

11. Peace consolidation in West Africa

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings and issued two presidential statements under the item “Peace consolidation in West Africa”. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings and the other two were convened for the adoption of decisions of the Council.¹³⁹ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During its meetings under this item, the Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). During his briefings, he presented the succeeding reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS. He focused on the multifaceted security challenges affecting West Africa and the Sahel, including the increase and complexity of terrorist attacks and the expansion of extremist activities, such as those undertaken by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin. He also referred to the violence between farmers and herders as “increasingly a major security threat in the region”, which risked morphing into the terrorist attacks that had defined the security landscape, as well as to the threat posed by maritime piracy and transnational organized crime.¹⁴⁰ While observing an upsurge in popular discontent in the region, manifested through demonstrations calling for political and economic reform, he reported on the “positive trajectory” of the democratic elections in the region, namely in the Gambia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.¹⁴¹ In his briefings, he emphasized the importance of the respect for human rights and the rule of law for advancing peace, security and development as well as democracy and good governance in the region. He also briefed the Council on the work by the United Nations on sustaining peace in Burkina Faso and the Gambia, cautioning that attention needed to be paid to the challenges facing the two countries in the areas of security-sector reform, national reconciliation and the justice sector.¹⁴²

In his briefings, the Special Representative also reported on the challenges faced regarding the demarcation of the border between Cameroon and Nigeria and the pillar construction process, as well as on the efforts to reinvigorate the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The Council was also

briefed on the progress of the operationalization of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the efforts of the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin.

During the deliberations, Council members focused on the political, socioeconomic, security and humanitarian trends in the region over the reporting period. Council members centred their discussions around the progress on democratic transitions and governance in the region, highlighting the political progress achieved in Burkina Faso, the Gambia and Liberia, and the gains achieved in sustaining inclusive economic development in the region. Discussions were also focused on the security situation in West Africa and the Sahel, with Council members expressing concern over the persistence of multifaceted and complex challenges across the region, such as transnational organized crime, the proliferation of cross-border armed groups and the insecurity caused by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram. Council members also discussed the efforts to combat security challenges, such as the deployment of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the work of the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram, and the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. Council members also expressed concern about the dire humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin region.

Most of these issues were also addressed by the Council in its decisions under this item in 2018. In its presidential statement of 30 January 2018, the Council expressed full support to the Special Representative and looked forward to ongoing activities undertaken by UNOWAS in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and good offices. The Council further welcomed the efforts to give renewed impetus to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.¹⁴³ In the presidential statement, the Council emphasized the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peacebuilding and in post-conflict situations and emphasized the need for national stakeholders to work towards the increased participation of women, including with a view to increasing the number of women appointed to senior government positions.¹⁴⁴

The Council also welcomed the peaceful general elections held in Liberia, while expressing various levels of concern with regard to the situation in

¹³⁹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹⁴⁰ [S/PV.8313](#), pp. 2–3.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

¹⁴² [S/PV.8156](#), p. 3.

¹⁴³ [S/PRST/2018/3](#), third paragraph.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, fifth and sixth paragraphs.

Guinea-Bissau, Togo and, more broadly, West Africa and the Sahel.¹⁴⁵ The Council expressed concern over the threats of terrorism and about the attacks on civilians and welcomed the leadership demonstrated by countries in the region in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges, commending the efforts of regional stakeholders to address the impact of terrorism and transnational organized crime, including through the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.¹⁴⁶

In the same presidential statement, the Council also recognized the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes, among other factors, on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel and emphasized the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by Governments and the United Nations relating to these factors. The Council expressed concern over the overall humanitarian situation in the region, characterized by the impact of armed conflict and terrorism, extreme poverty, food insecurity, forced displacement and the adverse effects of climate change and epidemics.¹⁴⁷ Moreover, the Council expressed its intention to periodically monitor progress made and reiterated its call for an assessment of the implementation of resolution [2349 \(2017\)](#) to be integrated into the regular reporting by UNOWAS.¹⁴⁸

