

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
	in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of UNIOGBIS (S/2020/755)				General, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations on behalf of the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	

<sup>a</sup> The Niger was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad.

<sup>b</sup> The representative of the Niger spoke also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia.

<sup>c</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNDOC participated in the meeting by videoconference from Bissau and Vienna, respectively.

## 7. Central African region

During the period under review, the Council held two open videoconferences in connection with the Central African region.<sup>151</sup> The Council considered developments in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Congo, the Gulf of Guinea and the Sahel. More information on the videoconferences is given in the table below.

During the period under review, consistent with the six-month reporting period requested by the Council in the statement by the President of the Council of 10 August 2018,<sup>152</sup> the Council heard two briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) with regard to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa.<sup>153</sup> In his briefings, the Special Representative apprised the Council on the activities of UNOCA, its continued cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the United Nations Office

for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and its activities as the secretariat for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The Special Representative updated the Council on the human rights and security situation in the region, including the continued threats posed by terrorism and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the impact of climate change on the security and prosperity of Central African countries. In 2020, the Special Representative also briefed the Council on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, in particular the negative socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and the efforts of countries in the region, UNOCA and regional organizations to combat the threats posed by the disease.

At the videoconference held on 12 June,<sup>154</sup> the Special Representative recalled that a major consequence of the pandemic was the economic crisis. He noted, however, that the Governments in Central Africa and regional institutions had been able to adapt to the new situation created by the crisis and ensure the continuity of certain crucial activities. In that regard, at its extraordinary ministerial meeting held on 3 and

<sup>151</sup> See S/2020/542 and S/2020/1188.

<sup>152</sup> S/PRST/2018/17.

<sup>153</sup> See S/2020/463 and S/2020/1154.

<sup>154</sup> See S/2020/542.

4 June 2020, ECCAS had adopted four axes of a regional response strategy to combat COVID-19, namely, preventing the spread of the virus, limiting the death rate and managing positive cases, addressing the socioeconomic and security impact of COVID-19, and responding to the cross-border security issues created by the pandemic. Regarding political and security developments in the region, in addition to providing briefings to Council members on specific situations in each of the countries of the region, the Special Representative strongly condemned the deliberate attacks on civilians and the destruction of private property and public infrastructure by terrorist and armed groups, and welcomed the mobilization of the armies of Cameroon and Chad, including within the framework of the Multinational Joint Task Force, to fight terrorism in the Lake Chad basin. He informed the Council that Operation Wrath of Boma, launched by the Chadian army between late March and early April 2020, seemed to have considerably weakened Boko Haram. He also updated the Council on the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which, although also weakened, continued to kill and abduct civilians, and called on regional actors, including the African Union and ECCAS, as well as international partners, to strengthen their cooperation and mobilize the resources necessary to defeat LRA, within the framework of the Regional Strategy to Address the Threat and Impact of the Activities of the Lord's Resistance Army.

At the meeting on 9 December,<sup>155</sup> the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported to the Council that the pandemic seemed to be generally under control in the subregion, indicating that the early measures enforced by the Governments of the subregion to contain and reduce the spread of the pandemic had proven effective. He noted, however, that that effectiveness came at a high socioeconomic cost, as the economic slowdown triggered by the pandemic and the different restrictive measures had further depleted the already limited capacity of States to provide basic social services to their populations. Regarding political developments in the region, the Special Representative updated the Council on the preparations for the holding of elections in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe, as well as on other political developments in the region, including the implementation of a special status for the north-west and south-west regions in Cameroon, political consultations to discuss preparations for the 2021 presidential election in the Congo and votes on the

<sup>155</sup> See [S/2020/1188](#).

amendments to the Constitution in Chad. Regarding the security situation, the Special Representative recalled with great concern the violence in the far north, north-west and south-west regions of Cameroon, the increase in attacks and kidnappings by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin and the intensification of attacks by terrorist groups in Cameroon and Chad. He also addressed the issue of transhumance in Central Africa and the increase in maritime organized crime in the Gulf of Guinea, in particular drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, stressing in that regard the need for coordination between Central and West Africa through existing mechanisms, such as the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, the Regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in West Africa, to effectively respond to threats. The Special Representative also briefed the Council on his engagements with key United Nations, national and international partners in the subregion on various matters, including during his recent visits to Cameroon and the Congo and at the meeting of the heads of United Nations presences in Central Africa on strengthening coordination in supporting regional efforts to address the impact of climate change, prevent election-related violence and fight against hate speech.

In 2020, the Council's deliberations focused on major political and security developments, as well as on the humanitarian, human rights and socioeconomic challenges affecting the Central African region, including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. On the political front, several Council members specifically addressed the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and the issue of elections in the country scheduled for 2020 and 2021.<sup>156</sup> Council members also discussed the national dialogue in Cameroon and the steps taken by the Government of Cameroon to implement the recommendations of the major national dialogue of October 2019, including the passing of legislation granting special status to the north-west and south-west regions.<sup>157</sup> Some Council members welcomed the

<sup>156</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (France, Russian Federation and United Kingdom); and [S/2020/1188](#) (Estonia, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States).

