



# UNOCA

Annual Review of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition - March 2013

## MAGAZINE



# RETRO 2012



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**UNOCA**  
United Nations Regional Office for central Africa

# THE MEDIA, PARTNERS AND ARCHITECTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND PEACEBUILDING



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2012 has just ended. It was a busy and eventful year for the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA). We were constantly on the move, participating in various events, initiating many activities, encouraging dialogue between political actors and working closely with sub-regional organisations to prevent conflict and consolidate peace

in Central Africa or fight against armed groups that destabilise the sub-region.

The main thrust of this magazine is to revisit some of those moments. More detailed and comprehensive than the PDF format document published last year, the magazine encapsulates in chronological order the main highlights of UNOCA's daily activities in 2012. It is a painstaking exercise that we had to undertake not only in the interest of sharing information, but also in a bid to conduct a self-assessment of our deployment and stimulate debate on our actions. It is somehow both a retrospective and prospective look on progress made.

Facts are presented succinctly for easy reading. Some of the events may retain attention. These are not necessarily those that are highlighted in boxes, but those for which the UN Security Council formulated clear expectations. Apart from our strong involvement in preparations for the convening of a regional summit on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, we were indeed fully engaged in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as well as in the search of solutions to problems that hinder integration and sustainable development in Central Africa. These concerns are among our priorities, which also include, among others, the fight against youth unemployment and support to the work of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC).

In spite of our limited resources, we will continue to focus on these major projects and promoting preventive diplomacy as a means of fostering the peaceful

resolution of disputes. We will of course be doing so in close collaboration with our key partners, including the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), the African Union (AU), Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Confederation of African Football (CAF), etc.

*Apart from our strong involvement in the preparation of a regional summit on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, we were fully engaged in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as well as in the search of solutions to problems that hinder integration and sustainable development in Central Africa.*

With CAF, we intend in particular to develop joint activities and initiatives for peace and security in Central Africa. The experience of the friendly football match between the "Tout Puissant Mazembé" of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the "Diables noirs" of Congo organized within the framework of the commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSAC, underscores the important role of football infostering the pursuit of our goals for a better world.

I would also like to make mention of the media which, as you will see in the following pages, play a crucial role in the fulfilment of our mission. I take this opportunity to thank all

those who supported us since the official opening of our Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. I pay special tribute to colleagues for their dedication and team spirit. Thanks to their professional and human qualities, they have significantly contributed to the execution of our mandate. I encourage them to maintain this momentum, given the challenges that we will face in 2013.

I renew to you all, my best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity for the new year.

I wish you a pleasant reading.

*By Abou Moussa*

**Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA**

**03 January 2012, Bangui (Central African Republic - CAR)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, and the AU Special Envoy for the LRA, Francisco Madeira, began a joint mission to the CAR to reaffirm their commitment to work in a concerted way to find a lasting solution to the LRA issue. According to the Central African authorities, the CAR has been the main "epicentre" of LRA activities since 2008. President François Bozizé encouraged the joint mission and renewed the firm will of his Government to contribute to the implementation of the AU's Regional cooperation initiative (RCI) against the LRA put in place in November 2011 by the African Union's Peace and Security Council. The delegation also met with the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and representatives of various diplomatic missions and development partners, including the U.S. and the European Union. Before leaving Libreville, Mr. Abou Moussa explained the stakes of the joint mission during an interview on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January with *Africa N°1*.

**04 January 2012, Juba (South Sudan)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, and the AU Special Envoy for the LRA were received by the Vice President of South Sudan, Mr Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon. The latter indicated that his Government would take necessary measures to provide the start-up facilities for the smooth running of the operational structures provided for under the AU's RCI, particularly the Regional Task Force and the Joint Operation Centre. The U.S. ambassador to South Sudan, Mrs Susan D. Page, reaffirmed that her Government was keenly following the evolution of the situation, and expressed the wish to see an early end to this armed rebellion, given its social and humanitarian impact.



President Bozizé after his audience with Messrs. Moussa and Madeira on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January

African States to deal with new and emerging threats, including maritime piracy, human trafficking, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and insecurity on the high-ways connecting states in the sub-region. The message emphasized the need for collective action as the most effective way to deal with those threats. The Secretary-General also reiterated the United Nations' support to ECCAS Member States and the population of the sub-region "in their efforts to definitively end violence and to foster the entrench-



Mr. Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon, Vice-President of South Sudan (right) during a meeting with the Head of UNOCA (left) and the AU Special Envoy for the LRA (middle)

**05 January 2012, Kampala (Uganda)** - The Ugandan authorities expressed their unreserved adherence to the African Union's efforts, supported by the United Nations, to put an end to the activities of the LRA. "Our commitment is total," said General Jeje Odongo, Minister of State for Defence during a meeting with the Special Envoy of the African Union (AU) for the LRA, and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA. The Minister of State for Defence stated that Ugandan troops were already operating on the ground and that the commitment of Uganda to the operationalization of the 5000 - strong anti-LRA Regional Task Force was unequivocal. "We need more resources from the international community and development partners to expedite the attainment of our common goal, the elimination of the LRA," noted Mr. Asuman Kiyingi, Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs. During their talks with members of the diplomatic corps, Mr. Madeira and Mr. Moussa re-echoed those concerns.

ment of peace and security". In that regard, Mr. Ban Ki-moon reminded that one of the primary missions of UNOCA was to work closely with ECCAS Member States and institutions of the sub-region to address peace and security issues in Central Africa.

