



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 June 2019

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Item 101 (b) of the preliminary list*

Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an account of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa from July 2018 to June 2019.

During that period, the Centre continued to provide assistance to Member States, at their request, and to regional and subregional intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote peace, security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction. The Centre also bolstered its information, communication and outreach efforts to promote peace and disarmament.

In response to the continued challenge to peace, security and stability posed by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in Africa, the Centre focused on providing assistance to Member States to combat the illicit flow of those weapons and to improve the physical security and stockpile management of weapons and ammunition.

The Centre also provided assistance for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Centre contributed to capacity-building and facilitated regional and subregional dialogue among Member States on issues relevant to chemical and biological weapons and fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

More than 800 persons from 41 Member States in the region, including government officials, members of parliaments and national commissions on small arms and light weapons, defence and security officers, young people, women and civil society leaders, participated in those capacity-building activities. Furthermore,

* [A/74/50](#).



personnel of some United Nations peacekeeping missions benefited from tailored capacity-building sessions on disarmament, arms control and community violence reduction.

Moreover, the Centre continued to provide substantive support on disarmament issues to the States participating in the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, including at their ministerial and governmental expert meetings in N'Djamena and Kinshasa, facilitated by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa.

The Secretary-General expresses his sincere gratitude to those Member States and other institutions that made financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre, enabling it to fulfil its mandate. He calls upon all Member States and other stakeholders to continue to make contributions to the Centre in order to enhance its activities and impact towards saving lives, in pursuance of Sustainable Development Goal 16, on the promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The Secretary-General is particularly thankful to the Government of Togo for its long-standing support, as host country, for the Centre and for providing new office premises to support its expanding staff and activities.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [73/75](#), the General Assembly commended the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for its sustained support for Member States in implementing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation activities through seminars and conferences, capacity-building and training, policy and technical expertise, and information and advocacy at the regional and national levels.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution at its seventy-fourth session. The present report, submitted pursuant to that request, highlights the main activities carried out by the Centre from July 2018 to June 2019 and contains a financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre in 2018.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The Centre was established in 1986 in Lomé, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [40/151 G](#). It is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of African Member States towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region.

III. Main areas of activity

4. During the reporting period, the Centre provided support and technical assistance to Member States in Africa for the promotion of disarmament, peace and security, through capacity-building and training programmes, practical measures, advocacy, research and information-sharing. It worked in partnership with the African Union and African subregional organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, academic and research institutions and civil society organizations in the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities. The Centre continued to place emphasis on activities aimed at preventing the illicit traffic in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

5. The Centre continued to raise awareness among African Member States on issues relating to weapons of mass destruction, in particular by providing information and technical advice on and assistance in the implementation of international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors.

A. Peace and security

6. To promote effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration policies and practices, the Centre implemented a joint training exercise with the Department of Peace Operations on weapons and ammunition management in a changing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration context. Several workshops on methodology and pilot trainings were held in Lomé, New York and Ouidah (Benin). The field training part of this capacity-building project was implemented in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, in Accra, and the Training Centre for Post-Conflict Demining and Clearance, in Ouidah.

7. The Centre explored possible areas of collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, including the training of law enforcement agencies from 24 African States on crowd control during elections; the training of police forces in several countries; capacity-building for higher education institutions on conflict resolution, peace and security; and the prevention of transhumance-related conflicts in West and Central Africa. The Centre also collaborated with other United Nations entities, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the prevention of violent extremism.

B. Small arms and light weapons

8. In 2014, the Council of the European Union adopted decision 2014/912/CFSP, by which it funded a 36-month project in support of physical security and stockpile management activities to reduce the risk of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in the Sahel region, to be implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs through the Centre. The project was launched in June 2015 and completed in December 2018. It assisted six States in the Sahel region¹ with preventing the diversion of and illicit traffic in government-owned small arms and light weapons and their ammunition by improving their physical security and stockpile management.

9. Project activities included training on the fundamental principles of physical security and best practices for inventory management, staff selection procedures and training.

