

<i>Meeting 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>
6570 29 June 2011	Letter dated 10 June 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/351)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2011/394)	Côte d'Ivoire			Resolution 1992 (2011) 15-0-0
6584 18 July 2011	Twenty-eighth report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI (S/2011/387)		Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All invitees	
6591 27 July 2011	Twenty-eighth report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI (S/2011/387)	Draft resolution submitted by France, United States (S/2011/458)	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2000 (2011) 15-0-0

^a Brazil, China, Colombia, Gabon, Germany, India, Nigeria, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

11. Central African region

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings and adopted two presidential statements in connection with the Central African region. The Council focused on the activities of the newly established United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA),¹⁶⁰ the impact of illicit arms trafficking on peace and security, and the regional threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

19 March 2010: impact of illicit arms trafficking on peace and security

On 19 March 2010, the Deputy Secretary-General stressed the importance of achieving a global arms trade treaty and the implementation of community-based disarmament and confidence-building projects. Peace and security in Central Africa required a strong commitment by States in the subregion, together with State suppliers of weapons, to expand their efforts to eradicate weapons trafficking. Urgent priorities included

stockpile management, the security of weapons and ammunition, and measures to control the import, export, transit and retransfer of weapons.¹⁶¹ The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported that the illegal arms trade was estimated globally at \$200 million to \$300 million annually, and noted that Africa, the most profitable market, suffered the greatest number of casualties because of it.¹⁶² The Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) stated that security threats posed by small arms and light weapons exceeded the ability of ECCAS to counter them. About 7 million such weapons had been in circulation in Central Africa in the past 15 years, most of which remained hidden. All sectors of society possessed those weapons, including women and children. He said that ECCAS would focus its efforts on finalizing a legal instrument on small arms and light weapons and its adoption by member States.¹⁶³ Speakers expressed grave concern over the wide-ranging humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences of small arms proliferation, which fuelled armed conflict. This in

¹⁶⁰ For more information on the mandate of UNOCA, see part X, sect. II, "Political and peacebuilding missions".

¹⁶¹ S/PV.6288, p. 3.

¹⁶² Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁶³ Ibid., pp. 6-8.

turn, exacerbated the risk of gender-based violence and recruitment of child soldiers, in addition to seriously undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development. Most members noted that illicit arms trafficking was of global concern, and called for the adoption of global instruments to complement legal frameworks already in place.

Following the debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it underlined the vital importance of effective regulations and controls of the trade in small arms and light weapons to prevent their illegal diversion or re-export, and encouraged the Central African countries to take measures towards the establishment of a subregional register of arms dealers as well as the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and the equipment that might serve for their manufacture. The Council also called upon the States of the subregion to strengthen efforts to establish mechanisms and regional networks for information-sharing to combat the illicit circulation of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and requested the Secretary-General to take into account in his biennial report, as a follow-up, the content of that presidential statement.¹⁶⁴

18 August and 14 November 2011: activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

On 18 August 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA reported that, with a view to establishing contact with government leaders, the United Nations country teams and other international partners in the subregion, UNOCA representatives had visited Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. Preliminary observations from discussions held confirmed the need for enhanced United Nations support in the subregion to help Member States to address security, peacebuilding and conflict-prevention challenges. He said that the need to build capacity for tackling specific transborder security challenges, such as piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the threats posed by such rebel groups as LRA and Baba Ladde in the Central African Republic, had become a shared concern of the United Nations, the African Union and the subregion. The Special Representative expressed his intention to

¹⁶⁴ S/PRST/2010/6.

translate the mandate of UNOCA into cohesive subregional initiatives to facilitate coordination and information exchange between United Nations entities and other partners towards supporting peacebuilding and preventive diplomacy initiatives in the subregion. As part of that effort, he noted, the Secretary-General had transferred the secretariat functions of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa from the Office for Disarmament Affairs to the Department of Political Affairs, so that they could be assumed by UNOCA.¹⁶⁵

