officers with regard to democratic governance in the security sector in Central Africa.
- Promoting international cooperation and sharing of experiences on reforming the security sector in Central Africa.

109. ECCAS reported that, since the last ministerial meeting of the Committee held in Kigali, it had been working hard to publish the code of conduct for defence and security forces in Central Africa.

110. Technical aspects of the document are still being finalized. Once published as a booklet, the code of conduct for defence and security forces in Central Africa would be shared with military and security institutions of States members of the Committee for dissemination and promotion.

111. To that end, the Committee recommended that ECCAS should make a Portuguese version of the published code of conduct available to Angola and Sao Tome and Principe.

112. The ECCAS secretariat had continued to provide technical support for institutional capacity-building for States members of the Committee with regard to democratic governance in the security sector in Central Africa.

113. In that connection, the ECCAS secretariat had provided technical assistance to the relevant national authorities in kick-starting the process for the drafting and adoption of the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Gabon. The Code of Conduct, which had been officially given to defence and security forces in Gabon during a solemn ceremony, was largely based on relevant provisions of the subregional code of conduct adopted in 2009 by the 11 States members of the Committee.

114. The ECCAS secretariat, together with national consultants recruited for that purpose, also continued to prepare the draft white paper on private security firms in Central Africa, a process launched at the beginning of 2012.

115. The Committee recommended that, once finalized, the white paper should be adopted by ministers at a meeting of the Committee, following the validation meeting of government experts that the Secretary-General of ECCAS would organize in 2014 on the matter.

116. It was noted that international cooperation and assistance were important areas of the work of the ECCAS secretariat on security sector reform in Central Africa.

117. The Committee took note of the fact that, as part of the implementation of the African Union Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform in Africa, adopted in January 2013, in Addis Ababa, the ECCAS secretariat had participated in the Consultation Workshop on the African Union Draft Operational Guidance Notes to

develop a code of conduct for security sector institutions in Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 November 2013.

118. The new code of conduct, which supplements and completes the one adopted in 2001 under the auspices of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa by the decision-making bodies of the African Union, is different because it takes into account the issue of private security in Africa.

VII. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa

119. The Committee took note of the information provided by ECCAS on the activities it had undertaken to implement the Kinshasa Convention. Those activities had focused on two priority areas:

- Support for institutional capacity-building in member States to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
- International cooperation and sharing of experiences in combatting illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the subregion.

120. ECCAS said that, pending the entry into force of the Kinshasa Convention, it continued to take measures to support institutional capacity-building in member States, including by offering assistance to establish and operationalize national commissions for combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

121. In that connection and in accordance with the recommendations of the technical preparatory meeting, held in Libreville on 18 and 19 April 2012, the Secretary-General of ECCAS plans to hold a national forum on combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Gabon, in Libreville in the first quarter of 2014. The forum will aim, inter alia, to raise awareness among Gabonese authorities of the need to establish and make operational as quickly as possible the national commission on small arms and light weapons.

122. It should be noted that forums similar to the one in Gabon were also being prepared. They would be held throughout 2014 in four other target countries, namely Cameroon, the Congo, the Central African Republic and Chad.

123. In that connection, the Committee recommended that the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) should provide assistance to ECCAS to help it circulate and disseminate among member States the guidebook produced in 2012 on setting up national commissions on small arms and light weapons.

124. In terms of cooperation and sharing of experiences, the ECCAS secretariat took part in the second annual meeting of the African Union — Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 18 to 19 November 2013.

125. The Committee noted that implementation of the Kinshasa Convention presented some challenges, including:

- Inadequate number of ratifications, which not only prevented the Convention from entering into force but also hampered the development and

implementation of a five-year programme of priority activities, as the Committee has been recommending since its thirty-fourth ministerial meeting.

- Establishment and operationalization of national commissions on small arms and light weapons in all States members of the Committee that met the standards set out by the ECCAS secretariat in its 2012 guidebook.

