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Семьдесят третья сессия
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Обзор и осуществление Заключительного документа двенадцатой специальной сессии Генеральной Ассамблеи: меры укрепления доверия на региональном уровне: деятельность Постоянного консультативного комитета Организации Объединенных Наций по вопросам безопасности в Центральной Африке

Совет Безопасности
Семьдесят четвертый год

Письмо Постоянного представителя Демократической Республики Конго при Организации Объединенных Наций от 19 июля 2019 года на имя Генерального секретаря

В моем качестве представителя страны, председательствующей в Постоянном консультативном комитете Организации Объединенных Наций по вопросам безопасности в Центральной Африке, имею честь препроводить Вам прилагаемый доклад о работе сорок восьмого совещания Комитета на уровне министров (см. приложение)*, состоявшегося в Киншасе, Демократическая Республика Конго, 27–31 мая 2019 года, а также следующие документы:

- коммюнике, принятое на сорок восьмом совещании Комитета;
- доклад о деятельности Бюро предыдущего состава под председательством Республики Чад;
- состояние дел со взносами в Целевой фонд с момента создания Комитета;
- список участников.

Буду признателен за распространение настоящего письма и приложения к нему в качестве документа Генеральной Ассамблеи по пункту 102 f) повестки дня и документа Совета Безопасности.

(*Подпись*) Иньяс **Гата Мавита**
Посол,
Постоянный представитель

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Приложение к письму Постоянного представителя Демократической Республики Конго при Организации Объединенных Наций от 19 июля 2019 года на имя Генерального секретаря

Report of the forty-eighth meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Contents

Page

A. Introduction 4
B. Proceedings 6
I. Report of the outgoing Bureau 6
II. Election of the Bureau 7
III. Adoption of the agenda 7
IV. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa 8
– Briefing on the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo 19
V. Follow-up on the situation in the Central African Republic 19
VI. Combating insecurity, armed groups and mercenary activity and the financing thereof . . 22
VII. Combating violent extremism and terrorism in Central Africa 24
VIII. Disarmament and security sector reform in Central Africa 25
IX. Piracy and maritime security 27
X. Free movement of persons in Central Africa 28
XI. Cross-border transhumance 29
XII. Briefing by the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional reform, streamlining of the economic communities of Central Africa and cooperation between the Community and other subregional entities 30
XIII. Implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in Central Africa 31
XIV. Briefing on the promotion of human rights in Central Africa 31
XV. Briefing on the humanitarian situation in Central Africa 33
XVI. Briefings by entities with observer status in the Committee 33
XVII. Review of the financial situation of the Committee 34
XVIII. Venue and date of next meeting 34
XIX. Other matters 34
XX. Adoption of the report of the forty-eighth ministerial meeting 35
C. Resolution of gratitude 35

Enclosures

I. Communiqué of the forty-eighth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa 36

II. Activity report of the outgoing Bureau 38
III. Status of financial contributions as at 31 May 45
IV. List of participants 46

A. Introduction

1. The forty-eighth meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 27 to 31 May 2019.

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

3. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) served as the Committee secretariat. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by Mr. François Louncény Fall, his Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission was represented by Ambassador Basile Ikouébé, Special Representative of the African Union for the Great Lakes Region and Head of the African Union Liaison Office in Burundi. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was represented by General Guy Pierre Garcia, Deputy Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Human Integration, Peace, Security and Stability. The United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs was represented by Mr. Samba Sane, Deputy Director, Central and Southern Africa Division.

4. Representatives of the following organizations also participated as observers or guests: the Executive Secretariat of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

5. The following United Nations entities took part in the proceedings as observers: the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the United Nations Regional Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), UN-Women, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa also responded to the Committee's invitation.

6. On the margins of the forty-eighth meeting of the Committee, Kinshasa hosted, from 26 to 27 May, the follow-up workshop on pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa, which addressed ways of implementing the recommendations of the regional workshop on the same topic held in N'Djamena from 9 to 11 April.

7. Prior to the ministerial meeting, a meeting of experts of the Committee was held from 28 to 31 May, facilitated by Mr. Mogombaye Apollinaire, Director of Cooperation and International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, International Cooperation and the Diaspora of Chad, the Chair of the Committee at the time. At the formal opening of the meeting of experts, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Ileka Atoki, reiterated the challenges and expectations of the forty-eighth meeting, calling on the participants to spare a thought for Ambassador Martin Belinga Eboutou, Minister and Chief of Staff of the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon and former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations in New York, who passed away on 8 May 2019. The participants paid tribute to the senior Cameroon public servant, considered one of the main architects of the Committee.

8. The ministerial session, held on 31 May 2019, was attended by eight ministers and three secretaries of State.

9. Some important statements were delivered during the opening ceremony. Speaking on behalf of outgoing the Chair the Republic of Chad, Mr. Ndordji Nazaire, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, thanked the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of the Congo for their hospitality and for the attention paid to the participants. He also commended the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and his team for their efforts to ensure that the meeting was held under the proper conditions. He noted that, despite the progress and gains made on some issues, some persistent issues continued to threaten regional stability, undermine social and political cohesion and impede social and economic development. The issues that deserved increased attention from the members of the Committee included terrorism, mercenary activity, illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, poaching, cross-border transhumance and pastoralism. He wished the incoming Bureau every success for its six-month term, during which it will be responsible for, inter alia, implementing the recommendations of the Kinshasa meeting.

10. In his statement, the representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission reiterated the need for collective action in order to maintain peace and promote sustainable development, as well as the commitment of the African Union to peaceful, collaborative and inclusive political processes and dialogue.

11. In his statement, the Deputy Secretary-General of ECCAS, General Guy Pierre Garcia, drew attention to the tireless efforts made by States members of the Committee, which incidentally are also States members of ECCAS, to examine in detail the political and security issues facing the region and to propose solutions thereto. The persistent security challenges and violence linked to electoral processes and the activities of armed groups and terrorist groups created humanitarian emergencies in several areas. He called on member States to carefully review the collective mechanisms established to combat insecurity in the subregion, in order to address those challenges.

12. The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. François Louncény Fall, commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for successfully organizing the latest legislative, senatorial and presidential elections and for the peaceful transfer of executive power. He paid tribute to the Congolese people for their democratic maturity and expressed his sincere appreciation to His Excellency Felix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi, President of the Republic, for the generous hospitality and for all the facilities made available to ensure that the forty-eighth meeting of the Committee was a success. He cited the Political Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, signed in February 2019 between the Government and 14 armed groups, as one of the major developments in the Central African subregion. He congratulated the ECCAS member countries and all their partners for their significant contribution to that major step forward. He called upon all stakeholders to show a sense of responsibility and a strong regional commitment for the peace agreement to be implemented rapidly, completely and in good faith. He also called upon States members of the Committee to engage in discussions aimed at addressing the causes of the crisis and electoral violence, in order to turn elections into an opportunity for national fellowship and a platform for peace, security and good governance in Central Africa. He reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to continue mobilizing the international community to support national and regional efforts. Lastly, he encouraged member States to conclude the ECCAS reform process and to pay their regular contributions to help finance the Committee's activities.

13. The forty-eighth ministerial meeting of the Committee was officially opened by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H. E. Franck Mwe di Malila Apenela. On behalf of the President of the Republic, he welcomed all delegates and experts to Kinshasa. He thanked the United Nations, through its Secretary-General, for the relentless efforts made in the search for lasting peace and security in the Central African region. He also thanked the outgoing Chair, the Republic of Chad, for its competence and expertise in steering the Committee's activities during the past six months. He concluded by expressing the hope that the forty-eighth meeting would generally explore ways and means of pooling resources in order to address the sources of insecurity and allow the people to live in peace and security, a prerequisite for development.

14. At a closed meeting held during the ministerial meeting, the Central African Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other heads of delegation reviewed the matters put on its agenda. The communiqué issued following the closed meeting is attached to the present report as enclosure I.

B. Proceedings

I. Report of the outgoing Bureau

15. The representative of the outgoing Chair presented the report of his country's term, which started on 7 December 2018. Two major activities were highlighted in the report: visit of the Bureau to Dungu, in Haut-Uélé Province, in the north of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and implementation of the recommendations adopted at the forty-seventh meeting of the Committee. The latter activity was examined at a working session of the focal points of the member States and other entities concerned, held in Kinshasa on 27 May 2019.

16. The field visit took place from 25 to 29 March 2019 in Dungu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, mainly to enable the Bureau to gain an insight into the peace and security challenges surrounding transhumance and related activities in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

17. The Bureau found that there were many challenges posed by the presence of nomadic herders called Mbororos in Haut-Uélé Province, which caused problems of security and cohabitation and tensions with the local populations.

18. Upon return from the mission, the Bureau made the following recommendations:

To the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Include the issue of the presence of nomadic herders in the country on the agenda of meetings of the joint commissions for cooperation with the countries of origin or transit of nomadic herders;

Continue the process of counting and identifying nomadic herders;

Promote the establishment of local mechanisms for the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts related to the presence of nomadic herders in the north-eastern provinces of the country.

To the Economic Community of Central African States:

Continue efforts to develop Community regulations on pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa.

To the United Nations and international partners:

Support the efforts of ECCAS and its partners with a view to adopting and implementing regional regulations on pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa.

19. Participants at the meeting of focal points, where the status of implementation of the recommendations of the forty-seventh meeting of the Committee was examined, noted that much progress had been made. The level of implementation of the recommendations is presented in the report of the Bureau (enclosure II).

20. Following the presentation, the report of the outgoing Bureau was adopted with the amendments proposed by the member States.

21. The meeting of focal points recommended that a meeting be held to assess the revitalization measures adopted at the forty-fourth meeting of the Committee, held in Yaoundé from 29 May to 2 June 2017. The assessment meeting should be held before the forty-ninth meeting of the Committee, to be held in Luanda, Angola.

II. Election of the Bureau

22. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was elected Chair of the Committee by acclamation, for a period of six months.

23. The following member States were also elected:

– Angola: First Vice-Chair;

– Equatorial Guinea: Second Vice-Chair;

– Burundi: Rapporteur.

III. Adoption of the agenda

24. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

Item I: Report of the outgoing Bureau and the status of implementation of the recommendations of the forty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Committee

Item II: Election of the Bureau

Item III: Adoption of the agenda

Item IV: Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

Item V: Follow-up on the situation in the Central African Republic

Item VI: Combating insecurity, armed groups and mercenary activity and the financing thereof

Item VII: Combating violent extremism and terrorism in Central Africa

Item VIII: Disarmament and security sector reform in Central Africa

Item IX: Piracy and maritime security

Item X: Free movement of persons in Central Africa

Item XI: Cross-border transhumance

Item XII: Briefing by the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional reform, streamlining of the

economic communities of Central Africa and cooperation between the Community and other subregional entities

Item XIII: Implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in Central Africa

Item XIV: Briefing on the promotion of human rights in Central Africa

Item XV: Briefing on the humanitarian situation in Central Africa

Item XVI: Briefings by entities with observer status in the Committee

Item XVII: Review of the financial situation of the Committee

Item XVIII: Venue and date of next meeting

Item XIX: Other matters

Item XX: Adoption of the report of the forty-eighth ministerial meeting

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

25. The representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS reviewed the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, laying out the significant trends regarding peace, security and stability in Central Africa. The review was divided into five (5 parts): (i) overview of the situation in ECCAS; (ii) political and institutional developments within ECCAS; (iii) internal and cross-border security in the ECCAS area; (iv) issues related to governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights in the ECCAS area; and (v) the situation in each State member of ECCAS.

26. During the consideration of the geopolitical review, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo gave a briefing on the post-electoral situation in the country. Representatives of the African Union, ECCAS and MONUSCO also shared their comments.

27. Before his review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, the representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS indicated that the review described the highlights, based on information collected through the Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) and from open sources, including reports and official records of the United Nations, the African Union, the States members of the Committee and the regional economic communities (RECs). The review shows the major trends and recent developments in the region with regard to peace, security and stability.

- **Overview of the situation in the Economic Community of Central African States area**

28. The political and security situation in Central Africa has remained generally stable since the forty-seventh ministerial meeting, held in N'Djamena, Chad in December 2018. The following highlights are worth mentioning in that regard:

- Slowdown in the economies of the majority of the member States following the decline in the price of commodities (oil, ore, etc.) in the global market, coupled with the increased level of public debt;
- Commitment of the majority of ECCAS member countries to negotiate with the Bretton Woods institutions, notably the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank;
- Ongoing activities of armed groups, terrorist groups and other negative forces in the region;

- Ongoing security risks around Lake Chad and the impact of terrorist activities in the Sahel-Saharan strip;
- Electoral disputes in some member States;
- Democratic transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Ongoing humanitarian crisis with the displacement of people;
- Identification of transhumance as an emerging cause of insecurity in the ECCAS area.

