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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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the reporting period, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) held three meetings: (a) the thirty-fifth ministerial meeting was held from 3 to 5 December 2012 in Brazzaville; (b) the commemoration ceremony of the twentieth anniversary of the Committee also took place in Brazzaville, on 7 December 2012; and (c) the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting was held in Kigali, from 20 to 23 August 2013. The three events were organized by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), in its capacity as the secretariat of UNSAC.

The commemoration ceremony was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of the Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso. It included interventions from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ramtane Lamamra, and the President of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, Vuk Jeremić. The ceremony provided an opportunity to review lessons learned and to highlight some of the Committee's main achievements in its 20 years of existence. It was acknowledged that Central Africa is the only region with a dedicated United Nations mechanism to promote confidence-building among Member States. The Committee's contribution to Central Africa's normative framework with regard to peace and security issues was underlined. Its role in facilitating dialogue, providing a space for regular high-level exchanges and fostering common positions on matters of interest to the region was also featured.

* A/68/150.



During its two statutory meetings, the Committee focused on its traditional agenda items and in so doing, strengthened further its partnership with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The Economic Community gave a briefing on the status of the geopolitical situation in the region, in accordance with the usual practice, and presented proposals to member States on specific actions to be taken in response. The Committee also tackled some thematic issues for the first time. In that regard, the Committee reviewed the socioeconomic impact of elephant poaching, as well as its alleged role in the illicit financing of some rebel groups. In addition, the meeting adopted the theme of mediation in Central Africa and discussed ways to strengthen the capacities of ECCAS in this area with the support of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

Concerned by the impact of instability and terrorist activities in the Sahel region on Central Africa, the Committee recommended the fast implementation of the Declaration on a Road Map for Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Arms in Central Africa, adopted by the Committee at its thirty-third ministerial meeting, held in Bangui from 5 to 9 December 2011. In that regard, the Committee initiated the transformation of the road map into an operational strategy, with technical and financial support from UNOCA, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Secretariat and the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism.

The Committee also held preparatory discussions on piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, ahead of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, which took place in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013. The Committee also had a follow-up session on the implementation of the recommendations from the Yaoundé Summit, following the Security Council's adoption of a presidential statement on piracy ([S/PRST/2013/13](#)). In that regard, the Committee reviewed regional efforts aimed at combating this scourge. It welcomed the active collaboration between ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission for the organization of the Yaoundé Summit, as well as the strong support provided by UNOCA and the United Nations Regional Office for West Africa (UNOWA).

Finally, the Committee held a dedicated discussion on the political, security, human rights and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. It also reviewed the regional repercussions of the crisis and the potential for the country to become a safe haven for armed groups. The Committee adopted the Kigali Declaration (see annex), which called on national stakeholders to work together for a successful transition process. It also called on ECCAS, the African Union, as well as bilateral, regional and international partners, to support the establishment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR).

The thirty-seventh ministerial meeting is scheduled to be held from 2 to 6 December 2013 in N'Djaména.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/70, entitled “Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa”, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, and reaffirmed its support for the promotion of confidence-building measures at the subregional level in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa, and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion.

2. The General Assembly also expressed its satisfaction to the Secretary-General for his support to the Committee, welcomed the role played by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), and strongly encouraged the States members of the Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance needed by the Committee to ensure the success of its regular biannual meetings, and called upon him to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The present report is submitted in response to the above-mentioned request and covers the activities carried out by the Committee from July 2012 to August 2013.

II. Activities of the Committee

4. The thirty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held from 3 to 5 December 2012 in Brazzaville, was attended by the 11 States members of the Committee: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe. The meeting was followed by the commemoration ceremony of the twentieth anniversary of the Committee, on 7 December 2012.

5. The thirty-sixth ministerial meeting, initially planned for May 2013 in Malabo, could not take place as originally scheduled, owing to a particularly demanding national agenda in that country, including, inter alia, the holding of senatorial, legislative and municipal elections on 26 May. As agreed by the Committee, the thirty-sixth meeting was therefore postponed to 20 to 23 August 2013 in Kigali. It was attended by 10 States members of the Committee: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

6. The following entities also participated in the ministerial meetings as observers: the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); the Gulf of Guinea Commission; the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region; the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries; the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States; the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa; the Office for Central Africa of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO); the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC); the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat; and UNOCA.

7. The main issues on the agenda of the Committee and its activities during the period under review, as facilitated by UNOCA in its capacity as the secretariat of the Committee, are set out below.

A. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

8. During the period under review, the Committee continued to provide a platform for dialogue on the situation of peace and security in Central Africa and regional collective efforts to address those issues. In this context, a comprehensive report was produced by ECCAS, as recommended by the Committee at its thirty-fourth ministerial meeting, held from 14 to 18 May 2012 in Bujumbura. The report was reviewed by the Committee at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth ministerial meetings. The exchanges focused on four major priorities for preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding and regional stability: (a) institutional and political developments; (b) internal and cross-border security; (c) governance issues; and (d) the human rights and the humanitarian situations in each member State.

9. The difficulties of building institutions and consensus to strengthen the rule of law and democratic practices were underlined. Concerning regional security, the Committee stressed the persisting “pockets of insecurity” throughout the subregion and the difficulty of promoting and strengthening regional stability in such a volatile context. Aggravating factors of conflict and violence to be addressed urgently and collectively were identified, including arms proliferation, terrorist activities, drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery at sea, and the human rights and humanitarian situations.

10. The Committee recommended the following measures as the most effective ways to address the above-mentioned issues: (a) ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and stronger support to electoral processes in Central Africa; (b) development of a regional strategy to combat drug trafficking; (c) a thorough analysis of cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security and their impact on regional stability; and (d) support to the justice and judiciary system, to better face the challenge of transnational criminality and drug trafficking.

11. During its thirty-sixth ministerial meeting, the Committee held a dedicated discussion on the political, security, human rights and humanitarian situations in the Central African Republic, as well as the regional repercussions of the crisis and the potential for the country to become a safe haven for armed groups. The Committee adopted the Kigali Declaration (see annex).

12. In that regard, the Committee urged all stakeholders in the Central African Republic to respect their commitment as reflected in the N’Djamena Declaration. The Committee also called on the African Union and ECCAS to work together in close collaboration and within the framework of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR).

B. Implementation of the Road Map For Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Arms in Central Africa

13. At its thirty-third ministerial meeting, held in Bangui in December 2011, the Committee adopted the Declaration on a Road Map for Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Arms in Central Africa. In their road map, member States requested support from UNOCA and UNREC.

14. Therefore, UNOCA, in partnership with the Executive Directorate of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and in consultation with ECCAS, initiated a process of conversion of the road map into a comprehensive and operational counter-terrorism strategy. In this context, a workshop for the 11 States members of the Committee was organized by those partners on 1 and 2 December 2012 in Brazzaville. The workshop helped to identify national and regional priorities as well as gaps in the development of a regional counter-terrorism strategy, including in critical areas such as project design, political support, and logistic and financial assistance. The workshop also led to the establishment of a regional network of experts on counter-terrorism to be coordinated by Cameroon, with a focal point designated for each member State.

15. The conclusions of this workshop were presented and adopted on 7 December 2012 by the Committee at its thirty-fifth ministerial meeting. Considering the global significance of the threat of terrorism in Central Africa, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and head of UNOCA also shared those conclusions with the regional Conference on Border-Control Cooperation in the Sahel and the Maghreb, held in Rabat from 13 to 15 March 2013.

16. The next phase of the project is the formal development of a regional counter-terrorism strategy, with the participation of the relevant partners and identification of required resources and structures to implement the strategy. To that effect, UNOCA and its main partners, notably the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, in consultation with ECCAS, are preparing a meeting of experts, scheduled to take place in Libreville.

C. Cross-border insecurity: Lord's Resistance Army

17. The Committee discussed the impact and threat of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) on Central Africa. In this regard, the African Union presented an update on the status of implementation of its Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA. UNOCA also provided an update on the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, which was approved by the Security Council in June 2012 (S/2012/481, annex), and its implementation plan (S/2013/240, annex). The Committee welcomed the active collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union on this thematic issue, as well as the close consultations with national, regional and international stakeholders. The Committee noted with concern the negative humanitarian impact of the activities of LRA in the affected countries. The Committee highlighted the need to remain focused on the implementation of the African Union-led Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance

Army and the United Nations regional LRA strategy. In this regard, the Committee called on the international community to provide the required resources.

D. Maritime security and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

18. The Committee discussed the issue of piracy and maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. The Committee noted that this issue is of strategic importance as most countries in Central Africa depend on the sea for transportation, food, trade, energy and capital, all of which are essential elements of national security and imperatives of sustainable economic growth.