On 14 November 2011, the Special Representative introduced the first report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA.¹⁶⁶ He noted that States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa had signed in Brazzaville 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, known as the Kinshasa Convention. UNOCA would work closely with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to promote the ratification of the Convention. He stated that the issue of piracy and maritime security remained of great concern, as criminals were using the Gulf of Guinea as a hub for the trans-shipment of narcotics. Recognizing the importance of enhanced cross-border security in that area, the countries of the subregion had adopted the Framework to Secure the Gulf of Guinea and a protocol creating the Regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa.¹⁶⁷ Council members underlined the importance for UNOCA to promote cooperation among relevant actors, including ECCAS and the Africa Union as well as the United Nations missions and offices in the region, in tackling the challenges the subregion faced. Among regional challenges, they expressed particular concern with the threats posed by LRA, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and organized crime.

Following the debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it encouraged UNOCA to work with the United Nations missions and the African Union to develop a regional strategy for international humanitarian, development and

¹⁶⁵ S/PV.6601, pp. 2-4.

¹⁶⁶ S/2011/704.

¹⁶⁷ S/PV.6657, p. 7.

peacebuilding assistance in the LRA-affected area, enhancing cross-border mechanisms to improve civilian protection, early warning capacity, humanitarian access and response, and appropriate reintegration support for those returning from displacement, abductees and ex-combatants, as well as strengthening the overall capacity of affected States to extend their authority throughout their respective territories.¹⁶⁸

14 November 2011: activities of the Lord's Resistance Army

On 14 November 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas.¹⁶⁹ He reported that LRA continued to perpetrate serious violations of humanitarian and human rights law with impunity, easily crossing the borders of the affected countries, taking a particularly heavy toll on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, the United Nations system was taking several actions to address the LRA problem in a more effective and coherent manner through its political, peacekeeping, human rights, humanitarian and development efforts. In addition, the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the region were taking further steps to strengthen civilian protection within their mandates and capabilities in strategic locations in the LRA-affected areas to help deter attacks against civilians and facilitate humanitarian operations.¹⁷⁰ The Permanent Observer of the African Union said that the LRA issue was of great concern to

the African Union and that it assumed an alarming regional dimension. The African Union Commission had consulted with the countries concerned to designate a special envoy for LRA, and an integrated planning team had been established to conduct detailed operational planning.¹⁷¹ The Secretary-General of ECCAS spoke of the need to focus on the training of armed forces in the context of the regional force being put together to deal with LRA.¹⁷² Most members expressed concern over the increasing threat of LRA and called on the international community to step up its pressure in order to put an end to LRA attacks against the civilian population. At the same time, they commended the actions taken by the countries of the region and the initiatives of the African Union in combating LRA.

Following the debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it, inter alia, strongly condemned the ongoing attacks carried out by LRA in parts of Central Africa, demanded an immediate end to all attacks by LRA, particularly those on civilians, and commended the important efforts undertaken by the militaries of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Uganda to address the threat posed by LRA. The Council commended, further, the enhanced engagement of the African Union through its regional cooperation initiative for the elimination of LRA and its efforts to establish a regional intervention force, and urged the prompt appointment of the proposed African Union Special Envoy for the LRA-affected areas.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁸ S/PRST/2011/21.

¹⁶⁹ S/2011/693.

¹⁷⁰ S/PV.6657, pp. 2-3.

¹⁷¹ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

¹⁷² Ibid., p. 6.

¹⁷³ S/PRST/2011/21.

Meetings: Central African region

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6288 19 March 2010	Impact of illicit arms trafficking on peace and security Letter dated 15 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/143)	12 Member States ^a	Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Acting Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	S/PRST/2010/6
6601 18 August 2011			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	
6657 14 November 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas pursuant to Security Council press statement (S/2011/693) First report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for Central Africa (S/2011/704)	Central African Republic, South Sudan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States	All Council members, Central African Republic, all invitees under rule 39	S/PRST/2011/21

^a Australia, Botswana, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Morocco, Republic of Korea, South Africa and Switzerland.