- **Political and institutional developments**

29. The following political and institutional developments are worth highlighting:

- Continuation of the preparatory process for the ECCAS institutional reform and streamlining of ECCAS and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC);
- Establishment of institutions resulting from the direct elections of 30 December 2018 and the indirect elections of 2019 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Establishment of a Government following the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic;
- Agreement in principle for a return of the CEMAC headquarters to Bangui, approved by the 14th Summit of CEMAC, held on 22 February 2019, in N'Djamena, Chad. It will be implemented when the programme for the construction of villas and infrastructure is completed by both the authorities of the Central African Republic and CEMAC.

- **Internal and cross-border security**

30. The security and cross-border situation has not changed when compared with the situation that prevailed in the second half of 2018. However, it has remained calm despite the diplomatic tensions between Rwanda and Uganda regarding the closure of the Gatuna (northern Rwanda) border post, on the one hand, and between Rwanda and Burundi, on the other.

31. The ECCAS area is also still home to two sizeable United Nations peacekeeping missions, namely the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Other highlights include:

- Ongoing armed attacks by armed groups, negative forces and terrorist groups;
- Resistance of armed groups in the Central African Republic to the peace process, despite the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation on 6 February;
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, etc.;
- Ongoing security threat in the Lake Chad basin;
- Illicit exploitation of natural resources, drug trafficking and poaching;
- Worrying humanitarian situation for internally displaced persons and refugees.

- **Governance, humanitarian issues and human rights**

32. Half of the ECCAS member countries have weak governance, as reflected in the 2018 Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme. However, according to the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance, established by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, there was a slight improvement in governance in Central Africa in 2018. The Mo Ibrahim Index is established based on four criteria: security and the rule of law; participation and human rights; sustainable economic development; and human development.

33. The humanitarian situation in the Central African subregion did not improve significantly during the period under review. The following States members of the Committee are affected to varying degrees by the issues of refugees and internally displaced persons: Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. These two issues continue to affect the security and economies of the States, relations between the States and relations between the States and international organizations dealing with refugees and internally displaced persons.

34. In the area of human rights, the overall picture remains mixed. The consequences of the ongoing activities of negative forces and terrorist groups, social movements and protests about the political processes pose major challenges for the public authorities in terms of protecting and promoting human rights in the subregion.

- **Situation in each member country of the Economic Community of Central African States**

The review of the situation was based on contributions from the delegations of the member States present.

Angola

35. On the diplomatic front, the country continues to strengthen its relations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa through State visits by H.E. President Felix Tshisekedi Chilombo and H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa in February and March 2019, respectively, as well as with Portugal and the Russian Federation through the visit of Portuguese President Rebelo de Sousa to Luanda in March 2019 and that of H.E. President Joao Lourenco to Moscow in April 2019. Another highlight was the appointment of Ambassador Bertino Matias Matondo by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, as the Special Representative of the African Union for the Central African Republic.

36. The political situation in Angola has remained generally stable.

37. On the security front, demining remains a major challenge for the country, despite significant efforts made over the years by the Government in that regard through the Angolan Demining Commission. Despite the reluctance of international donors and the economic crisis caused by, among other factors, the decline in commodity prices, which are the cause of the economic slowdown, Angola, as a State party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, regularly submits its reports to the Convention and enjoys a moratorium until 2022, when it will become a mine-free country.

38. The Government is continuing to repatriate immigrants in irregular situations. Through that process, the Angolan authorities want to restore law and order and prevent people in an illegal immigration situation from being able to develop an illicit business for the exploitation of natural resources.

39. The Government continues to pursue reforms in order to improve the country's economy, to make it attractive to investors. It also remains committed to its objective of increasing the country's offshore oil production capacity, in partnership with the French company Total. The country has received support from the World Bank in the form of a $900 million loan. The national airline, TAAG Angola Airlines, has been removed from the black list of the European Union, which should enable the company to resume flights over the European airspace, which had been suspended since 2007.

40. With regard to peace and security, Angola is working with UNESCO and the African Union to launch the Biennial of Luanda, an initiative that reflects the spirit of the vision of the African Union to, inter alia, "silence the guns in Africa by 2020".

41. On the humanitarian front, the drought, which has left hundreds of thousands of people in a situation of food insecurity, remains a concern in the provinces of Huila and Cunene. The Government is continuing to make efforts to address that natural calamity and those efforts are already bearing fruit.

Burundi

42. On the political front, the National Assembly elected by a large majority the 13 members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is responsible for finding the truth about the inter-ethnic massacres that took place between 1962 and 2008, determining personal and collective responsibilities, identifying and mapping mass graves, proposing a reparations programme and promoting forgiveness and reconciliation. Reflecting the country's ethnic balance, the Commission comprises seven Hutus, five Tutsis and one Twa, elected by a simple majority from a list of 33 individuals chosen from 185 candidates by a joint commission of the National Assembly and Senate of Burundi. The Commission is chaired by Ambassador Pierre Claver Ndayicariye (Hutu), assisted by the Reverend Pastor Noah Clément Ninziza (Tutsi), with Ms. Léa Pascasie Nzigamasabo serving as Secretary.

43. It should be noted that Burundi is preparing for general elections in 2020. The national mechanisms for the holding of peaceful elections are in place. A Constitution that consolidates democratic gains and national cohesion was adopted on 7 June 2018. The Independent National Electoral Commission is in operation. The Government and people of Burundi have decided to fund the elections themselves.

44. It is also important to note that the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Mkapa Benjamin, wrapped up his facilitation work with the submission of his final report to the Heads of State and Government of the East African Community meeting in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 1 February 2019. Mr. Mkapa had been appointed by the Heads of State and Government of the Community in 2016 to support President Yoweri Museveni in his efforts to mediate the political crisis arising from the differences in interpretation as to the legality of the candidacy of H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza in the presidential election of July 2015.

45. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights closed its offices in Burundi in February 2019 at the express request of the Government of Burundi, which maintains that the country already has mechanisms to continue the work. These mechanisms include the National Commission for Inter-Burundian Dialogue, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Observatory for the Prevention and Eradication of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, the National Council for Unity and Reconciliation, and the National Commission on Land and Other Property. Established in 1995, at the height of the civil war, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has, for several years, supported the Government's

efforts on security sector reform and justice, peacebuilding and capacity-building for State institutions and civil society organizations.

46. In March 2018, the Government withdrew the licence of the BBC and extended the suspension of Voice of America (VOA) programming. The activities of these two radio stations were suspended in May 2018 for failure to comply with their editorial guidelines.

47. On the diplomatic front, the misunderstanding between the Government and the African Union on the repatriation of 1,000 of its 5,400-member contingent deployed in Somalia under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) remains a major concern for the country.

48. The security situation has improved across the country. People are going about their daily business unperturbed and are engaging in economic development activities through community work.

49. On the economic front, the country is striving to emerge from the difficult situation caused by the political crisis of 2015.

50. On the social front, the Government has decided to release 3,000 prisoners to ease overcrowding in the country's prisons, and 6,130 Burundians have been repatriated primarily from the refugee camps of Nduta, Mtenderi and Nyarugusu in Tanzania.

Cameroon

51. On the political front, the crisis in the South-West and North-West Regions remains a major concern for the country's leadership. The Prime Minister and Head of Government, Dr. Chief Joseph Dion Ngute, conducted working visits to the two regions from 7 to 10 May and from 14 to 17 May, respectively, during which he announced that the President of the Republic had issued instructions for the continuation of dialogue to resolve the crisis.

52. That announcement was in addition to other measures already taken by the Government to improve the socio-political climate in those regions, including the establishment of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, which is already in operation; the cessation of prosecution of persons accused of wrongdoing in connection with the crisis in the those regions; and the acceleration of the decentralization process, with the adoption of new laws establishing the procedures for the compilation and filing of papers for candidacy in the regional executive elections scheduled for this year.

53. The President of the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (MRC), the candidate who came in second in the October 2018 presidential election, continued to contest his defeat in the presidential election. It was against that backdrop of political protests that, on 26 January 2019, following the appeal launched by the MRC, groups of the party's activists and supporters took to the streets in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, Bafoussam, Dschang and Banganté, in violation of the ban on public demonstrations announced by the Government. Mr. Maurice Kamto was arrested on 28 January 2019 with some of his party colleagues.

54. At the same time, attacks were carried out against the embassies of Cameroon in Germany (Berlin), France (Paris), United States (Washington, D.C.) and Belgium (Brussels).

55. Bilateral partners such as China, Russia and Switzerland have pledged their support and have decided to back the Government of Cameroon not only in its efforts to resolve the crisis, but also in its fight against Boko Haram.

56. Cameroon cooperates fully with the States Members of the United Nations and multilateral actors. In that connection, various officials conducted working visits to Cameroon recently:

- The Heads of UNOCA, UNOWAS and the Special Representative of the European Union for the Great Lakes Region and the Lake Chad Basin, from 24 to 27 April 2019;
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, from 1 to 4 May 2019;
- A delegation from the Commonwealth, from 6 to 10 May 2019;
- The Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie, from 23 to 24 May 2019.

57. On the security front, Boko Haram terrorists are continuing to carry out attacks in the northern part of the country. Boko Haram is active in all the countries of the Lake Chad area (Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Niger). In mid-April 2019, Boko Haram jihadists killed eleven (11) civilians during an attack in Tchakamari, a village located in the Far North Region.

58. In short, the Government is taking the appropriate and necessary measures to maintain the territorial integrity of the country and to protect persons and property.

59. With regard to economic activity, the country's agricultural production has declined, largely owing to the difficulties faced by the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC), the largest corporate employer in the country, as a result of the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions.

Central African Republic

60. On the political front, following the signing on 6 February 2019 in Bangui of a political agreement between the Government and 14 armed groups under the auspices of the African Union, a new Government was formed and is actively pursuing the policy of restoring State authority. The military and civilian authorities appointed under the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic are being deployed across the country. It is important to note that some of the armed groups that signed the Agreement have indicated their disagreement with their representation in the new Government.

61. The National Elections Authority has published the timetable for the general and local elections for 2018–2021.

62. On the diplomatic front, meetings of the Central African Republic-Cameroon joint commission were held from 6 to 8 May 2019 in Bangui. The joint communiqué signed on 7 May 2019 mentions draft agreements signed between the two countries in several areas, including scientific and technological cooperation, small and medium-sized enterprises, crafts, sports, civic education, youth, energy, water, higher education and information and communications technologies.

63. There is still a general sense of insecurity in the country in areas where MINUSCA peacekeepers are present and despite the enhanced capacity of the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic (FACA). It is important that the cycles of violence be condemned firmly and effectively by activating the mechanisms set forth in the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, in order to punish any of the signatory parties that violate the Agreement. FACA and MINUSCA have launched joint actions to, inter alia, dismantle the barriers erected by certain armed groups.

64. It is also important that the authorities of the Central African Republic reiterate their plea for the complete lifting of the arms embargo, which today constitutes a veritable roadblock to their efforts.

65. That would provide the foundation for the restoration of State authority, which is contingent on having a republican and, above all, operational, army. This plea takes on great significance and stands as the only response to the call by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, who considers that providing security for the people of the Central African Republic is the responsibility of the authorities of the Central African Republic.

66. The five-year law on military programming for 2019–2023 was adopted. It should help to provide the necessary resources for the restructuring of FACA. In that connection, 1,023 young people have been recruited into the army and 232 former combatants have been reintegrated.

67. With regard to the economy, hope is returning somewhat with the resumption of economic activities following the paralysis of road transportation between Cameroon and the Central African Republic caused by the activities of the armed group Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (FDPC).

68. On the humanitarian front, since the peace agreement, the situation appeared to be stabilizing until the latest resumption of violence in the north-west perpetrated by an armed group that was a signatory to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, thereby undermining the efforts of MINUSCA and the authorities of the Central African Republic and giving rise to new humanitarian needs. Despite the efforts of MINUSCA, the Central African Republic is caught in a cycle of violence in several of its regions, including in areas that were considered relatively stable, thus engendering growing humanitarian needs and a fear that the country could remain mired in chaos.

69. One person out of five in the Central African Republic is displaced, while 63 per cent of the population requires humanitarian assistance and protection. According to the 2019 overview of humanitarian needs, 2.9 million people of the Central African Republic, more than half of whom are children, require humanitarian assistance and protection, up 16 per cent from the previous year.

Republic of the Congo

70. On the political front, with the support of partners, in particular the United Nations, the Government is continuing its stabilization and recovery work in Pool Department, facilitating the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. The Government has also lifted the suspension measure against the National Council of Republicans (CNR), the party led by Mr. Frédéric Bintsamou, also known as Pastor Ntumi.

