

Open Briefing of the Security Council on the Report of the Secretary General on the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and on the Lord's Resistance Army-Affected Areas

29 June 2012

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like to thank ~~the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)~~ Abu Moussa for his briefing as well as for his invaluable work as the Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).

2. We would also like to extend our gratitude to AU's Special Envoy on LRA, Ambassador Francisco ^{Mad Cira} ~~Madeira~~ for his statement.

3. The report of the Secretary General on the activities of UNOCA and on the LRA affected areas (S/2012/421) highlights several challenges being faced by the sub-region including fragile security situation; proliferation of weapons; threat posed by terrorism and activities of armed groups; the menace of transatlantic crime; issue of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea; and the threats posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

4. As noted by the Report, these challenges have been further exacerbated as a result of the fall-out of the Libyan crisis due to influx of illegal arms and combatants in the region.

5. Addressing these cross-cutting challenges requires greater collaboration and coordination at regional and sub-regional levels.

6. In this backdrop, the work of United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) remains crucial for peace and stability of the sub-region through mediation and provision of good offices; ensuring a coherent and coordinated UN system response to challenges faced by the sub-region; and by strengthening the capacity of the sub-regional organizations to address regional peace and security challenges.

Mr. President,

7. We are deeply concerned at the increased attacks against civilians by the LRA and the resulting displacement of populations in the Central African Republic (CAR), the DRC and South Sudan.
8. The threat posed by the LRA requires coordinated regional and international efforts, based on a comprehensive approach, aimed not only at eliminating and bringing to justice the remaining leadership of the LRA but also towards strengthening the state capacity of the relevant states as well addressing the long-term developmental needs of the LRA-affected areas.
9. In this regard, we welcome the development of the “UN Regional Strategy to Address the Threat and Impact of the Activities of the LRA” by UNOCA in collaboration with the relevant stake-holders. We express hope that this strategy would provide a strong basis for a comprehensive response to the threat posed by the LRA.
10. Pakistan also welcomes the launching of the African Union-led Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA (AU RCI-LRA) as well as the commitment of the LRA-affected countries to contribute troops to the Regional Task Force (RTF) under this initiative.
11. The successful implementation of this initiative hinges on the availability of adequate and timely resources as well building the requisite capacities of the militaries in the LRA-affected countries. The international community should provide necessary resources for the successful implementation of this initiative, in line with the priorities identified by the African Union as well as the principle of national ownership.
12. Pakistan will continue to support all efforts aimed towards durable peace and stability in Central Africa as well as towards countering the threat posed by the LRA to the sub-region.

I thank you Mr. President.