



A Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) heads UNOCA. After Mr. Abou Moussa of Chad (11 March 2011-23 May 2014) and Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily of Senegal (24 May 2014-31 October 2016), Mr. François Louncény Fall (Guinea) has been appointed to this position. Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, he has the responsibility to ensure the implementation of the mandate of UNOCA, including by using the good offices of the UN Secretary-General. In the latter case, the Special Representative, Head of UNOCA, may be required to assert "his independency, his impartiality and his integrity to undertake both private and public initiatives to prevent the eruption, the aggravation or the extension of conflicts in Central Africa".

He is assisted in his duties by the Chief of Staff and several specialists, including a Military Adviser. The Political Affairs Section, the Public Information Unit and the Mission Support also play an important role in the realization of the objectives of the Office. The last component mentioned above (Mission Support) is essentially in charge of the administration and operational issues. The team works around a slogan that summarizes missions and ambitions of UNOCA: «Peace and Security for Regional integration and Sustainable Development in Central Africa».



Peace and security for regional integration and sustainable development in Central Africa



- **CONFLICT PREVENTION**
- **PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CRISIS**
- **PEACEBUILDING**



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**SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS STANDING  
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN  
 CENTRAL AFRICA (UNSCAC)**

The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) was formally inaugurated in Libreville, Gabon, on 2 March 2011, two months after its creation on 1 January 2011. It is the third such regional office to be established under the purview of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA). The others are the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA). The establishment of these offices underscores the need for preventive diplomacy in the peaceful\* resolution of conflicts.

## BACKGROUND

In a letter to the Security Council dated 11 December 2009, the Secretary-General of the United Nations called for the creation of an UN Representation in Central Africa, pursuant to the reiterated wish of leaders of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) as conveyed in a letter to the Secretary-General on 28 April 2008. The ECCAS Member States asserted that “such a UN presence would help in defining and implementing a comprehensive and integrated approach

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to issues of peace, security and development in Central Africa”, the Secretary-General explained. The UN Chief refers to the Security Council Statement of 31 October 2002, which noted that “in spite of its enormous potential to be a pole of development, Central Africa was yet to enjoy the requisite stability that would enable it to equitably exploit its resources for the greatest benefit of its population”. UNOCA was thus created essentially to contribute to

capacity building in the areas of conflict prevention and peace building in the Central African sub-region. Apart from the porous nature of borders, which has been a source of political tensions within and between countries of the region, Central Africa has also been grappling with cross-border challenges relating particularly to arms trafficking; piracy and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea; organized transnational crime; elephants’ poaching and illicit traffic of ivory; the proliferation of armed

### \* Extract of the UN Charter

“The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice” (Chapter VI, Article 33, Alinea 1).

groups, including the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and Boko Haram. The latter movement, which is based in Nigeria, is considered a serious threat to some countries of the Central African sub-region, especially Cameroon and Chad.

## MAIN MISSIONS

- Carry out good offices and special assignments in countries of the sub-region, on behalf of the Secretary-General, including in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts;
- Cooperate with ECCAS and other regional organizations or key partners and assist them, as appropriate, in their efforts to promote peace and stability in the broader Central African sub-region;
- Strengthen the Department of Political Affairs’ capacity to advise the UN Secretary-General on matters relating to peace and security in the region;
- Enhance linkages in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the sub-region, with a view to promoting an integrated subregional approach and facilitating coordination and information exchange, with due regard to specific mandates of United Nations organizations as well as peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding support offices;
- Report to Headquarters on developments of subregional significance.

## SECRETARIAT OF UNSAC



UNOCA provides Secretariat functions to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) since May 2011. The United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) based in Lomé (Togo) previously assumed that mission. Set up on 28 May 1992, the Committee meets every six months to review the geopolitical and the security situation in Central Africa and prepare a report on the implementation of disarmament and arms control programmes in the sub-region.

## COUNTRIES COVERED

UNOCA covers the eleven member States of ECCAS: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome & Principe.

## PARTNERS

UNOCA works in collaboration with ECCAS, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), Lac Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). UNOCA assists them in the promotion of peace and security in the sub-region. In the same vein, UNOCA works in cooperation with the African Union (AU), in particular, to coordinate United Nations efforts to fight against the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The two institutions have developed a regional strategy that provides for, inter alia, coordinated international humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding initiatives in the countries affected by the activities of the LRA (declared by the AU as a “terrorist group”). The Security Council endorsed the strategy on 29 June 2012.



UNOCA also shares good relations with the European Union (EU), the International organisation of La Francophonie (IOF) and civil society as well as other partners and stakeholders, including the of African Football Confederation (CAF). With the latter, the Office co-organized a “football match for peace and security in Central Africa” on 7 December 2012 in Brazzaville (Congo) between the “*Tout Puissant Mazembé*” of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the “*Diables noirs*” of Congo.