71. The security situation remains calm throughout the country. The disarmament of the former combatants loyal to Pastor Ntumi is continuing under the supervision of the joint ad hoc committee, which had been established as part of the follow-up to the Cessation of Hostilities and Ceasefire Agreement and is comprised of representatives of both the Government and the former rebels. Rail and road traffic has resumed between the economic capital, Pointe Noire, and Brazzaville, thanks to the repair of infrastructure destroyed during the hostilities instigated by the former rebels.

72. On the economic front, the IMF conducted a mission to Brazzaville from 1 to 8 May 2019, during which its representatives concluded discussions with the

Congolese Government on a programme that could be supported by a financial arrangement under the Extended Credit Facility.

73. On the social front, there is a chikungunya epidemic in some parts of the south of the country, which has already affected more than 4,000 people.

74. With regard to the humanitarian situation, the country continues to be home to more than 8,000 displaced persons who had fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo starting in late 2018 as a result of the violence in Yumbi, Mai-Ndombe Province. That situation was addressed at a meeting between the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, held on 20 and 21 March 2019 in Brazzaville. Participants agreed on the logistics of the voluntary repatriation of the displaced persons. The next tripartite meeting would take place on 7 June 2019 in Kinshasa.

Gabon

75. Following the legislative elections of October 2018, the National Assembly continues to be dominated by the Gabonese Democratic Party. A new Government under Prime Minister Julien Nkoghe Bekale has been installed. In response to various social demands, the Government convened a dialogue on 23 April 2019 involving all the major social groups.

76. The security situation remains calm throughout the country. However, in January 2019 a small group of armed soldiers had broken into the premises of the Gabonese national television station, but had been quickly neutralized and arrested.

77. On the economic front, following a week-long mission to Gabon, on 30 April 2019 the IMF commended the efforts of the Government to stabilize the country's macroeconomic situation. However, it also encouraged Gabon to continue its efforts to achieve sustained and equitable economic growth.

78. National manganese production for the 2018 financial year rose to 5.3 million tonnes, a net increase compared to the 4.2 million tonnes produced in 2017.

79. In March 2019, a number of containers of precious Kevazingo wood, sealed by the courts for investigative purposes, had been stolen from the security guard. The State prosecutor had opened an investigation, during which certain senior officials had been questioned and others indicted.

80. On the social front, the Government had reviewed its initiative to introduce age and performance among the criteria for students to be entitled to education grants. The Government had hoped to reduce public spending with that initiative, in view of the difficult international economic environment. However, the initiative had resulted in student protests, leading the Government to prioritize the mollification of the social climate.

Equatorial Guinea

81. On the diplomatic front, the proposal and adoption, in February 2019, by the Security Council, under the presidency of Equatorial Guinea, of resolution 2457 (2019) related to the African Union initiative called "Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020" was welcome, as were the efforts to spotlight issues related to peace and security in Central Africa in order to consolidate cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, with a view to maintaining international peace and security.

82. On the security front, the trial of those accused of involvement in the attempted coup d'état of December 2017 has begun. The defendants, of various nationalities,

were charged with treason, offences against the Head of State, terrorism and possession and storage of weapons and ammunition. Also, the navy prevented a pirate attack against a Malta-flagged ship in the Gulf of Guinea, freeing some 20 crew members in the process.

83. On the economic front, the country is trying to increase social equity and economic diversification; in that regard, the Third National Economic Conference was held from 22 April to 4 May 2019, in Malabo.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

84. On the political front, the country witnessed its first peaceful handover of power with the inauguration of Mr. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo on 24 January 2019.

85. The election of President Tshisekedi had helped to defuse the political tension in the country, symbolized by the release of some emblematic political prisoners and the granting of amnesty to others, as well as the effective return of various political leaders who had long been in exile.

86. The country has also continued the process of setting up new institutions following the presidential, legislative and provincial elections of December 2018 and the indirect (senatorial and gubernatorial) elections of 2019. As part of that process, the Head of State recently appointed a Prime Minister in order to form a new Government. The next step is to complete the electoral cycle with municipal and local elections, the timeline for which is being finalized by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).

87. With regard to diplomacy, it is worth noting the efforts undertaken by President Tshisekedi to strengthen neighbourly relations and to reaffirm the place of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in subregional and regional organizations (based in Brazzaville, Luanda, Nairobi, Windhoek and Addis Ababa). The trip to the United States of America had been an opportunity to make fruitful contact with United States officials and the managers of the Bretton Woods institutions, namely the World Bank and the IMF. Furthermore, cooperation with the European Union has resumed with the opening of a European visa centre.

88. The Security Council has extended the mandate of MONUSCO beyond 2019. The extension, which was shorter than the usual 12 months, should enable the Congolese Government and the United Nations to reach consensus regarding the Mission's future configuration.

89. The security situation is calm in most of the country, in spite of the continuing resistance of domestic and foreign armed groups to the peace process in the eastern part of the country. Since the start of President Tshisekedi's term in office, the national security situation has improved, as evidenced by the voluntary surrender of some armed groups. However, the terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) carried out and claimed responsibility for an attack on a national army barracks near the border with Uganda.

90. The problem of the Mbororo nomadic herders, which affects Bas-Uélé, Haut-Uélé and Ituri Provinces is becoming critical, requiring suitable and urgent solutions because of the fraught nature of their relationship with local populations. As well as the Mbororo, there are the Hudas, bearers of sophisticated arms who are very active in and around Garamba Park, are exploiting minerals and natural resources, and are committing acts of banditry and other crimes.

91. On the social and humanitarian front, since the start of the Ebola epidemic in the provinces of Nord-Kivu and Ituri, encouraging efforts have been made to improve the health of the affected populations.

92. However, the government response to Ebola continues to be hampered by the precarious security situation in some regions of Nord-Kivu and Ituri Provinces. Treatment centres and medical personnel has become the preferred targets of armed groups, as evidenced by the murder of an expert microbiologist working for the World Health Organization (WHO). The international non-governmental organization (NGO) Médecins sans frontières has withdrawn from those regions because of the high level of danger.

93. In that context, the President of the Republic has prescribed the adoption of a new approach to combating the Ebola virus. The new approach is multisectoral and involves the Ministries of Health, Defence, the Interior and Finance. The change of approach is necessary because the area where the disease is raging is being attacked by the negative forces.

Rwanda

94. On the political front, the country had marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the genocide of the Tutsis in 1994. As is customary, the Government used the solemn occasion to reaffirm its determination to work towards national reconciliation and development of the country.

95. On the diplomatic front, relations between Uganda and Rwanda have deteriorated as a result of the kidnapping and torture of Rwandans and their illegal imprisonment in unofficial places of detention, without access to the justice system; and because Rwandans are being prevented from using the northern corridor, which crosses Ugandan territory.

96. The other issue at the core of the diplomatic tension between the neighbouring countries is the link between the Ugandan Government and the rebel groups Rwanda National Congress (RNC) and the genocidal Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which is designed to disrupt the peace and security of Rwanda, as the United Nations group of experts has shown.

97. The security situation remains good.

Sao Tome and Principe

98. In the tradition of its normal democratic transfer of power, Sao Tome and Principe held legislative elections on 7 October 2018. The new parliament is composed of the following parties: Independent Democratic Action (ADI), 25 members; Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe – Social Democratic Party (MLSTP-PSD), 23 members; coalition between the Democratic Convergence Party, the Force for Change Democratic Movement and the Union of Democrats for Citizenship and Development (PCD-MDFM-UDD), 5 members; and Caué Movement, 2 members.

99. The new Government that emerged from the parliament is led by His Excellency Jorge Bom Jesus, whose term in office would be determined by the results of the MLSTP-PSD and PCD-MDFM-UDD coalitions.

100. The country is relying on international aid to finance its 2019 budget. The Prime Minister has presented a bill to parliament containing the general State budget for 2019, 90 per cent of which would be financed by external aid from partners, both bilateral (70 per cent) and multilateral (20 per cent). The total State expenditure envisaged for the current year is $150 million, and only 10 per cent of that would come from the public treasury.

101. The Government intends to allocate 23 per cent of the budget to public works and infrastructure, 16 per cent to the health sector, 15 per cent to education and 12 per

cent to the agricultural and fishing sectors. In line with agreements reached with the IMF, the Government of Sao Tome and Principe has committed to limit public spending, including by not raising wages throughout 2019.

102. The IMF predicts economic growth of about 4.5 per cent for 2019.

103. On 25 April 2019 there was a shipwreck between the islands of São Tomé and Principe, off Joquei Island, which left 7 people dead and 11 missing.

104. The security situation remains calm throughout the country. Sao Tome and Principe has a new chief of staff of the armed forces, Brigadier General Idalécio Custódio Pachire.

Chad

105. The Government is planning the legislative elections scheduled to take place in the second half of 2019. Its state of preparedness is satisfactory; it is gradually putting the relevant systems in place. Partners are expected to provide support to Chad in the lead-up to the elections.

106. Security remains a major concern for the Chadian Government; in particular, the chaos in the south of Libya is dangerously jeopardizing stability and peace in Chad by enabling the entry of mercenaries into the north-eastern part of the country. The internal security situation is under control as a result of a Chadian military operation which led to the neutralization of the mercenaries entering from Libya to destabilize the country. When their offensive was thwarted, those armed fighters joined the defence and security forces. The Government had been obliged to close its border with Libya for security reasons.

107. Overall, the security situation remains under control, despite Boko Haram incursions onto the islands of the Lake Chad basin.

108. With regard to transhumance and pastoralism, the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have launched two projects funded by the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, for which Chad had become eligible in 2017: a project to restore peace and dialogue between the communities affected by cross-border transhumance (between the Central African Republic and Chad); and a project to prevent inter-community conflict and build peace through resilient pastoralism in the cross-border region of Diffa and Kanem (Niger and Chad). The projects are intended to reduce transhumance-related conflict between the border communities, support entrepreneurship for women and young people through income-generating activities, and encourage more young people and women to participate in local decision-making processes.

109. With regard to the pursuit of peace and security in the subregion, in March 2019 Chad hosted a mission that included the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, as well as the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel. Chad hosted the Extraordinary Summit of the Community of Sahel Saharan States in April 2019, and the meeting of the Ministerial Platform for the Coordination of Sahel Strategies in May 2019. In addition, the President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly conducted a visit to Chad in May 2019.

110. During the ensuing discussions, the representative of Chad stated that climate change and its adverse effects on subregional and regional stability had not been taken into consideration in the geopolitical review that had been presented by the General Secretariat of ECCAS. The ongoing recession of Lake Chad continued to impact peace and security and was at the root of increasingly worrisome humanitarian

situations, the increase in the number of displaced persons and refugees, as well as insecurity in the Lake Chad region and beyond.

- **Briefing on the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

111. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo said that the political climate in his country had improved since the new President of the Republic had taken office, and that the new authorities had made respect for public freedoms a priority. Terrorism was a serious threat to his country and the region, as illustrated by the links between the armed group Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF), which was active in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the terrorist group ISIL. The nomadic herders commonly known as the Mbororo were the cause of insecurity in the north-east of the country, where tensions with local communities ran high and risked degenerating into bloody conflict. The Ebola virus disease was still rampant in the north-east of the country; of the more than 1,340 reported cases, more than 800 people had already died.

112. The representative of MONUSCO welcomed the peaceful transfer of power in the country after the December 2018 elections, as well as the gradual establishment of new political institutions, the recent appointment of the Prime Minister being an important step in that process. The Mission was to be reconfigured in response to the current situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the Security Council had adopted a new resolution containing its new mandate, which required the Mission to focus on protecting civilians and strengthening State institutions. Regional support and cooperation were needed for all those issues; the efforts and commitments of President Tshisekedi in that regard were invaluable.

V. Follow-up on the situation in the Central African Republic

113. The representative of the Central African Republic said that the people of his country were grateful for the determination and continuing efforts of the countries of the Central African subregion, the African Union and the international community as a whole to restore peace in the Central African Republic.

114. His presentation covered the political, security, economic, judicial and social situations in the country.

115. On the political front, having learned from the various crises, following the return to constitutional legality, the Government of the Central African Republic, under the impetus of His Excellency Professor Faustin Archange Touadéra, President of the Republic and Head of State, was working tirelessly to restore security and peace and build diplomatic relations. Those efforts to achieve national peace and harmony had led to the establishment of national institutions, except for the senate.

116. The Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, which had been signed at Bangui on 6 February 2019, was a response to the need for peace and security. The Prime Minister’s general policy address to the nation’s elected officials on 1 May 2019 was evidence that the situation had improved somewhat.

117. On 15 May, in the presence of international and subregional actors, President Touadéra had chaired the meeting to launch the mechanism for the implementation of the Political Agreement, as part of the implementation of the road map of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. Since the talks in Khartoum, and particularly after the latest negotiations in Addis Ababa, the Government had made a strong commitment to abide by the Agreement.