**06 January 2012, Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo)** - As part of its tour of LRA-affected countries, the joint African Union (AU) / United Nations mission, proceeded to Kinshasa, capital of the DRC, after visiting the CAR, South Sudan and Uganda. "We have received assurances regarding the firm commitment of the DRC towards the implementation of the Regional cooperation initiative of the African Union against the LRA," said the AU Special Envoy for the LRA after a working session with the Congolese authorities. One of the main challenges is the need for four LRA-affected countries, including the DRC, to allow cross-border operations should the need arise. "We were right to undertake this joint mission. We know how to direct our future actions to better coordinate the fight against the LRA," said the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA.

**29 - 30 January 2012, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** - Mr. Abou Moussa attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union as part of the delegation of the United Nations Secretary-General. The theme of the Summit was intra-African trade. In his statement at the Summit, Mr. Ban Ki-moon welcomed the efforts of African leaders to develop intra-African trade and build a prosperous Africa. "Our challenge is to transform the African potential into prosperity for all," he said. Mr. Ban also urged African countries to protect civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, which is critical for enhancing stability and promoting development.

**15 - 16 January 2012, Ndjamena (Chad)** - The Special Representative and Head of UNOCA represented the UN Secretary-General at the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), in Ndjamena (Chad). He read the Secretary General's message in which Mr Ban called for greater cross-border cooperation among Central

**GOOD TO KNOW...**

**FOOTBALL AND PEACE CONSOLIDATION**

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA seized the opportunity provided by the 28th African Cup of Nations (AFCON), co-hosted by Gabon and Equatorial Guinea from 21 January to 12 February 2012, to underscore, the important role of sports in general and football in particular, in peace-building and fighting inequality. In a press release issued on **21 January 2012**, UNOCA appealed for the prevalence of a spirit of tolerance and fraternity throughout the competition, in accordance with the United Nations' ideal for the use of Sports for Peace and Development

**07 February 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative of the Secretary General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, and the President of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Mr. Issa Hayatou, met in Libreville on the margins of the 28th African Cup of Nations (AFCON) during which the two personalities agreed in principle to take common actions to foster peace and security in Central Africa. The CAF President expressed his readiness to receive the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Yaoundé (Cameroon) to discuss the terms of a partnership framework.

**08 February 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative and Head of UNOCA met with ambassadors and heads of international organizations based in Gabon for an information exchange session on the peace and security situation in the sub-region and the activities of UNOCA. Mr. Abou Moussa briefed inter alia his interlocutors on the main highlights of the first Report of the UN Secretary-General on UNOCA and on the Sub-Regional impact of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which he introduced to the Council on 14 November 2011. He also touched on UNOCA's coordination mandate, particularly in the fight against the LRA, the armed group led by Joseph Kony, who has been under an international arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court since 2005.

**09 February 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of UNOCA under took a familiarization visit to the *Camp de Gaulle*, the base of the French Forces in Gabon (FFG). The visit enabled him to introduce his Military Adviser, Colonel François Ndiaye to the Commander of the FFG, General Jean Jacques Toutous. Further to this meeting, Colonel François Ndiaye had a working session on **22 February** with the Chief of Staff of the French Forces in Gabon, Captain Yves Cuny to discuss potential areas of cooperation, in the absence of General Jean Jacques Toutous, on mission abroad.

**12 February 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI), Mr. Bert Koenders, visited Libreville where he attended the final of the AFCON 2012 (Côte d'Ivoire Vs Zambia). Before going to the "Stade de l'Amitié", he was hosted to a working lunch by his colleague of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa. The lunch offered him the opportunity to meet with some colleagues and discuss with his peer issues of common interest. The ONUCI chief was accompanied by his Spokesperson, Mr. Hamadoun Touré.

**13 February 2013, Libreville (Gabon)** - The President and General Manager of the *Agence France Presse* (AFP), Mr. Emmanuel Hoog, paid a courtesy call on SRSG Moussa during which he briefed the Head of UNOCA on the activities of AFP in the world in general and in Africa in particular. He underscored the good relations that the agency maintained with the United Nations, recalling that the AFP has two permanent correspondents at UN headquarters in New York and a regional office in Central Africa, based in Libreville. For his part, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA congratulated his guest for AFP's contribution in the dissemination of information on peace, before recalling the mandate of his office in that domain.

**22 February 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Invited by the Group of African Ambassadors accredited to Gabon, the Special Representative of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General delivered a lecture on the role of UNOCA in the management of peace and security issues in Central Africa (Photo). After recalling the context of the creation of the Office and its mandate, he gave an overview of its main activities, highlighting, among other things, UNOCA's support to the African Union in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Mr. Abou Moussa also mentioned the contribution of UNOCA in finding solutions to the thorny problem of maritime piracy, which was discussed by the Security Council on 27 February 2012.



**25 - 28 February 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Political Affairs at the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), sojourned in the Gabonese capital. The visit enabled him to take stock of the role of the United Nations in the areas of conflict prevention and peace building in the sub-region, including in particular the contribution of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) in that regard and its cooperation with various partners, including ECCAS. He also had exchanges with UNOCA staff focussing essentially on changes and developments in the Department of Political Affairs. ASG Tayé-Brook Zerihoun was accompanied by Mrs. Karina Gerlach, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Under Secretary-General and Head of DPA, and Mr. Chaste Abimana, of the Department of Mission Support.

