

11. Central African region

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings and issued four presidential statements in connection with the situation in the Central African region. Against the backdrop of the destabilizing effect of the crisis in the Central African Republic, the discussions in the Council focused on the regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), including the implementation plan developed by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).

During the period under review, the mandate of UNOCA was extended on 21 August 2012 for 18 months, until 28 February 2014, by virtue of a letter from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General.²⁵³

Regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army

On 29 June 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA briefed the Council on the second report of the Secretary-General on the work of UNOCA, including its efforts to combat LRA.²⁵⁴ He focused on the regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of LRA and elaborated on the five key objectives of the strategy, namely, supporting regional cooperation against LRA, enhancing the protection of civilians, expanding disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, promoting humanitarian and child protection response in LRA-affected areas, and supporting LRA-affected Governments in extending authority across their territories. He appealed to the Council to actively support the implementation of the strategy and of the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union.²⁵⁵ Following the briefing, the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Lord's Resistance Army Issues also addressed the Council. He focused mainly on the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union on LRA.

He said that the major objectives of the Initiative were to strengthen the capacity of the affected countries to effectively respond to and neutralize the LRA threat, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected communities and to create an environment conducive to the stabilization and rehabilitation of the affected areas. He briefed the Council on the key components and structure of the initiative but cautioned that such a structure required international support, mainly on the financial and logistical fronts. In closing, he formally requested the Council to consider declaring LRA a terrorist organization.²⁵⁶

Speakers expressed condemnation of the crimes committed by LRA. A majority of speakers emphasized the need for concerted action and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation against LRA. Many speakers welcomed the regional strategy and called for additional resources in support of the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union. Several speakers called on States to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in prosecuting and detaining perpetrators associated with LRA.²⁵⁷

At the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement strongly condemning the attacks carried out by LRA and reiterating its concern at the atrocities committed by the group. In the same statement, the Council welcomed the development of the regional strategy. The Council also urged various United Nations entities to support the implementation of the strategy and called on the international community to provide assistance, as possible, to advance the strategic goals.²⁵⁸

On 18 December 2012, the Council held a meeting to consider the third report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the LRA-affected areas.²⁵⁹ The Special Representative of the Secretary-General presented the report to the Council. In his briefing, he acknowledged that while there was good news coming out of Central Africa, particularly on the economic front, challenges remained in relation to the threat posed by LRA. He emphasized the need to

²⁵³ S/2012/657.

²⁵⁴ S/2012/365.

²⁵⁵ S/PV.6796, pp. 2-3.

²⁵⁶ Ibid., pp. 3-6.

²⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 12 (Portugal); p. 19 (Guatemala); and p. 20 (France).

²⁵⁸ S/PRST/2012/18.

²⁵⁹ S/2012/923.

mobilize resources for the full implementation of the regional strategy to address the threat posed by LRA and highlighted the disparity between the resources available to UNOCA and the tasks it was required to perform.²⁶⁰

During the meeting, speakers expressed their support for the regional strategy and emphasized the importance of developing an implementation plan for it. Most speakers reiterated the value of cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and international levels and encouraged UNOCA to continue to effectively carry out communication and coordination efforts within the United Nations system and beyond. Some speakers reiterated calls on the Member States to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and implement the arrest warrants issued against LRA leaders.²⁶¹ During the discussion, speakers also raised other challenges affecting the Central African region such as youth unemployment and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

On 19 December 2012, the Council issued a presidential statement by which it strongly condemned the attacks and atrocities carried out by LRA, including the recruitment and use of children, rape, sexual slavery and other sexual violence, and reiterated its support for the regional strategy. The Council also urged UNOCA and United Nations political and peacekeeping missions to coordinate their efforts in support of the implementation of the strategy, with UNOCA playing a key role in the coordination of those activities.²⁶²