10. The project contributed to improving the physical security and stockpile management of the beneficiary States through the following activities: 449 high-level decision makers and lawmakers attended 16 workshops, at which they received training on the relevance and requirements of physical security and stockpile management; 323 defence and security officers of various ranks received practical training on physical security, stockpile management and armoury storekeeping through 18 training sessions; 130 individuals working in physical security and stockpile management were trained on designing a national standard operating procedure compliant with the Modular Small-Arms-Control Implementation Compendium and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines; 17 arms depots were constructed, 3 were rehabilitated and 6 mobile depots were provided; 5,870 illicit small arms and light weapons were destroyed; 40 experts on physical security and stockpile management met to discuss how new technology could assist with physical security and stockpile management; and 35 experts on physical security and stockpile management assessed the project and formulated follow-up recommendations.

11. The project also included an assessment of the use of new technology to secure weapons and ammunition stockpiles in the Sahel region. A regional workshop was organized in August 2018 in Ouagadougou, at which private companies specialized in physical security and database management showcased new technology that could be used to enhance stockpile management and secure arms and ammunitions storage sites.

12. The Centre organized a regional evaluation conference on the project activities in November 2018, in Dakar. The aim of the conference was to report on the activities implemented under the Sahel physical security and stockpile management project and to share recommendations on possible ways to consolidate achievements. The conference provided an opportunity for the beneficiary States and regional

¹ Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Nigeria.

organizations, such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, to discuss a common strategy for physical security and stockpile management and the regional synergy of actions.

13. The Centre also continued to support Central African States in the effective 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). The Centre implemented the project “Supporting African States towards the vision of ‘Silencing the guns in Africa by 2020’: capacity-building for Central African States” with the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

14. Mindful that that project would be more successful if based on an effective partnership among all relevant stakeholders, and in accordance with the disarmament agenda of the Secretary-General, tripartite meetings were held among the three organizations on 6 and 7 September 2018, on the premises of UNOCA and ECCAS, respectively, to lay the foundation for collaboration. The three entities agreed on arrangements for the joint implementation of the project, including the designation of focal points, and decided to continue to raise awareness among executive and legislative bodies of Central African States to encourage those States to become parties to and implement the Kinshasa Convention. In October 2018, the Centre held consultations with representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea with a view to facilitating the ratification and implementation of the Convention by those countries.

15. On 7 December 2018, in N’Djamena, on the margins of the forty-seventh ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the Centre, UNOCA and ECCAS officially launched the project. A memorandum of understanding among the three entities was signed at the event, in the presence of a representative of the African Union, who confirmed the political support of the African Union for the project.

16. The Centre organized a subregional workshop for 40 stakeholders on the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention, from 24 to 26 April 2019, in Yaoundé. The purpose of the workshop was to take stock of the implementation of the Convention and to make recommendations to promote its implementation.

17. From 27 to 29 November 2018, the Centre provided technical support for a capacity-building workshop organized by the West African Economic and Monetary Union for the national commissions on small arms and light weapons of its eight member States. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage cooperation and develop a road map of efforts against the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Participants in the workshop discussed the efficiency of the national commissions and the establishment of an information-sharing platform to help to resolve cross-border security issues. Training courses were also offered on the identification of weapons and the application of the Modular Small-Arms-Control Implementation Compendium and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

18. In collaboration with the Arms Trade Treaty secretariat, the Centre assisted the Government of Madagascar in organizing a national workshop on the implementation of the Treaty, from 20 to 23 November 2018, in Antananarivo. Some 70 government officials and representatives of civil society organizations and the private sector participated in the workshop. The Centre presented the history, content and

ratification status of the Treaty and talked about synergy and complementarity with other international and regional instruments.

19. On the margins of the workshop, the Centre consulted with civilian and military authorities of Madagascar on modalities for the implementation of a project funded by the Government of Japan to assist with the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons and ammunition in order to improve the physical security and stockpile management of weapons and ammunition in the country.