**29 February 2012, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** - A Joint African Union/United Nations stakeholders meeting on LRA was held in Addis Ababa. Participants agreed on the need to support the implementation of the Decision of the 299<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held on 22 November 2011 and quickly finalize the Regional strategy against the LRA, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council's Presidential Statement of 14 November 2011. The meeting also underscored the need for a strong involvement of LRA-affected countries and other stakeholders in the development of the strategy, which will be used as a framework for the development of specific action programs. In this regard, it was agreed to organize as soon as possible, a technical meeting. *Before leaving Addis Ababa, the Special Representative gave interviews to the BBC (on 29 March and 1<sup>st</sup> April) and to the Voice of America (1<sup>st</sup> April) to explain the main outcome of the meeting and future prospects.*

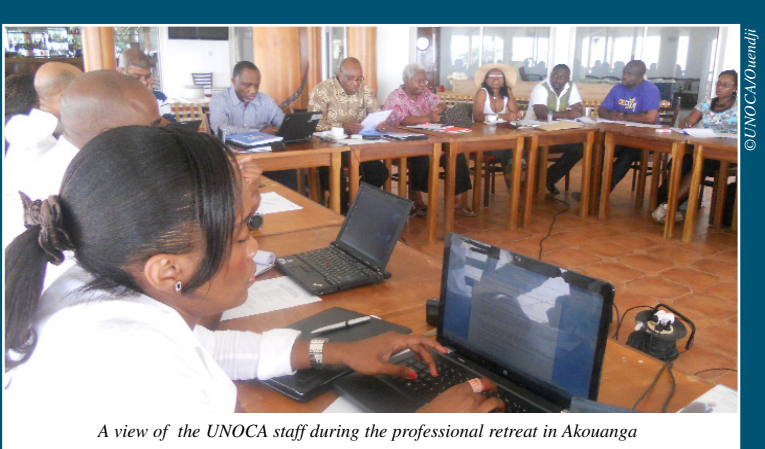
**29 February 2012 (bis), New York (USA)** - The Security Council adopted Resolution 2039 at its 6727<sup>th</sup> meeting which assigned new responsibilities to UNOCA regarding the search for solutions to the issue of maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea. The Council also called on UNOCA to work closely with the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), particularly by assisting regional states and sub-regional organizations to convene a regional summit, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2018 (2012).

**THE EVENT**

**UNOCA: STAFF RETREAT**

**Formulation of a road map during a seminar in Akouango village**

**O**n **03 February 2012**, a planning and reflection workshop of UNOCA staff was held in the quiet and paradisiacal resort site of Akouango, a village situated in the north of Libreville. It was an opportunity for the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and his colleagues, to discuss priorities for 2012 and future prospects. Heads of sections outlined their vision and road map taking into account the guidelines given by the Head of Office. Mr. Abou Moussa urged staff to continue to demonstrate professionalism in the discharge of their functions and underscored values such as selflessness, mutual respect, compliance with rules and regulations, information sharing, solidarity, etc... The session also allowed participants to speak freely about personal and professional concerns.



*A view of the UNOCA staff during the professional retreat in Akouango*

## MARCH 2012

**06 March 2012, Cité de la Démocratie, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Abou Moussa, received in audience Captain Seydou Nourou Kebe and Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Brillisauer, respectively Military Attaché of Senegal and Defence Attaché of the Federal Republic of Germany in Gabon, with residence in Kinshasa, DRC (photo). They discussed defence and security issues in Central Africa, including the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). This meeting was attended by the Military Adviser, Colonel François Ndiaye.

**12 March 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - A delegation of the European Union (EU) comprising Colonel Friedling (Military Advisor), Messrs Liljefelt (Advisor) and Yohann Chaigneau (Attaché), called on SRSG Abou Moussa. Their discussions focused on cooperation with ECCAS, particularly in the field of conflict prevention and peace building in the sub-region. Mr. Abou Moussa also briefed his interlocutors on UNOCA's support to the African Union within the framework of the implementation of the Regional cooperation initiative against the LRA. The EU is also committed to this cause, since it helped to launch activities of the Initiative, including the opening of the Secretariat of the Joint Coordination Mechanism in Bangui (CAR).

**14 March 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The SRSG participated in the opening ceremony of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Sub-regional Office of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The meeting, which ended on 16 March 2012, brought together representatives of governments, UN, sub-regional organizations and NGOs and discussed key challenges to agricultural development, including the need for increased investment to foster the attainment of food self-sufficiency and security.

**22 - 23 March 2012, Entebbe (Uganda)** - Organization of a Meeting of experts on the Regional strategy against the LRA with the participation of the UN, the AU, NGOs, affected-countries, development partners, etc. On this occasion, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, and the AU Special Envoy for the LRA co-chaired a video tele press conference with international journalists accredited to UN headquarters. Major General Adrian J. Foster, Deputy Force Commander of the Force of the United Nations Mission for Stabilization in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), was also part of the panellists.

**24 March 2012, Juba (South Sudan)** - Mr. Abou Moussa took part in the official launch of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the elimination of the LRA (RCI) and its military component, the Regional Task Force (RTF). The United Nations and the African Union officials highlighted the importance of this event, which marked a milestone in the implementation of the RCI. The South Sudanese Government and development partners reiterated their support for this initiative.

**25 March 2012, Yambio and Nzara (South Sudan)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and the Special Envoy of the African Union for the LRA undertook a working visit to Yambio. They visited among other places the headquarters of the Regional Task Force, whose Commander, Colonel Dick Prit Olum, was officially



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installed the day before. The joint mission also visited Nzara, located about 16 kilometres from Yambio. Nzara serves as the Sector command for South Sudanese troops in the Regional Task Force. Messrs Francisco Madeira and Abou Moussa used the occasion to express their solidarity with the victims of LRA attacks in the region, in particular internally displaced persons.

**28 - 29 March 2012, Cotonou (Benin)** - UNOCA's Military Adviser Colonel François Ndiaye, took part in a workshop on "Regional Solutions: Operational Agreements for safety and security of maritime areas of West Africa and Central Africa" organized jointly by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The meeting reaffirmed the determination of the international community to pursue a coordinated approach to fight against maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea.

**29 March 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, delivered a public lecture at the Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA) on the theme: "The UN and the peace-building in Central Africa: new approaches to preventive diplomacy." The event, which was attended by students, Government officials, including functionaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, generated fruitful exchanges touching mainly on the mandate of UNOCA and the importance of preventive diplomacy in the agenda of the United Nations.

