

6. Central African region

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings and did not adopt any resolutions in connection with the situation in the Central African region. Both meetings took the form of briefings.¹⁷⁷ Under this item, the Council considered developments in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Congo, Gabon, and the Gulf of Guinea. More information on the meetings is given in the table below.

During the period under review, consistent with the six-month reporting period requested by the presidential statement of 10 August 2018,¹⁷⁸ the Council heard two briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) further to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Region.¹⁷⁹ The Special Representative apprised the Council on the activities of UNOCA, its continued cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), and its activities as the Secretariat for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC). The Special Representative updated the Council on the political, human rights and security situation in the region. In that regard, he briefed the Council on the preparations and conduct of elections in several Central African countries and the subsequent political transitions, the continued threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism, particularly in the Lake Chad basin, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the activities of UNOCA and the socioeconomic situation in countries in the region as well as the impact of climate change on the security and prosperity of Central African countries.

In his briefing to the Council on 7 June 2021, the Special Representative reported that the pandemic continued to impact the activities of UNOCA, although the situation was gradually

¹⁷⁷ For more information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹⁷⁸ [S/PRST/2018/17](#), twentieth paragraph.

¹⁷⁹ See [S/2021/571](#) and [S/2021/975](#).

improving thanks to a combination of immunization and prevention programmes implemented by the Governments in the subregion.¹⁸⁰ He added that Central Africa remained the subregion on the African continent with the lowest number of infections and deaths due to COVID-19. In that regard, he mentioned the successful convening of the 51st meeting of the UNSAC by the Government of Burundi in Bujumbura on 28 May 2021, which was a testament to the resilience that Central African States had demonstrated, individually and collectively, in their efforts to promote socioeconomic recovery, maintain political stability and promote regional integration despite the constraints posed by the pandemic. On elections, the Special Representative took note of the recommendation by the ministerial segment of the UNSAC to develop a subregional protocol on electoral governance and democratic elections in Central Africa. He reported that since his last briefing to the Council, elections had taken place in four countries, namely, the Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo and elections were upcoming in Sao Tome and Principe. In that regard, he encouraged the national authorities and all political stakeholders to promote continued dialogue and consensus on the conditions governing the elections. He further noted the commitment of ECCAS to promoting peace and stability in the subregion, as evidenced by the convening of two extraordinary summits of Heads of State and Government, on the situation in the Central African Republic and on Chad, on 26 December and 4 June 2020, respectively.

The Special Representative also provided information to the Council on the challenges specific to the various countries of the subregion, namely, the fragilities in Burundi, the violence in the north-west and south-west regions of Cameroon, and the instability and border tensions in Chad. He also made reference to the threat posed to the region by non-State armed groups, such as the increased and compounding threat posed by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin and the Lord's Resistance Army. He added that in the Gulf of Guinea, maritime crime remained a serious threat to Central and West African States and was high on the agenda of the last two meetings of UNSAC. He concluded that Central Africa was strongly affected by the negative impact of climate change, a trend that was likely to worsen over the next few decades hampering socioeconomic progress and exacerbating political and security tensions in the subregion.

¹⁸⁰ See [S/PV.8787](#).

In his briefing to the Council on 15 December 2021, the Special Representative reported on the worsening situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic and a generally slow and asymmetric vaccination campaign in the subregion.¹⁸¹ On elections, he took note of the peaceful and orderly presidential election in Sao Tome and Principe, and the preparations for the upcoming crucial elections in 2022 and 2023, including in Angola, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. The Special Representative pledged to pursue good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General to encourage inclusive and meaningful political dialogue in the countries preparing for elections, stressing that the Council's support would be crucial. He also reported on the implementation of institutional reform in ECCAS, including through the operationalization of the newly established Committee of Permanent Representatives and the regular convening of statutory meetings. He commended ECCAS for its continued engagement in Chad and the Central African Republic. He affirmed that a strong ECCAS was needed to help its member States address the many challenges facing Central Africa, including, inter alia, terrorism and violent extremism, particularly in the Lake Chad basin, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the weak participation of women in peace and political processes, and the impact of climate change on peace and security. As in the previous briefing, the Special Representative provided information to the Council on the challenges specific to the various countries of the subregion such as Cameroon and the continued violence in the north-west and south-west regions of the country, the Central African Republic, including the regional engagement within the framework of the road map adopted in Luanda in September 2021 to support the effective implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic,¹⁸² and Chad, in connection to which the Special Representative recalled the significant progress achieved in reaching key transitional milestones despite challenges. In 2021, the Council's deliberations focused on major political and security developments, as well as on the humanitarian, human rights and socioeconomic challenges affecting the Central African region, including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. On the political front, Council members discussed the

¹⁸¹ See [S/PV.8933](#).

