

- Coordinate United Nations efforts to fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), particularly through the development of a regional strategy on the issue in collaboration with the African Union that provides for, inter alia, coordinated international humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding initiatives in the countries affected by the activities of the LRA. The LRA has been declared a "terrorist group" by the African Union.



A camp for internally displaced persons in Dunga (North-east Democratic Republic of the Congo), 13 April 2012. A woman (centre) explains to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA and to the Special Envoy of the African Union on the LRA issue, how she was forced to abandon her 4 and 6 years old children while escaping attacks mounted by the LRA.



Obo (South-east Central African Republic), 14 April 2012. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, on mission with the Special Envoy of the African Union on the LRA issue. Obo is one of the places most affected by the activities of the LRA.

PARTNERS

UNOCA works in collaboration with ECCAS and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes (CEPGL), the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), etc. UNOCA assists them in the promotion of peace and stability in the sub-region. In the same vein, UNOCA also works in cooperation with the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) as well as with several other partners and stakeholders, including civil society.

MANAGEMENT



UNOCA is headed by a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG). Mr. Abou Moussa was appointed to that position in March 2011. He is supported in the execution of his mandate by 27 national and international staff working in the following five main sections: Office of the SRSG, Office of the Chief of Staff, Political Affairs, Public Information Unit and Office of the Chief of Mission Support.



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**PEACE AND SECURITY FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL AFRICA**

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 (UNOWA) 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.

GENESIS

In a letter to the Security Council dated 11 December 2009, the Secretary-General of the United Nations called for the creation of a United Nations regional office 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 dated 28 April 2008. The ECCAS Member States asserted that “such a UN presence would help in defining and implementing a comprehensive and integrated approach to issues of peace, security and development in Central Africa”, the Secretary-General explained. He referred 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 created to contribute to capacity building in the areas of conflict prevention and peace building in the Central African sub-region.

UNOCA was thus created essentially to contribute to capacity building in the

areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding 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, organized transnational crime and the proliferation of armed groups.

COUNTRIES COVERED BY UNOCA

UNOCA covers the 10 Member States of ECCAS :



Rwanda participates in the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), to which UNOCA provides Secretariat functions since May 2011. 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.

MISSIONS

- Carrying out good offices roles 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;

- Cooperating with ECCAS and other regional organizations or key partners and assisting them, as appropriate, in their promotion of peace and stability in the broader Central African sub-region;



Libreville, Gabon, 29 May 2012. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr Abou Moussa, and the Secretary General of ECCAS, Mr Nassour Guélingdouksia Ouaidou, facing the same direction. The two organizations are working in partnership to find lasting solutions to challenges to peace and security in the Central Africa sub-region.



Libreville, Gabon, 30 April 2012. A working session of officers of UNOCA and ECCAS, three days before the signing of a cooperation framework between the two institutions.

- Strengthening the Department of Political Affairs' capacity to advise the UN Secretary-General on matters relating to peace and security in the region;

- Enhancing 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;

- Reporting to Headquarters on developments of subregional significance.

PRIORITIES

- Provide technical assistance to regional organizations, particularly ECCAS, to help build their capacity in the area of early warning, among others;

- Support mediation efforts to foster the peaceful management of crises and use of good offices for the prevention of conflicts in the sub-region. In the latter case, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA may be required to assert “his independence, impartiality and integrity to undertake both private and public initiatives to prevent the eruption, aggravation or extension of conflicts” in Central Africa;

- Help address youth unemployment, which is considered a threat to stability in the sub-region;

- Promote a regional and integrated strategic approach to resolve border disputes in the sub-region and fight against piracy and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea;

- Provide support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) in the execution of its mandate;

