



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

**BRIEFING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE REPORT
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED
NATIONS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA (UNOCA) AND
ON THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY**

**STATEMENT BY Mr. ABOU MOUSSA
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR
CENTRAL AFRICA AND HEAD OF UNOCA**

NEW YORK, 29 JUNE 2012

Monsieur le Président,

Distingués Membres du Conseil de Sécurité,

1. Permettez-moi de vous remercier de l'opportunité que vous m'offrez d'introduire auprès du Conseil le deuxième rapport du Secrétaire général sur le Bureau régional des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique centrale (UNOCA), y compris les actions menées par les Nations Unies pour lutter contre l'Armée de résistance du Seigneur (LRA). Comme l'Ambassadeur Madeira, Envoyé Spécial de l'Union Africaine pour la LRA, est parmi nous, mes propos sur ce sujet porteront essentiellement sur la stratégie régionale des Nations Unies pour faire face à ce fléau.

Monsieur le Président,

2. Depuis plus d'un an, l'UNOCA travaille en étroite collaboration avec la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC), ses États membres et d'autres partenaires pour résoudre certains des défis auxquels la sous-région est confrontée dans les domaines de la paix, la sécurité et le développement. Ces défis incluent la gouvernance politique, la faiblesse des institutions, la gestion des processus électoraux, la dégradation de l'environnement, le développement socio-économique, les

conséquences de la crise libyenne, la lutte contre la prolifération des armes légères et de petit calibre illicites et les menaces transfrontières posées par des groupes armés tels que Boko Haram et la LRA. Forts de notre expérience acquise sur le terrain, nous avons pu identifier des domaines d'engagement prioritaires entre l'UNOCA et la CEEAC qui guideront nos efforts dans la sous-région.

Mr. President,

3. As the Secretariat of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), we have also successfully facilitated the functioning of that Committee, including the convening of two Ministerial Meetings. Moving forward, we will help the Committee implement the counter-terrorism roadmap that it adopted last December. We will also support the Committee's 20th anniversary celebrations.

4. UNOCA, together with the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA), has been actively engaged in facilitating the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2039 (2012) on piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, in close collaboration with ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States, the Gulf of Guinea Commission and the African Union (AU).

Together, and as requested by this body, we are working towards the holding of a regional summit before the end of the year.

Mr. President,

5. The sub-region has rich reserves of natural resources. However, the effective management of those resources and their judicious exploitation for the benefit of the majority of the populations remains a major challenge. A most encouraging development in the sub-region is the current healthy state of the economies of the countries of Central Africa, with a reported average growth rate of more than 5 percent in 2011. In spite of this good news, there are indications that, partly due to shortcomings in economic governance, the benefits of this growth at the macroeconomic level are yet to trickle down to the level of the vast majority of the population.

6. During his visit to the sub-region last February, the Secretary-General highlighted the necessity to bridge the widening gaps between the rich and the poor in some Central African states; he urged governments to “do more to strengthen the social fabric by promoting social equity and ensuring a better distribution of income”, and better prospects for sustainable growth, peace and prosperity.

Mr. President,

7. Last November, I briefed this Council on the tremendous suffering the most brutal criminal group in Central Africa, the LRA, is inflicting on the local population. For over two decades, this group has maimed, killed, kidnapped women and children and caused the displacement of over 445,000 people.

8. Following the briefing, the Council, in its Presidential Statement of 14 November 2011, encouraged UNOCA, in coordination with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), to engage with the United Nations presences in the LRA-affected region and the AU to develop a regional strategy to address the threat posed by the LRA. In this regard, we consulted extensively with the governments in the affected countries as well as national and regional actors and the wider international community to develop a coordinated strategy.

9. The strategy, which has been submitted to the Council, focuses on five key objectives. They include: (1) support to the operationalization and full implementation of the AU Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA; (2) enhancing efforts to promote the protection of civilians; (3) expanding disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and

reintegration (DDRRR) activities to cover all LRA-affected areas; (4) promoting a coordinated humanitarian and child protection response in all LRA-affected areas and; (5) supporting LRA-affected Governments in the fields of peacebuilding, human rights, rule of law and development, to enable them to extend State authority across their territory. Once the strategy is endorsed, the United Nations and its partners will need to agree on an its implementation plan.

10. The strategy goes beyond the military operations and DDRRR. It addresses the plight of the victims to ensure their social and economic reintegration into their respective communities. However, the strategy must only represent the beginning of vigorous attention by the Council to address the LRA issues, in order to put an end to these atrocities once and for all. Its successful implementation will depend on the level of cooperation and engagement among the affected countries and resource mobilization to address funding gaps.

11. In spite of the recent capture of one of its senior commander and its significantly diminished capability, the LRA remains extremely dangerous and retains the capacity to inflict considerable suffering on the population.

In this regard, I appeal to you and the wider international community to actively support the implementation of the UN regional strategy and the AU Cooperation Initiative. Further, it is imperative to ensure that the LRA's source of funding is investigated.

Mr. President

12. UNOCA is committed to continue to support countries in the sub-region in their efforts to foster peace and security. In that regard, UNOCA will continue to support sub-regional initiatives to address the major challenges to peace and security in Central Africa, in particular the implementation of the regional strategy on the LRA, measures to curb the threat posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea and support to the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee in charge of Security Issues in Central Africa.

I thank you for your kind attention.