

## 6. Central African region

In 2022, the Security Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Central African region” and did not adopt any resolutions in connection with the situation in the Central African region. Both meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>204</sup> Under this item, the Council considered developments in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Congo, Gabon, and the Gulf of Guinea. More information on the meetings is given in the table below.<sup>205</sup> In 2022, the Secretary-General appointed a new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).<sup>206</sup>

During the period under review, consistent with the six-month reporting period requested by the presidential statement of 10 August 2018,<sup>207</sup> the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and the Head of UNOCA respectively further to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Region.<sup>208</sup> The Assistant Secretary-General and 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 briefers updated the Council on the political, human rights and security situation in the region. In that regard, the Assistant Secretary-General and the Special Representative briefed the Council on the preparation and conduct of electoral processes in several Central African countries and the subsequent political processes, the continued threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism, particularly in the Lake Chad basin, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea and the impact of climate change on

---

<sup>204</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

<sup>205</sup> See [A/77/2](#), part II, chap. 24.

<sup>206</sup> See [S/2022/582](#).

<sup>207</sup> [S/PRST/2018/17](#), twentieth paragraph.

<sup>208</sup> See [S/2022/436](#) and [S/2022/896](#).

the security and prosperity of Central African countries. The Council also heard two briefings by the President of ECCAS and a briefing by the Vice-President of the Coalition des organisations de la société civile d’Afrique centrale pour la préservation de la paix, la prévention des conflits, la résolution et la transformation des crises (COPAC).

In her briefing to the Council on 8 June 2022, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations recalled that with several countries in the subregion such as the Republic of the Congo, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon, preparing for crucial electoral processes, all stakeholders should create conditions conducive to credible, inclusive and peaceful elections and the Governments should widen the democratic space through the participation of women and young people in elections. She reported about the security challenges persisting in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where attacks were exacerbating political and humanitarian crises. The extremist violence in the Lake Chad basin continued to be a concern and in that connection, UNOCA and UNOWAS continued their high-level advocacy with the Member States to increase coherence in their responses to violent extremism and provide technical support. On climate security, she emphasized UNOCA’s close partnership with ECCAS in better preventing, mitigating and managing the security risks related to climate change. The Assistant-Secretary-General also highlighted the women and peace and security as a priority for the subregion and UNOCA, providing support for capacity-building, consultations and public initiatives by civil society focused on women’s participation in mediation, peacebuilding, political dialogue and elections in Angola, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.<sup>209</sup> The President of ECCAS, underlining the Commission’s readiness to cooperate with the Council in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter, reported about the positive developments in the region, including an improved security situation and strengthened confidence-building measures. Nonetheless, with the deteriorating security situation on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and the postponement of the Chadian inclusive national dialogue, the President noted that the current political and security

---

<sup>209</sup> See [S/PV.9058](#).

situation in the region continued to affect the collective security for which the Council was responsible. The Vice President of COPAC briefed the Council about the human rights situation and the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in Central Africa.

In his briefing to the Council on 8 December 2022, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa reported about the electoral progress in the region, highlighting the increased participation and representation of women in political institutions and processes, particularly in Angola and Sao Tome and Principe with a greater proportion of women in parliamentary assemblies and in Government. He emphasized that the States of Central Africa should further open up political and civic space and strengthen the inclusivity, diversity and credibility of political processes, ensuring the legitimacy of the institutions resulting from the elections. In that connection, he urged State authorities to ensure full respect for fundamental rights and freedoms and to avoid any disproportionate use of force in maintaining public order. On Central Africa's fight against climate change and its effects, the Special Representative noted the commitment of ECCAS and some of its member States during the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and highlighted the role and capacity of subregional organizations to promote a common vision on key issues and the importance of regular consultations with the United Nations entities for greater efficiency of "delivering as one". He concluded his briefing by noting that the year 2023 would be marked by important political processes in several countries in Central Africa and calling for an increased support from the Security Council at the political level.<sup>210</sup> The President of ECCAS reported about the security and political situations in Central Africa, taking note of the elections held in the Republic of the Congo, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe and Equatorial Guinea. Briefing the Council about the recent activities of the Commission, he reiterated his full support of the Luanda and Nairobi processes set up by the African Union and the East African Community and noted that the Commission was exploring ways to support the regional force currently deployed in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and serving as an observer and a focal point for the two processes.

---

<sup>210</sup> See [S/PV.9213](#).