19. The Committee commended ECCAS for organizing the regional Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held on 24 and 25 June 2013 in Yaoundé, in line with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2039 (2012). It also welcomed the extensive consultations that ECCAS undertook with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), UNOCA, Cameroon and other relevant actors during the preparatory ministerial-level meeting, which took place in March 2013 in Cotonou, Benin. The Committee also welcomed the outcome of the Summit held in Yaoundé. The Summit adopted: (a) a Code of Conduct concerning the Prevention and Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa, which defines the regional strategy; (b) a memorandum of understanding that sets out the division of labour among ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission; and (c) a Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of Central and West African States on Maritime Safety and Security in Their Common Maritime Domain. The Summit also decided to establish an interregional coordination centre in Yaoundé to coordinate the implementation of the regional strategy.

20. The Committee was also briefed by ECCAS on the beginning of the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration. In this regard, ECCAS organized a meeting with experts from ECCAS, ECOWAS, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, UNOWA and UNOCA, to discuss the next steps for the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration, including a draft workplan. The meeting took place at UNOCA in Libreville on 29 and 30 July 2013. The meeting of experts agreed on a draft workplan that will be reviewed and adopted at a meeting to be held with the Heads of the secretariats of ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, and organized with assistance from UNOCA and UNOWA.

21. The Committee noted that the operationalization of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa was hampered by arrears in contributions by States members of ECCAS. It further encouraged all member States, including those without a maritime border, to redouble their efforts to provide logistical and financial support to promote maritime security.

22. The Committee also encouraged the Central African Republic and Burundi to expedite the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as a main pillar for regional maritime security.

23. Finally, the Committee expressed appreciation to Cameroon, ECCAS, ECOWAS, and the Gulf of Guinea Commission for organizing the Yaoundé Summit.

The Committee commended UNOCA and UNOWA for the active support they had provided for the Summit. The Committee also welcomed the adoption by the Security Council of a presidential statement to endorse the outcome of the Yaoundé Summit (S/PRST/2013/13).

E. Update on activities by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat

24. At its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth ministerial meetings, the Committee was briefed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, on behalf of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as by ECCAS, on the latest developments relating to conventional weapons. Concerning international developments, the discussion focused on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and the Arms Trade Treaty. The Committee focused on how to further improve the implementation of those instruments. The Committee also discussed ways to mitigate the impact of the illicit circulation of small arms, light weapons and their ammunition on regional peace, security and development.

25. With respect to the regional level, the Committee discussed 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, also known as the Kinshasa Convention. The Committee encouraged all members that had not yet done so to complete the process of ratification of the Convention before the end of 2013. In this regard, the Committee requested ECCAS to finalize the translation of the Kinshasa Convention in Portuguese. The Committee also stressed the need for ECCAS to nominate a focal point for the fight against illegal activities in its secretariat.

26. The Committee took note of several ongoing national initiatives. Its member States were encouraged to establish or strengthen their respective national commissions on small arms and light weapons, in line with the provisions of the Kinshasa Convention.

F. Cooperation with international and regional organizations, including the United Nations

27. The participation of regional organizations, notably the African Union and ECCAS, in the Committee's activities, and the contribution of United Nations entities, including UN-Women, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, MONUSCO and UNOCA, continued to be an asset in the efforts of the Committee to address the peace and security challenges that Central Africa faces. The Committee reiterated the need for UNOCA, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Committee, and ECCAS to further strengthen their partnership, including, when possible and appropriate, in the area of costs and assets sharing. The Committee also focused on the enhancement of cooperation with the African Union, particularly on topics such as terrorism, piracy and conflict prevention.

G. The celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Committee

28. During the period under review, the Committee celebrated its twentieth anniversary on 7 December 2012 in Brazzaville. The ceremony provided an opportunity to review lessons learned and highlight some of the Committee's main achievements in its 20 years of existence.

29. The ceremony was chaired by the President of the Republic of the Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso. In his opening speech, the President recalled "the vision defined in July 1992 in Yaoundé" during the founding meeting of the Committee. He noticed the encouraging progress achieved by the Committee "20 years after", and drew attention to the challenges ahead and the imperative for Central Africa to demonstrate further "commitment, political will, respect for decisions [collectively] taken, solidarity, with a view to building a safer, stronger, more stable, better integrated and more prosperous Central Africa".

30. The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union participated in the commemoration, as did the President of the General Assembly, who delivered a video statement from United Nations Headquarters in New York.

31. It was acknowledged that Central Africa is the only region with a dedicated United Nations mechanism to promote confidence-building among Member States. In this regard, the Committee's contribution to Central Africa's normative framework with respect to peace and security issues was underlined. Its role in facilitating dialogue, providing a space for regular high-level exchanges, and fostering common positions on matters of interest to the region was also featured.