118. On 22 March 2019, a Government comprised of all the groups that signed the Agreement was established, as a result of the Addis Ababa process, and in keeping with the spirit of inclusive governance. That inclusivity had been put into practice with the appointment of representatives of the 14 armed groups to a dozen high-level positions in the offices of the President of the Republic and of the Prime Minister.

119. The adoption of a new law on decentralization (the Local Authorities Code); the launch of broad discussions on citizenship, the principle of secularism and the protection of minorities; the revision of the ordinance on political parties; the adoption of a law on the status of former Heads of State; and effective preparations for the 2020–2021 elections were the reforms provided for in the Agreement that were currently under way in the Central African Republic.

120. The Government of the Central African Republic also welcomed the conclusions of the Agreement, including the recommendation that joint bilateral commissions be reactivated with the States of the subregion to deal with transnational concerns, including the good management of seasonal pastoral migration, in order to make it a secure and peaceful activity.

121. The twelfth meeting of the Central African Republic-Cameroon joint commission, held from 6 to 7 May 2019, testified to the determination of the highest authorities of the Central African Republic to follow through on their commitments.

122. On the basis of the Agreement and the major commitments made by the armed groups, the Government of the Central African Republic expected to fully and permanently assume its sovereign responsibilities by strengthening its effective presence through decentralized services.

123. Despite tangible progress in the implementation of the Agreement, which was maintained with the assistance of partners and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), considerable challenges continued to arise, in particular on the security front.

124. The joint security units provided for in annex I of the Agreement would focus on defence and security issues, and would report to the Technical Security Committee, once it had adopted their terms of reference. The Technical Security Committee would be composed of representatives of the armed groups and of the Government of the Central African Republic. The joint security units should help to address the root causes and drivers of conflict, most importantly along the transhumance corridors and in mining zones. The units were not yet established or operational.

125. Effective implementation of the Agreement continued to hinge on disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration. At the meeting of the advisory committee on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of 17 May 2019, the armed groups had submitted their lists of combatants who would surrender their weapons and participate in the reintegration programme. Efforts were being made in coordination with partners to ensure that the process was successful.

126. The urgent need to restore State authority and peace in the country, and the establishment of a transformative and republican defence tool in the medium term, with the support of development partners, were key priorities for the Government.

127. Significant progress had been made in defence and security sector reforms. Legal instruments such as the National Defence Plan, the Force Employment Concept, the Military Justice Code, the establishment of defence zones and the adoption of a law on military programming had been formalized and implemented.

128. National operational capacity had been restored with the permanent deployment of 1,300 soldiers in 12 villages outside of Bangui, in some instances in coordination

with MINUSCA. The Government had recruited a first cohort of 1,023 young people from across the Central African Republic, following the successful process of retiring 800 older personnel from service.

129. With regard to the partial lifting of the arms embargo for the defence and security forces, pursuant to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 9 April 2019, the Government of the Central African Republic had rapidly set up an interministerial coordination body, which was currently working on the benchmarks for loosening the embargo on the country, which would be assessed by the sanctions committee in July 2019.

130. On the security front, a precarious calm reigned over the country following the signing of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. Nevertheless, violence and banditry persisted in Bangui and the provinces, in areas under rebel control.

131. Also, despite the concessions made to the armed groups, the Government of the Central African Republic and the international community would be justified in asking themselves whether the commitment of some of those groups to peace and, as a corollary, the restoration of State authority, was sincere, or whether it was merely a pretence in response to the pressure from the international community. The failure to comply with the Agreement by some of the armed groups posed a significant hurdle, and the guarantors, facilitators and the international community as a whole should give it their full attention and take appropriate remedial action.

132. On the economic front, the closure of the Garoua-Boulaye-Bouar road by elements of the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (FDPC) had led to inflated prices for all exported products. While the road was closed, the country recorded a trade deficit of 1.7 billion CFA francs, according to the figures of the national technical committee of the Finance Ministry. There was, however, a glimmer of hope, since the removal of those barriers had facilitated the resumption of economic activity.

133. Efforts in the realm of justice were continuing: criminal hearings had been held regularly since the end of 2017. The Special Criminal Court had begun hearing cases involving crimes committed in the Central African Republic.

134. On the social front, the improvement in the security situation meant that internally displaced persons and refugees could continue to return: some 53,226 internally displaced persons and some 24,360 refugees had returned in the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019, in particular from Chad and Cameroon to the provinces in the north-west of the Central African Republic. Preparations were currently under way for grass-roots consultations.

135. However, tension remained high in the region around Paoua, in the north-west of the country. The massacre of some 50 people in the last few days had traumatized those recently displaced persons who had returned to that part of the country after a period in exile.

136. Despite the difficulty in gaining access to the country's interior as a result of poor road infrastructure, use of basic social services continued to increase with the implementation of a system for strengthening good governance; the establishment of an inclusive Government; the improvement of governance in the defence sector; and the first post-conflict recruitment of soldiers – 1,023 young multi-ethnic soldiers from across the country.

137. The Government envisaged in its national budget the creation of a mechanism for free health care, with the assistance of partners. The protection of civilians was

not being neglected. There was already a plan to that effect to be implemented in the provinces as well as in Bangui in the fourth quarter of 2019.

138. To conclude, the representative of the Central African Republic appealed to the sister republics present at the meeting to bring their influence to bear on the parties to meet their commitments.

139. The representative of MINUSCA provided an update on the major political developments in the Central African Republic since the forty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Committee, the highlight of which was the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. Regional support was needed to sustain the advances that had been achieved in the peacebuilding process in the Central African Republic; specifically, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and its member States should exert their influence and use their resources to ensure that the parties to the Agreement fulfilled their commitments. MINUSCA called for the reinstatement of the joint cooperation commissions between the Central African Republic and its neighbours. The security situation in the Central African Republic remained fragile and volatile, as illustrated by a recent attack by some elements of an armed group that had left dozens of civilians in the region around Paoua dead. The humanitarian situation also remained catastrophic in the country, with the number of internally displaced persons remaining high, as more than 600,000 people of the Central African Republic had taken refuge in neighbouring countries. MINUSCA remained determined to maintain stability in the Central African Republic, within the scope of its mandate. The Central African Republic had expressed its desire for the embargo to be completely lifted.

140. The representative of the Congo, speaking as a member of the Panel of Facilitators of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, welcomed the signing of the peace agreement and encouraged all its signatories to scrupulously adhere to it, and the subregion to support its implementation. It was necessary to continue to advocate the lifting of the arms embargo on the Central African Republic.

141. The representative of Cameroon said that there had been a meeting of the Central African Republic-Cameroon joint commission from 6 to 8 May 2019, at which nine cooperation agreements had been signed. A tripartite agreement between the two countries and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that would provide for the voluntary return of refugees of the Central African Republic was to be signed shortly (the anticipated signature date was 10 June).

142. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo said that there were geographical, cultural and political links between his country and the Central African Republic, each of which had welcomed the other's people during difficult periods. The signing of the peace agreement between the Government and the armed groups was welcome, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo completely supported the authorities of the Central African Republic in their quest to restore peace and set up republican institutions, as well as in the ongoing processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and security sector reform.

VI. Combating insecurity, armed groups and mercenary activity and the financing thereof

143. The representative of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation made a presentation on illegal trafficking in natural resources acquired through poaching and mining.

144. The representative described the situation of illegal trafficking in natural resources in protected areas and the threats and concerns surrounding the issue. The following were particularly endangered: fauna (bonobos and other adult and baby monkeys, birds); plant species (timber, cactus, orchids, firewood, wood charcoal); trophies (elephant ivory, rhinoceros horns, pangolin scales, pelts); and animals hunted for bushmeat. The protected areas located between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Central African Republic were the worst affected.

145. The major threats included the presence of poachers, mercenaries, mobile armed groups and gangs in border areas (MAI-MAI, SIMBA, ADF NALU, FDLR, LRA, SPLA), armed herders commonly known as Mbororos in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the flow of military weapons and ammunition, porous borders and poverty.

146. Those threats were severe and had a significant impact on security in and around the protected areas located primarily in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a negative effect on biodiversity conservation in that area.

147. Impactful means were needed to combat illegal trafficking in resources in order to contend with traffickers' use of increasingly sophisticated tools, including military weapons, drones and helicopters.

148. It was therefore necessary to strengthen the technical and operational capacity of eco-guards (training, equipment, intelligence and surveillance). There was also a need for inter-agency and cross-border cooperation between defence and security forces (the army, police, customs officials, water and forest services and immigration services), as well as MONUSCO, MINUSCA, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United States Africa Command, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

149. With regard to governance, the focus should be on the development of a new model for the management of protected areas; awareness-building and education in local communities; enforcement of Act No. 14/003 of 11 February 2014 of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, concerning nature conservation; establishment of a special unit to fight poachers, environmental criminals and armed groups and gangs; securing and protection of protected areas; and deployment of general officers of the national army.

150. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime established the framework for combating all forms of illegal trafficking, including wildlife trafficking. Major efforts to build the capacity of criminal investigation officers, legal officers and other specialized services were needed to dismantle the trafficking networks, which included more than just poachers, and expose the transnational dimension of such trafficking. A functional criminal justice system was essential to any peace and security agenda, both to heal the wounds resulting from conflicts and to prevent conflict. In view of the number of protected areas located near the borders, the natural resource issue should be incorporated into the strategies for overseeing, managing and securing borders.

151. The Committee took note of the magnitude of the problem and recommended that in-depth studies be conducted in order to find suitable solutions. To that end, it encouraged technical and financial partners to support regional and national institutions in conducting the studies and in mobilizing resources to combat such trafficking.

VII. Combating violent extremism and terrorism in Central Africa

- **Fight against Boko Haram and security situation in the Lake Chad basin**

152. The representative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission recalled the objectives of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin. The Strategy was built on nine pillars, broken down into 40 strategic objectives. Eight states and provinces in four countries were affected by the crisis: three in Nigeria, two in Niger, two in Chad and one in Cameroon. The Strategy had been drawn up to facilitate regional ownership of the process. The governors of those States and provinces were invited to prepare their own territorial defence plans, in line with the guidance contained in the Strategy. Working groups to monitor the implementation of each of the pillars had been established within the Lake Chad Basin Commission. A technical support group, a working group and a secretariat had also been established. Of the $12 billion that had been projected as the funding needed for the implementation of the Strategy, only $2.17 billion had been pledged for far, as announced at the High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region in Berlin.

153. The security situation in the area where the Multinational Joint Task Force was active was relatively calm, but remained unpredictable. The decidedly aggressive stance of the troops had resulted in some operational successes in the last few months. Nevertheless, the number of Boko Haram attacks had increased over the last three months. The terrorists had recently attacked Damasak, Gaidam and Malam Fatori in Nigeria, as well as Gueskerou, Bosso and Tumor in Niger. All those attacks had been fended off, with significant losses inflicted on the enemy.

154. The Committee reiterated its call for member States to assist the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Multinational Joint Task Force with equipment and encouraged international partners to contribute to the mobilization of resources to enhance the operational capacity of the forces engaged in combating Boko Haram.

155. The member States took note of and supported the recommendation.

- **Combating terrorism in Central Africa**

156. The representative of UNOCA said that the Security Council, in its resolution 2349 (2017), had requested the Bureau to monitor and examine the progress made in the fight against Boko Haram; assess the impact of Boko Haram actions and threats on women and children, as well as efforts made to protect civilians; produce reports; and engage with member States and bilateral partners, in a collective effort to combat Boko Haram.

157. He was actively conducting good offices and advocacy missions to subregional institutions and had worked in cooperation with subregional and international institutions and member States. Several joint missions had been conducted, including with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to Chad from 14 to 16 March, to Cameroon from 25 to 27 April and to Niger from 28 to 30 April. The Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel had also taken part in those missions, during which they had visited the Lake Chad basin region and assessed the level of support provided to the Lake Chad Basin Commission in combating Boko Haram. Their inquiries had focused on national capacities, the impact on the humanitarian and human rights situation, and the lasting and effective solutions proposed.

158. The visits had highlighted the extreme vulnerability of civilians living in the areas affected by Boko Haram and the importance of intensifying development and education efforts, including through increased State presence in those areas.

159. The institutions had pledged to mobilize the international community to support States and regional organizations with a view to addressing their needs and the root causes of the crisis in the Lake Chad basin region. In the same context, the report of the Secretary-General, submitted every six months, continued to highlight the issue of Boko Haram and its impact on the population.

160. In his conclusions, he said UNOCA had recommended that the Committee continue to discuss the issue of Boko Haram, identifying specific causes and providing concerted, concrete and appropriate responses that reflected the complexity of the issue.