Implementation plan for the regional strategy

On 29 May 2013, the Council held a meeting to consider the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General indicated that the implementation plan for the regional strategy had been finalized. He pointed out that the implementation plan identified areas in which additional resources were required and affirmed his reliance on the continued support of stakeholders, particularly LRA-affected countries. He made reference to the threat posed by Boko Haram insurgents, as well as to the political and

security situation in northern Mali. In addition, he underlined the emergence of poaching as a growing phenomenon which was posing a challenge to peace and security, and to growing youth unemployment as a destabilizing element in the region.²⁶³

During the debate that followed, speakers welcomed the implementation plan for the regional strategy. However, some speakers raised concerns as to the relevance and timeliness of some of the projects described in the plan, the need for further development of the implementation plan, and the need for support and funding for the plan.²⁶⁴ The crisis in the Central African Republic featured prominently in the debate with most of the speakers expressing a deep concern about the spillover effect on neighbouring countries.

At the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement, in which it reiterated its strong condemnation of the attacks and atrocities carried out by LRA as well as the violations of international humanitarian law, including the use of children in armed conflict. The Council welcomed the conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict concerning the situation of children affected by LRA and called for their full implementation. The Council called on the international community to provide assistance where possible and urged further efforts from the countries in the region to end the threat posed by LRA. In the same statement, the Council expressed concern at the recent pause in counter-LRA operations in the Central African Republic and encouraged continued coordination to allow regional counter-LRA operations to resume as soon as possible.²⁶⁵

Progress made on the implementation plan for the regional strategy

On 20 November 2013, the Council held a meeting to consider the fifth report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the LRA-affected areas.²⁶⁶ The Special Representative of the Secretary-General informed the Council that the situation in Central Africa was dominated by concerns about growing instability in the Central African Republic and the proliferation of armed groups in the

²⁶⁰ S/PV.6891, pp. 2-4.

²⁶¹ Ibid., p. 8 (South Africa); p. 9 (Portugal); p. 11 (Guatemala); p. 12 (France); and p. 15 (Germany).

²⁶² S/PRST/2012/28.

²⁶³ S/PV.6971, pp. 2-3.

²⁶⁴ p. 6 (Russian Federation); p. 7 (United Kingdom); p. 8 (France); p. 9 (Guatemala); and p. 13 (Argentina).

²⁶⁵ S/PRST/2013/6.

²⁶⁶ S/2013/671.

eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. He assessed that the potential for the crisis in the Central African Republic to spill over into the wider region was real. He noted that transnational crime remained a serious challenge to the security of the region, exemplified by the incidence of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. He added that the region was also vulnerable to the threat posed by terrorism and extremism, mentioning Boko Haram as an example. He then briefed the Council on the work of UNOCA, emphasizing its coordination role among various stakeholders. He affirmed that, in spite of the effectiveness of the military operations of the Regional Task Force of the African Union in degrading LRA, it was necessary to remain vigilant and to make progress on the implementation plan for the regional strategy.²⁶⁷

The Council was also briefed by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on LRA Issues, who highlighted the progress made in the region for the elimination of LRA by the African Union in coordination with troop-contributing countries, with the support of the United States Special Forces, the European Union and the United Nations, particularly UNOCA. He explained the circumstances that led to the suspension of the counter-LRA operations in the Central African Republic, mentioning in particular the tension between the Regional Task Force and Séléka. He reported, however, that operations had resumed early in August 2013 and emphasized that the current momentum required adequate funding and logistical support to enhance the objective of eliminating the threat posed by LRA.²⁶⁸

²⁶⁷ [S/PV.7065](#), pp. 2-3.

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 20-21.

Speakers emphasized the need for wide cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to combat and eliminate the LRA threat. Most speakers commended the work of UNOCA. The representative of the United Kingdom added that UNOCA should continue adding real value to regional and subregional efforts at a time of resource constraints.²⁶⁹ The views of most of the speakers coincided in the analysis of the situation in the Central African region. They expressed deep concern about the unfolding of the crisis in the Central African Republic, highlighting the harmful effects of transnational crime and piracy, and voicing their alarm about the growing phenomenon of poaching as a source of financing for criminal networks. Many speakers reiterated the importance of the international support to regional and subregional efforts and of redoubling support to implement the regional strategy.

