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## Seventy-eighth session

### First Committee

Agenda item 100 (e)

#### **Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa**

**Sao Tome and Principe\*: draft resolution**

#### **Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous relevant resolutions, in particular its resolution [77/86](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Recalling also* the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

*Bearing in mind* the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the Central Africa subregion,

*Recalling* that the purpose of the Standing Advisory Committee is to conduct reconstruction and confidence-building activities in Central Africa among its member States, including through confidence-building and arms limitation measures,

*Considering* the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

*Convinced* that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

*Reaffirming* the importance and relevance of the Standing Advisory Committee as an instrument of preventive diplomacy in the subregional architecture for the promotion of peace and security in Central Africa,

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\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States.



*Bearing in mind* the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee decided upon at the forty-fourth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Yaoundé from 29 May to 2 June 2017, with a view to enhancing its contribution to the achievement of the objectives of peace, security and development in Central Africa,

*Taking note* of the conclusions of the scientific symposium, held to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Standing Advisory Committee, on its substantial contribution in the service of preventive diplomacy, as well as the recommendations and the road map for their implementation,

*Recalling* the entry into force 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) on 8 March 2017<sup>1</sup> and the ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 August 2023,

*Convinced* that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

*Reaffirming* the Libreville Declaration on the Adoption and Implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Africa, adopted by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 26 November 2015 at their forty-first ministerial meeting, held in Libreville from 23 to 27 November 2015,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* the communiqués of the forty-eighth<sup>3</sup> and forty-ninth ministerial meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, held from 27 to 31 May and from 25 to 29 November 2019 in Kinshasa and Luanda, respectively, the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,<sup>4</sup> the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa<sup>5</sup> and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,<sup>6</sup>

*Bearing in mind* resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998, respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,<sup>7</sup>

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 2634 (2022) of 31 May 2022 on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea,

*Recalling also* the successful conclusion of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, and the decision taken at the Summit to establish the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa (Yaoundé Code of Conduct), the tenth anniversary of which is being celebrated in 2023, and recalling also the inauguration in Yaoundé, on 11 September 2014, of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea, the effective commencement of

<sup>1</sup> See [A/65/517-S/2010/534](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup> See [A/70/682-S/2016/39](#), annex 3.

<sup>3</sup> [A/73/967-S/2019/613](#), annex, enclosure I.

<sup>4</sup> [A/50/474](#), annex I.

<sup>5</sup> [A/53/258-S/1998/763](#), annex II, appendix I.

<sup>6</sup> [A/53/868-S/1999/303](#), annex II.

<sup>7</sup> [A/52/871-S/1998/318](#).

its activities with the installation of its statutory officials in Yaoundé on 22 February 2017, the inauguration of new offices of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa in Pointe Noire, Congo, on 20 October 2014, and the launch of the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre in Cotonou, Benin, in March 2015, and also the conclusion of the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, held in Lomé on 15 October 2016,

*Recalling further* its resolution [69/314](#) of 30 July 2015, the first such resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, and also its resolutions [70/301](#) of 9 September 2016, [71/326](#) of 11 September 2017, [73/343](#) of 16 September 2019, [75/311](#) of 23 July 2021 and [77/325](#) of 25 August 2023, and reaffirming the outcome of the high-level meetings on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, hosted by Gabon and Germany and held on the margins of the high-level segments of the sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly,

*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen the capacity for early warning, conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and recalling in this regard the concrete conflict prevention initiatives facilitated by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States and the close cooperation between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community, as well as the signing of the framework cooperation agreement between the two entities on 14 June 2016,

*Taking note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States at its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Libreville on 27 November 2020; at its nineteenth ordinary session, held virtually on 30 July 2021; at its twentieth session, held on 19 January 2022 in Brazzaville; at its twenty-first session, held on 25 July 2022 in Kinshasa; at its twenty-second session, held on 25 February 2023 in Kinshasa; and at its twenty-third session, held on 1 July 2023 in Libreville,

*Welcoming* the continued implementation of the institutional reform of the Economic Community of Central African States and the installation of the Committee of the Wise,

*Bearing in mind* the increased focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on human security questions, such as trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as an important consideration for subregional peace, stability and conflict prevention, and recalling the adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons<sup>8</sup> following the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action,

*Expressing continued concern* about the fragile situation in the Central African Republic and the country's vulnerability to regional instability, and noting the importance of promoting the political process through the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, harmonized with the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, and of addressing the root causes of conflict in the country to ensure lasting peace,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic to strengthen the authority of the State, coupled with the extension of political and peace

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [72/1](#).

processes to the local level, creating a window of opportunity to foster inclusive dialogue, revitalize the architecture of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, and disassociate armed groups from violent struggle through mediation and political participation,

*Welcoming* the appointment of the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, as facilitator of the Economic Community of Central African States for the situation in Gabon, on 31 August, and the commitments that he subsequently made to various Gabonese political actors on a road map for dialogue and a return to constitutional order,

