

## 10. The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

### Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held nine meetings, including two private meetings with the troop-contributing countries,<sup>234</sup> and adopted four resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. The Council continued to focus on political developments after the post-electoral crisis of 2011, the modification and implementation of targeted sanctions aimed at supporting the peace process, and the relevant role and mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

The Council twice extended the mandate of UNOCI and the French forces which supported it,<sup>235</sup> in accordance with the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General.<sup>236</sup> The Council also reduced the military component and affirmed its intention to consider a further reduction on the basis of the security conditions and the capacity of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to assume the mission's security responsibilities. The Council twice renewed and modified the sanctions measures, and extended the mandate of the Group of Experts.<sup>237</sup>

### Briefings on UNOCI and political developments after the post-electoral crisis of 2011

On 26 January 2012, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of UNOCI on the significant progress being made in Côte d'Ivoire towards the restoration of normalcy since the end of the post-electoral crisis of 2011. He reported on the stabilizing security situation and stated that displaced people had started to return and that the economy was starting to

show resilience. He also noted that the legislative elections had been held successfully and in relative peace. Despite those positive developments, he stated that significant challenges relating to security and national reconciliation still remained, and that the support provided by UNOCI was essential to assist the Government in stabilizing the security situation, notably in the areas of reconstitution and reform of security and rule-of-law institutions; the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; the protection of civilians; facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; national reconciliation, early recovery, and the promotion and protection of human rights. He further highlighted the role and activities of UNOCI, particularly in facilitating the conduct of the legislative elections.<sup>238</sup>

In his statement, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire noted the significant progress achieved in a number of areas since the post-electoral crisis, as well as the challenges ahead, namely the stabilization of the security situation, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, humanitarian assistance and national reconciliation. He urged the international community to provide the necessary support to resolve those challenges. With regard to the sanctions regime, he indicated that his Government was in the process of requesting a partial or full lifting of the embargo currently in place.<sup>239</sup>

On 18 July 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported on the ongoing challenges facing the country, particularly with regard to the security and political situations, and on activities undertaken by the Government with UNOCI support to restore peace and stability. He noted that, although the overall security situation had improved, the country continued to face important challenges and threats as it transitioned to a peacebuilding phase. In this respect, he drew attention to the volatile situation at the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border and stated that UNOCI was coordinating its activities with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and had adopted an action plan together with UNMIL and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to enhance cooperation, including a reinforced presence on both sides of the

<sup>234</sup> See [S/PV.6802](#) and [S/PV.6996](#).

<sup>235</sup> Resolutions [2062 \(2012\)](#) and [2112 \(2013\)](#). For more information on the mandate of UNOCI, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

<sup>236</sup> [S/2012/964](#) and [S/2013/377](#).

<sup>237</sup> Resolutions [2045 \(2012\)](#) and [2101 \(2013\)](#). For more information on the sanctions measures concerning Côte d'Ivoire, see part VII, sect. III, "Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter". For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1572 \(2004\)](#) concerning Côte d'Ivoire and the mandate of the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

<sup>238</sup> [S/PV.6708](#), pp. 2-3.

<sup>239</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-6.

border. He highlighted political dialogue, upcoming local elections and the promotion of a culture of respect for human rights as important elements of national reconciliation.<sup>240</sup>

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire referred to the recent working visit of the Council to the country. He highlighted the security situation, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, national reconciliation and human rights. He urged the Council not to implement the drawdown of the military component of UNOCI as proposed by the Secretary-General, given the security situation and the need to avoid creating security gaps.<sup>241</sup>

On 17 January 2013 the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who reported that Côte d'Ivoire was making encouraging progress towards economic growth, peace and stability under the leadership of the President, Alassane Ouattara. At the same time, he cautioned that several urgent structural measures should be implemented in due course especially in the areas of security, political dialogue, justice and reconciliation. He outlined a number of initiatives by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire that had contributed to the easing of political tensions. He informed the Council about the steps taken to strengthen inter-mission cooperation between UNOCI and UNMIL, as well as cooperation with the United Nations country team in Ghana. He finally urged the international and regional partners, including the United Nations, to continue to support the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in order to consolidate the significant gains achieved and address remaining challenges and the root causes of the repeated crises.<sup>242</sup>

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire highlighted the progress made by his Government in the 18 months since the end of the post-electoral crisis. In the light of a still fragile security situation, he expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendation to defer the reduction of the military strength of UNOCI until after the assessment to be conducted early in 2013.<sup>243</sup>

On 16 April 2013, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented the

special report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI,<sup>244</sup> which contained the conclusions and recommendations of an assessment mission deployed to Côte d'Ivoire in February 2013. He stressed that Côte d'Ivoire had made progress since the post-electoral crisis and had moved into a new phase of peacebuilding. He, however, expressed concern regarding the fragility of the security situation. In the light of the continued challenges and threats, he underlined the necessity for UNOCI to remain in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly with regard to its core priorities, namely, the protection of civilians, supporting security sector reform and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, as well as to help to address border security challenges. At the same time he noted that adjustment to the structure, strength and priorities of UNOCI as recommended by the Secretary-General were necessary to meet the evolving situation on the ground. He finally stressed the need to bring to justice those accused of having committed serious crimes, regardless of their political affiliation, in order to end the vicious cycle of impunity and to build a culture of responsibility.<sup>245</sup>