20. In the context of that project, the Centre held a workshop from 6 to 18 May 2019, in Vontovorona, Madagascar, which brought together 100 participants from the military, police, gendarmerie, customs, water and forestry authorities, penitentiary authorities and other stakeholders. The main purpose of the workshop was to contribute to strengthening the physical security, control and management of weapons and ammunition in order to combat effectively the illicit traffic in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, reduce armed violence and restore trust between defence and security forces and the population. The chief implementing partners of the project, namely, the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the Togolese National Commission to Combat the Proliferation, Illicit Circulation of and Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons, also participated in the workshop, which promoted South-South cooperation. In addition, two Couth MC2000 arms-marking machines were handed over to the Malagasy authorities at the event. UNDP was also invited to attend, given its own capacity-building project on the same topic.

C. Weapons of mass destruction

21. The Centre supported Member States in the region in their efforts to implement Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. The Centre participated in two training workshops on resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) held from 14 to 16 August 2018 and from 26 to 28 March 2019, in Addis Ababa. During those events, the Centre shared its expertise and informed participants of the type of assistance that the Office for Disarmament Affairs provided to strengthen the implementation of the resolution.

22. In the context of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) in Togo, the Centre, in collaboration with the Government of Togo, the World Customs Organization and the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), organized a capacity-building workshop for national stakeholders involved in the strategic trade in and management of sensitive products, from 23 to 25 January 2019, in Lomé. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from various technical services in Togo.

23. In collaboration with the Expert Group, the Centre also organized a workshop on drafting national reports in support of the implementation of the resolution, from 17 to 19 October 2018, in Mali.

24. From 10 to 15 February 2019, the Centre participated in an intensive course held in Accra on nuclear non-proliferation and security for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It was co-organized by the African Center for Science and International Security and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. The Centre gave a presentation on disarmament machinery.

25. Two regional workshops on a potential treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices were held on 5 and 6 February and 22 and 23 May 2019 in Equatorial Guinea and South Africa,

respectively. Both events were funded by the European Union and organized by the Centre in cooperation with the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the respective host Governments. Representatives from 22 African States, as well as ECOWAS and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, attended the events.

26. Both workshops were aimed at informing and facilitating discussions among States of Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Africa regarding the negotiation and implementation of such a treaty. The workshops provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the relevant technical and political aspects, exchange views and discuss challenges related to such a treaty.

27. The Centre contributed to a seminar on the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and the threat of missiles, organized by the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique on 4 February 2019, in Lomé. The Centre delivered a presentation and apprised participants of its role in assisting States in the region in the areas of arms control, disarmament and security.

28. On 29 and 30 May 2019, the Centre hosted a table-top exercise for francophone West African States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The two-day activity, funded by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, was organized in cooperation with the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique. It brought together representatives from nine State parties to the Convention, experts from the United Nations and academia to explore modalities for putting into operation the assistance between State parties described in article VII of the Convention.

D. Information and outreach

29. The Centre participated in the preparation for and organization of capacity-building workshops on the theme of young people, peace and security in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with funding from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Six capacity-building workshops were held, in Burkina Faso (Bobo-Dioulasso and Dori), Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan and Yamoussoukro) and Togo (Kpalimé and Sokodé). Each of those events was attended by representatives of 25 youth organizations, including faith-based groups, political parties and national youth councils. Participants discussed the critical role of young people in sustaining peace and the various avenues through which young people could avoid violence, including politically inspired and faith-based violence, and engage constructively in peacebuilding processes. During the workshops, the Centre delivered training sessions and moderated interactive discussions on topics related to disarmament, peace education and the prevention of proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Participants also learned about Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth, peace and security and its relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, as outlined in the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the disarmament agenda of the Secretary-General.

30. To commemorate the International Day of Peace, on 21 September 2018, in accordance with its mandate of promoting and supporting peace initiatives, the Centre produced a video message on peace delivered by representatives of all age groups in several African languages, including Ikposo, Dioula, Fongbe, Gourma, Guin-Mina, Hausa, Kabye, Mamprusi, Nawdm and Kiswahili, in addition to Chinese, English, French, German and Spanish. The Centre also produced an awareness-raising programme in French, which was broadcasted on international radio stations covering Africa.

31. At the request of the Togolese National School of Administration, the Centre welcomed a visit by students at its premises, during which they were briefed about disarmament issues and the mandate of the Centre and interacted with its staff. This activity was undertaken in pursuance of the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education ([A/57/124](#)).