126. The Committee was informed that Cameroon had ratified the Kinshasa Convention and that the ratification instruments would be deposited at the beginning of 2014.

127. The Committee encouraged those member States that had not yet done so to ratify the Kinshasa Convention.

128. To create opportunities, and until the Central African Action Network on Small Arms was up and running, the ECCAS secretariat launched a collaborative process in October 2013 with the Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention, based in Birmingham, United Kingdom, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding, which the Committee welcomed. The Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention informed the Committee that the fifth biennial meeting of member States to consider the programme of action on small arms and light weapons would be held in June 2014.

129. In that regard, the Committee recommended that, during the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting, the secretariat should hold a preparatory technical meeting with member States for the biennial meeting. The Committee encouraged member States to participate in the biennial meeting and urged ECCAS to assist them, as it had done with the Arms Trade Treaty.

130. The ECCAS presentation was followed by the briefing by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa on disarmament in the Central African subregion, which 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 representative 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.

131. The Centre emphasized the importance of the submission of national reports on 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 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.

132. 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.

133. The Centre reported that the illicit trade in and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons continued to have a negative impact on several Central African countries. The States concerned found it difficult to manage the problem and find lasting solutions. The Centre highlighted that a programme of marking and registering government- and privately-owned weapons could help in the management of that problem.

134. The representative said that the Centre was pleased that, on 26 September 2013, the Security Council had adopted resolution 2117 (2013), its first resolution devoted exclusively to the issue of small arms and light weapons, and explained its various provisions.

135. In that regard, the Centre noted that the Office for Disarmament Affairs had sent a note verbale to States, informing them that the deadline for the submission of reports was 31 December 2013, and provided other details about the presentation of reports.

136. In the light of the fifth biennial meeting of States of 2014 on the Programme of Action and the current momentum surrounding the Arms Trade Treaty, the Centre called on States that were in a position to do so to ratify the Kinshasa Convention as soon as possible.

137. The Centre stressed the importance of accelerating the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, which would also contribute to peace and security in Central Africa. Since it was opened for signature on 3 June 2013, the Treaty has been signed by 115 States, including six States in the subregion. The Office for Disarmament Affairs encouraged other States in the subregion to join the signatories and called for ratification of the Treaty. In connection with opening the Arms Trade Treaty for signature, the Centre also informed the Committee members that it had established a financing structure to support cooperation — the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation — for the regulation of arms.

138. Regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the Centre 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.

139. ECCAS and the Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention informed the Committee that the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons would be held in Mexico on 13 and 14 February 2014.

Implementation of the road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa

140. The regional coordinator of the network against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons in Central Africa reminded the Committee that the first regional counter-terrorism workshop had been held as a side event of the Committee's thirty-

fifth ministerial meeting, held in Brazzaville, in December 2012. The main outcome of the workshop had been the establishment of a network of national counter-terrorism coordinators and the appointment of a regional coordinator.

141. The regional coordinator said that Central Africa was vulnerable to terrorist threats from hotbeds in the Sahel and West Africa, with the possibility of an incursion by groups from Somalia.

142. The regional coordinator emphasized the need to implement the counter-terrorism road map so that Central Africa might be equipped with an effective plan to combat that problem.

143. The Committee noted the information provided by the regional coordinator on the series of workshops that would be held from 2014 on police capacity-building (Gabon, 28-30 January 2014), border controls (Congo), money-laundering (organized by the Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa), justice (Sao Tome and Principe), trafficking of small arms and light weapons (Burundi) and civil rights (Cameroon).

144. The regional coordinator called for greater political and financial commitment and a common vision from States, before stressing the importance of State capacity-building, of addressing the root causes of the problem and of ensuring respect for human rights. Lastly, he thanked the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa for its support.

VIII. Maritime piracy and security

145. The Committee followed with close attention the presentation by the ECCAS secretariat on the status of maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea, and progress in operationalizing the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC) and implementing the outcome of the Yaoundé Summit.