<sup>157</sup> [S/2020/542](#) (Dominican Republic, Estonia, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and United Kingdom); and [S/2020/1188](#) (Belgium, Russian Federation, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and United Kingdom).

efforts aimed at improving relations among Central African States, in particularly the efforts of Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ease tensions and strengthen relations between the countries of the Great Lakes region.<sup>158</sup>

Concerning the security situation, deliberations focused on the continued security threats posed by Boko Haram and LRA to the Central African region and beyond,<sup>159</sup> maritime organized crime and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea,<sup>160</sup> as well as tensions in the north-west and south-west regions of Cameroon.<sup>161</sup> Some Council members also addressed the adverse effects of

climate change on security in the region.<sup>162</sup> With respect to the humanitarian, socioeconomic and human rights challenges, Council members focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the livelihoods of Central African populations and security in the region, as well as the work of UNOCA. The Council also continued to address the adverse effects of climate change on the populations of Central Africa and the region's geopolitical situation. Some Council members acknowledged that the effects of climate change had triggered displacement and negatively affected the efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic,<sup>163</sup> and some discussed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad basin, including malnutrition, spread of diseases and displacement of thousands of people into neighbouring countries.<sup>164</sup>

In addition, in 2020 Council members continued to focus on the role of UNOCA and its cooperation with the African Union, ECCAS and other international, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations regional offices in resolving conflicts, addressing the humanitarian and human rights challenges and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

<sup>158</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (Dominican Republic, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa), United Kingdom and Viet Nam); and [S/2020/1188](#) (Dominican Republic, Estonia, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and Viet Nam).

<sup>159</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (Dominican Republic, France, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and Viet Nam); and [S/2020/1188](#) (China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Russian Federation, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa), United Kingdom and Viet Nam).

<sup>160</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (France and Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa)); and [S/2020/1188](#) (China, France, Russian Federation and Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa)).

<sup>161</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (Dominican Republic, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa), United Kingdom and United States); and [S/2020/1188](#) (Dominican Republic, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa), United Kingdom and Viet Nam).

<sup>162</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (Dominican Republic, Estonia, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and Viet Nam); and [S/2020/1188](#) (Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and United Kingdom).

<sup>163</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (Dominican Republic and Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa)).

<sup>164</sup> See [S/2020/542](#) (Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and United Kingdom); and [S/2020/1188](#) (Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and Viet Nam).

## Videoconferences: Central African region

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
12 June 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/542</a>	Letter dated 16 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
9 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1188</a>	Letter dated 14 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

## 8. Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

During the period under review, the Council held six meetings in connection with the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”. Three of those meetings took the form of briefings and three were convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>165</sup> In addition, Council members held 18 videoconferences and adopted 10 resolutions under the item.<sup>166</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and decisions, and on the videoconferences is given in tables 1 to 6 below. In addition to meetings and videoconferences, in 2020 Council members held informal consultations of the whole and an informal interactive dialogue in connection with the item.<sup>167</sup> The Council also held one closed meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>168</sup>

Consistent with prior practice, the Council considered several distinct topics under the item, namely the situation in the Sudan and the mandates of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the newly established United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS); bilateral relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, the situation in the Abyei Area and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA); and the situation in South

Sudan and the mandate of UNMISS.<sup>169</sup> The Council also discussed the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan and their respective Panels of Experts,<sup>170</sup> as well as the implementation of resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#), by which the Council had referred the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

In relation to the Sudan, Council members were briefed three times by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, and once by the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support.<sup>171</sup>

In her briefing at the first open videoconference, held on 24 April,<sup>172</sup> the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs stated that, six months after the establishment of the transition, the Sudan continued to face significant challenges, including political fragility, difficult humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions and a risk of wider spread of COVID-19.

In a subsequent videoconference, held on 8 December,<sup>173</sup> the Under-Secretary-General added that the humanitarian situation had been gripped by severe flooding, intercommunal violence, prolonged displacement and the arrival of over 48,000 people fleeing the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. She called on the international community to continue

<sup>165</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>166</sup> For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

<sup>167</sup> See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 27. See also [S/2020/258](#) and [S/2020/344](#).

<sup>168</sup> Held on 3 March under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B” (see [S/PV.8740](#)).

<sup>169</sup> For more information on the mandates of UNAMID, UNISFA, UNITAMS and UNMISS, see part X.

<sup>170</sup> For more information on the Committees and their respective Panels of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

<sup>171</sup> See [S/2020/336](#), [S/PV.8761](#) and [S/2020/1183](#).

<sup>172</sup> See [S/2020/336](#).

<sup>173</sup> See [S/2020/1183](#).