161. The representative of Cameroon welcomed the visits of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and for West Africa and the Sahel to Chad, Cameroon and Niger and expressed the hope that they would help to promote the implementation of resolution 2349 (2017) on combating Boko Haram and providing assistance to the four countries affected by that scourge.

162. The representative of Chad said he hoped that the strategies to combat Boko Haram would be aimed more at rural development, and that his Government had already adopted that approach, and that the issue and consequences of climate change that facilitated the activities of Boko Haram should be looked at more closely.

163. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo acknowledged the magnitude of the challenges involved in combating Boko Haram, including the limited resources available, and called for the mobilization of subregional actors and technical and financial partners to find appropriate solutions.

164. The representative of UNESCO said that, despite their complexity, the peace and security issues raised at the forty-eighth meeting of the Committee had many commonalities, including the plight of young people and children in the region. Of particular concern was the large population of uneducated young people; the situation of displaced and refugee children, estimated at more than one million; the thousands of schools that had been burned and/or destroyed; and the critical shortage of teachers, numbering in the thousands. If alternatives were not found for young people in the region, the security issues would persist. He asked the States members of the Committee to consider education as a solution in combating violent extremism and armed groups and to come up with a viable programme for the vocational and continuing training of young people, including young refugees and displaced persons. UNESCO stood ready to work with States members of ECCAS and organizations in the subregion to that end.

165. The Committee recognized the central role of education in the fight against violent extremism and recommended that the subject be followed up by UNESCO, ECCAS and UNOCA and that a report on the initiative be presented at the forty-ninth meeting.

VIII. Disarmament and security sector reform in Central Africa

166. The representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS presented the activities for the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), which was adopted in Kinshasa on 30 April 2010 and entered into force on 8 March 2017.

Those activities included the establishment of national commissions for the control of light weapons, the status of ratification of the Kinshasa Convention, the strengthening of the technical and operational capacities of those involved in its implementation, the preparation of a five-year action plan (2019–2023) for its implementation and the preparation of the second conference of States parties to the Convention.

167. The representative of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa presented the Centre's initiatives as part of its mission to assist States, at their request, in promoting peace, security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

168. He said that the Centre had organized several activities to that end, including a national workshop in Malabo on 6 and 7 December 2018 to assist the authorities of Equatorial Guinea in implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). By that resolution, the Security Council aimed to prevent non-State actors from acquiring nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, and invited States to take the necessary measures in that regard. A regional workshop on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons had also been held in Malabo on 5 and 6 February 2019. The workshop had provided an opportunity for participants to familiarize themselves with the technical and political aspects of the proposed treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, exchange views and discuss challenges and effective ways forward. Representatives from five Central African States (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe) had participated in the workshop.

169. In partnership with the Foundation for Strategic Research, a subregional seminar had been held on the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, under the theme "Combating missile proliferation: non-proliferation and disarmament regime". It had been aimed at familiarizing participants with the issue of international ballistic missile proliferation, introducing the Code and its content, and discussing the concept of transparency in the transfer of goods and technology used in the manufacture, storage and marketing of ballistic missiles. The event had brought together 44 participants, including from Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

170. In the area of arms control in the Central African subregion, the Centre had continued the joint implementation of the project "Supporting African States towards the vision of 'Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020': capacity-building in Central Africa". The project, which had been launched at the forty-seventh meeting of the Committee, held in N'Djamena, had included a capacity-building workshop for actors involved in the implementation of the Convention. The Centre had organized a subregional workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 24 to 26 April 2019 to review the implementation of the Convention and make relevant recommendations for effective implementation.

171. Experts and government representatives from the 11 States signatories and parties to the Convention had made recommendations for overcoming the difficulties involved in implementing the Convention, in particular given that the Convention had yet to be ratified by some signatory States, namely Burundi, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda. They had also made recommendations for strengthening the capacity of ECCAS in the implementation of the Convention by seconding qualified staff to its General Secretariat.

172. National experts had been recruited to conduct summary evaluations on small arms and light weapons in the 11 ECCAS countries. The purpose of the evaluations

was to provide reliable information on the implementation of the Convention with a view to preparing, publishing and distributing a practical guide for such implementation. The national experts would start their mission in June 2019 and would require the support of member States to facilitate their mission.

173. The Centre, through its cooperation agreements with other specialized organizations in the region, was developing a project on technical assistance for border cooperation among States members of the Subregional Arms Control Mechanism, including the Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

174. The representative of Cameroon, as President of the first Conference of States Parties to the Kinshasa Convention, reporting on the regional workshop on the implementation of the Convention held in Yaoundé from 24 to 26 April 2019, said that workshops to assist States parties and signatories in the implementation of the Convention would be organized over the course of 2019 in each of the States parties. To that end, Cameroon had invited States to provide the teams responsible for conducting the workshops with the means necessary to successfully carry out the activities.

175. The representative of Equatorial Guinea reported on the progress made in its intense process of ratifying the Kinshasa Convention. The project had already received approval from the Senate, which had authorized the Government to ratify it.

176. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo announced that his country had ratified the Kinshasa Convention and wished to host the headquarters of the Convention secretariat.

IX. Piracy and maritime security

177. The representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS, providing an update on piracy and maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, said that the Gulf of Guinea area, which included seven coastal States members of ECCAS, was of great strategic importance.

178. While a semblance of calm had returned to the maritime area of ECCAS in previous years, the situation was deteriorating, with a resurgence of maritime insecurity characterized by attacks on ships and hostage-taking accompanied by ransom demands. Illegal immigration and illegal operations to sell and purchase fuel at sea also remained a challenge for maritime patrols.

179. In the period from November 2018 to March 2019, the Regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC) had recorded attacks and hostage-taking incidents against 10 fishing boats and one cargo ship. Nearly a dozen crew members were still in captivity. Some hostages were reportedly in Nigeria in the hands of their captors awaiting the payment of ransoms.

180. The continuing challenges related to the lack of resources for CRESMAC, the multinational coordination centre and national maritime operations centres, in terms of transmission equipment and naval assets for monitoring the area, coercive and dissuasive judicial procedures, compliance with the information-sharing protocol and the absence of sustainable financing mechanisms remained an intangible reality. However, there was a promising trend among government authorities in the ECCAS region towards heightened awareness of the strategic importance of the sea, and some countries had even reinforced their naval capabilities. Government action at sea was becoming increasingly visible.

181. Addressing the operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, the Executive Director of the Centre said that the directors of the Centre, of CRESMAC and of CRESMAO had held their second meeting in Pointe-Noire on 13 and 14 December 2018 with the support of the Gulf of Guinea Inter-Regional Network. The meeting had led to the establishment of a framework for collaboration in common areas, including in information-sharing, training, coaching, resource mobilization and technical assistance. The directors had also agreed on a common calendar of activities. During the period under review, in Central Africa, there had been attacks against ships off the coast of Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea and a small-scale oil spill in February off the coast of Gabon, while the Anfitriti passenger ship had capsized in Sao-Tome on 25 April. All crew members and some 44 passengers had been saved during the rescue operation, which had lasted several days, and 10 passengers remained missing.

182. He thanked the Special Representative of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Mr. François Louncény Fall, for his tireless support for advocacy action to mobilize resources.

183. During the discussions that followed the presentations, the representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS noted that plans were under way to review the procedures for financing the maritime safety and security architecture in the context of institutional reform.

184. The Committee encouraged the General Secretariat of ECCAS to activate the zone A multinational coordination centre, which covered Angola, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Committee invited member States to pay their financial contributions to the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety.

185. After having taken note of the information provided by ECCAS on the maritime safety and security architecture, the Committee recommended:

- The implementation of the decision of Heads of State and Government on the financing of the architecture;
- The acquisition of major operational equipment by each member State;
- The establishment, in the agreed form, of an authority to coordinate State action at sea by those States that did not yet have one;
- The establishment of zone A in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission for Defence and Security, in collaboration with the Republic of Angola;
- The inclusion in the agenda of the closed ministerial session of the issue of the financing of subregional institutions.

X. Free movement of persons in Central Africa

186. The representative of ECCAS noted that there had been no major developments in that area since the forty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Committee. Advances in the free movement of persons in Central Africa would depend on the progress made in two ongoing processes: the institutional reform of ECCAS and the streamlining of the regional economic communities in Central Africa. He took stock of the reform process, whose relevant documents, finalized at the technical level at a meeting held in Libreville in January 2019, should be examined by ECCAS bodies, particularly at the technical and ministerial levels, in June prior to their adoption by Heads of State at a later date.

XI. Cross-border transhumance

187. The representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS, giving a briefing on transhumance, said that there was an urgent need for States to address the socioeconomic and demographic challenges of pastoralism as well as security and environmental issues and the impact of climate change.

188. The international consultant recruited to conduct a study on the regulation of pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa presented a summary of the work undertaken in the four reference countries that were most affected by insecurity related to cross-border transhumance: Chad, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

189. Following a non-exhaustive presentation of the current situation in those countries, he said that there was an urgent need to update the legislative and regulatory texts governing pastoralism and transhumance, taking into account concerns relating to climate change, security, gender and human rights.

190. He also referred to the sharing of good practices in the various countries, the need to initiate and/or strengthen political and social dialogues between stakeholders and between States in the context of regional integration with a view to promoting peaceful transhumance in the ECCAS region.

191. The representative of the Congo recommended that the issues of pastoralism and transhumance be examined in conjunction with those of illegal immigration, and that recommendations be made to States on how best to manage those problems.

192. The representative of Chad mentioned the importance of a common understanding of the issues by ECCAS and the States concerned and hoped that feedback sessions would be organized in the countries concerned following the studies.

193. The representative of the Central African Republic said that if the issue was not properly addressed by States, it could become a source of regional conflict.

194. The representative of Cameroon also said that the problem needed to be addressed at the regional level.

195. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo recalled that transhumance had been an issue of concern for several decades, but a lasting solution had yet to be found. It was of major concern to the Congolese authorities, given the tensions that existed between the Mbororos and local communities in the north-east of the country. Representatives of the affected communities had met in Kinshasa with local authorities who had expressed a desire to speak at the forty-eighth meeting of the Committee and, failing that, had prepared a written document for the attention of the Committee members. According to a census that had recently been conducted by the local authorities, the number of Mbororo herders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was estimated at 18,100, with more than 900,000 head of cattle. These pastoralists were becoming increasingly sedentary and had conflictual relationships with local communities, which meant that there was a real risk of open conflict if nothing was done.

196. The representative of Equatorial Guinea, reporting on the difficulties encountered during the field mission of the Committee's Bureau to Dungu in March 2019, said that substantive work needed to be done at the State level, without which regional regulations would have little effect. It should be ensured that the study and resulting draft Community regulations took into consideration all aspects of the

security issues related to transhumance, including the preservation of biodiversity in protected areas and illegal immigration.

197. Given the sensitive nature of the issue, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo proposed that pastoralism and border transhumance be the main theme of the closed ministerial meeting. The representative of Cameroon proposed that experts make a strong recommendation to ministers. The representative of the Congo suggested that the link between transhumance and illegal immigration be discussed.

198. The Committee made the following recommendations: first, to include the issue of pastoralism and cross-border transhumance on the agenda of the closed ministerial session; second, to organize feedback sessions in each country covered in the study conducted by the consultant recruited by ECCAS; and third, to ensure that the study and resulting draft Community regulations take into consideration all aspects of the security issues related to transhumance, including the preservation of biodiversity in protected areas and illegal immigration.

XII. Briefing by the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional reform, streamlining of the economic communities of Central Africa and cooperation between the Community and other subregional entities

199. The representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS said that the reform process was ongoing and remained a priority. The Technical Committee of Experts of the Steering Committee for Institutional Reform (COPIL-RI) had held its third meeting in Libreville from 10 to 18 January 2019, with the participation of experts from member States. The preliminary drafts of texts and documents, revised by the firm Agora, had been reviewed and validated by the Committee. They included the revised treaty establishing ECCAS; the organizational framework text of ECCAS; the revised staff regulations of ECCAS; the text revising the financial regulations of ECCAS; and the revised protocol relating to the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa.

200. The revised draft texts would be examined by ministers at the COPIL-RI ministerial meeting to be held in Libreville from 19 to 21 June 2019.

201. The representative of ECCAS highlighted the efforts made to strengthen relations with other regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union and ECOWAS. He also reviewed the status of implementation of the Lomé Declaration on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa adopted at the joint ECCAS-ECOWAS summit of July 2018.

202. It was regrettable that the meeting planned with ECOWAS to adopt a plan for the implementation of the decisions taken at the joint ECOWAS-ECOWAS summit, which was to have been held before the end of 2018, had not yet taken place. The two communities should continue working to ensure that the commitments made at the summit were implemented and that the implementation plan and a monitoring committee were established as soon as possible.