H. Mediation in Central Africa

32. As a follow-up to the workshop on mediation that was organized for ECCAS and UNOCA in Libreville from 12 to 14 November 2012, the Committee held a thematic discussion dedicated to mediation in Central Africa during its thirty-sixth ministerial meeting. The discussion was facilitated by a representative of the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs, who presented the recent developments in this domain, in particular the Guidance for Effective Mediation, annexed to the Secretary-General's report on strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution (A/66/811, annex I). The Department's representative presented the different expert services that the Department of Political Affairs provides to Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as some recommendations as a way forward.

33. The Committee highlighted the importance of mediation as an essential tool in conflict prevention, management and resolution. It emphasized the need to address the root causes of conflicts, highlighted the importance of local solutions and stressed that there is no single solution to any conflicts.

34. The Committee took into consideration some of the recommendations formulated during the discussions, such as: (a) the importance of enhancing professional mediation support expertise; (b) the usefulness of analysing and identifying already existing capacities in the region; (c) the potential contribution civil society organizations could provide; (d) the essential role of gender; and (e) the

potential of international cooperation, such as the Group of Friends of Mediation, founded in 2010 to promote and advance the use of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution.

I. Poaching

35. In his report of 20 May 2013 on the activities of UNOCA (S/2013/297), the Secretary-General raised concerns about the poaching of elephants in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad and Gabon. As a follow-up, at its thirty-sixth ministerial meeting, the Committee discussed the illegal poaching of ivory in the subregion on the basis of an introductory presentation made by Gabon. The Committee agreed that poaching was a major threat to regional security. In that regard, it was often linked to drug trafficking, money-laundering, and the transnational criminal networks that operate in remote areas throughout Central Africa. The Committee expressed serious concern over the growing demand for ivory and noted that, in the past 10 years, Africa had lost 70 per cent of the elephants living in its forests. Recent examples of massacres of elephants, notably in Cameroon and southern Chad, were also discussed.

36. The Committee called on member States to increase their cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners to enhance their joint efforts against poaching. It asked that the issue be included in its agenda in its future meetings to evaluate the progress accomplished. Finally, the Committee took note of the intention of the President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba, to brief the General Assembly on the issue of poaching during its sixty-eighth session in September 2013.

III. Administrative and financial matters

37. The Committee reviewed the financial status of the Trust Fund and commended those who had made voluntary contributions. It encouraged those in a position to do so to provide additional extrabudgetary resources. In particular, the Committee called on States members of the Committee to fulfil their financial commitment, in accordance with the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Libreville Declaration).

38. The Trust Fund received limited extrabudgetary contributions during the period under review. As at 31 December 2012, the balance held in the Trust Fund was \$49,976. No additional contributions had been received since those of Gabon, amounting to \$30,000, which were made in December 2012. The amount represents the contribution of Gabon for three years (2010, 2011 and 2012).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

39. The Secretary-General congratulates the Committee for its 20 years of existence. He encourages the Committee to continue its actions to strengthen peace and security in the subregion, in collaboration with regional and subregional organizations. He highlights, in particular, the partnership developed with ECCAS and encourages the Committee to further strengthen that relationship. He also

encourages the Committee to continue building on the established collaboration with the African Union, the United Nations system, and other regional and international partners.

40. The Secretary-General remains concerned about the security situation in the Central African Republic, which is volatile and unpredictable. He is particularly concerned about its impact on the local population. The Secretary-General welcomes the adoption of the Kigali Declaration by the Committee (see annex). He reiterates the Committee's call on ECCAS, the African Union, as well as bilateral, regional and international partners, to support the establishment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR).

41. The Secretary-General welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on a Road Map for Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Arms in Central Africa, which was adopted in Bangui in December 2011. The Secretary-General takes note of the recommendations of the regional network of national coordinators on terrorism issues. He calls for the rapid implementation of those recommendations for a more effective fight against terrorism in Central Africa.

42. Strengthening regional mediation capacities is key to conflict prevention in the subregion. In this regard, the Secretary-General encourages the Committee to continue its discussions on the implementation of concrete mediation capacity-building initiatives, to be pursued with the support of the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs.

43. The Secretary-General congratulates the Committee for addressing the issue of poaching of elephants for the first time. He also commends Gabon for its efforts to enhance regional cooperation on the issue. The Secretary-General encourages the Committee to remain seized of the matter during its future meetings and to develop a common response to combat this scourge. In this regard, the Secretary-General encourages the Governments of States members of UNSAC to build on existing efforts and work closely with ECCAS and the African Union, as well as with UNOCA and other United Nations entities, to develop a regional approach to address the issue.