## THE EVENT

## PRESS CONFERENCE OF 13 MARCH



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## Listening to journalists from national and international press...

**O**n 13 March 2012, SRSG Moussa held his first press conference, at the UNOCA's headquarters. The event was attended by about 22 journalists from the national and international press and afforded Mr. Abou Moussa the opportunity to take stock of the activities of UNOCA, a year after its official opening on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011.

The Special Representative commended the journalists for their contribution in disseminating information on issues related to peace and security in the sub-region. "I want to congratulate you for this commitment, which underscores your professionalism and dedication in promoting a culture of peace," he said. "The media are key partners and stakeholders in the process of

conflict prevention and peace building, as well as the peaceful resolution of crisis," said Mr. Moussa, adding that "UNOCA is thinking about the possibility of organizing a sub-regional seminar for journalists on this issue." *At the end of the press conference, which lasted for more than an hour, the SRSG responded to specific questions from RFI and Africa N° 1.*

**13 April 2012, Dungu (DRC)** - Messrs Abou Moussa and Francisco Madeira visited a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the Linakofo site near a MONUSCO base in Dungu (Orientale Province) housing about 600 people representing 168 families fleeing attacks by elements of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). These IDPs (see picture at the right) live in unbearable conditions without drinking water, medical facilities and having to cope with difficulties to send their children to school. The two senior officials expressed the support of their respective institutions to the victims and sensitized them on ongoing efforts to restore peace and security in the region. Before the field visit, the UN and the AU delegations had a meeting with the authorities in Kinshasa (Prime Minister, Ministers of Defence, Justice and Foreign Affairs), diplomats (Ambassadors of USA, Russia and representative of the European Union) and colleagues of MONUSCO. Messrs Abou Moussa and Francisco Madeira shared their discussions with the authorities with the national and international press. *Before the beginning of the joint mission, UNOCA organized an interview between the AU Special Envoy for the LRA and the BBC.*



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**14 April 2012, Obo (Central African Republic)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, and the AU Special Envoy for the LRA, Mr. Francisco Madeira, visited Obo in south-east Central African Republic (CAR), about 1300 km from the capital, Bangui. They met with and listened to Congolese refugees who have been living in camps in this town since 2009. Despite the efforts of some NGOs and organizations such as UNHCR providing shelter to some 870 people concerned, they live in precarious conditions and promiscuity with children whose education is seriously compromised. "If nothing is done, it may become a serious crisis," warned Mr. Abou Moussa, looking forward to seeing all these families return home. Even though the LRA attacks have decreased with the presence of Ugandan forces and since the arrival of U.S. troops in late 2011, the armed group remains a threat in this landlocked region of the country. "There is a slight change. But people are always afraid," said Mr. Lessene Serge-Yvon, Sub divisional Officer of Obo (approximately 16 000 inhabitants). "They are mostly afraid to go to their farms. There is thus a lack of agricultural activity which results in the lack of food and hunger," he specified to UNOCA. "We appreciate what the United Nations and the African Union are doing to restore peace. We must stop Kony and his men," said the Sub divisional Officer, appealing to both institutions to help people overcome their sufferings.

**15 April 2012, Bangui (CAR)** - During a meeting with the Special Envoy of the African Union (AU) for the LRA, and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, CAR Minister of Foreign Affairs General Antoine Gambi insisted that "the epicentre of the LRA is in the CAR." These views were re-echoed by Mr. Jean-François Bozizé, the Minister in charge of Defence and by the Prime Minister Faustin Archange Touadéra. *At the end of their exchanges with the authorities in Bangui and partners, Messrs Abou Moussa and Francisco Madeira briefed representatives of the national and international press on their talks.*

**21 - 24 April 2012, Ndjamena (Chad)** - Messrs Abou Moussa and Francisco Madeira sojourned in the capital of Chad. They met several dignitaries, including President Idriss Deby (April 24) to whom they provided an update on their joint activities regarding efforts to fight against the LRA. The mission to Ndjamena was based on analyses from several observers indicating that international pressure against the LRA rebels could force the latter to seek refuge in countries sharing borders with the four LRA-affected countries. Chad, which is located north of the Central African Republic (CAR), would therefore be a possible destination for Joseph Kony and his elements, especially as the CAR is considered by the Central African authorities as "the epicentre of the LRA". President Deby promised his Government's support and vigilance to pre-empt such an eventuality.



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Messrs. Abou Moussa and Francisco Madeira with Congolese refugees in Obo



**GOOD TO KNOW...**

**18 APRIL: WORKING SESSION WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR**

**O**n 18 April 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Mr. Abou Moussa, received at the Cité de la Démocratie (UNOCA headquarters), the U.S. ambassador in Gabon, Mr. Eric Benjaminson and his Political Adviser, Ms Kathleen FitzGibbon. The discussions focused on cooperation between the United States and the United Nations, in particular on security issues in Central Africa. As expected, the threats posed by the LRA, including atrocities

committed by the latter featured prominently during the discussions. The Head of UNOCA briefed his interlocutors on joint missions undertaken with the African Union (AU) to Uganda and South Sudan from 22 to 25 March, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR) from 10 to 15 April. During these missions, the UN and the AU envoys expressed their support to the victims of the LRA, particularly to refugees and displaced persons who were compelled to flee their villages to seek refuge from attacks by the armed group.

**02 May 2012, Cité de la Démocratie, Libreville (Gabon)** - Mr. Abou Moussa, Head of UNOCA, received in audience the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), Ms. Florentina Adenike Ukonga. Their working session ushered notably in the reactivation of contacts and cooperation between the GGC and ECCAS.