146. It was pointed out that insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea continued to have a significant impact on the security, economy and communities of the Central African region, threatening the security and prosperity of its States.

147. With regard to the operationalization of CRESMAC, the ECCAS secretariat informed the Committee of the delay in the funding by member States, with the exception of the Congo, of the effective launch of its activities, the mechanism for which had been adopted at the fourth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, held in N'Djamena on 4 April 2010. The ECCAS secretariat called on States to meet their financial obligations with regard to CRESMAC.

148. As for the implementation of the outcome of the Yaoundé Summit, the ECCAS secretariat reported on the follow-up meetings held in Libreville and Dakar, in preparation for the establishment of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, the headquarters of which would be in Cameroon, and on a meeting of the G8++ held in Abuja. The ECCAS secretariat said that, in order to implement the outcome of Yaoundé, the code of conduct would have to be made binding within three years.

149. The delegation of the Congo also provided insights about the steps taken to establish CRESMAC in Pointe Noire, and said that an ECCAS expert mission had

visited Brazzaville and Pointe Noire in September 2013 to assess the technical and specialized equipment, and that CRESMAC should be operational in February 2014. The Congo had also taken regulatory and institutional steps to implement the outcome of the Yaoundé Summit, including bilaterally and multilaterally. Those efforts had led to the Congo being put back on the United States Coast Guard “White List”. Lastly, it was noted that the Congo had been nominated by the African Union to present the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy, which would be adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2014, in Addis Ababa.

150. The Congo informed the Committee that the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) had adopted, at its twenty-eighth session, a resolution to establish the IMO West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund.

151. The Committee noted the steps taken by the Government of Cameroon to implement the outcome of the Yaoundé Summit, including establishing a national committee to monitor the resolutions of the Summit.

152. Following the discussions on the matter, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) A meeting of Ministers of Transport and the Merchant Navy and the heads of relevant departments should be convened to determine how the operationalization of CRESMAC should be funded and how State contributions should be disbursed;

(b) Contributions by member States that had signed the protocol to the overall CRESMAC start-up budget of CFAF 665,000,000, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa at N’Djamena on 4 April 2010, should be paid and shared as follows:

- Angola, Cameroon, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon: CFAF 91,000,000
- Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo: CFAF 65,000,000
- Central African Republic, Sao Tome and Principe: CFAF 33,250,000

(c) Coastal States should initiate reforms of the security sector and maritime security, without which it would prove difficult to implement the outcome of Yaoundé. That reform could focus on six areas, namely maritime governance, the maritime economy, maritime jurisdiction, sea defences, maritime security, and sea response and rescue.

IX. Combating armed groups in Central Africa

153. The Committee recommended that an in-depth discussion should be held on combating armed groups other than the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) that operate in Central Africa, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces — National Army for the Liberation of Uganda and Mai-Mai.

154. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa informed the Committee that it was continuing, in close collaboration with the African Union Special Envoy on the Lord’s Resistance Army, its coordination efforts and activities

to implement the regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of LRA, approved by the Security Council on 29 June 2012.

155. In that connection, the Office, together with the African Union and with the support of its international partners, convened the biennial meeting of national, regional and international focal points on LRA in Entebbe, Uganda, in August 2013.

156. At that meeting, participants had taken stock of military, political, humanitarian and human rights initiatives and elaborated activities for the next six-month period in the context of the implementation plan for the regional strategy.

157. The Office also reported on the preparations currently under way for the next meeting on that topic, to be held in Entebbe.

158. Also in connection with combating LRA, the Office reported that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General had participated in a conference hosted by the European Parliament in Brussels, on 2 October 2013, which sought to refocus international attention on the LRA question.

159. On 4 October, also in Brussels, he participated in a meeting of the International Working Group on LRA, co-chaired by the European Union and the United States of America. Members of the Working Group had agreed that, in order to capitalize on the recent expansion of military operations, strengthening political and financial support for the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative was essential.