203. The Committee recommended that a meeting be held as soon as possible between the ECCAS Secretariat and the ECOWAS Commission with a view to adopting an action plan and signing the protocol on international police cooperation.

204. In addition, the Committee invited the General Secretariat of ECCAS to provide a briefing on the ECCAS reform process at the next meeting of the Committee.

XIII. Implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in Central Africa

205. The representative of UN-Women, making a presentation on investing in women for peace and security as part of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), said she welcomed the very significant progress made at the country level.

206. However, challenges remained in the development and effective implementation of the resolution 1325 (2000) national action plans. They included a lack of coordination and clarity regarding roles and responsibilities, limited or non-existent financial resources, and a lack of ownership by the population. The lack of regular reviews of national action plans and the limited alignment of the plans with national policies made it difficult to address all areas of concern and ensure lasting peace.

207. Concerning opportunities to support women's participation in peace infrastructure and conflict management mechanisms in Central Africa, she cited women's networks such as the African Women Leaders Network and FEMWise. In that regard, she encouraged member States to promote or support the establishment of such networks in their own countries.

208. She recommended establishing an advocacy mechanism at the national level for the development and adoption of national action plans in countries without such plans (Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome Principe); supporting the establishment of a coordination and resource mobilization mechanism or secretariat for countries to ensure the full implementation of their national action plans through budgeted operational plans; creating accessible and flexible funding mechanisms and instruments for local women's organizations and networks; supporting national statistical agencies to integrate the women, peace and security agenda in surveys or data; and improving documentation on good practices at the national level.

209. At the regional level, she recommended strengthening advocacy to promote the women, peace and security agenda in the run-up to the twentieth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2020 and ensuring the full functioning of the women, peace and security agendas and the availability of resources to enable women to play a more important advocacy role.

XIV. Briefing on the promotion of human rights in Central Africa

210. Providing a briefing on human rights in Central Africa, the Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Director a.i. of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa thanked Cameroon for hosting the Centre's offices and for the recent invitation made to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which had enabled her to undertake a working visit to Yaoundé from 1 to 4 May 2019.

211. The briefing focused on three main points: weak human rights protection in the subregion; the main challenges faced; and the level of State cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

212. With regard to weak human rights protection, he said that the subregion was facing multidimensional security issues, including the proliferation of armed groups, that impeded the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, as was the case in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon. In addition, the terrorist group Boko Haram was active in Chad and northern Cameroon. In general, there had been endangerment and physical abuses against individuals,

kidnappings and enforced disappearances, and loss of human life among the civilian population and the defence and security forces.

213. With regard to the challenges faced, there had been persistent allegations of assault and violations of the right to life and security, including sexual violence and mob justice, in many countries engaged in peace and security restoration operations. It was essential to mainstream human rights, because human rights violations would only increase people's sense of injustice and lead to a loss of confidence in their armed forces.

214. The representative also referred to cases of death while in the custody of regular forces and invited member States to establish appropriate judicial procedures to clarify the circumstances of such deaths and determine who was responsible for them.

215. He referred to the limited capacity of national institutions working to promote and protect human rights and called for them to be strengthened with material and financial resources, and for the development of national policies for the promotion and protection of human rights, along with road maps.

216. With regard to State cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, he said that the following human rights instruments and their protocols have yet to be ratified by all States in the Central African region:

- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of December 2006 (ratified by Gabon in January 2011);
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of December 2006 (ratified by Cameroon and Congo),
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families of December 1990 (ratified by the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe).

217. At the subregional level, Gabon was the country that had ratified the highest number of international human rights instruments (15/17 treaties in force), followed by the Congo and Rwanda (14/17), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (13/17), the Central African Republic (12/17), Burundi (11/17), Cameroon (10/17), Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Sao Tome and Principe (9/17).

218. The submission of initial and periodic reports by Central African States continued to be a matter of concern.

219. In the light of the above, the following recommendations had been made to member States:

- Start taking decisive action to combat impunity for human rights violations;
- Adopt a policy of zero tolerance for cases of torture and violations of the right to life of people in police custody facilities or other detention facilities;
- Improve the governance of electoral processes in order to preserve advances in democracy and peace;
- Adopt a national human rights policy that takes into account the objectives to be achieved in the short, medium and long term;
- Provide national human rights institutions with the necessary human, financial and material resources to carry out their mandates independently;
- Cooperate fully with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, the African Union and the subregion, including the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

220. The representative of Cameroon underlined his Government's efforts to promote and respect human rights. The country, which was a party to several international human rights instruments, had presented its report for the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council in June 2018 and its fourth national report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in February 2019 and had announced that it was fully committed to fulfilling its mandate at the Human Rights Council. He encouraged the States of the subregion to continue to support the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

221. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa congratulated Cameroon for establishing its National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, which had type A status and worked freely, and encouraged the other States of the subregion to follow its example.

222. The representative of the Congo said that the Human Rights Council had reviewed and adopted its final documents for the universal periodic review on 14 March 2019.

223. The efforts of the Congo to strengthen its institutional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights had resulted in the election of members of the National Human Rights Commission and other constitutional bodies, including the advisory councils. The Congo intended to continue its collaboration with all special procedures mechanisms.

224. The procedure to establish an independent commission to address allegations of human rights violations, including those alleged to have been committed during times of crisis, had been set up in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

225. The Congo had been a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since 4 September 2014.

226. The Committee approved the recommendations proposed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

XV. Briefing on the humanitarian situation in Central Africa

227. This item was not discussed owing to the absence of the representative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

XVI. Briefings by entities with observer status in the Committee

228. The representative of UNOWAS gave a briefing on the joint UNOCA-UNOWAS missions undertaken to countries affected by Boko Haram activities in the framework of the Office's stabilization and resilience-building efforts in the Lake Chad basin area.

229. He said that the United Nations, including through UNOCA and UNOWAS, stood ready to support the efforts of the two sister communities of ECCAS and ECOWAS to implement the Lomé Declaration, adopted at the joint ECCAS-ECOWAS summit on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, held in Lomé on 30 July 2018. UNOWAS encouraged the ECOWAS Commission, the General Secretariat of ECCAS and all member States to accelerate the process of implementing the Declaration, bearing in mind that the next joint summit would be held in 2020 in Central Africa, specifically in N'Djamena, Chad.

230. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region requested permanent observer status in the Committee.

XVII. Review of the financial situation of the Committee

231. The representative of the secretariat of the Committee provided an update on the implementation of the recommendation made by the Committee at its forty-seventh meeting to request the incoming Chair to send a note verbale to member States inviting them to pay their voluntary contributions to the trust fund to finance the activities of the Committee. At the request of the Chair of the Committee, Chad, the secretariat sent a note verbale to member States on 11 March to remind them of that request.

232. The representative of Rwanda confirmed that his country had paid its contribution of $10,000 for 2019. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also announced that his country had paid $100,000, representing its outstanding contributions in full. The other countries gave reassurances that arrangements were being made to pay their contributions.

233. The Committee reiterated its appeal to member States to pay their contributions to ensure the financing of the Committee, which remained a forum of strategic importance for security and peace issues in Central Africa.

234. The Committee congratulated Rwanda on being up to date with its contributions.

235. The Committee requested the secretariat to send regular reminders to member States for the payment of their contributions.

236. The banking details of the trust fund are as follows:

Bank: J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, International Agencies Bank Group

Address: 4 New York Plaza, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10004, United States of America

Account Name: United Nations General Trust Fund

Account Number: 485-0019-69

ABA routing number: 021-000-021:

Swift Code: CHASUS33

Beneficiary: SQA Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

XVIII. Venue and date of next meeting

237. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Angola and the date is still to be confirmed.

238. The Committee decided that the incumbent Chair, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, would contact the First Vice-Chair, Angola, as soon as possible to confirm the date of the next meeting.

XIX. Other matters

239. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Committee’s focal points at their meeting held in Kinshasa on 27 May 2019 to organize, before the forty-ninth

session of the Committee, a meeting to evaluate the revitalization measures adopted by the ministers at the forty-fourth meeting of the Committee, held in Yaoundé.

XX. Adoption of the report of the forty-eighth ministerial meeting

240. The Committee adopted the present report on 31 May 2019 in Kinshasa.

C. Resolution of gratitude

241. On behalf of the Committee, Her Excellency Ms. Baipo Temon Sylvie Valérie, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora of the Central African Republic, read the following resolution of gratitude:

> "We, the ministers and members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, meeting on the occasion of the forty-eighth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 27 to 31 May 2019:

– Reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of peace, security and stability, which are essential for the socioeconomic development of our subregion;

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

– Congratulate the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for having taken up the challenge of successfully organizing this forty-eighth meeting of our Committee, which was held in an atmosphere of conviviality, fraternity and mutual trust;

– Thank the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), which serves as the secretariat of our Committee, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), our subregional organization, for its support, as well as all the partners who contributed with their presence and wide-ranging expertise to the success of this meeting;

– Commend His Excellency Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for his leadership and for his efforts since taking office to strengthen regional cooperation and promote peaceful and fraternal relations with all members of our Committee and the States neighbouring the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

– Express our sincerest thanks and our deepest gratitude to him, and to the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the warm welcome, African hospitality and fraternal attention we received during our stay in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

– Take this opportunity to express our respectful and sincere condolences to His Excellency Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo on the occasion of the funeral of Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.

Kinshasa, 31 May 2019

Enclosure I

Communiqué of the forty-eighth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa held its forty-eighth ministerial meeting in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 31 May 2019. At the meeting, the ministers adopted the report of the meeting of experts held from 27 to 30 May.

The focus of the ministerial meeting was on the political and security situation in Central Africa. The Committee welcomed the implementation by member States of the recommendations of the forty-seventh ministerial meeting, held in N'Djamena, Chad, from 3 to 7 December 2018.

The Committee also took note of the positive developments in the subregion, in particular the successful conduct of the general elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 30 December 2018, which led to a peaceful handover of power. The Committee congratulated His Excellency Félix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi and wished him every success in executing the high office with which the Congolese people had entrusted him.

The Committee also welcomed the progress made under the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, in particular the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, which was followed by the formation of a more inclusive Government and the strengthening of the mechanisms for implementing the Agreement. The Committee supported the efforts of the authorities of the Central African Republic and the appeal for the total lifting of the arms embargo.

The Committee heard a briefing by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon on the sociopolitical situation in his country. It took note of the efforts of the Government of Cameroon to find a lasting solution to the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions of the country. It expressed solidarity with the people and Government of Cameroon and encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis through dialogue.

The Committee noted that, despite these positive developments, Central Africa continued to face significant security challenges, including the activities of armed groups, terrorism, maritime piracy, mercenary activity and the illicit exploitation of natural resources. Committee members reaffirmed the commitment of their States to strengthen subregional cooperation on these challenges.

In a closed meeting, Committee members considered the financing of regional institutions and security issues relating to cross-border transhumance in the subregion. Following their discussions, the ministers:

Concerning cross-border transhumance

1. Reaffirmed the importance of pastoralism and transhumance to the economies of several States in the subregion, particularly Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad;

2. Took note of the growing tensions between nomadic herders and local communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in several countries in the subregion, which could threaten international peace and security;

3. Expressed their deep concern regarding the threat to biodiversity posed by the presence of livestock in protected areas;

4. Expressed also their grave concern regarding the resurgence of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, terrorism, crime, poaching, drug trafficking and the plundering of natural resources linked to cross-border transhumance;

5. Called upon the States concerned to consider adopting national and bilateral measures to promote controlled and peaceful transhumance, including through their joint cooperation commissions;

6. Invited the General Secretariat of ECCAS to conclude, as soon as possible and in an inclusive manner, the process of developing mechanisms for Community regulations on pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa;

7. Called for a high-level conference to be held as a matter of urgency to discuss issues relating to pastoralism and cross-border transhumance for joint and integrated management;

8. Decided to remain seized of this matter.

Concerning the financing of regional institutions

1. Reiterated their commitment to strengthen subregional cooperation on the challenges faced by Central Africa, including within the framework of institutions their States have established;

2. Took note of the delays in the payment of contributions to the various subregional institutions and mechanisms;

3. Invited States to give special attention to their obligations to ensure the smooth functioning of subregional cooperation mechanisms on security and integration;

4. Encouraged member States to participate actively in meetings on the institutional reform of ECCAS;

5. Emphasized that the discussions regarding the ongoing reform must result in the creation of appropriate mechanisms that will ensure the regular payment of financial contributions.