**03 May 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, the Secretary General of the Economic Community of African States (ECCAS), Mr Nassour Guelengdouksia Ouaidou, signed at the headquarters of ECCAS, a document setting out the operational framework of cooperation for "a common action in the field of peace and security."

**03 May 2012 (bis), Libreville (Gabon)** - The Public Information Officer represented UNOCA at the 21<sup>st</sup> World Press Freedom Day, which was marked by several activities centred on the theme "new ways: freedom of the media in the service of the transformation of societies." During the official ceremony in the Arambo auditorium of the Gabonese Ministry of Finances, Mr. Mohammed Bachiri, Resident Representative of UNESCO, recalled the spirit and the meaning of this annual event institutionalized by the United Nations to "defend the independence of the media, while paying tribute to journalists who lost their lives in the exercise of their profession."

**11 - 13 May 2012, New York (USA)** - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, participated in the workshop of the Representatives and Special envoys of the Secretary-General that was held in Green Tree, near New York (USA). Participants discussed relevant subjects relating to the respect for human rights, the protection of civilians, the development of partnerships with sub-regional organizations and regional authorities, taking into account environmental challenges in daily management, the fight against youth unemployment, etc... On the margins of the deliberations, Mr. Abou Moussa had consultations and working sessions with colleagues and senior UN officials, including Mr. Joao Honwana, Director of Africa II (Department of Political Affairs).

**14 - 18 May 2012, Bujumbura (Burundi)** - Holding of the 34<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC). In his message, the UN Secretary-General encouraged Central African countries to support the organization of a Regional Summit on maritime piracy. The international TV channel *Africa 24* abundantly reported this event through regular telephone contacts with the Public Information Unit. *In this context, three illustrative interviews were conducted, in particular with Messrs Zenon Ndabaneze (Burundian Ministry of Public Security), Thierry Zang (ECCAS) and Diana Of wona (UN Women). Moreover, the Special Representative gave an interview to BBC during his stay (16*



May), giving in particular the UN's opinion on the capture on 12 May, of Ceasar Acellam Otto, one of the former Commander of Joseph Kony, the LRA leader.

**18 May 2012, Murwi (Burundi)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA was received in audience by Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, the Burundian President. Mr. Abou Moussa expressed his satisfaction with regard to the success of the 34<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of UNSAC, which helped to take stock of the geopolitical and security situation in the sub-region, in a "productive and constructive spirit." Regarding Burundi, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa encouraged the efforts made towards a "well-balanced development" of the country. The meeting took place in Murwi, city of over 97 000 inhabitants located near Bujumbura, the capital, where the Head of State of Burundi had to participate in the Saturday traditional community work session.

THE EVENT

INSECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA



From the left to the right: Messrs. Abou Moussa (UNOCA), Nassour G. Ouaidou (ECCAS), Miguel Trovoadá (GGC), Saïd Djinnit (UNOWA) and Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo (ECOWAS), after the Libreville Meeting.

**Regional Summit on Maritime piracy: implementation of the preparation committee**

Following a meeting held in Libreville from **29 to 31 May 2012** and facilitated by the United Nations, a Steering Committee was set up within the framework of the preparation of the Regional Summit of Heads of State and Government on maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea. It comprises experts from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), the African Union (AU), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA). In its resolution 2039 of **29 February 2012**, the UN Security Council recommended the convening of the said Summit as part of efforts to address the issue of maritime piracy that threatens international navigation, security and economic development of the concerned countries. The UN Security Council's Resolution urged the UN Secretary-General, through UNOWA and UNOCA, to support the process of organizing the Summit, in cooperation with the African Union.



**08 - 11 June 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - At the invitation of the Gabonese authorities, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, participated in the "New York Forum - Africa" organized by Richard Attias & Associates Foundation with the support of Government. He attended, alongside about 600 other dignitaries, the deliberations on the economic stakes of the continent and the business opportunities in an Africa in search of investments to accelerate its development. On the sidelines of the event, Mr. Abou Moussa had fruitful discussions with several participants, including the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping and the former US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Andrew Young. *He also received a team of the Pan-African TV channel Telesud (based in Paris) - which interviewed him as part of its "L'Entretien du jour" programme aired on 21 June 2012.*

**11 - 13 June 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Political Section and the Public Information Unit represented UNOCA at the second edition of the regional consultation on disaster management and response preparedness in Central Africa, organized by OCHA, ECCAS and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with the support of the Ministry of the Interior, Public Security, Immigration and Decentralization of Gabon. The meeting served to remind participants of "the need for the development of a sub-regional operational action plan on natural disaster and emergency response preparedness and management."

**12 June 2012** - The Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for West and Central Africa, Mr. Rudolf Jocondo, paid a courtesy call on the Special Representative and Head of UNOCA. They discussed issues of common interest and reiterated their commitment to strengthen cooperation between their respective institutions.

**12 June 2012, Cité de la Démocratie, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa met, at the headquarters of UNOCA, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Gabon for the traditional quarterly session of information exchanges on the activities of the Office (photo). Maritime piracy and the fight against the LRA were among the topics discussed. *After the meeting, SRSG Abou Moussa responded to questions from journalists representing local and international media outlets. In his capacity as UNOCA's focal point on maritime piracy, Colonel François Ndiaye (Military Adviser) gave an interview to Radio Gabon as part of the latter's program "Sur la route du littoral," touching mainly on issues relating to maritime piracy and to armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea.*

**20 June 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, took part in the official commemoration of World Refugee Day. The theme of the celebration was "dilemma." In Gabon, the ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie. The Government was



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represented by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sosthène Ngokila. Speaking on the occasion, he dwelt on Gabon's "strong sense of hospitality" which, he stated in keeping with the need for "sub-regional solidarity", led Gabon not to hesitate to provide sanctuary to "victims of intolerance and madness of human beings." Mr. Louis Michel Mboana, Resident Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed his gratitude to the Gabonese Government for its support and assistance. A total of 4141 refugees live in Gabon.