*Highlighting* the regional security implications of the situation in the Central African Republic, and reiterating the commitment of the region and the international community to supporting the parties in the effective implementation of the Political Agreement, including through the provision of political, security, technical and financial support,

*Welcoming* the signature of a memorandum on cross-border security between the Central African Republic and South Sudan, on 1 September 2023, and the adoption of the national policy for the management of border areas in the Central African Republic on 11 September 2023, as well as the conclusion, on 28 September 2023, of the voluntary repatriation of elements of the Lord's Resistance Army to Uganda, thanks in particular to the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic,

*Welcoming* the signature by the Central African Republic and its neighbouring countries, in Yaoundé on 27 April 2022, of a joint declaration on the dignified return of refugees of the Central African Republic to their country,

*Recalling* the Brazzaville Declaration on Confidence-Building Measures,<sup>9</sup> and expressing concern that the issue of mercenaries has become a major security concern, undermining trust and creating tensions among States members of the Standing Advisory Committee,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the declaration on democratic and peaceful elections as a means of strengthening stability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Central Africa at the fiftieth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee,<sup>10</sup>

*Welcoming* the call by States members of the Economic Community of Central African States during the forty-ninth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, in Luanda, on the need to strengthen partnership with the United Nations to address the impact of climate change on peace and security in Central Africa, and strengthened by the fifty-fifth ministerial meeting, held in Sao Tome,

*Expressing concern* about the impact of cross-border criminality, in particular the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, the terrorist attacks by groups affiliated with Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin region and incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, and the issue of transhumance and its cross-border security implications for peace, security and development in Central Africa,

*Welcoming* the progress made by the States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin in making the Multinational Joint Task Force operational in order to combat effectively the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group to the Lake Chad basin region,

<sup>9</sup> [A/73/224](#), annex IV.

<sup>10</sup> [A/76/274](#), annex I.

*Recalling* the adoption by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, with the support of the African Union, of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region, in Abuja on 30 August 2018,

*Bearing in mind* Security Council resolution 2349 (2017) of 31 March 2017, in which the Council called for, inter alia, increased assistance to the countries of the region,

*Considering* the urgent need to prevent the possible movement of illicit weapons, mercenaries and combatants involved in conflicts in the Sahel and in neighbouring countries in the Central African subregion,

*Concerned* by the persistence of the humanitarian crisis due to the displacement of populations in several Member States, the resurgence of inter-community conflicts due in particular to the scarcity of resources, the use of transhumance for criminal purposes, now identified as a phenomenon of emerging insecurity in Central Africa, as well as the rise of hate speech, especially during electoral processes,

*Recalling* the conclusions of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth ministerial meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, held in Kintélé, Congo, from 12 to 16 January 2023 and in Sao Tome from 15 to 19 May 2023, respectively,

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion;

2. *Welcomes and encourages* the initiative of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa to further develop collaboration and synergies with the Economic Community of Central African States;

3. *Welcomes* the role played by the Standing Advisory Committee throughout the 30 years of its existence, which has enabled the creation of institutions, such as the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and its organs, including the early warning mechanism for Central Africa and the Central Africa Multinational Force, which have contributed towards the establishment of lasting peace in the subregion;

4. *Invites* the Standing Advisory Committee and the Economic Community of Central African States to continue discussions on the relationship between the two entities in the light of the institutional reform of the Economic Community, and urges them to consider how to harmonize their views and actions so as to avoid overlap and duplication in the implementation of their respective mandates;

5. *Encourages* the Standing Advisory Committee, in view of the repositioning of the Economic Community of Central African States and the strengthening of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, to continue to serve within the United Nations as a high-level body for continuous monitoring, reflection and the fostering of solutions, with regard to the concerns and needs of the Central African subregion in the area of peace and security;

6. *Welcomes* efforts under way by the Standing Advisory Committee and its secretariat to implement the communication strategy adopted at the forty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Kigali from 4 to 8 December 2017, and encourages member States and other partners to support initiatives aimed at increasing the visibility of the Committee, including among the populations of the subregion, in cooperation with civil society;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament and arms control programmes in Central Africa carried out by the States of the subregion with the support of the United Nations, the African Union and other international partners;

8. *Encourages* Member States to provide assistance to those States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, and encourages those that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty;<sup>11</sup>

9. *Encourages* States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and other interested States to provide financial support 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), and encourages signatories that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention;

10. *Welcomes* the holding of the first Conference of States Parties to 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, in Yaoundé from 11 to 13 June 2018, in accordance with article 34, paragraph 3, of the Kinshasa Convention, and requests the Secretary-General to convene the review conference of the Kinshasa Convention, in accordance with article 34, paragraph 5, of the Convention, at the earliest opportunity, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States;

11. *Encourages* Member States to assist States parties to the Kinshasa Convention with coordination activities for the control of small arms and light weapons at the regional and national levels, including funding thereof, as expeditiously as possible;

12. *Urges* Member States to increase financing for the Saving Lives Entity fund and to support the projects and activities of Member States, in particular by supporting the establishment and strengthening of national commissions for the control of small arms and light weapons, the establishment of a platform for the exchange of experiences among the national commissions, and the establishment and operationalization of the Convention secretariat;