The Council also issued a presidential statement on 10 August 2018, in which it reiterated its recognition of the role of UNOWAS in contributing to the continuous strategic and integrated analysis of the opportunities, risks and challenges in support of efforts by national and local actors to sustain peace.¹⁴⁹ In the statement, the Council also reiterated its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of all countries in West Africa and the Sahel, welcoming regional and international efforts in Togo and the Gambia and calling upon all political stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to uphold the provisions of the Conakry accord.¹⁵⁰ The Council again emphasized the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peacebuilding

and in post-conflict situations and welcomed efforts by UNOWAS and the Economic Community of West African States to work towards the systematic involvement of women in initiatives to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.¹⁵¹ The Council reiterated its concern over the challenging security situation in the region and expressed concern for the increased tensions between pastoralists and farmers driven by competition for natural resources and, inter alia, pressures related to climate and ecological factors.¹⁵² The Council again recognized the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel and continued to stress the need for long-term strategies by Governments and the United Nations, based on risk assessments, to support stabilization and build resilience.¹⁵³

In the same presidential statement, the Council stressed the need for strengthening collective engagement across the Sahel region, taking note of the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to reactivate the Nouakchott Process and the review of the African Union strategy for the Sahel.¹⁵⁴ The Council also underlined the need for a more integrated, cross-pillar approach across the development, humanitarian and peace and security nexus and welcomed the collective efforts of the United Nations towards recalibrating the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The Council also welcomed the appointment of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Sahel and encouraged efforts to foster greater coherence and coordination within the United Nations system and with regional partners through the efficient implementation of the United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel.¹⁵⁵ The Council also reiterated its call for an assessment of the implementation of its resolution [2349 \(2017\)](#) to be integrated into the regular reporting by UNOWAS.¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁵ Ibid., seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth paragraphs.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid., eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth paragraphs.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., eighteenth and twenty-first paragraphs.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid., twenty-fifth paragraph.

¹⁴⁹ [S/PRST/2018/16](#), fourth paragraph.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid., fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth paragraphs.

¹⁵¹ Ibid., eleventh and twelfth paragraphs.

¹⁵² Ibid., thirteenth and fifteenth paragraphs.

¹⁵³ Ibid., nineteenth paragraph.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid., twentieth paragraph.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid., twenty-first paragraph. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Sahel was appointed on 21 March 2018, see the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel ([S/2018/649](#), para. 65).

¹⁵⁶ [S/PRST/2018/16](#), twenty-third paragraph.

Meetings: Peace consolidation in West Africa

<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.8156 11 January 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2017/1104)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)	Eight Council members, ^a Special Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.8170 30 January 2018						S/PRST/2018/3
S/PV.8313 17 July 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2018/649)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS	Seven Council members, ^b Special Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.8327 10 August 2018						S/PRST/2018/16

^a Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Peru and Sweden.

^b Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands and Peru.

12. Peace and security in Africa

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings and adopted one resolution under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”. Of the eight meetings held, one was convened to adopt a resolution, one was an open debate and the remaining six were briefings.¹⁵⁷ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2018, the Council held five meetings focusing on the Sahel, including the Lake Chad Basin region, and the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. The remaining three meetings were held to address other issues, namely, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

peacekeeping operations in Africa and drug trafficking in West Africa.

The Council held three meetings concerning the Lake Chad Basin region. On 22 March 2018, one year after the Council’s mission to the Lake Chad Basin region, the Council held a meeting focused on that region, further to the concept note circulated by the Netherlands.¹⁵⁸ At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General, a representative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and a senior conflict adviser working with Adelphi (an independent think tank).¹⁵⁹ The Deputy Secretary-General briefed the Council via videoconference from Monrovia. She noted that, while considerable progress

¹⁵⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹⁵⁸ See [S/2018/302](#).

¹⁵⁹ [S/PV.8212](#).