160. Lastly, the Office said that, during the recent presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA to the Security Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General had, once again, brought the issue of affiliates of LRA to the attention of the members of the Council. It was discussed in detail.

161. The members of the Council had, moreover, stressed the need to strengthen efforts to put an end to the activities of LRA, particularly as the situation in the Central African Republic was extremely fragile.

162. The Committee recommended that, in addition to the Lord's Resistance Army, other armed groups in the subregion should be discussed.

X. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security, and General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

163. The delegation of the Congo gave a presentation on national efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security, and General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

164. The Committee noted that the Congo had undertaken many activities to implement resolution 1325 (2000), which was an essential tool for the protection and improvement of the status of women. The Committee was informed about the programmes to raise awareness of and disseminate resolution 1325 (2000) among

officials and personnel of the Congolese Armed Forces and the gendarmerie in Brazzaville, Pointe Noire, Dolisie and Djambala.

165. The Committee also welcomed:

- The adoption of the national gender policy and plan of action 2009-2013
- The development of a national plan for the advancement of women
- The development of legislation to protect and enhance women's rights.

166. The Committee also noted that the Congo attached great importance to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on violence against women and girls in armed conflicts, and gave consideration to raising awareness of and disseminating General Assembly resolution 65/69.

167. The Committee was informed that the Government of the Congo intended to translate that text into two national languages, namely, Lingala and Kikongo. It also noted the Congo's determination to implement Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1889 (2009) on sexual violence against women in armed conflict. The Congo attached great importance to the matter, particularly considering the pressing nature of the situation of women in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

168. In connection with combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, ECCAS informed the Committee about its 2014 training programme for women on the theme of armed violence, war and combating small arms and light weapons. Those national training programmes were the result of the recommendations made at the subregional seminar, held from 5 to 8 May 2012 in N'Djamena.

169. The Committee encouraged member States to continue their efforts to implement the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions covered by the agenda item under consideration.

170. The Committee called for the establishment of a regional strategy and a framework for cooperation and reflection on security in correctional facilities to address rape and sexual violence in prisons with the support of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy.

XI. Phenomenon of poaching in Central Africa

171. The Gabonese delegation made a presentation on poaching in Central Africa, following the recommendation made at the thirty-sixth meeting of the Committee to include this item on the agenda of its forthcoming meetings.

172. The delegation of Gabon informed the Committee about concrete steps and initiatives undertaken by the Government of Gabon to support and strengthen the anti-poaching efforts of member States and ECCAS.

173. The Committee noted that, at the international level, Gabon and Germany had jointly organized a major event followed by a high-level debate on the theme "Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking: a multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community", which was held on 26 September 2013 in New York, on the sidelines of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Several Heads of State and Ministers of Member States had responded to the

invitation of President Ali Bongo Ondimba and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Guido Westerwelle. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of ECCAS, and other senior United Nations officials and leaders of regional organizations and civil society had also attended.

174. The participants had unanimously concurred with a statement that the trade in endangered wildlife was a serious obstacle to the realization of universal human rights, peace, security and development. Following the meeting, a letter was addressed to the Secretary-General (A/68/553), the annex to which contains pertinent recommendations, including:

- Appointing a special representative or envoy of the Secretary-General for the protection of fauna and flora, responsible for mobilizing the international community to combat poaching.
- Establishing a group of friends, headed by Central African delegations.
- Submitting a resolution to the General Assembly on poaching, highlighting the environmental, economic and security aspects of its impact.
- Convening an international conference on the issue, to be hosted by Gabon.

175. The Committee welcomed the proposal of the delegation of Gabon to consider the aforementioned General Assembly document (A/68/553) as a working document of the Committee and to annex it to the final report of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting.¹

176. The Committee was also informed that, on the sidelines of the high-level meeting in New York, President Ali Bongo Ondimba had participated in the launch of a three-year, \$80 million project by the Clinton Global Initiative to eradicate the poaching of elephants and the ivory trade. In conclusion, Gabon congratulated UNOCA and encouraged its Head and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Abou Moussa, to continue to work with States members of the Committee to combat poaching.