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire stated that stabilization of the security situation was a priority, since consolidation of the progress already made depended on it. He informed the Council on measures being taken in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including training and reintegration of former combatants. He further affirmed the commitment of his Government towards national reconciliation and the fight against impunity. Regarding adjustments to the structure and troop strength of UNOCI, he requested that a withdrawal of the Blue Helmets be compensated for by the deployment of qualitative resources, such as surveillance drones in the border area between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.<sup>246</sup>

On 18 July 2013, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who acknowledged the significant steps taken by the President in stabilizing the security situation, accelerating economic recovery and initiating key reforms. He urged the international community to support Côte d'Ivoire, especially in finding lasting solutions for every former combatant. He spoke of the

---

<sup>240</sup> S/PV.6808, pp. 2-4.

<sup>241</sup> Ibid., pp. 4-7.

<sup>242</sup> S/PV.6902, pp. 2-4.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-8.

<sup>244</sup> S/2013/197.

<sup>245</sup> S/PV.6947, pp. 2-4.

<sup>246</sup> Ibid., pp. 4-5.

cooperation between the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to address common border challenges, with the support of UNOCI and UNMIL. In accordance with the decision of the Council, he said that 850 troops had been repatriated in May following the conclusion of the local elections, and preparations were under way to transfer the military hospital in Abidjan to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Referring to the Secretary-General's proposed benchmarks to measure Côte d'Ivoire's progress towards stability and to undertake transition planning he stated that it was too early to predict when UNOCI would start its transition. He therefore stressed the need to take into account the presidential and legislative elections to be held in 2015, after which the situation could be fully reassessed.<sup>247</sup>

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire reiterated the progress made so far, particularly in the areas of security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, justice and human rights, as well as political dialogue and national reconciliation, and highlighted measures taken in those fields. He further expressed the belief that reduction of the UNOCI military police and civilian components should be approached with great care to prevent a security vacuum on the ground.<sup>248</sup>

#### **Extension of the mandate of UNOCI and reduction of its military component**

On 26 July 2012, by resolution [2062 \(2012\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of UNOCI and the authorization of the French forces until 31 July 2013. The Council decided that protection of civilians should remain the priority for UNOCI, with an added focus on supporting the Government on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform. The Council also endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General for a reduction of the military component of UNOCI.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, while expressing gratitude for the Council's ongoing support for peace and democracy in his country, regretted that the request to maintain the original troop strength of UNOCI was not granted by the Council. He stated that his delegation was nevertheless confident that the

reconfiguration would not create a security vacuum, and noted that the total number of troops under the resolution was greater than it had been during the post-electoral crisis.<sup>249</sup>

On 30 July 2013, the Council adopted resolution [2112 \(2013\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNOCI and the authorization of the French forces until 30 June 2014. It decided to reconfigure the mission's uniformed personnel and affirmed its intention to consider a further reduction based on the evolution of security conditions and capacity of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to take over the security role of UNOCI. It also decided to reconfigure the military presence of UNOCI to concentrate resources in high-risk areas. The Council also redefined the mandate of UNOCI, in the areas of protection of civilians; addressing remaining security threats and border-related challenges; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and collection of weapons; reconstitution and reform of security institutions; monitoring of the arms embargo; support for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law; supporting humanitarian assistance; public information; redeployment of State administration and the extension of State authority throughout the country; and protection of United Nations personnel.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Pakistan expressed concern about the accelerated pace of the drawdown of the military component of UNOCI. In his view, the recommendations of technical assessment missions and military capability studies should be given due weight in Council decisions. He further warned that adopting an accelerated military drawdown might send the wrong signal to those planning to undermine the stability of Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>250</sup>

#### **Sanctions measures**

On 26 April 2012, the Council adopted resolution [2045 \(2012\)](#), in which it decided, inter alia, to renew and modify the arms embargo, and to renew the financial and travel measures and the measures preventing the importation by any State of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. It also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts until 30 April 2013. In addition, the Council decided to carry out a midterm

<sup>247</sup> [S/PV.7004](#), pp. 2-3.

<sup>248</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-7.

<sup>249</sup> [S/PV.6817](#), pp. 2-4.

<sup>250</sup> [S/PV.7012](#), p. 2.

review of the arms embargo no later than 31 October 2012, with a view to possibly further modifying measures, in accordance with progress achieved in relation to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, national reconciliation and the fight against impunity.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the extension of the sanctions regime and provided an update of key developments that had occurred in Côte d'Ivoire since the previous renewal of the sanctions measures in 2011.<sup>251</sup>

On 25 April 2013, by resolution [2101 \(2013\)](#), the Council extended the sanctions measures concerning Côte d'Ivoire and the mandate of the Group of Experts

---

<sup>251</sup> [S/PV.6761](#), pp. 2-4.

until 30 April 2014. It indicated its readiness to review measures on rough diamonds in the light of progress made towards implementation of the Kimberley Process. The Council also welcomed cooperation between the Group of Experts and the Panel of Experts on Liberia.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire reaffirmed the commitment of his country to cooperate fully in the implementation of the sanctions measures. He expressed the hope that the measures in the resolution would strengthen stability in Côte d'Ivoire and could possibly lead to additional modification, partial or complete lifting of the sanctions regime.<sup>252</sup>

---

<sup>252</sup> [S/PV.6953](#), p. 2.

