



Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

6455th meeting

Friday, 17 December 2010, 3.10 p.m.

New York

Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
<i>Members:</i>	Austria	Mr. Lutterotti
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Dunlop
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. MOUNGARA MOUSSOTSI
	Japan	Mr. Sumi
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. OGWU
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. ÇORMAN
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2010/614)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2010/614)

The President: On behalf of the Security Council, I extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

It is so decided.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/614, containing the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

I now give the floor to Mr. Djinnit.

Mr. Djinnit: I am honoured to present to the Security Council the sixth report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/614) on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA).

When I briefed the Council six months ago (see S/PV.6358), I underscored that West Africa presented a mixed picture of positive trends and negative developments. I also observed that there were unfortunately more concerns about regional peace and stability than reasons to celebrate. Members may recall that the situation in Guinea was then very uncertain. In Mauritania, there were unfulfilled hopes for constructive political dialogue, and post-election anxiety was high in Togo. The political transition in Niger was still in its early stages, and the country was facing one of the worst famines in recent history.

Since then, the situation in West Africa has recorded some positive developments. The transition in Niger continues to be a work in progress. Evidence from the ground shows promising prospects for a swift return to constitutional order, despite a recent wave of high-profile arrests indicating divisions within the military leadership. The acute food crisis in Niger has been efficiently curbed thanks to the efforts of the Government of Niger, assisted by the United Nations and the wider international community. In Mauritania,

the Government has initiated a process of political dialogue with the opposition. I hope that this dialogue will be maintained and lead to improved relations between the main national political actors. In Togo, while the atmosphere remained strained after the March 2010 elections, there is an increasing awareness among stakeholders that the prevailing stalemate does not serve the cause of democracy and development of the country. I was especially encouraged, during my last mission to Togo a few days ago, by the will expressed by key stakeholders, including the President of the Republic, to strengthen reconciliation.

Six months ago, Guinea was one of our deepest concerns in West Africa. Today, the country should rank among our best hopes. The strong commitment of the Guineans to restoring peace and democracy, combined with the relentless efforts of the international community — especially the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and the United Nations — have ultimately succeeded in pushing back the frontiers of political scepticism and despair in that country.

Although we have not yet reached the ultimate goal of democratic governance in Guinea, we remain confident in the feasibility of the democratic project in that country. The situation in Guinea, which is still fragile, needs the continued support of the international community. In this context, the President elect conveyed to me that he is expecting Guinea's partners, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, to urgently lend the required support to his country in the framework of the usual assistance and facilities granted to countries emerging from crisis. I wish to seek the backing of members of the Security Council to the legitimate expectations of the Guinean authorities in support of a swift recovery and the delivery of peace dividends in Guinea.

As the dust settles on a most demanding electoral process in Guinea and a new legitimate President is about to assume office, it is appropriate to commend the Guinean people and leaders for this historic achievement and to congratulate the new President, Mr. Alpha Condé. It is also fitting to pay tribute to Cellou Dalein Diallo for conceding defeat in the interest of democracy and national reconciliation. I hope that this positive example will be emulated elsewhere in West Africa as the subregion continues to consolidate its democratic gains.

As elections, particularly presidential elections, continue to generate tensions in West Africa, there is a need for innovative thinking on this most sensitive and controversial issue. UNOWA will remain engaged in supporting democratic transition in the subregion, including through electoral processes, so that elections are seen as an effective tool for strengthening democracy and national cohesion and creating conditions for development. UNOWA will also pursue its efforts towards strengthening institutions and mediation mechanisms in the subregion, especially those related to electoral governance and post-election mediation.

The security sector in West Africa, where a number of security forces have emerged as a main factor of insecurity, will continue to receive UNOWA's attention. In liaison with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office will continue to mobilize political will for preventing and combating drug trafficking and organized crime and to support the implementation of the ECOWAS action plan. The Office will also provide support for the enactment of resolutions and frameworks of action pertaining to respect for human rights and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in conflict prevention and conflict management initiatives in West Africa.

UNOWA will continue to support subregional efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability in the Sahel, building on encouraging efforts

under way to enhance regional cooperation, to address common security threats, including terrorism, and to promote economic and social development.

UNOWA will also continue to pursue its partnership with ECOWAS, the African Union and other regional stakeholders as the most effective way to assist in conflict prevention and peace consolidation in West Africa. It will also continue to promote synergies within United Nations entities in the subregion with a view to enhancing the contribution of the United Nations to peace and development.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my commitment and that of the United Nations Office for West Africa to continuing to support and consolidate hard-won achievements in West Africa and to help preserve the subregion from further conflict so that the energies and resources of its people can be channelled towards deepening democratic gains and enjoying social and economic peace dividends.

The President: I thank Mr. Djinnit for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.