44. The Secretary-General welcomes 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. He commends the States members of the region, ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission for their high level of engagement and collective efforts to address and prevent piracy, in line with the provisions of Security Council resolution [2039 \(2012\)](#). The Secretary-General welcomes the progress made towards the implementation of the outcome of the Yaoundé Summit.

45. The Kinshasa Convention remains an indispensable tool for the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa. The Secretary-General congratulates the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo and Gabon for the ratification of that important Convention. The Secretary-General urges States members of the Committee that have not yet ratified it to do so at their earliest convenience.

46. The Committee must be provided with sufficient financial resources for its work, in particular for the implementation of its recommendations. The Secretary-General congratulates and thanks Angola, the Republic of the Congo, Gabon, as

well as Sao Tome and Principe for their contributions to the UNSAC Trust Fund, in accordance with the Libreville Declaration. The Secretary-General encourages other Member States to financially support the activities of the Committee, which constitutes an important mechanism for confidence-building among the States of Central Africa.

47. The Secretary-General is grateful for the support provided to the work of the Committee by UNOCA, the Department of Political Affairs, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, as well as by other United Nations entities in Central Africa.

48. The Secretary-General looks forward to the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting of UNSAC, to be held from 2 to 6 December 2013 in N'Djaména.

Annex

[Original: French]

**Kigali Declaration
adopted at the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting of the United Nations
Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central
Africa, held in Kigali from 20 to 23 August 2013**

We,

**The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the States
members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security
Questions in Central Africa,**

Gathered in Kigali on the occasion of the thirty-sixth ministerial meeting of
the Committee,

Taking into account the continuing concerns with respect to the political,
security, social and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic,

Taking note of the political progress made, in particular the establishment of
transitional institutions,

Mindful of the decision adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the
African Union at its 380th meeting, held on 17 June 2013, establishing the African-
led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR),

Mindful of the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the
African Union at its 385th meeting, held on 19 July 2013, establishing the process
of transition from the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African
Republic (MICOPAX) to AFISM-CAR as from 1 August 2013,

Mindful of the communiqué of the second meeting of the International Contact
Group on the Central African Republic, held in Addis Ababa on 8 July 2013,

Referring to the Brazzaville Appeal of 3 May 2013, calling in particular for the
establishment of a trust fund for the Central African Republic,

Welcoming the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the Central
African Economic and Monetary Community, meeting in Libreville on 14 June
2013, to contribute 25 billion CFA francs to the Central African Republic,

Welcoming the loan of 25 billion CFA francs from the Republic of the Congo
to the Central African Republic,

Reiterating our strong commitment to the Libreville Agreement of 11 January
2013 and the N'Djamena Declaration of 18 April 2013 as the legal basis for the
transition in the Central African Republic,

Mindful of United Nations Security Council press release SC/11092 of
14 August 2013,

Mindful of the press release issued by the secretariat of the Economic
Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on 16 August 2013, which
emphasizes in particular the urgent need to improve security conditions in the
Central African Republic,

Taking note of the swearing-in of the Head of State of the Transition in the Central African Republic on 18 August 2013, which opened the 18-month transition period,

Taking into account the risk of destabilization of the entire Central African subregion and the transformation of the Central African Republic into a haven for armed groups, including the Lord's Resistance Army,

Express our deep concern about the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic;

Request all Central African political actors to honour the commitments made in the N'Djamena Declaration and road map;

Reaffirm our commitment to supporting the transition process in the Central African Republic and invite the States members of the Committee to participate actively in all initiatives aimed at resolving the crisis in that country;

Invite the Secretary-General of ECCAS to make a strong commitment to advocating for the Central African Republic in all United Nations bodies in which the situation in that country is discussed;

Strongly support all initiatives of the United Nations, the African Union and ECCAS, with the backing of their partners, to restore lasting peace in the Central African Republic;

Encourage ECCAS and the African Union to collaborate closely and in a complementary fashion within the framework of AFISM-CAR;

Call upon all States members of the Committee to contribute significantly to the effective implementation of AFISM-CAR, in particular by providing the required personnel and logistical support;

Call upon multilateral and bilateral partners to provide substantial financial and logistical support in respect of the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and to AFISM-CAR;

Reiterate our call for all members of the International Contact Group and the rest of the international community to honour their commitment by contributing to the trust fund for the Central African Republic;

Call upon all interested parties to support the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army;

Call upon all States members of the Committee to support the Central African Republic in its efforts to prevent the illegal proliferation of and cross-border trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

Commend the role played by Rwanda as a non-permanent member of the Security Council;

Urge the international community to continue to give due consideration and priority to the situation in the Central African Republic.

Done at Kigali on 23 August 2013