



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 December 2011

[on the report of the First Committee (A/66/413)]

66/55. 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 resolution 65/84 of 8 December 2010,

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 subregion,

Reaffirming 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,

Taking note of the Sao Tome Declaration on a Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, adopted by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 16 March 2011 at their thirty-second ministerial meeting, held in Sao Tome from 12 to 16 March 2011,¹

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,

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,

¹ See A/66/72-S/2011/225, annex.



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

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,² the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa³ and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,⁴

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,⁵

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and welcoming the close cooperation established between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States for that purpose,

Taking note with interest of the increasing focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on human security questions, such as trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, as an important consideration for subregional peace, stability and conflict prevention,

Expressing concern about the increasing impact of cross-border criminality, in particular the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army and increasing incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, on peace, security and development in Central Africa,

Considering the urgent need to prevent the possible movement of illicit weapons and mercenaries from the conflict in Libya into the neighbouring countries in the Central African region,

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. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament and arms limitation 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;

3. *Renews its encouragement* to the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa 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), adopted on 30 April 2010, at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, held in Kinshasa from 26 to 30 April 2010;⁶

² A/50/474, annex I.

³ A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I.

⁴ A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II.

⁵ A/52/871-S/1998/318.

⁶ See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.

4. *Welcomes* the adoption by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Sao Tome Declaration on a Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty,¹ encourages the Committee to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the steps identified in the Declaration, towards the continued active participation of its member States in the process for the arms trade treaty, and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and international partners to support those measures;

5. *Also welcomes* the active participation of experts of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in the open-ended meeting of governmental experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 13 May 2011;

6. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to carry out the programmes of activities adopted at their ministerial meetings;

7. *Also encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to continue their efforts to render the early warning mechanism for Central Africa fully operational as an instrument for analysing and monitoring the political situation in the subregion within the framework of the prevention of crises and armed conflicts, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the assistance necessary for its smooth functioning;

8. *Welcomes* the signing of the Kinshasa Convention by all eleven States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, and appeals to them to ratify the Convention in a timely manner in order to facilitate its early entry into force and implementation;

9. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

10. *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, as adopted on 19 November 2010 at their thirty-first ministerial meeting, held in Brazzaville from 15 to 19 November 2010;⁷

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to assist the countries of Central Africa in tackling the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

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

13. *Reminds* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the commitments they undertook at the adoption of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central

⁷ See A/65/717-S/2011/53, annex.

Africa (Libreville Declaration) on 8 May 2009,⁸ and invites those States members of the Committee that have not already done so to contribute to the Trust Fund;

14. *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;

15. *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;

16. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the effective inauguration of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in Libreville, welcomes the efforts made by the Office since its opening, and strongly encourages the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, including the fallout from the situation in Libya, and 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;

18. *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 biannual meetings;

19. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

*71st plenary meeting
2 December 2011*

⁸ See A/64/85-S/2009/288, annex.