In 2022, the Council's deliberations focused on major political and security challenges and on human rights, humanitarian and socioeconomic situations affecting the Central African region, including the adverse effects of climate change and food security exacerbated by the geopolitical conflicts and the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the political front, Council members welcomed the electoral processes in several countries in the Central African region, including Angola, the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and Equatorial Guinea and stressed the importance of delivering democratic elections and inclusive transitional processes and increasing the political participation and representation of women. Council members deliberated on the role of the United Nations and addressed its cooperation with subregional organizations, encouraging UNOCA and ECCAS to continue assisting the State authorities in inclusive political processes, electoral reforms and commitment to addressing climate-related security risks. Council members highlighted the key role played by the United Nations entities and subregional organizations in advancing the youth, peace and security agenda and promoting women's political participation in the Central African region. Several Council members also took note of the improved maritime security situation in the Gulf of Guinea and UNOCA's cooperation with UNOWAS in that regard.<sup>211</sup> Council members addressed the situation in specific countries and in particular (i) the ongoing violence in the Central African Republic, including the human rights abuses compounding the existing humanitarian situation and the operations of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the attacks against the humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel, as well as the progress in the republican dialogue;<sup>212</sup> (ii) the persisting political tensions in Cameroon, in particular the north-west and south-west regions and the human rights violations and abuses against civilians;<sup>213</sup> (iii) terrorism and violent extremism in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the emergence of tensions with Rwanda, reiterating the African Union's

---

<sup>211</sup> [S/PV.9058](#), Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), India, United Arab Emirates, Norway and China; [S/PV.9213](#), Russian Federation, Brazil, Norway, Ireland and India.

<sup>212</sup> [S/PV.9058](#), United Kingdom, Mexico, United States, India, Ireland, China and Albania; [S/PV.9213](#), United Kingdom, Mexico, United States and France. For further information on the Central African Republic, see part I, sect. 5.

<sup>213</sup> [S/PV.9058](#), United Kingdom, Mexico United States, France, Brazil, Russian Federation, Ireland, Norway and Albania; [S/PV.9213](#), Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Mexico, Brazil, Albania, Norway, United States, France and India.

call for the resolution of disputes through diplomatic means with the mediation of Angola;<sup>214</sup> and (iv) the progress of national dialogue and political transitions in Chad, including the signing of the Doha peace agreement and the appointment of an inclusive Government<sup>215</sup>. Council members deliberated on the cross-border threat posed by terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin and expressed support for action by the Multinational Joint Task Force to respond to those threats posed by the activities of terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Boko Haram and the Allied Democratic Forces. They also continued to discuss about the impact of the geopolitical conflict and the socioeconomic and humanitarian crises on women and promoting active participation of women in political processes and addressing sexual and gender-related violence. In 2021, by an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council dated 3 and 6 August 2021 respectively, the Council extended the mandate of UNOCA for three years, until 31 August 2024.<sup>216</sup> In renewing UNOCA's mandate, the Council reiterated, with certain modifications, that UNOCA's mandate would focus on four core objectives, namely (1) the monitoring of political and security developments in Central Africa and carrying out good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General in order to prevent and resolve conflicts, sustaining peace and advising the Secretary-General and United Nations entities in the area on sustaining peace issues in Central Africa; (2) enhancing subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the subregion, with due attention to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including human rights and gender dimensions; (3) supporting and enhancing United Nations efforts in the subregion, as well as regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security, including from human rights and gender perspectives; and (4) enhancing coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security.<sup>217</sup>

---

<sup>214</sup> [S/PV.9058](#), Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), India, Norway and China; [S/PV.9213](#), Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), Mexico, China and United States.

<sup>215</sup> [S/PV.9058](#), Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), United States, France, Brazil and Albania; [S/PV.9213](#), Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), Brazil, France and India.

<sup>216</sup> [S/2021/719](#) and [S/2021/720](#).

<sup>217</sup> [S/2021/719](#), annex, Objectives 1-4. For more information on the mandate of UNOCA, see part X, sect. II.

**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>
<a href="#">S/PV.9058</a> 8 June 2022	Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa ( <a href="#">S/2022/436</a> )			Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States, Vice-President of the Coalition des organisations de la société civile d'Afrique centrale pour la préservation de la paix, la prévention des conflits, la résolution et la transformation des crises	13 Council members <sup>a</sup> all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.9213</a> 8 December 2022	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa ( <a href="#">S/2022/896</a> )			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States	13 Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Brazil, China, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>b</sup> Brazil, China, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>c</sup> President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States participated in the meeting via videoconference.