**20 - 21 June 2012, Abuja (Nigeria)** - Colonel François Ndiaye, Military Adviser and Focal point for Maritime piracy, represented UNOCA at the first meeting of the technical group in charge of the preparation of the roadmap to facilitate the convening of the Summit of the members States of the Gulf of Guinea. This summit is to discuss a regional strategy to fight against piracy and maritime security. The Abuja meeting helped to lead important reflections on the possible scenarios and the practical arrangements for the organization of this event which, it is important to recall, had been requested by the UN Security Council - Resolution 2039 (2012).

**27 June 2012, New York (USA)** - Many colleagues, including some from political missions, including UNOCA, paid tribute to outgoing Under Secretary-General and Head of the Department of Political Affairs Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe. The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who was present at the ceremony, expressed his gratitude for the dedicated service to the United Nations. He was replaced by Mr. Jeffrey Feltman from the United States, who has over 26 years of experience in politics and diplomacy: he worked in the US diplomatic corps mainly on matters relating to Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

**THE EVENT**



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**SECURITY COUNCIL : 2<sup>ND</sup> REPORT ON UNOCA**



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**Adoption of the Regional Strategy against the LRA**

**O**n **29 June 2012**, the Special Representative presented the Second Report of the UN Secretary-General on the activities of UNOCA and on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to the Security Council (photo at the right). The session was attended by the Special Envoy of the African Union (AU) for the LRA. Mr. Abou Moussa made a presentation on the regional strategy to fight against this armed group. This strategy, developed in collaboration with the AU and several other UN institutions and relevant partners, was adopted by the Security Council. It focuses on several key points: efforts to promote the protection of civilians; expansion of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) activities to cover all LRA-affected areas; formulation of a coordinated humanitarian and child protection response in all LRA-affected areas (refugees and displaced persons) and 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, etc. "We need the contribution of everyone to translate it into working program. It takes indeed a lot of resources," asserted Mr. Abou Moussa

after a meeting with development partners and donors on **28 June** in New York. Prior to this session of the Security Council, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa participated in a joint press conference organized on **26 June** by NGOs to increase the raising awareness about the atrocities of the LRA. Also present were: Messrs Francisco Madeira (AU), Jan Egeland (Human Rights Watch), Michael Poffenberger (Resolve) and two members of the civil society from Dungu (North-eastern DRC): Father Benoit Kinalegu (Justice and Peace Commission) and Sister Angélique Namaika (Mama Bongisa). The joint press conference was preceded by a work session during which the Head of the NGO "Invisible Children", Mr. Ben Keese, and Father Benoit Kinalegu handed to the AU Special Envoy for the LRA to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa, a table symbolizing support of more than 3.7 million people in the campaign to end atrocities of Kony in 2012 (Photo at the left). *It is important to mention that prior to his mission in New York, the SRSG Abou Moussa gave interviews to several international media, including CNBC Africa (16 June).*

**11 July 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - The Special Representative and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, participated in the activities marking the World Population Day organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The event, which was held in the conference room of the Arambo Auditorium building of Libreville, was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health, Ms. Alice Bikissa Nembe. The UNFPA Resident Representative, also Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Gabon, Mr. Nadir Hadj-Hammou, seized this opportunity to reiterate the significance of this commemoration centred on the theme "Universal access to reproduction health services."

**18 - 20 July 2012, Yaoundé (Cameroon)** - Mr. James Aji, Political Affairs Officer, represented UNOCA at the meeting of the Group of experts on the role of Regional Economic Communities in promoting peace and development in Africa. The meeting was jointly organized by the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa (UN) and the Government of Cameroon.

**25 - 27 July 2012, Entebbe (Uganda)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, and the AU Special Envoy for the LRA, Mr. Francisco Madeira, chaired a Meeting of experts on the implementation of the regional strategy against the LRA adopted by the UN Security Council. Besides the Focal points of the UN and the AU, the representatives of countries affected by the activities of the LRA, non-governmental organizations, the International Working Group on the LRA and development partners attended the meeting. *The encounter ended on 27 July and was followed by a joint press conference in Kampala, in the presence of about twenty journalists from the national and international press. On the eve at 7.30 Am (26 July), the Special Representative took part in a live BBC current affairs programme, NEWS DAY.*

**27 July 2012, Kampala (Uganda)** - Mr. Caesar Acellam Otto, presented as a former senior LRA commander and number 4 in the LRA military hierarchy, who was arrested on 12 May 2012 in the Central African Republic and put at the disposal of the Ugandan authorities for the customary investigations, confided in Messrs Abou Moussa and Francisco Madeira. For more than two hours, the UN and AU envoys listened to their interlocutor as he explained the reasons for brutal and unacceptable LRA attacks, the modus operandi of their elements, the living conditions in villages or in the bushes where they operate, the sources of funding of the armed group, the location of Joseph Kony, etc. He also advanced reasons why, according to him, Joseph Kony refused to sign the Final Peace Agreement negotiated between the Ugandan government and the LRA, within the framework of a UN-brokered peace deal in Juba in 2008.