177. The Committee noted that Gabon remained open to greater cooperation among all States of the subregion. The delegation recommended establishing an effective information-sharing mechanism; building the capacity of forest rangers; creating subregional mechanisms to promote coordination among the technically competent State services; undertaking joint patrol operations coordinated by ECCAS; setting up a rapid reaction force of rangers under the auspices of ECCAS; harmonizing domestic legislation on the issue; and having UNOCA and ECCAS organize seminars and capacity-building workshops.

XII. Briefing by bodies with observer status with the Committee

United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

178. The Committee followed with interest the briefing by the Director of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, who gave an update on the Centre's activities in recent months. He

¹ The letter has not been reproduced in the present document.

highlighted the various capacity-building efforts undertaken with States and regional actors in areas under the Centre's mandate, and welcomed the cooperation with bodies such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, ECCAS and UNOCA. With regard to cooperation with UNOCA, he referred to the positive outcome of the seminar to raise awareness among Central African journalists of peace, security and human rights, organized jointly by UNOCA and the Centre, from 26 to 28 November in Douala, Cameroon. The seminar ended with the adoption of a declaration on the media, peace, security and human rights in Central Africa and the establishment of a subregional forum on those issues.

179. He also encouraged States members of the Committee that had not yet done so to ratify the various instruments governing human rights and democracy, to ensure the optimal functioning of their democratic infrastructure.

180. The Committee commended the Director of the Centre for his presentation and welcomed his willingness to continue to provide the necessary support to States in their efforts to consolidate and promote human rights and democracy.

181. The Committee acknowledged the need for cooperation with all subregional institutions, including the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.

XIII. Report by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on the institutional evolution of subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms, as well as the development of its strategic partnerships

182. The Committee heard with interest a presentation by the secretariat of ECCAS concerning the institutional evolution of subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms, as well as the development of strategic partnerships.

183. The secretariat gave a presentation on the operationalization of the peace and security architecture in Central Africa. The presentation contained a review of the legal instruments — non-aggression pact; mutual assistance pact; the Protocol establishing the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa; and the internal regulations of the Committee on Defence and Security, the Central Africa Multinational Force and the Central African Early Warning Mechanism — and the decision-making bodies, the Conference of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, and the Committee on Defence and Security.

184. The secretariat then gave an assessment of the implementation instruments and noted a gradual strengthening of those instruments, including the Department for Human Integration, Peace, Security and Stability; the strategic analysis group; the Directorate of Political Affairs and the Central African Early Warning Mechanism; the Central Africa Multinational Force; the Directorate for Human Security; and the Committee of Ambassadors.

185. The Committee welcomed those developments, including the strengthening of strategic partnerships entered into by ECCAS and the African Union with the United Nations and the European Union, in particular the African Peace Facility and the programme of support in the areas of peace and security.

XIV. Discussions on the specific theme selected: Central Africa and the threat of terrorism

186. The Committee followed with interest a presentation on the selected theme of Central Africa and the threat of terrorism, given by a representative of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism.

187. The Centre's representative said that the security situation in the Central African region was dominated by violence and terror against civilians, committed during armed political, ideological or ethnic uprisings taking advantage of institutional gaps and weak States. That situation was exacerbated by other phenomena, including narcoterrorism; poaching; maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea; banditry on major river systems; ritual killings; tribal or clan conflicts; cattle-rustling; the presence of rebel armed forces; trafficking in small arms and light weapons; the illegal exploitation of natural resources by different groups and movements; the emergence of various religious extremist or jihadi groups; money-laundering; and the involvement of external actors taking advantage of the continuing instability in the region.