¹⁸² *Ibid.* For more information, see part I, sect. 7.

electoral processes taking place in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe, and the assistance by the United Nations in that regard. Council members also deliberated on the role of the United Nations, including UNOCA and its Head, in conflict prevention and mediation throughout the Central African region. They also addressed its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union and ECCAS, as well as United Nations regional offices in resolving conflicts, assisting countries in peace and political processes, addressing the humanitarian and human rights challenges and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. With regard to the cooperation with regional actors, some Council members expressed support for the UNOCA-ECCAS joint strategic plan for 2021-2025.¹⁸³ Council members also addressed the situations in specific countries and in particular (i) the post-electoral developments in the Central African Republic, including reports of violence and human rights abuses and attacks on the personnel of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA),¹⁸⁴ and the subsequent ceasefire declared by President Touadera;¹⁸⁵ (ii) the clashes in Cameroon, in particular the north-west and south-west regions, including reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law;¹⁸⁶ (iii) the border tensions between the Central African Republic and Chad;¹⁸⁷ (iv) the progress by Chad towards transitional milestones despite significant security challenges and the call by the African Union for an inclusive transition and the restoration of constitutional order;¹⁸⁸ and (v) the improving human rights situation in Burundi.¹⁸⁹ Council members deliberated on the cross-border threat posed by terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin and elsewhere and expressed support

¹⁸³ [S/PV.8787](#), India, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Viet Nam, and Ireland.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, India, United States, Russian Federation, Ireland, and Estonia.

¹⁸⁵ [S/PV.8933](#), United Kingdom, France, Viet Nam, India, Mexico, China, Ireland, United States, and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia).

¹⁸⁶ [S/PV.8787](#), United Kingdom, China, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United States, Norway, France, Viet Nam, Mexico, and Ireland; and [S/PV.8933](#), United Kingdom, France, Viet Nam, Mexico, China, and United States.

¹⁸⁷ [S/PV.8787](#), United Kingdom, India, Norway, Russian Federation, and Viet Nam; and [S/PV.8933](#), India.

¹⁸⁸ [S/PV.8787](#), United Kingdom, China, India, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United States, France, Ireland; and [S/PV.8933](#), United Kingdom, France, Estonia, India, Mexico, China, Ireland, United States, and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia).

¹⁸⁹ [S/PV.8787](#), United States; and [S/PV.8933](#), United Kingdom, China, and United States.

for action by the Multinational Joint Task Force to respond to those threats posed, particularly by the activities of Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province.¹⁹⁰ Council members also expressed concern regarding the continued threats posed by organized crime and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.¹⁹¹ Some members recognized and deliberated on the adverse effects of climate change on security in the region.¹⁹² They also continuously addressed the impact of conflict and humanitarian crises on women,¹⁹³ and the need to ensure the equal participation of women and youth in political and peace processes.¹⁹⁴

In 2021, by an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council dated 3 and 6 August 2021 respectively, the Council extended the mandate of UNOCA for three years, until 31 August 2024.¹⁹⁵ In renewing UNOCA's mandate, the Council reiterated, with certain modifications, that UNOCA's mandate would focus on four core objectives, namely (1) the monitoring of political and security developments in Central Africa and carrying out good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General in order to prevent and resolve conflicts, sustaining peace and advising the Secretary-General and United Nations entities in the area on sustaining peace issues in Central Africa; (2) enhancing subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the subregion, with due attention to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including human rights and gender dimensions; (3) supporting and enhancing United Nations efforts in the subregion, as well as regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security, including from human rights and gender perspectives; and (4) enhancing coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁰ [S/PV.8787](#), India; and [S/PV.8933](#), United Kingdom, France, and India.

¹⁹¹ [S/PV.8787](#), China, India, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Norway, Russian Federation and Viet Nam; and [S/PV.8933](#), Norway, Viet Nam, India, China and Russian Federation.

¹⁹² [S/PV.8787](#), United Kingdom, Norway, Ireland and Estonia; and [S/PV.8933](#), Norway, Estonia, India, and Ireland.

¹⁹³ [S/PV.8787](#), Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), France, and Viet Nam; and [S/PV.8933](#), Viet Nam, Ireland, and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia).

¹⁹⁴ [S/PV.8933](#), Norway, France, Estonia, Mexico, Ireland, United States, and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia).

¹⁹⁵ [S/2021/719](#) and [S/2021/720](#).

¹⁹⁶ [S/2021/719](#), annex, Objectives 1-4. For more information on the mandate of UNOCA, see part X, sect. II.

Meetings: Central African region

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8787 7 June 2021	Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (S/2021/517)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	12 Council members ^a and the invitee	
S/PV.8933 15 December 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (S/2021/975)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	12 Council members ^b and the invitee	

^a China, Estonia, India, Ireland, Mexico, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Norway, Russian Federation, United States and Viet Nam.

^b China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.