**Meetings: the situation in Côte d'Ivoire**

<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>
<a href="#">S/PV.6708</a> 26 January 2012	Twenty-ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) ( <a href="#">S/2011/807</a> )		Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of UNOCI	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Côte d'Ivoire	
<a href="#">S/PV.6761</a> 26 April 2012	Letter dated 11 April 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1572 (2004)</a> concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2012/196</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France, Togo, United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2012/259</a> )	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution <a href="#">2045 (2012)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.6808</a> 18 July 2012	Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI ( <a href="#">S/2012/506</a> )		Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Côte d'Ivoire	
<a href="#">S/PV.6817</a> 26 July 2012	Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI ( <a href="#">S/2012/506</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France, United Kingdom, United States ( <a href="#">S/2012/581</a> )	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution <a href="#">2062 (2012)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.6902</a> 17 January 2013	Thirty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI ( <a href="#">S/2012/964</a> )		Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Côte d'Ivoire	
<a href="#">S/PV.6947</a> 16 April 2013	Special report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI ( <a href="#">S/2013/197</a> )		Côte d'Ivoire	Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Côte d'Ivoire	

<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>
<a href="#">S/PV.6953</a> 25 April 2013	Letter dated 12 April 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1572 (2004)</a> concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2013/228</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France, United Kingdom, United States ( <a href="#">S/2013/244</a> )	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution <a href="#">2101 (2013)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.7004</a> 18 July 2013	Thirty-second report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI ( <a href="#">S/2013/377</a> )		Côte d'Ivoire	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Côte d'Ivoire	
<a href="#">S/PV.7012</a> 30 July 2013	Thirty-second report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI ( <a href="#">S/2013/377</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France, Togo, United Kingdom, United States ( <a href="#">S/2013/445</a> )	Côte d'Ivoire		Pakistan	Resolution <a href="#">2112 (2013)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

## 11. Central African region

### Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings and issued four presidential statements in connection with the situation in the Central African region. Against the backdrop of the destabilizing effect of the crisis in the Central African Republic, the discussions in the Council focused on the regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), including the implementation plan developed by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).

During the period under review, the mandate of UNOCA was extended on 21 August 2012 for 18 months, until 28 February 2014, by virtue of a letter from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General.<sup>253</sup>

### Regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army

On 29 June 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA briefed the Council on the second report of the Secretary-General on the work of UNOCA, including its efforts to combat LRA.<sup>254</sup> He focused on the regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of LRA and elaborated on the five key objectives of the strategy, namely, supporting regional cooperation against LRA, enhancing the protection of civilians, expanding disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, promoting humanitarian and child protection response in LRA-affected areas, and supporting LRA-affected Governments in extending authority across their territories. He appealed to the Council to actively support the implementation of the strategy and of the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union.<sup>255</sup> Following the briefing, the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Lord's Resistance Army Issues also addressed the Council. He focused mainly on the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union on LRA.

He said that the major objectives of the Initiative were to strengthen the capacity of the affected countries to effectively respond to and neutralize the LRA threat, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected communities and to create an environment conducive to the stabilization and rehabilitation of the affected areas. He briefed the Council on the key components and structure of the initiative but cautioned that such a structure required international support, mainly on the financial and logistical fronts. In closing, he formally requested the Council to consider declaring LRA a terrorist organization.<sup>256</sup>

Speakers expressed condemnation of the crimes committed by LRA. A majority of speakers emphasized the need for concerted action and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation against LRA. Many speakers welcomed the regional strategy and called for additional resources in support of the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union. Several speakers called on States to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in prosecuting and detaining perpetrators associated with LRA.<sup>257</sup>

At the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement strongly condemning the attacks carried out by LRA and reiterating its concern at the atrocities committed by the group. In the same statement, the Council welcomed the development of the regional strategy. The Council also urged various United Nations entities to support the implementation of the strategy and called on the international community to provide assistance, as possible, to advance the strategic goals.<sup>258</sup>

On 18 December 2012, the Council held a meeting to consider the third report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the LRA-affected areas.<sup>259</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General presented the report to the Council. In his briefing, he acknowledged that while there was good news coming out of Central Africa, particularly on the economic front, challenges remained in relation to the threat posed by LRA. He emphasized the need to

<sup>253</sup> S/2012/657.

<sup>254</sup> S/2012/365.

<sup>255</sup> S/PV.6796, pp. 2-3.

<sup>256</sup> Ibid., pp. 3-6.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (Portugal); p. 19 (Guatemala); and p. 20 (France).

<sup>258</sup> S/PRST/2012/18.

<sup>259</sup> S/2012/923.