The forty-eighth meeting concluded with the reading of a resolution of gratitude to the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi, and to the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Done at Kinshasa, on 31 May 2019

Enclosure II

Activity report of the outgoing Bureau

The activity report of the outgoing Bureau, chaired by Chad, covers:

- The field visit to Dungu, in Haut-Uele Province in the north of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 25 to 29 March 2019;
- The status of implementation of the recommendations of the forty-seventh ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

1. Field visit to Dungu, Haut-Uele Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Background and justification

The General Secretariat of ECCAS, with the support of UNOCA, is developing a regional convention on pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa, following the recommendation of the fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, held in March 2018, on the organization of a subregional conference to adopt a Community law on pastoralism.

Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad are particularly affected by this phenomenon. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, as Vice-Chair of the Bureau and the host country of the forty-eighth ministerial meeting of the Committee, had proposed that a field visit be conducted to the locality of Dungu, Haut-Uele Province, where pastoral activities are contributing to tensions. The members of the current Bureau and representatives of the Central African Republic, UNOCA and ECCAS participated in the mission.

Objectives

The main objective of the visit was to enable the Bureau to gain an insight into the peace and security challenges concerning transhumance and related activities in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Meetings with key actors

- Administrative and military authorities;
- Civil society, representatives of nomadic herders;
- The heads of the MONUSCO sub-office;
- The heads of Garamba National Park.

Challenges related to the presence of nomadic herders in Haut-Uele Province

- The interlocutors with which the visit team met said that the presence of nomadic herders in large numbers posed problems for peaceful coexistence with local populations, whose main activity was agriculture.
- The presence of such herders has a negative economic impact, according to some interlocutors. They enter and stay illegally without paying taxes or duties on livestock, unlike local herders.

- Other interlocutors alerted the visit team to the environmental risks associated with the presence of nomadic herders (pollution of water sources by herds, destruction of flora and fauna, risk of spreading diseases to protected wildlife.)
- Owing to the security situation in the province, an increasing number of nomadic herders are reportedly acquiring weapons of war to protect themselves from attacks by thieves, but also in inter-community conflicts, according to some interlocutors.
- The visit team also received reports of frequent clashes between armed nomadic herders and members of the defence and security forces, resulting in deaths and injuries on both sides.

Some findings

The visit team found that:

- Many interlocutors mentioned, but did not provide proof of, complicity between nomadic herders and some armed groups.
- Some nomadic herders are identified and counted, and pay taxes to the authorities.
- Other interlocutors noted that nomadic herders were abused by local authorities and populations.
- There appears to be no framework for consultation, prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts between nomadic herders and local communities.

Recommendations following the visit to the locality of Dungu

To the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- Include the issue of the presence of nomadic herders in the country on the agenda of meetings of the joint cooperation commissions with the countries of origin or transit of nomadic herders;
- Continue the process of counting and identifying nomadic herders;
- Promote the establishment of local mechanisms for the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts related to the presence of nomadic herders in the north-eastern provinces of the country.

To the Economic Community of Central African States:

- Continue efforts to develop Community regulations on pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa.

To the United Nations and international partners:

- Support the efforts of ECCAS and its partners to adopt and implement regional regulations on pastoralism and transhumance in Central Africa.

2. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the forty-seventh ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Republic of Cameroon: The Committee encourages the Government of Cameroon to pursue its initiatives to resolve the crisis in the South-West and North-West Regions of the country.

Since the last meeting in N'Djamena in December 2018, the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, in order to resolve the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions, has continued to carry out initiatives aimed at stabilizing the situation and ensuring a gradual return to normal life. These initiatives include the establishment by presidential decree of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism on 23 January 2017 and the implementation of the emergency humanitarian assistance plan for the North-West and South-West Regions, developed in June 2018, in conjunction with an emergency humanitarian assistance coordination centre. Six months after its establishment on 30 November 2018, the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee, which concerns former Boko Haram fighters and former members of armed rebel groups in the North-West and South-West Regions, has centres in Bamenda, Buea and Mora, welcoming many former secessionist and jihadist fighters.

On the political front, a ministerial department responsible for decentralization and local development has been established. Cameroon is also planning to hold its very first regional elections this year. In addition, on 13 December 2018, the Head of State ordered the cessation of prosecution, pending before the military courts, of 283 individuals arrested in connection with the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions.

Cameroon is cooperating fully with States Members of the United Nations and other bilateral actors, organizations of the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations, as demonstrated by the recent visits to Cameroon of senior officials from the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. Such visits included the joint visit by the heads of UNOCA and UNOWAS and the European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region and the Lake Chad Basin from 24 to 27 April 2019, the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1 to 4 May 2019, and that of the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie on 25 May 2019.

The Prime Minister and Head of Government of Cameroon conducted two "peace missions" to the North-West and South-West Regions from 7 to 10 May 2019 and from 14 to 17 May 2019, respectively, to convey a message of peace and reconciliation to the affected populations and announce a national dialogue initiated by the Government to find an all-Cameroonian solution to the crisis.

Central African Republic: 1. The Committee recommends that technical and financial partners fulfil their commitments to providing humanitarian assistance to the Central African Republic and to financially supporting the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, in order to end the violence.

According to the Central African Republic, appeals are being made to mobilize partners to provide the country with humanitarian assistance and financial support.

2. The Committee recommends that the Panel of Facilitators of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic facilitate the holding of the planned dialogue between the Government of the Central

African Republic and the armed groups. The Committee encourages the inclusion of female leaders or mediators in the Panel.

Women participated in the dialogues held in Khartoum, and, subsequently, Addis Ababa, particularly on the ground.

3. The Committee recommends that the member States represented on the Panel of Facilitators implement the recommendations on post-conflict assistance adopted at the ECCAS Summit of Heads of State and Government held on 30 November 2016 by:

(a) Supporting the strengthening of the technical and material capacities of the internal security forces;

(b) Fully lifting the embargo on arms destined for the defence and security forces;

(c) Strengthening border control to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons;

(d) Reactivating the joint commissions between the Central African Republic and its neighbours;

(e) Mobilizing resources for a more generous response to the humanitarian appeal.

Central African Republic: (a) The Central African Republic confirmed that the Military Programming Act for the Armed Forces had been adopted. Similar legislation for the internal security forces is in the process of being adopted.

(b) Following the statement of 9 April 2019 on the partial lifting of the arms embargo, the Government reactivated the interministerial coordinating body, which is working to achieve the benchmarks for the full lifting of the embargo by July, before the assessment by the Security Council sanctions committee.

(c) The national commission on small arms and light weapons is making efforts in this regard.

(d) Meetings of the Central African Republic-Cameroon joint commission for cooperation were held from 6 to 7 May 2019 in Bangui.

Cameroon: The meetings of the Central African Republic-Cameroon joint commission for cooperation, held from 6 to 7 May 2019, concluded with the issuance of a joint communiqué mentioning draft agreements signed between the two countries in several areas, including scientific and technological cooperation, small and medium-sized enterprises and crafts, sports and physical education, youth, energy and water, higher education and information and communications technologies.

Republic of the Congo: 1. The Committee encourages the Government to finalize the establishment of the National Council for Dialogue and to launch its activities.

Congo has confirmed that the texts establishing the status of the Council secretariat members and their powers are being drafted.

2. The Committee encourages the Government to implement the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in accordance with international standards.

On 31 August 2018, the Government of the Congo and the United Nations signed a document establishing a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme with a total cost of 8.3 billion CFA francs. Recently, the Government sent

a letter of commitment to UNDP for the payment of the 2 billion CFA francs to be contributed by the Congo. The remaining 6.3 billion CFA francs are being raised through an international appeal for the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in the Congo.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: The Committee invites all stakeholders in the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to respect the independence of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

The Commission's independence is being strengthened. It is a long process that requires work on the behaviour and attitudes of citizens and political actors.

Mercenary activity and poaching: The Committee recommends that anti-poaching efforts be integrated into an eco-security process.

Such initiatives have expanded over the past six months. The International Conference of Ministers of Defence, Security and Protected Areas on the fight against poaching and other cross-border criminal activities was held in N'Djamena in January 2019. The first subregional workshop on pastoralism and transhumance, organized by ECCAS with the support of UNOCA, was held in N'Djamena from 9 to 11 April 2019. During the forty-eighth meeting of the Committee, representatives of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation and Garamba National Park were invited to deliver a presentation on trafficking in natural resources acquired through poaching or mining.

Fight against Boko Haram: The Committee calls on member States and international partners to help mobilize resources to support the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Multinational Joint Task Force in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin, including by providing means of transportation and communication, and surveillance and night vision equipment.

Over the past six months, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and the Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel visited Cameroon, Niger and Chad to demonstrate their willingness to support States in the fight against Boko Haram. A forthcoming visit to Nigeria is planned.

The representative of the Multinational Joint Task Force reported that discussions between the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union on the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin were under way.

Piracy and maritime security: 1. The Committee encourages the General Secretariat of ECCAS to activate the Multilateral Maritime Coordination Centre of area A, which concerns Angola, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government of Angola was requested to organize a tripartite meeting and expressed its willingness to do so.

2. The Committee invites member States to pay their financial contributions to the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Few States have contributed financially to the Centre. The lack of funding has negative consequences for maritime security and puts the Centre at risk of closure.

The Centre has called for the issue to be escalated to the political level, including to ministers.

Transhumance (cross-border security)

Two presentations will be made on the topic at the meeting of experts. The General Secretariat of ECCAS will provide a briefing on the establishment of Community regulations on pastoralism and transhumance, while an international consultant will present his report on the situation in the four countries most affected by transhumance.

Cooperation between ECCAS and other subregional entities

This recommendation, including the monitoring of the implementation of the Lomé Declaration, adopted at the ECOWAS-ECCAS joint summit, is reflected in the agenda of the meeting of experts.

Free movement of persons within the ECCAS area: The Committee encourages States members of ECCAS and CEMAC to take the issue of free movement into consideration when finalizing their rationalization process.

This recommendation is included in the agenda of the meeting of experts.

Women, peace and security agenda: 1. The Committee recommends that member States ensure that more women are recruited in the defence and security forces and that more women participate in peacekeeping missions.

Gabon: For some time, the Government has been recruiting women in the defence and security forces. Of the 450 members of the Gabonese contingent of MINSUCA, 117 are women, accounting for more than 30 per cent of the battalion. The Ministry of National Defence is led by a woman.

Chad: Recently, Chad issued a decree on gender-balanced recruitment in the defence and security forces. In addition to the female personnel already deployed, 50 more women have just been deployed in peacekeeping operations.

Burundi: The Government of Burundi has taken note of this recommendation. Indeed, the number of women in the Burundi national police and defence forces is steadily increasing. In recruiting personnel for these forces, the Government takes into account the proportion represented by young women, in order to ensure gender balance, in accordance with the country's Constitution, which provides for a 30-per-cent quota for women in all walks of life in Burundi. In addition, many women are included in peacekeeping missions.

Congo: Over a period of three years, the proportion of women recruited for military schools has increased from 11.68 per cent to 21.25 per cent. Women represent 13.36 per cent of the Congolese armed forces, accounting for 10.7 per cent of the army, 18.2 per cent of the air force, 11.2 per cent of the navy and 10.3 per cent of the gendarmerie. Women's participation in formed police units in peacekeeping operations increased from 10 per cent in the third unit to 14.28 per cent in the fourth unit.

2. The Committee invites member States to include women experts in their delegations.

Burundi: Women comprised 50 per cent of the delegation of Burundi to the forty-eighth meeting of the Committee.

3. The Committee invites member States, in particular Gabon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe, to adopt and implement a

national action plan for resolution 1325 (2000) and to establish national committees to monitor the implementation of those national plans.

Gabon: Establishment of a steering committee responsible for developing the national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), endorsed by the Cabinet on 23 May 2019.

Chad: The national action plan is being developed.

Human rights: 1. The Committee recommends that member States authorize access to conflict areas, taking into consideration the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2. The Committee recommends that member States put in place effective strategies to implement the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

Financing of the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa: The Committee recommends that the incoming Chair send a note verbale to member States inviting them to pay their voluntary contributions to the trust fund to finance the activities of the Committee.

At the request of Chad, the Chair of the Committee, the secretariat has sent a note verbale to that effect to member States.

Only Rwanda has confirmed that it has paid its contribution of $10,000 for 2019. The other countries have confirmed that steps are being taken in that regard.

