

Report to the United Nations General Assembly

The UN Secretary-General submits a report on the UNSAC activities to the General Assembly once a year. The report, discussed in the framework of «regional confidence-building measures», is also circulated or issued as a Security Council document. The report usually includes annexes consisting of Statements in which Member States provide their positions on current issues. It also expresses the vision of Member States on the promotion of democracy, human rights, and cooperation for peace and security in Central Africa, among others.

The Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at the end of the debates on the activities of UNSAC highlight the main recommendations on actions to be carried out with the sub-regional organizations like ECCAS, as well as with the African Union, the United Nations system and other international partners, for the consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa.

Match for Peace and Security in Central Africa

Football is one of the means used by the UNSAC secretariat to raise public awareness on the activities of the Committee and to promote preventive diplomacy. In this regard, the «Match for Peace and Security in Central Africa» held on 7 December 2012 at the Alphonse Massamba-Débat Stadium in Brazzaville during the celebration of the 20th anniversary of UNSAC remains memorable. This friendly international encounter was set up jointly with the Confederation of African Football (CAF), on the sidelines of the 35th meeting of the Committee. The match opposed the "Tout-puissant Mazembe" of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the "Diablos noirs" of Congo (2-0). Before the kickoff, the players of both teams, accompanied by the referees, had unfurled a poster expressing their support for the «initiatives of the United Nations and Central African States for peace and security in the subregion». On banners deployed in the stadium, other messages reinforced this idea by highlighting the importance of football as a development tool.



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UNSAC

UNITED NATIONS STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA



- **Promote disarmament and non-proliferation at regional and sub-regional levels**
- **Strengthen cooperation and confidence-building measures to reduce tensions and prevent conflict**
- **Pooling the means to build and consolidate peace, stability and sustainable development**





The United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) was established on 28 May 1992 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, pursuant to Resolution 46/37 B adopted on 6 December 1991 by the UN General Assembly. This decision was a positive response to the request made on 28 November 1986 by the member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) emphasizing the need to create this Committee. Main objective : have a tool to cope with the many conflicts they faced in the eighties. In reality, the idea was to set up a framework of cooperation to better address the threats that jeopardized the stability of the sub-region as well as its integration and sustainable development. In this perspective, the Committee's main mission is to carry out « reconstruction and confidence building activities among its Member States, including through confidence-building and arms control measures ». In this regard, several mechanisms and instruments have been adopted. These include, for example, the « Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition, and All Parts and Components for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly » approved on 30 April 2010 during the 30th Meeting of UNSAC held in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo). This Convention entered into force on 8 March 2017 after Angola deposited the sixth instrument of ratification. Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo and Gabon had already done so few years ago. Sao Tomé and Principe also ratified the Convention in 2017.

MANAGEMENT

The Committee meets twice a year to assess the state of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa and to report on disarmament and arms limitation programs as well as on initiatives aimed at promoting peace. A meeting of experts precedes the ministerial session. The involvement of the representatives of the civil society in deliberations, including through seminars and workshops in the sidelines of some meetings of the Committee, allows leaders to take into account opinions and contributions of women, young people and other stakeholders on issues on the agenda. Debates are held under the chairperson of the host country. The bureau also includes two vice-presidents and a rapporteur. All have a six-month's mandate. During this period, they ensure, among other things, the implementation of the Committee's decisions and recommendations.

¹ This task is generally carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ministries in charge of Internal Security, Immigration, Defense, etc. also take part in UNSAC meetings. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is usually represented by his Special Representative for Central Africa/Head of UNOCA.

ACTIVITIES

Apart from quarterly meetings, members of the Committee undertake actions towards supporting countries in crises and under various security threats. Field missions allow not only to reaffirm solidarity to concerned countries but also to exchange views on ways and means to reduce tensions and conflicts in order to get through lasting solutions. The Statement on the revitalization of the activities of the Committee adopted on 2 June 2017 during the 44th session in Yaoundé (Cameroon), underlines the Member States' determination "to improve the Committee's contribution in achieving peace, security and development goals in the sub region".



MEMBER STATES

UNSAC is comprised of the eleven ECCAS Member States: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and Sao Tomé and Principe.

OBSERVERS

Besides the Member States, sub-regional, regional and international organizations take part in the Committee sessions as observers. During these sessions, they present reports on their contributions to the promotion of peace and security in Central Africa. To become an observer, the organization sends its application to the Secretariat, which submits it to the Committee for examination.

SECRETARIAT OF UNSAC

Until May 2011, the UNSAC Secretariat was provided by the UN Regional Centre for Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), based in Lomé, Togo. This responsibility is now assumed by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) - officially opened in Libreville (Gabon) on 2 March 2011. The 33rd UNSAC Ministerial Meeting, held in December 2011 in Bangui (CAR) was UNOCA's first experience in this vast project of construction and peacebuilding, as well as in conflict prevention in the Subregion. As a key partner of UNOCA, ECCAS provides valuable assistance in the preparation of the sessions, including in the drafting of the strategic documents that structure the debates.

Other significant achievements of the Committee

The Kinshasa Convention is one of the most important elements of the UNSAC balance sheet. Decisions and recommendations of the Committee also favored the establishment of several other important initiatives aimed at strengthening the operational capacities of ECCAS. This is the case of the **Pact of Non-Aggression**, signed in Yaoundé on 8 July 1996 by the Heads of State and Government of Central Africa. In this Pact, the Member States of the Committee «undertake not to resort in their reciprocal relations, to the threat or the use of force, or to aggression, either against territorial integrity or independence of other Member States ... “

The Committee is also at the origin of the **Peace and Security Council of Central Africa (COPAX)**. This mechanism of prevention, management and resolution of conflicts was created by the Heads of State and Government in Yaoundé on 25 February 1999. They signed the protocol relating to COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact during a meeting in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) on 24 February 2000. Also to be added are the technical organs of COPAX: The **Defense and Security Committee** - bringing together Chiefs of staff, Police forces and Gendarmerie of the Member States; the **Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC)** and the **Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC)**. At each meeting of UNSAC, the latter structure (MARAC) prepares and presents the geopolitical review detailing the political and security situation of the Subregion.

The Committee also promoted the establishment of the United Nations Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (1999) and the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), which is governed by a Convention dated 25 June 2008. These institutions are based in Yaoundé (Cameroon) and Malabo (Equatorial Guinea), respectively.

There are several other significant achievements. The regional strategy to fight against terrorism and proliferation of small arms and light weapons is one of the most important initiatives. It was adopted during the 41st session of the Committee held in Libreville (Gabon) in November 2015.