188. The Central African region was also threatened by the spilling-over of conflicts in neighbouring areas, particularly conflicts in Libya, Darfur, Somalia and Mali; the interests of external actors who took advantage of the continued instability in the region; money-laundering; illegal immigration; internally displaced persons and refugees; and trafficking in persons. Extreme poverty, the lack of State authority or the weakness of Government institutions, and porous borders were also factors that contributed to the regional instability.

189. The Centre's representative warned that a number of those factors were present in the crisis in the Central African Republic, which represented a potential source of conflict and instability in the region and its neighbouring countries.

190. She therefore described to the Committee the different armed movements, groups or militias and small terrorist groups present in Central Africa and its neighbouring regions, before making a series of recommendations on strengthening State institutions and capacities; peacebuilding; promoting economic development; empowering women; combating transnational organized crime; and ratifying several treaties related to arms control and non-proliferation.

191. She called on member States that had not yet done so to ratify the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and to apply best practices to enhance border controls. The issues of maritime insecurity and poaching should be addressed in a sustainable manner; the existing programmes for the disarmament and reintegration of former insurgents and terrorists should be expanded; de-radicalization programmes aimed at young people and prison inmates should be extended to all members of the African Union.

192. Following that presentation, the regional coordinator of the road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa reiterated his call for political and financial commitment from States and subregional institutions in Central Africa to take effective action against that threat.

193. The Committee recommended that questions relating to changing terrorist threats and the implementation of the subregional counter-terrorism strategy should be included in the agenda of the Committee's meetings.

**XV. Review of the financial situation of the Committee:
implementation of the Libreville Declaration by member States**

194. The Committee commended the two States members of the Committee that had contributed to its Trust Fund and appealed to those States that had not done so to comply with their commitments.

195. The Committee noted that, unless robust measures were taken by States, the adverse financial situation could affect the smooth functioning of the Committee.

196. The Committee noted the States' political commitment and encouraged them to comply with their commitments under the Libreville Declaration.

XVI. Venue and date of the next meeting

197. The Committee decided to hold its thirty-eighth ministerial meeting in Malabo. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea indicated that the dates of the meeting would be communicated to the secretariat via diplomatic channels.

XVII. Other matters

198. The Committee recognized the need to include an exhaustive list of all participants in the reports of its future meetings.

XVIII. Adoption of the report of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting

199. The Committee adopted the present report on 22 December 2013.

XIX. Expression of thanks

200. On behalf of the Committee, the following expression of thanks was read by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, Mr. Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo:

“We, representatives of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, gathered on the occasion of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting, from 19 to 23 December 2013, in N'Djamena,

Reaffirm our attachment to the ideals of peace, security and stability that are so necessary for our respective peoples and for the socioeconomic development of our subregion;

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

Welcome the atmosphere of conviviality, brotherhood and mutual trust which has prevailed throughout our work;

Express our sincere thanks and our profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, and to the Government and people of Chad, for the warm and fraternal welcome we have received during our stay in the Republic of Chad.”

Enclosure I

N'Djamena Appeal

Adopted by the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa at its thirty-seventh ministerial meeting

We,

the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

Gathered in N'Djamena on the occasion of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Committee;

Concerned about the continuing deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation, exacerbated by clashes between religious communities in the Central African Republic;

Mindful of the decision adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 380th meeting, held on 17 June 2013, establishing the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA);

Mindful of the communiqué of the third meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, held in Bangui on 8 November 2013;

Reiterating our strong commitment to the Libreville Agreement of 11 January 2013 and the N'Djamena Declaration of 18 April 2013 as the legal basis for the transition in the Central African Republic;

Referring to the Kigali Declaration of 23 August 2013;

Taking into account the risk of destabilization of the entire Central African subregion and the transformation of the Central African Republic into a haven for armed groups, including the Lord's Resistance Army;

Express our deep concern about the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic;

Invite all Central African political actors to honour the commitments made in the N'Djamena Declaration and road map;

Call for political dialogue to be pursued with a view to holding an inclusive national dialogue and encourage religious leaders to continue their mediation and conciliation efforts between the Christian and Muslim communities;