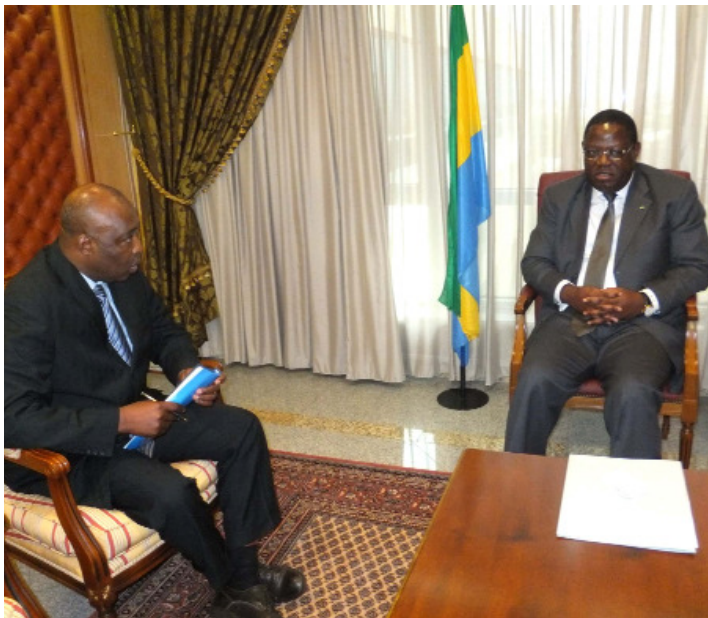
*A view of the LRA experts at the Entebbe Meeting, from 25 to 27 July 2012*



*Caesar Acellam, former number 4 of the LRA (middle), poses with Messrs. Madeira and Moussa*

**THE EVENT**

**COOPERATION GABON - UNOCA**



**The Government renews its support to UNOCA**

**O**n **30 July 2012**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon Mr. Emmanuel Isoze-Ngondet, renewed the Gabonese government's support to the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) during a meeting with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa (photos). He said that the government will

continue to support the Office both in Gabon and at the level of the Permanent Representation to the UN in New York. In this regard, the Minister stressed the need to set up an "inter-ministerial task force" not only to strengthen the relationship between UNOCA and Gabon, but also to nurture and develop exchanges on topics of common interest, particularly those concerning Central Africa.

**06 August 2012, Kampala (Uganda)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Mr. Daniel Alphonse Ntumba Luaba Lumu (photo below, left), signed a partnership framework in the areas of peace, security, conflict prevention, etc. The signing ceremony was covered by about thirty journalists. The SRSG gave interviews to the national and international press after the ceremony, which took place during the ICGLR Ministerial meeting preparatory to the extraordinary Summit on the security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo."

**08 August 2012, Kampala (Uganda)** - Mr. Abou Moussa, Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) represented the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, at the Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on the security situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He welcomed the implementation of a "Fund of humanitarian assistance to affected populations due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation" in this part of the country, ravaged by (M23) activities. The UN also appealed to "all stakeholders to facilitate humanitarian access to victims". This appeal was re-echoed by ICGLR Heads of State and Government.

**24 August 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Mr. Nadir Hadj-Hammou definitively left Libreville, having assumed for two and a half years, the functions of the Resident Coordinator of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the Designated Officer for security questions, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). To pay tribute to the outstanding work he had done during this period, the Special Representative and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, organized in his residence, a farewell cocktail party on **21 August**. About fifty persons attended the event, including colleagues from the United Nations System, ambassadors, development partners and friends (see picture below, right).



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**29 August 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Meeting of Defence Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX). On the sidelines of the meeting, the Special Representative and Head of UNOCA had talks with several participants, including the Chief of Staff of the Chadian Armed Forces, General Abel Yambaye Massyra, and the Central African Minister of Defence, Mr. Jean-François Bozizé (see picture above).



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**THE EVENT**

**SECURITY COUNCIL - THE LETTER OF 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST**

**UNOCA: extension of the mandate of the Office until 28 February 2014**

**A** letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> August, addressed to the UN Secretary-General by Mr. Gérard Araud (photo), Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and President of the Security Council for the month of August informed him of the Council's Decision extending the mandate of UNOCA until 28 February 2014. This was in response to a request from Mr. Ban Ki-moon to that effect in which he explained that UNOCA has "contributed to our efforts to promote peace and security in the sub-region." He specified that the extension of the mandate of the regional office will allow it to continue to monitor important issues such as the fight against the LRA and maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, while continuing to take up other challenges that led to its creation in 2011. This is, among others, to cooperate with regional organizations and other key partners and, if necessary, "to support their efforts to promote peace and stability in the entire sub-region of Central Africa." The exercise of "good offices" for conflict prevention also occupies an important place in the priorities of the Regional Office as well as the fight against youth unemployment, the support to the work of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on security questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) of which UNOCA ensures the Secretariat since May 2011, etc. Inaugurated on 2nd March 2011, UNOCA had an initial mandate expiring on 30 August 2012.



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**04 - 06 September 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Colonel François Ndiaye, Military Adviser, represented UNOCA at the Symposium on Environmental Security in Central Africa. He gave a presentation on the activities of UNOCA by highlighting the importance of regional coordination in the management of new transnational threats in the sub-region. Discussions allowed him to gather information on how UNOCA could address these issues, and especially those linked to maritime pollution in the Gulf of Guinea. The Libreville symposium was jointly organized by the US Command for Africa (AFRICOM) and the United Nations Environment Programme.

