

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 8 December 2005 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union adopted at its 40th meeting held in Addis Ababa on 6 October 2005, and to Security Council resolution 1633 (2005) of 21 October 2005, under which an International Working Group was created to assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in the implementation of its programme and to consolidate and strengthen existing follow-up mechanisms.

Please find attached the communiqué issued by the International Working Group following its second meeting, held in Abidjan on 6 December 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communiqué to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**

Annex

[Original: French]

International Working Group — second meeting, 6 December 2005

Final communiqué

1. The ministerial International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire held its second meeting on 6 December 2005 in Abidjan.
2. It should be recalled that following the first meeting of the Group, held on 8 November 2005, the United Nations Security Council, in a presidential statement dated 30 November 2005, expressed its full support to the Group and its work.
3. This second meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, Foreign Minister of Nigeria, and H.E. Mr. Pierre Schori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, in the presence of ministers from the Niger, South Africa and France, the High Representative of the United Nations for the elections and representatives of Benin, Ghana, Guinea, the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union, the International organization of the Francophonie and the World Bank.
4. The Group expresses its gratitude to the current chairman of the African Union, the President of the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union Mediator for the designation of H.E. Mr. Charles Konan Banny as Prime Minister of the transitional period. The new Prime Minister took part in the opening of this meeting of the Group.
5. While congratulating Mr. Konan Banny on his nomination, the Group assured him of its full support. In this regard, the Working Group invites the Mediation Group to verify and report to the Working Group that the Prime Minister holds all powers and all resources described in paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1633 (2005) and reaffirmed in the Security Council's presidential statement of 30 November 2005.
6. The mandate of the National Assembly will expire on 16 December 2005. Pending the result of the consultations of the Ivorian parties foreseen in paragraph 11 of resolution 1633 (2005), should it become necessary to enact legislation in order to ensure the efficient and expeditious implementation of the programme of the Government during the transitional period arising from resolution 1633 (2005), the Government, in Council of Ministers, will rapidly adopt decisions, which the Prime Minister will then present within two days to the Head of State, who must sign them within a maximum of five days.
7. Considering that the Independent Electoral Commission is not yet operational, the Group deplores the delay in the electoral process and underlines the consequent risk that elections will not be organized within the stipulated time frame. The Group gives its full support to the High Representative on the consultations he initiated to allow the Commission to function without delay as well as, if necessary, to use arbitration powers with regard to the constitution of the bureau, in accordance with

resolutions 1603 (2005) and 1633 (2005) and the statement of the President of the Security Council of 30 November 2005. The Group reiterates the availability of the Mediation Group to provide all the necessary support to the High Representative for the elections.

8. The Group notes that the Security Council has, on 30 November, reiterated its readiness, in close consultation with the Mediation of the African Union, to impose individual measures as foreseen by paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572 (2004) and by resolution 1633 (2005). It recalls that those measures target individuals (a) blocking the implementation of the peace process, (b) held to be responsible for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire, (c) inciting publicly hatred and violence, or any person or entity who is (d) determined to be in violation of the arms embargo. Charged, by virtue of its mandate, to evaluate, monitor and follow up closely the progress made, the Group is particularly resolved to help rapidly overcome any hindrance or slowdown affecting the process. It is ready to consider any attack or obstruction to the action of the United Nations, the impartial forces, the Security Council or the Group itself as demonstrating that those concerned oppose the process. The Group urges the Ivorian media to abstain from any publication, radio or television broadcasting which may undermine the peace and reconciliation process. It encourages the Prime Minister to take steps to improve the media environment as a matter of urgency. For all violations considered criminal offences, the possible implementation of targeted individual measures is without prejudice to the recourse to appropriate legal proceedings — Ivorian, foreign or international.

9. The Group notes that the day-to-day Mediation Group, co-chaired by South Africa and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and comprising the High Representative of the United Nations for the elections as well as the representatives of the African Union and ECOWAS, has been meeting regularly and has been following up effectively the evolution of the peace process. It has noted with concern the manoeuvres and practices contrary to that process as well as the violations of human rights registered by the Mediation Group in its first report and invites it again to bring to the attention of the Group any obstacle to the peace process.

10. The Group has updated the road map towards organizing free, fair, open and transparent elections as soon as possible and no later than 31 October 2006. That road map is articulated around the following components: governance and political process, disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion of ex-combatants, disarming and dismantling militias, redeployment of the administration, identification and citizenship, electoral process, restoration of security with the support of the impartial forces, respect for human rights, sanctions and hindrances to freedom of movement, media follow-up and humanitarian action.

11. The Group has agreed to hold its next meeting in Côte d'Ivoire on 15 January 2006.