13. *Reaffirms its support* for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy<sup>12</sup> and its four pillars, which constitute an ongoing effort, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner and in all aspects;

14. *Welcomes* the adoption, by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States at its seventeenth ordinary session, on 30 July 2020, of the strategy on preventing and combating terrorism in Central Africa, and requests a review thereof to strengthen the strategy in the light of the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit, held in Malabo on 28 May 2022;

15. *Welcomes* the joint summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States, in coordination with the African Union Commission, on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, held in Lomé on 30 July 2018, and recalls the Lomé Declaration on Peace, Security, Stability and the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism adopted at that summit;

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution [60/288](#).



16. *Encourages* the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States to work together towards the implementation of the Lomé Declaration;

17. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to carry out the programmes of activities adopted at their ministerial meetings, and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa to continue to provide support;

18. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, as well as security sector reforms, and urges the States concerned to ensure that such programmes take into consideration the needs of women and children associated with former combatants;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts of Cameroon and the Congo in providing assistance to the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, respectively, and urges other member States to honour their financial commitments in order to ensure the predictable and sustainable operation of the two Centres, and encourages the Economic Community of Central African States, in the context of the tenth anniversary of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct, to strengthen maritime security measures, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea, and also in the context of climate change and the increased vulnerability of island States, to strengthen maritime security measures in relation to border countries;

20. *Encourages* Member States to continue to implement the outcomes of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea by operationalizing the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and activities of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, and also encourages the implementation of the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa adopted at the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa;

21. *Calls upon* Member States and subregional bodies to take immediate concerted action to counter the phenomenon of poaching and trafficking in wildlife and natural resources, including through the implementation of the provisions of its resolutions [69/314](#), [70/301](#), [71/326](#), [73/343](#), [75/311](#) and [77/325](#);

22. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States in initiating common policies and joint programmes on the management of pastoralism and cross-border transhumance, and encourages the Economic Community of Central African States to adopt the protocol on pastoralism and cross-border transhumance in Central Africa;

23. *Encourages* the development of mechanisms for regulation by the Economic Community of Central African States, and calls for the holding of a high-level conference to discuss issues relating to pastoralism and cross-border transhumance with a view to ensuring joint and integrated management thereof;

24. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Standing Advisory Committee, at its fifty-fifth ministerial meeting, of the Kintélé Declaration on hate speech in Central Africa,<sup>13</sup> on 16 January 2023 in Kintélé, Congo, welcomes also the adoption in Kinshasa, on 24 June 2022, of the draft regional strategy and plan of action for preventing and combating hate speech in written, audiovisual and digital

<sup>13</sup> [A/78/266](#), annex II.

communication media in Central Africa, and encourages its political endorsement without delay by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, with a view to the development of a common approach for deconstructing such discourse and promoting coexistence in the countries of the Economic Community of Central African States;

25. *Requests* the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to facilitate the efforts undertaken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular for their execution of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention;<sup>14</sup>

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the support of the international community, to continue to assist the countries of Central Africa in tackling the issues of refugees and displaced persons in their territories, recalling the Sao Tome Declaration on refugees and internally displaced persons,<sup>15</sup> adopted at the fifty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to help the countries of Central Africa to tackle the issue of youth emigration, especially the emigration of qualified young people due to a lack of opportunities, which threatens to undermine the development process of these countries in the long term;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

29. *Welcomes* the increased contributions made by several Member States to the trust fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, reminds the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the commitments that they undertook on the adoption of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa on 8 May 2009<sup>16</sup> and the Bangui Declaration on 10 June 2016,<sup>17</sup> and invites those States members of the Committee that have not already done so to contribute to the trust fund;

30. *Urges* other Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

31. *Urges* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in accordance with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000, to strengthen the gender component of the various meetings of the Committee relating to disarmament and international security, in line with the Sao Tome Declaration on the Participation of Women in the Statutory Meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, adopted on 1 December 2016,<sup>18</sup> in which member States were invited to increase the representation of women in delegations participating in the statutory meetings of the Committee, and strongly encourages the States members of the Committee to ensure that gender-related considerations are taken into account in the activities of the Committee;

<sup>14</sup> See [A/65/717-S/2011/53](#), annex.

<sup>15</sup> [A/78/266](#), annex III.

<sup>16</sup> [A/64/85-S/2009/288](#), annex I.

<sup>17</sup> [A/71/293](#), annex I.

<sup>18</sup> [A/72/363](#), annex II.



32. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support to the Standing Advisory Committee, expresses appreciation for the role played by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and strongly encourages the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office;

33. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, including activities of groups affiliated with Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army, and acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, the issue of transhumance and its cross-border security implications, as well as the fallout from the situation in the Central African Republic, and also welcomes the role of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in coordinating those efforts, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and all relevant regional and international partners;

34. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, and requests him to continue to provide the assistance needed to ensure the success of its regular meetings;

35. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".