Enclosure III

Status of financial contributions as at 31 May

Status of contributions to the special fund since the establishment of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

(in United States dollars)

Year	*Member State*	*Contributions to date*	*Amount outstanding in accordance with the 2009 Libreville Declaration*
		70 000.00	30 000.00
2017		10 000.00	
2015	**Angola**	40 000.00	
2011		10 000.00	
2010		10 000.00	
	Burundi	0	100 000.00
	Cameroon	0	100 000.00
		43 314.17	55 685.83
2018	**Central African Republic**	18 715.85	
2017		25 598.32	
	Chad	0	100 000.00
		70 260.00	29 740.00
2016	**Congo**	50 000.00	
2011		10 961.00	
2010		9 299.00	
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	100 000.00*	0
	Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe	25 273.00	74 727.00
2011		25 273.00	
	Equatorial Guinea	0	100 000.00
		51 715.29	48 284.71
2017	**Gabon**	19 783.29	
2012		30 000.00	
1997		1 932.00	
2019		10 000.00*	0
2018	**Rwanda**	9 975.00	
2017		10 000.00	
2016		80 000.00	
Total		**461 537.96***	
Balance as at 31 May 2019		**638 462.07***	

* The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda announced at the forty-eighth meeting of the Committee that they had paid the amounts credited to them in the table for 2019.

Enclosure IV

List of participants

No.	*Name*	*Function*
	Angola	
1.	Mr. ANTONIO Téte	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
2.	Mr. SERAO Toko	Ambassador of Angola to Gabon
3.	Mr. MANUEL Juan	Ambassador of Angola to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
4.	Mr. CONSTANTINO Mário de Azevedo	Ambassador, Director, Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, national focal point, UNOCA focal point
5.	Commander CARDOSO SEBASTIAO DOMINGOS Francisco	Deputy Director, Ministry of the Interior
6.	Mr. DOS SANTOS Gilberto	Embassy of Angola in Gabon
7.	Mr. DA FONSECA Manuel Vieira	Diplomatic Adviser, Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations in New York
8.	Mr. KELO CANGA Pedro	Chief Adviser, Africa Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Interim Chief of the Africa, Middle East and Other Regions Department
9.	Ms. DA SILVA CARVALHO DA SILVA Albertina Wilson	Technician, Ministry of Defence
10.	Mr. DA SILVA DOMINGOS Aurelio Augusto	Technician, Ministry of the Interior
11.	Mr. CARVALHU Augusto	Terrorism expert
12.	Ms. CASSULE Albertina	Adviser to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
13.	Ms. MANUEL Cristina	
14.	Mr. GIMBI Francisco	Second Secretary, Embassy of Angola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
	Burundi	
15.	Ambassador NIBIGIRA Ezéchiel	Minister for Foreign Affairs
16.	Mr. MASABO Salvator	Special Head of Office, Inspectorate General of the National Police of Burundi, Ministry of Public Security and Disaster Management
17.	Ms. NDIKURIYO Domitille	Adviser, Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs
18.	Ms. MUGIRASONI Elisabeth	Political Adviser, Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs

No.	*Name*	*Function*
	Cameroon	
19.	Mr. MBELLA Lejeune	Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon
20.	Mr. CHUNGONG Ayafor	Ambassador of Cameroon to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
21.	Ms. MBALLA EYENGA Cécile	Director, United Nations and Local and Regional Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
22.	Mr. MOUNGUI MENI Ambroise Lasconi	Chief, United Nations Political Organs Department
23.	Colonel ONGUENE Abraham Bernard	Chief, Rest of the World Division, Chief of Military Staff
24.	Mr. AHIDJO	Second Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the United Nations
	Central African Republic	
25.	Ms. BAIPO TEMON Sylvie Valérie	Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora
26.	Mr. KONZALE Thierry Michel	Chief of Operations, Armed Forces of the Central African Republic
27.	Ms. NAMKOISSE KOLAMAN Innocente Larissa	Chief, Department for United Nations Affairs
28.	General LEMBE	Defence Attaché, Embassy of the Central African Republic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
	Congo	
29.	Mr. GAKOSSO Jean-Claude	Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Diaspora
30.	Mr. BALE Raymond Serge	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo to the United Nations
31.	Mr. YANDOMA Clément	Ambassador of the Congo to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
32.	Mr. NGOULOU Jean Didier Clovis	Ambassador, Deputy Secretary-General, Head of the Department of Multilateral Affairs
33.	Mr. ANGABA Gabriel	Director, Foreign Affairs, National Security Council
34.	Mr. ADZODIE Joseph Gaston	Strategic Affairs Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Diaspora

No.	*Name*	*Function*
35.	Mr. NDE François	Security Adviser to the Minister of the Interior and of Decentralization
36.	Mr. LIBALI Jean	Adviser to the Armed Forces, the Gendarmerie and Human Resources, Office of the Minister of National Defence
37.	Ms. GOMBOUKA Emilienne, née EMBOULA	Director-General for the Advancement of Women
38.	Mr. OMBELLE KEMBO Shanel	Director, United Nations Affairs
39.	Ms. LEKAKA Yolande Annick	Director, Cooperation, Ministry for the Advancement of Women and the Integration of Women in Development
40.	Mr. EYOBELET Gislain Rodrigue	Chief, Defence Strategies Division, Personal Chief of Military Staff of the President of the Republic
41.	Mr. GANONGO Jean-Paul	Press Secretary, Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Diaspora
42.	Mr. ELLENGA HIBARA Brice Nazaire	Attaché, Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Diaspora
43.	Mr. GOMA Thierry	Personal Chief of Military Staff of the Prime Minister (PM-C6)
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	
44.	Mr. MWE DI MALILA Franck	Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
45.	Mr. ILEKA ATOKI	Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs
46.	Mr. LUAMBO François	Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Gabon
47.	Mr. MBALA KABISHI Gérard	Director, Foreign Affairs, National Security Council
48.	Mr. TSHILOMB KAPEND Joseph	Director, African Regional and Subregional Organizations Section
49.	Mr. MAKETA Baudouin	Chief of Protocol
50.	Mr. AMISI Victor	Director, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender, Youth and Violence against Women
51.	Mr. NTSHIKALA SAMBO Patrice	Chief, Protocol Office
52.	Ms. BOOTO MEETI Nounou	Expert, Centre for Peace and Development, Security and Armed Violence Prevention
53.	Mr. BUSHIRI Christian	Expert
54.	Mr. MUMBALA Louis	Expert

No.	*Name*	*Function*
55.	Mr. N'LEMVO Paul	Expert
56.	General YANGBA-TENE Dany	Ministry of Defence
57.	Mr. BOFUNDA Ilingo	Special Assistant to the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs
	Gabon	
58.	Mr. BIBANG BI MBA Aimé	Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Regional Integration, la Francophonie and the Diaspora
59.	Mr. BIANG Michel Xavier	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs focal point
60.	Mr. NYAMA William Rodrigue	Policy Adviser, St. Peace and Security Issues
61.	Mr. ROGOMBE Faustin	Expert, Commissioner for Regional Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
62.	BITEGHE BI YOUA Henry Tristan	Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Gabon in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
63.	Mr. MIMBILA	Adviser, Embassy of Gabon in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
64.	Colonel ADEMBA MBONGO Siegfried Guyen	Sectoral focal point, Ministry of the Interior
	Equatorial Guinea	
65.	Mr. MITOGO BINDANG Bonifacio	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
66.	Ms. MIKO MIKUE Antonina	Presidential Adviser on Gender
67.	Mr. ATEBA OWONA Samuel	Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Congo
68.	Mr. EDU ANDEME Domingo	Ambassador
69.	Mr. OBIANG ESONO MBENGONO Job	Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations
70.	Mr. BIBANG OYEE Máximo Antonio	Minister Plenipotentiary, Third Class
71.	Commander NKERUGRE Elias	Chief, First Company, First Battalion
72.	Mr. ASUMU MBA MEDJA Luis	Counsellor and focal point for the Economic Community of Central African States and the Committee

No.	*Name*	*Function*
	Rwanda	
73.	Mr. HABYALIMANA Jean-Baptiste	Ambassador of Rwanda to the Congo
74.	Mr. MUHISEMO Jean-Marie Muvunyi	Senior Officer, United Nations and International Development Organizations
	Sao Tome and Principe	
75.	Mr. MORENO Carlos Manuel	Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
76.	Mr. DE OLIVEIRA AFONSO Amilcar	Adviser, Director, Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
77.	Mr. GONCALVES GENERO Esterline	Adviser, Head of the Department of Regional Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
78.	Lieutenant-colonel QUARESMA ANDREZA Sebastião	Chief, Operations Division, Defence Headquarters
79.	Mr. SARAIVA VAZ Lusitano	Honorary Consul of Sao Tome and Principe in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
	Chad	
80.	Mr. NDORDJI Nazaire	Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, International Cooperation and the Diaspora
81.	Mr. ABDOUL Mahamat Nour	Chief, Division of Legal Studies, Legislation and Litigation, Committee focal point, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
82.	Mr. MOGOMBAYE Apollinaire	Director, Cooperation and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
83.	Mr. IDRISSOU Tao	Camera Operator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
84.	Mr. MISSET Gapili	Press Secretary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs
	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	
85.	General GARCIA Guy Pierre	Deputy Secretary-General, Head of the Department of Peace and Security
86.	Mr. KABARHUZA Baudouin Hamuli	Director, Political Affairs and the Central African Early Warning Mechanism, ECCAS
87.	Mr. SADIKI Koko	Chief, Division of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism

No.	*Name*	*Function*
88.	Navy Captain KOSKREO Djorwe	Deputy Chief of Staff of the Multinational Force for Central Africa, Chief of the naval component for the presentation of the report on maritime piracy in Central Africa
89.	Mr. OYAL TORDEG Médard	Expert Analyst, Division of Political Affairs and the Central African Early Warning Mechanism
90.	Mr. MAHAMET SALEH Ousman	International consultant, pastoralism expert
	Interregional Coordination Centre – Yaoundé	
91.	Mr. FASTUDO Narciso, Junior	Deputy Executive Director
	Lake Chad Basin Commission and Multinational Joint Task Force – N'Djamena	
92.	Lieutenant-colonel ALIYU Manu Adamu	Military Adviser to the Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force
93.	Colonel SALISSOU Mahaman Salissou	Chief, JS (Planning)
	United Nations Regional Office for Peace and Disarmament in Africa – Lomé	
94.	Mr. RUMONGI Jean Bosco	Project Coordinator
	African Union	
95.	Mr. IKOUEBE Basile	Representative of the African Union in Burundi and the Great Lakes Region
96.	Mr. YAO Konan Pascal	Political Officer
97.	Mr. BEDZIGUI BEBEVA Yann	Analyst
98.	Mr. YDRISS Amir	
	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	
99.	Colonel DIENG Abourahmane	Head of Division, Regional Security
	United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa – Yaoundé	
100.	Mr. BOUAKA Louis-Marie	Regional Representative and Director ad interim
	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)	
101.	Ms. NDIAYE SECK Awa	Resident Representative, UN-Women, Democratic Republic of the Congo
	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	
102.	Mr. D'HOORE Ludovic	Regional Coordinator
	United Nations Mine Action Service – Kinshasa	
103.	Mr. RENARD Philippe	Programme Officer
104.	Ms. MUNOZ Erly	Deputy Specialist, Small Arms

No.	*Name*	*Function*
	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	
105.	Mr. TCHOUMAVI MESSELO Ephrem Boris	Senior Political Adviser
	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs/Department of Peace Operations	
106.	Mr. SANE Samba	Deputy Director, Central and Southern Africa Division, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations
	Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes	
107.	Ms. GARRASI Donata	Director, Political Affairs
	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	
108.	Mr. ABDEL GALIL Salah Eldin Zaki Khaled	Director, Multisectoral Regional Office, Yaoundé, UNESCO Representative for Central Africa
109.	Ms. NDAYA KAYEMBE Claudine	Programme Officer
	Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation	
110.	Mr. SOMBA BYOMBO Ghislain	Director and Deputy Site Manager, Garamba Park
111.	Mr. MARTIN Joseph Edouard	Liaison Officer
	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region	
112.	Mr. KAKESE Vinalu	National Coordinator
	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) – Dakar	
113.	Colonel OSEI Aaron	Military Adviser
114.	Mr. AJI James	Political Adviser
	United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) – Committee secretariat – Libreville	
115.	Mr. FALL François Louncény	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
116.	Mr. COUTINHO Sancho	Director, Political Affairs
117.	Colonel SEYE Issa	Military Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa
118.	Mr. OUENDJI Norbert	Chief, Public Information Unit
119.	Ms. NZENGOU Marlène	Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa

No.	*Name*	*Function*
120.	Ms. NAHISHAKIYE Léocadie	Political Adviser
121.	Mr. NGARHODJIM Nadjita	Political Adviser
122.	Ms. KOUASSI DOSSO Bénédicte Djénéba	Political Adviser
123.	Ms. AYEH Ablavi	Administrative Assistant, Policy Section
124.	Mr. EDANG Ibrahim	Travel Assistant
125.	Ms. NDOY Anne-Ghislaine	Administrative Assistant, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa
	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	
126.	Mr. MBOK Eric	Deputy Director, Political Affairs
127.	Mr. COMMINS Bernard	MONUSCO Deputy Force Commander
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