On 25 November 2013, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it reiterated its strong condemnation of the appalling attacks, war crimes and crimes against humanity carried out by LRA. The Council further urged UNOCA, as well as other United Nations entities in the region, to enhance efforts in support of the implementation of the regional strategy. The Council also encouraged the Secretary-General to optimize the efforts of UNOCA and called on the international community to support the strategy where possible. With regard to the Central African Republic, the Council emphasized the need for coordination between the United Nations and the African Union in the context of protection of civilian activities and counter-LRA operations.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁷⁰ [S/PRST/2013/18](#).

Meetings: Central African region

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.6796 29 June 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of children and armed conflict affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (S/2012/365) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2012/421)	Letter dated 25 June 2012 from the Secretary-General transmitting the regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (S/2012/481)	Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Lord's Resistance Army Issues	All Council members, all invitees	S/PRST/2012/18
S/PV.6891 18 December 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2012/923)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, Special Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.6895 19 December 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2012/923)					S/PRST/2012/28

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.6971 29 May 2013	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2013/297)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, Special Representative of the Secretary-General	S/PRST/2013/6
S/PV.7065 20 November 2013	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2013/671)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Lord's Resistance Army Issues	All Council members, all invitees under rule 39	
S/PV.7066 25 November 2013	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2013/671)					S/PRST/2013/18

12. Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan*

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 36 meetings, including four closed meetings²⁷¹ with troop- and police-contributing countries. The Council adopted 12 resolutions, 10 of which were adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter,²⁷² and four presidential statements. The Council heard briefings on the situations in Darfur, Abyei and South Sudan, as well as on the relationship between the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council also heard briefings on the implementation of the mandate of the three peacekeeping operations in the region, namely, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and extended their respective mandates.²⁷³ The Council further adjusted the sanctions regime against the Sudan and twice extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005).²⁷⁴ The Council was briefed by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court with regard to the situation in Darfur, referred to the Court by resolution 1593 (2005).

Situation in Darfur, implementation of the mandate of UNAMID and sanctions regime

On 11 January 2012, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations informed the Council that, following the progress outlined in the latest report of the Secretary-General,²⁷⁵ the parties to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur of 14 July 2011²⁷⁶ had moved ahead with the implementation of the provisions concerning power-sharing and security. The Government of the Sudan and the non-signatory movements had not met and the prospects for resuming talks were unclear. The Secretary-General was developing a road map for peace in Darfur, in cooperation with the African Union. The goal of the road map was to give the two organizations a framework to jointly facilitate talks among the parties in three key areas: support for the implementation of the Doha Document; sustained engagement with the Government and non-signatory movements to promote negotiations; and support for internal dialogue in Darfur.²⁷⁷

The representative of South Sudan expressed concern about the security situation in Darfur. He added that this situation had the potential to affect his country and called on the Council to take the wider political and security context into consideration in its discussions.²⁷⁸ The representative of the Sudan suggested that the Council consider reducing the huge number of personnel in UNAMID, given the signs of stability in Darfur. He also requested the Council to send a clear message to the Government of South Sudan concerning its support to and lack of action against certain rebel movements in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in order to avoid repercussions for the entire region.²⁷⁹

On 17 February 2012, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2035 (2012) in which, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts, originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), until 17 February 2013 and

* Pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 11 November 2013 (S/2013/657), as from that date the wording of the item "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan" was revised to read "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan".

²⁷¹ See S/PV.6797; S/PV.6806; S/PV.6989; and S/PV.7005.

²⁷² Resolutions 2063 (2012) and 2113 (2013) were not adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter.

²⁷³ For more information on the mandates of UNAMID, UNISFA and UNMISS, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

²⁷⁴ For more information concerning the sanctions measures against the Sudan, see part VII, sect. III, "Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter". For more information concerning the mandate of the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B, under "Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan".

²⁷⁵ S/2011/814.

²⁷⁶ S/2011/449, enclosure 2.

²⁷⁷ S/PV.6700, pp. 2-5.

²⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 5.

²⁷⁹ Ibid., pp. 5-8.