Condemn any instrumentalization of religion;

Strongly condemn all acts of violence committed by various armed groups against civilians and against MISCA forces and the French forces;

Reaffirm our States' commitment to supporting the transition process in the Central African Republic and invite the States members of the Committee to participate actively in all initiatives aimed at resolving the crisis in that country;

Welcome the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2121 (2013) and 2127 (2013) on the Central African Republic;

Call upon all States members of the Committee to contribute significantly to the effective implementation of MISCA, in particular by providing the required personnel and logistical support;

Welcome the transfer of authority from the Central African Multinational Force to MISCA which took place on 19 December 2013;

Welcome the commitment by Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to contribute troops to MISCA;

Call upon the multilateral and bilateral partners to provide substantial financial and logistical support in respect of the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and to MISCA and note the provisions contained in resolution 2127 (2013) on the holding of a donors conference;

Reiterate our call for all members of the International Contact Group and the rest of the international community to honour their commitment by contributing to the trust fund for the Central African Republic;

Express our gratitude to the various partners, including France, the United States of America and the European Union, that support efforts to stabilize and restore peace and security in the Central African Republic;

Urge the international community to continue to give due consideration and priority to the situation in the Central African Republic.

Done at N'Djamena on 22 December 2013

Enclosure II**List of participants****Angola**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
1	Mr. Alberto Cabongo	Adviser/Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2	Ms. Maria Narcia Mateus Miguel	Diplomat, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3	Mr. Sebastião Francisco Domingos Cardoso	Head of Department, Chief of Police
4	Mr. Socrates Ntonta Wuta Mpolo	Police Inspector, Head of Africa Section, Cooperation Department
5	Mr. Manuel Vieira Fonseca	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations
6	Mr. Kamaphlyka Vasco Afonso Mendes	Director of Allocation to African Regional Organizations

Burundi

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
7	Mr. Laurent Kavakure	Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
8	Mr. Zacharie Gahutu	Ambassador, Director-General of Relations with Regional and International Organizations and Foreign Non-governmental Organizations
9	Mr. Zénon Ndabeneze	Chair of the Standing National Disarmament Committee against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Cameroon

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10	Mr. Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo	Minister for Foreign Affairs
11	Mr. Désiré Jean Claude Owono Menguele	Acting Director for United Nations Affairs and Decentralized Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12	Mr. David Ewu Ngeme	District Commissioner, Director of Public Security, National Security Department
13	Mr. M. Bah Oumarou Sanda	Ambassador of Cameroon to Chad
14	Mr. Desire Houyang	Representative of the Foreign Intelligence Office
15	Lieutenant-Colonel Abraham Bernard Onguene	Chief of General Staff, Africa Division
16	Mr. René Njila	Minister Plenipotentiary, Ambassador of Cameroon

Central African Republic

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
17	Ms. Léonie Banga Bothy	Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad
18	Lieutenant-Colonel Ismael Koagou	Chief of Staff of the Deputy Minister of Defence
19	Ms. Corinne Goliatha	Head of Office for United Nations Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Congo

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20	Mr. Basile Ikouebe	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
21	Mr. Raymond Serge Bale	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Congo to the United Nations
22	Ms. Annick Yolande Lekaka	Head of Office for United Nations Affairs
23	Mr. Vouwala-Tchani Itoua	Security, Safety and Maritime Attaché of the Deputy Minister for the Merchant Marines

Democratic Republic of the Congo

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
24	Mr. Xavier-Honoré Tati	Head of the Africa and Middle East Office
25	Mr. Silvère-Denis N' Sola-N'Koko	Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Chad
26	Mr. Boncila Fabien Mata-Engai	Second Secretary, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Chad
27	Mr. Kenneth Enim Ampi	Civil society, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Gabon