32. In addition, at the request of the non-governmental organization Youth Awake, the Centre provided capacity-building assistance to 20 participants during a seminar on the training and integration of young people entitled “African youth, the main actor of peace and sustainable development”, which was held from 15 to 19 May 2019 in Kara, Togo. The objective of the seminar was to discuss peace, conflict management, social security for sustainable national cohesion and entrepreneurship with participants from the five regions of Togo.

33. From 17 to 20 September 2018, the Centre provided an overview of its activities at an event organized by UNDP, at which 100 officers, mainly from the Togolese police and gendarmerie, participated in a train-the-trainer exercise for the electoral security force.

34. The Centre participated in and provided substantive support for the forty-seventh and forty-eighth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, organized by UNOCA from 3 to 7 December 2018 in N’Djamena and from 6 to 10 May 2019 in Kinshasa, respectively.

35. The Centre developed a database on the status of adherence to various international and regional instruments by African States. The database is a source of information for State institutions, academia, students and other interested stakeholders.

36. The Centre’s electronic newsletter, “UNREC Focus”, was distributed to more than 8,000 global subscribers, providing information about regional disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues and the initiatives and activities of the Centre. Furthermore, the Centre’s website is regularly updated in English and French to reflect the latest activities and projects. From July 2018 to June 2019, the site recorded more than 95,000 hits. In addition, the Centre continued to make use of social media platforms to disseminate information and news items and to keep users apprised of regional disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

IV. Financial situation, staffing and administration

A. Financial situation

37. The Centre was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [40/151 G](#) on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. In 2018, voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the Centre were received in the amount of \$1,380,837. Information on the status of the trust fund for 2018 is provided in the annex to the present report.

38. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the European Union and the Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund for their financial and in-kind contributions.

39. The Secretary-General also wishes to express his particular appreciation to the Government of Togo for the long-standing support that it provides in its capacity as host country to the Centre.

40. The Secretary-General continues to encourage African States to make financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

41. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to all States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Centre and encourages their continuous and increased support commensurate with the developing security challenges to human security in Africa, to enable the Centre to provide enhanced technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, in fulfilment of its mandate.

B. Staffing

42. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Officer/Director of the Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and two General Service staff (G-7 and G-6, Local level). Project personnel are funded through voluntary contributions. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to China, Japan and the European Union for funding project staff.

V. Conclusion

43. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to carry out its programmes, with the support of donors, to provide assistance to African Member States, at their request, in the areas of peace, security and disarmament and enhanced its collaboration with partners, including the African Union and other subregional organizations, with a view to achieving synergies in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation in Africa.

44. The Centre assisted Member States, at their request, in strengthening their capacity to combat the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and in implementing international instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). Furthermore, the Centre engaged in activities to promote the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention and conducted outreach initiatives to raise awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

45. The sustained number of requests for assistance from Member States and regional organizations demonstrated the importance of the work of the Centre in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and security in the region. Building on its past work and expertise, the Centre continued to develop and implement new projects and activities that met the needs of Member States on issues within its mandate. In carrying out its programmes and activities, the Centre collaborated with key stakeholders, in particular the African Union, and strengthened its continental role by creating regional and subregional networks and partnerships.

46. The Centre will continue its efforts to optimize the utilization of resources and expertise through cooperation and the sharing of experiences with partner entities in the region.

47. The Secretary-General calls upon Member States and other donors to provide the Centre with the financial and in-kind support necessary to enable it to continue to fulfil its mandate effectively in serving the needs of African Member States in the fields of peace, security and disarmament, in pursuance of Sustainable Development Goal 16, on the promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Annex

Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2018

(United States dollars)

Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2018	386 028
Revenue	
Voluntary contributions ^a	1 380 837
Investment revenue	15 473
Other revenue	–
Total, revenue	1 396 310
Less: expenses and refunds	
Operating expenses	(325 996)
Refunds ^b	20 000
Total, expenses and refunds	(305 996)
Surplus/deficit	1 702 306
Less: adjustments	–
Accumulated surplus/deficit, 31 December 2018	2 088 334

^a Consists of voluntary contributions from donors, as follows: \$1,310,962 (European Union) and \$69,875 (Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund).

^b Consists of a refund to Switzerland of \$20,000.