

6. Central African region

In 2023, the Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Central African region”. Both meetings took the form of briefings.¹⁸⁰ More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below. Council members also held informal consultations of the whole in connection with this item.¹⁸¹

During the period under review, further to the biannual reports of the Secretary-General, 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) on the situation in the Central African region.¹⁸² The Special Representative focused his briefings on the activities of UNOCA and the political, security, humanitarian and human rights situation in the region, including the impact of climate change. The Council also heard briefings by the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the founder and Regional Coordinator of the Network of Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems.

At the meeting held on 5 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General updated the Council on his visits to the 11 member States of ECCAS that fell within the mandate of UNOCA and noted the preference shown by most of them for dialogue and consultation as a means of resolving tensions peacefully.¹⁸³ He highlighted the dialogue between the Presidents of the Central African Republic and Chad on the revitalization of cooperation between the two countries, the mobilization of Central African States to resolve the crisis in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the support of ECCAS for the transition in Chad. He underlined that States in the region were actively committed to security issues, leading to the holding of the first ECCAS summit on maritime security and the One Forest Summit on climate security. The Special Representative noted that the region had continued to pay particular attention to the political participation and representation of women in key positions and that there

¹⁸⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹⁸¹ Council members held informal consultations in connection with this item following the two briefings held on 5 June and 13 December. See [A/78/2](#), part II., chap. 24.

¹⁸² See [S/PV.9338](#) and [S/PV.9505](#). See also [S/2023/389](#) and [S/2023/934](#).

¹⁸³ See [S/PV.9338](#).

were growing calls for dialogue to address the challenges of governance and human rights. He further noted the organization by the Government of Gabon of a consultative dialogue with the opposition prior to the holding of the general elections later in the year, the determination of the national authorities of Cameroon to promote dialogue and rebuild the areas affected by the crisis in the North-West and South-West regions, and the strengthened determination of the authorities of Sao Tome and Principe to reform the justice and security sectors. The Special Representative also highlighted that the ongoing fighting in the Sudan was having devastating humanitarian consequences for Chad and the Central African Republic and called for international solidarity with Chad as a matter of urgency. Additionally, he stated that the region had experienced an increase in incidents of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and also suffered from the negative socioeconomic impact of the crisis in Ukraine. The Special Representative further stated that ECCAS continued to play an important role in issues of peace and security in the subregion but required sustainable financial support for its institutional reform process.

The President of the ECCAS Commission noted positive signs in regard to the security situation but also recognized major challenges faced by the subregion. In addition to numerous internal security challenges, the subregion was affected by the impact of the conflict in the Sudan, the instability in Libya, the expansion of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin and the entrenchment of terrorist movements in the Sahel. At the political level, several elections had been held in 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 and elections at several levels and constitutional referendums were expected in various countries in 2023. As part of its revised Treaty, ECCAS had developed appropriate instruments for its political and peace and security-related work, which had recently been used in Chad and Sao Tome and Principe. Noting that many ECCAS member States were also members of other sub-regional organizations, he emphasized the Organization's support for various efforts under the auspices of other regional and subregional bodies. ECCAS also sought to strengthen its cooperation with relevant United Nations mechanisms on issues of democracy, peace and security in Central Africa.

The Founder and Regional Coordinator of the Network of Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems briefed the Council on the theme of women, youth, climate and peace and security in the Central African region. She stressed that the impacts

of climate change on peace and security in the region were evident and called for the implementation of bottom-up approaches and adequate financing of civil society actors.

At the meeting held on 13 December, the Special Representative emphasized that the Central African region had considerable potential with regard to its development and stability and welcomed that States of the subregion had demonstrated their mutual solidarity by committing jointly to achieving peace and security.¹⁸⁴ The Special Representative reported on progress in the demobilization, reintegration, and repatriation of former combatants in the Central African Republic. He also informed the Council of the launch of the ECCAS Women Mediators Network and the support by UNOCA, in collaboration with ECCAS, to the development of a regional strategy to combat hate speech and violence in Central Africa and to the authorities of Sao Tome and Principe in their reform of the justice and security sectors. He noted that, in Chad, the transition process would enter a crucial stage with the holding of a constitutional referendum on 17 December and described the impact of the Sudanese crisis on Chad and the Central African Republic, stressing that only a resolution of that crisis would make it possible to address its humanitarian, economic, environmental and security impacts. The Special Representative further highlighted that the humanitarian situation in Central Africa was extremely worrisome. Turning to the coup d'état in Gabon on 30 August, the Special Representative reported that UNOCA had entered into discussions with the new authorities, with a view to advocating for a return to normal constitutional order. He added that the coup d'état in Gabon followed others in the neighboring West African subregion and entailed a need for the international community to reflect on the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government on the African continent. Concerning the security situation, the Special Representative noted that non-State armed groups and terrorist groups continued their violent actions. In Cameroon, attacks by separatist armed groups had resulted in dozens of deaths, while, in the Lake Chad Basin, Boko Haram had maintained its ability to operate. Maritime security remained another source of major concern for Central Africa.¹⁸⁵ Regarding climate action, the Special Representative stressed that UNOCA continued to engage in building resilience in the subregion

¹⁸⁴ See [S/PV.9505](#).