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
28	Ms. Mireille Sarah Nzenze	Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
29	Mr. Regis Onanga Ndiaye	Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations
30	General Victor Mounanga A'Mateba	Counsellor, Ministry of the Interior National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons
31	Mr. Fernand-Cyrille Yalis	Head of the Office for the United Nations
32	Ms. Murielle Cygride Nzinza	Research Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Equatorial Guinea

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
33	Colonel Santiago Mba Sima Engonga	Head of the Personnel Division, General Staff of the Armed Forces
34	Mr. Inocencio Essono Olo Nseng	Technical Telecommunications Engineer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Rwanda

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
35	Sheikh Mussa Fazil Harerimana	Minister of Domestic Security of Rwanda
36	Mr. James Ngango	Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
37	Mr. Jean Damascène Rudasingwa	Office of the President
38	Mr. Amandin Rugira	Ambassador of Rwanda to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
39	Mr. Isaïe Bagabo	Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations in New York
40	Mr. Ruzindana Shambene	Rwandan civil society
41	Wilson Rwigamba	Director, Central and Western Africa Affairs, Office of the President of Rwanda

Chad

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
42	Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat	Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration
43	Mr. Mahamat Nil Abakar	Military Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration
44	Mr. Alex Ratebaye	Director of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration
45	Mr. Mahamat Bourma Djame	National Focal Point
46	Lieutenant-Colonel Samson Mianro	Deputy Director of Military Cooperation
47	Mr. Udar Dadem	Police Commissioner
48	Mr. Yaya Tahir	Police Commissioner, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
49	Mr. Le Gollee Nahim	Comptroller of the Police
50	Mr. Saleh Souleyman	English-French Interpreter

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
51	Mr. Kadingar Mayara	English-French Interpreter
52	Mr. Legondje Mianbe	Interpreter
53	Mr. Lazar Komandegal	Press Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Economic Community of Central African States, Libreville

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
54	General Guy Pierre Garcia	Deputy Secretary-General, Department of Human Integration, Peace, Security, Stability
55	Mr. Thierry Zang	Expert on small arms and light weapons
56	Mr. Daniel Pascal Elono	Expert Analyst, Central African Early Warning Mechanism/ECCAS
57	Mr. Loïc Moudouma	Expert, Maritime Safety and Security, Central Africa Multinational Force/ECCAS
58	Ms. Nounou Booto Meeti	Programme Director, Center for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention/ECCAS
59	Mr. Jean Claude Kabuiku	Programme Officer, Center for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention/ECCAS

African Union (N'Djamena)

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Economic Community of Central African States, Bangui

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
61	Mr. Max-Williams Mourou	Counsellor, Committee of Experts, ECCAS

Special guests

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
62	Ms. Judith Van Der Merwe	Counter-Terrorism Specialist, African Union
63	Prof. Wullson Mvomo Ela , Regional Counter-Terrorism Coordinator	Research Officer No. 1 DGSN, Director, EIFORCES Research Centre

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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Lomé

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
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United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, Yaoundé

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
66	Mr. Agbessi Ahowanou	Regional Representative of the Centre for Central Africa
67	Mr. Beramgoto Mougabe	Human Rights Adviser a.i.

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<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
68	Mr. Baboucarr-Blaise Ismaila Jagne	Chef de Cabinet

Secretariat of the Committee and United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

<i>No.</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>Title</i>
69	Mr. Abou Moussa	Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Head of UNOCA
70	Mr. Mamady Kouyate	Chief, Department of Political Affairs, UNOCA
71	Mr. Norbert Ouendji	Public Information Officer, UNOCA
72	Mr. James Aji	Political Affairs Adviser, UNOCA
73	Mr. Isam Taib	Political Affairs Adviser, Department of Political Affairs
74	Mr. Josaphat Misaguzo Balegamire	Peace and Development Adviser, United Nations/ UNDP Coordination Office in Chad
75	Ms. Ablavi Ayeh	Administrative Assistant, Department of Political Affairs, UNOCA
76	Mr. Willy Ndong Akoure	Procurement Officer, UNOCA