



Security Council

Distr.: General
9 August 2021

Original: English

Letter dated 3 August 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the work of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), whose current mandate expires on 31 August 2021.

Since it was officially established in March 2011, UNOCA has made noticeable contributions to conflict prevention and management through the good offices of my Special Representatives. It has been instrumental in preventing or mitigating election-related crises and promoting inclusive political dialogue and reform processes in Central Africa. UNOCA has bolstered cooperation on peace and security with regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Gulf of Guinea Commission and the Lake Chad Basin Commission. UNOCA remained engaged with ECCAS throughout its institutional reform process, which culminated in September 2020 with the creation of the ECCAS Commission, replacing the former secretariat. UNOCA has ensured coherence and coordination in the activities of United Nations entities in Central Africa related to peace and security. UNOCA has also helped to raise awareness of gender, youth and climate issues and promoted the implementation of the agendas on women and peace and security and on youth and peace and security.

I commend Central African States for showing the strategic resolve to help address instability and strengthen their bilateral relations. I also commend the States members of ECCAS for completing crucial institutional reform and establishing a robust peace and security architecture for Central Africa. The subregion has demonstrated its active involvement in addressing the challenges that it faces, including through the adoption of several strategies, notably in relation to implementing Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, to addressing the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and to countering terrorism.

I commend ECCAS on its notable contributions to peace and stability in Central Africa and the adoption of its joint strategic plan with UNOCA for the period 2021–2025. The United Nations remains determined to assist the subregion in its efforts towards greater stability. To support the States members of ECCAS in their promotion and consolidation of regional integration as a driving factor for sustainable peace and prosperity, UNOCA will bolster its partnership with ECCAS to prevent conflicts and sustain peace in Central Africa, strengthen national and regional governance, address cross-border security challenges and promote the participation of women, young people and civil society in early warning, peacebuilding and sustaining peace.



Notwithstanding noticeable progress and institutional gains made over the past few years, the persistent fragility of peace and security in Central Africa necessitates continued United Nations support, especially in the areas of preventive diplomacy and peace consolidation. I therefore recommend that the mandate of UNOCA be extended for another three years, from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024.

I submit herewith the draft mandate of UNOCA for the period 2021–2024, in which the four core objectives of are described (see annex). The objectives are to be pursued in close collaboration with ECCAS, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other relevant regional and subregional partners.

UNOCA will continue to work in close collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel on issues related to maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and on cross-border transhumance, as well as on the impact of the activities of Boko Haram on countries of the Lake Chad Basin region. UNOCA will also continue to ensure that gender and human rights are mainstreamed into its activities.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António **Guterres**

Annex

Draft mandate of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa for the period 2021–2024

The objectives below are to be pursued by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), in close collaboration with relevant subregional and regional partners and relevant United Nations entities.

Objective 1

Monitor political and security developments in Central Africa and carry out good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General in order to prevent and resolve conflicts, to help sustain peace and to advise the Secretary-General and United Nations entities in the region on sustaining peace issues in Central Africa

(a) Perform good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General to prevent and resolve conflicts, in particular in countries facing electoral or institutional crises or violent conflicts;

(b) Undertake regular early warning and analysis of, and report on, the situation in the countries of the subregion and regional trends, including from a gender perspective;

(c) Develop, in consultation with Member States, regional partners, civil society networks and local communities, including women and young people, integrated strategies for supporting national efforts to sustain peace and prevent conflicts in the region, and rally international and regional support for such strategies.

Objective 2

Enhance 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

(a) Enhance the capacity of subregional actors, in particular the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), for conflict prevention, mediation and peace consolidation, as well as for advancing human rights and inclusive peace and democratic processes;

(b) Serve as the secretariat of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and assist States in implementing the recommendations of the Committee, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(c) Build partnerships with civil society, including women and youth groups, and support subregional civil society networks, in particular the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa;

(d) Cooperate with regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms, in particular the African Union, ECCAS, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other key partners, and assist them, as appropriate, in promoting and consolidating peace, security and stability and in addressing the root causes of conflicts in Central Africa, as well as in strengthening their capacities.

Objective 3**Support and enhance United Nations efforts in the subregion, as well as regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security, including from human rights and gender perspectives**

- (a) Promote, support and advocate United Nations, regional and subregional efforts to address the impact of persistent and emerging threats to peace and security, including those related to the continued presence of armed groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army in the subregion and of terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin and Sahel region; maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea; the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; the adverse implications of climate change, energy poverty, ecological changes and natural disasters; illicit trafficking in natural resources and wildlife; farmer-herder dynamics; and other cross-border threats, such as issues related to transhumance, as well as the regional dimension of security crises in some States of the subregion;
- (b) Promote and support, as appropriate, regional and subregional efforts to address the root causes of and achieve solutions to forced displacement;
- (c) Rally subregional support for the peace process in the Central African Republic, in close cooperation with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic;
- (d) Promote good governance, respect for the rule of law, human rights and the mainstreaming of gender in conflict prevention, management and resolution initiatives in Central Africa.

Objective 4**Enhance coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security**

- (a) Increase internal United Nations exchanges, collaboration and joint initiatives within Central Africa, with a clear division of labour between UNOCA and other United Nations entities in the subregion;
 - (b) Enhance partnership with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams and with the Development Coordination Office to further support cross-border initiatives;
 - (c) Support United Nations country teams in helping to address structural conflict prevention efforts at the country level, including through contributions to common country assessments, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and relevant sustaining peace strategies;
 - (d) Enhance collaboration and coordination with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in strengthening United Nations, regional and international efforts to address cross-cutting and cross-border challenges to peace and security;
 - (e) Advocate the priorities identified by United Nations entities in the subregion, including with regard to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and help to leverage the role of the African Union, ECCAS and other regional actors to that effect.
-