¹⁸⁵ For more information on discussions concerning maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, see part I, sect. 9.

in conjunction with various stakeholders and that support from international financial institutions in that regard was more essential than ever.

In 2023, the Council's deliberations focused on major political developments, security challenges, the humanitarian situation and the adverse effects of climate change on the Central African region. On the political level, Council members addressed the various ongoing transitional and electoral processes in Central Africa. Most council members stressed the importance of inclusive and transparent political processes, including the participation of women and young people.¹⁸⁶ Most Council members also highlighted the security situation in Central Africa, particularly the continued attacks by Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province, as well as the activities of other armed groups in the region. On the issue of maritime security, several Council members noted the continuation of or increase in incidents of piracy.¹⁸⁷ Most Council members addressed the humanitarian situation in Central Africa, including the impact of the crisis in the Sudan on humanitarian needs and regional stability. In addition, various Council member addressed the linkages between climate change, peace and security in the region and welcomed the work of UNOCA in that regard.¹⁸⁸

Council members also deliberated on the political and security situation in specific countries. Concerning Chad, Council members addressed the political transition and exchanged views on the preparations for and progress on the constitutional referendum and the electoral process.¹⁸⁹ Regarding Cameroon, several Council members condemned or expressed concern about the violence in the country's North-West and South-West regions.¹⁹⁰ They emphasized the importance of ensuring humanitarian access and stressed the need for dialogue to resolve the

¹⁸⁶ See [S/PV.9338](#) (Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), France, Switzerland, Ecuador, Malta and United Arab Emirates); [S/PV.9505](#) (France, Japan and United Arab Emirates).

¹⁸⁷ See [S/PV.9338](#) (Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), Malta, China, Brazil and Russian Federation); [S/PV.9505](#) (China, Brazil and Russian Federation).

¹⁸⁸ See [S/PV.9338](#) (Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), United Kingdom, Japan, France, Switzerland, Albania, Malta and United Arab Emirates); [S/PV.9505](#) (Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique), France, Japan, Malta, Switzerland and United Arab Emirates).

¹⁸⁹ See [S/PV.9338](#) (Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), United Kingdom, Japan, France, Ecuador, Albania, United States, Brazil and Russian Federation); [S/PV.9505](#) (Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique), United Kingdom, France, Japan, Malta, Russian Federation, Albania and Ecuador).

¹⁹⁰ See [S/PV.9338](#) (Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), United Kingdom, France, United States and Brazil); [S/PV.9505](#) (Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique), United Kingdom, France, Japan, Russian Federation and United States).

crisis.¹⁹¹ With regards to Gabon, several Council members noted or commended the announcement of a transition timetable leading to elections during the meeting held on 13 December 2023.¹⁹² On the Central African Republic, some Council members welcomed the continuation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.¹⁹³ At the meeting held on 5 June, the representative of the United States urged the authorities to make progress on the political and peace process.¹⁹⁴ The representative of the Russian Federation noted that the authorities had overcome the most difficult phase of the fight against those seeking to achieve an unconstitutional change of government by armed means.¹⁹⁵ In respect to Sao Tome and Principe, the representatives of Malta and Brazil noted worrisome developments in the previous year but welcomed the efforts by the authorities, and the support provided by UNOCA and ECCAS, to strengthen the justice and security sectors.¹⁹⁶

Meetings: Central African region, 2023

<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.9338 5 June	Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (S/2023/389)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States, Founder and Regional Coordinator of the Network of Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems	13 Council members, ^a all invitees ^b	

¹⁹¹ See [S/PV.9338](#) (United Kingdom, Japan, France, Switzerland, Ecuador, Albania and United States); [S/PV.9505](#) (Malta, Albania and Ecuador).

¹⁹² See [S/PV.9505](#) (Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique), United Kingdom, France, Japan, Russian Federation, United States and Ecuador).

¹⁹³ See [S/PV.9505](#) (Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique) and Ecuador).

¹⁹⁴ See [S/PV.9338](#).

¹⁹⁵ See [S/PV.9338](#) and [S/PV.9505](#).

¹⁹⁶ See [S/PV.9338](#) (France, Malta and Brazil).

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S/PV.9505 13 December	Report of the Secretary- General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (S/2023/934)			Special Representative of the Secretary- General	13 Council members, ^c invitee	

^a Albania, Brazil, China, Ecuador, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), Japan, Malta, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^b The President of the Commission, Economic Community of Central African States and the Founder and Regional Coordinator, Network of Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems participated in the meeting via videoconference.

^c Albania, Brazil, China, Ecuador, France, Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique), Japan, Malta, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.