**08 September 2012, Kampala (Uganda)** - Mr. Abou Moussa, Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) represented the UN Secretary-General at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (CIGRL). In his message on the occasion, Mr. Ban Ki-moon touched on the planned convening of a high-level meeting on 27 September in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. It is a "platform for the continuation of dialogue to strengthen regional efforts in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in the east of DRC", where the 23 March Movement (M23) leads an armed rebellion since May 2012. *At the end of the Summit, Mr. Abou Moussa gave details on the contribution of the UN in the management of this crisis in an interview with Radio France Internationale (RFI).*

**18 September 2012, Yambio (South Sudan)** - 2000 elements of the UPDF (Uganda People's Defence Force) and 500 of the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) were officially handed over to the Regional Task Force (RTF) of the African Union in charge of the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA took part in this event, which intervened one week after that of Obo (CAR) where, on 12 September 2012, 360 elements of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) joined the RTF. He also had a working session with the Special Representative and Head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Ms Hilde Johnson. The Head of UNOCA also visited Radio Miraya in Juba, the capital. He discussed with his presenters of the importance of this channel in raising awareness and broadcasting programs on defection for the members of the LRA. *Mr. Abou Moussa also gave an interview to the English desk room of Radio France International (RFI).*



Mr. Abou Moussa's arrival in Yambio on 18 September 2012

**25 September 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Courtesy and working visit of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Mr. Abou Moussa, to the President of the Gabonese National Assembly, Mr. Guy Nzouba-Ndama. The two personalities recognized the role of parliamentary institutions in the domain of conflict prevention and peace building, particularly in the Central African sub-region. They also had useful exchanges on the socio-political situation in Gabon. The meeting took place at the "Palais Leon Mba" (National Assembly). *After the meeting, the Special Representative briefed the journalists accredited to this institution on his discussions with the President of the Parliament.*

**28 September 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Meeting between the Special Representative and Head of UNOCA and the Chief of Operations of the World Bank for Central Africa, Mr. Gregor Binkert. They expressed commitment to working agreed that peace is a major datum to the safety of capital investments in the countries of the sub-region. They are committed to working in this direction and to join their efforts in the fight against youth unemployment. This topic had been discussed a few weeks earlier with the Resident Representative of the World Bank in Gabon, Ms. Zouera Youssoufou, who took part in the meeting of 28 September.

THE EVENT

MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE GOVERNMENT



The Special Representative encourages dialogue between political actors



The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, received on **26 September** at the UNOCA headquarters, the leaders of the former "Union Nationale", among which Mr. Zacharie Myboto, President of the said party as well as the former Prime Ministers Casimir Oye Mba and Jean Eyeghe Ndong. The discussions focused on the political situation in Gabon and the need for the United Nations to facilitate a dialogue between the opposition and the government. A second meeting was

held on 8 November (photos). Before this one, Mr. Abou Moussa had a working session on **28 September 2012** with the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic of Gabon, Ms Laure Olga Gondjout. At the "Palais de bord de mer" (Presidency), the two personalities discussed the claims of the former "Union Nationale" leaders and, in general, the socio-political environment of the country. The Special Representative encouraged the Government to be responsive to the voice of the opposition and to engage talks with this entity about the concerns of the people.

**02 October 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - During a working session at the headquarters of UNOCA, the President of the Commission of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Mr. Pierre Moussa, and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, agreed on the need to formalize their cooperation in the field of peace, security and integration in the sub-region as soon as possible. "Peace and security are prerequisites for sustainable development and regional integration," explained Mr. Abou Moussa.

**06 - 08 October Kampala (Uganda)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, and several other UN officials participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). As the previous meetings, the Summit was devoted to "the security situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo".

**10 - 12 October 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Second Meeting of the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General, Resident Coordinators and Regional directors of the United Nations System in Central Africa. The meeting ended with the adoption of twelve recommendations. The Resident Coordinators of the UN System in Angola, Burundi, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea attended the meeting of Libreville, of which the official opening ceremony was chaired on 11 October by the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie, Mr. Dominique Guy Noël Nguïeno. Representatives of UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, UNHCR, UNAIDS, the IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA), MONUSCO, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), ECCAS and the ICGLR were present as well as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Burundi and Head of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, and the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations (Department of Safety and Security), Ms Mbaranga Gasarabwe. *The press has widely echoed this event. Several participants spoke with journalists, particularly to provide insights into the work of the UN and the challenges facing by its officials on the field. It may be noted, among other things, the interview granted on 12 October to the daily newspaper "L'Union" by the Head of the BNUB.*

**22 - 23 October 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - First Meeting of the Steering Committee in charge of the preparation of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on maritime piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. At the end of their deliberations, the members of the said Committee recommended that the Summit be held in Cameroon in April 2013 (preceded by a Ministerial Meeting in Benin in March 2013). The Summit will adopt a Regional strategy on sustainable measures to be taken to guarantee safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea, in accordance with resolution 2039 of the UN Security Council dated 29 February 2012. Apart from Mr. Nassour Guelengdouksia Ouaidou, Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) and Mr. Abou Moussa, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Messrs. Miguel Trovoada, Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC); Isaac Chima Armstrong, Programme Officer/Regional Security at



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the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and Head of UNOWA, took part in the meeting of the Steering Committee. *Mr. Djinnit gave an interview to RFI on this occasion while his colleague of UNOCA has confided to BBC.*

**24 October 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - Participation in the commemoration of the 67<sup>th</sup> edition of United Nations Day in the presence of members of government and the diplomatic corps, development partners, representatives of civil society, media, etc. The reading of the message from the UN Secretary-General by his Special Representative for Central Africa, Mr. Abou Moussa, was one of the highlights of the event. Participants also followed with keen interest the statement by Mr Dominique Guy Noël Nguïeno, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophone Affairs, in charge of NEPAD and Regional Integration, then that of the minister himself, Mr. Emmanuel Isoze-Ngondet.

■ The exhibition organized within the premises of "Gabon Expo" as part of the activities marking UN Day enabled members of the wider UN family well established in Gabon to further explain the work of the Organization to the public. UNOCA seized this opportunity to offer its numerous visitors, a mini quiz on the knowledge of the Office. Many of them were given the opportunity to win the very first tee-shirts, polos and caps in the history of this young institution. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Isoze-Ngondet, who went around all the stands, once again, appreciated the dynamism of the UN. "Les Echos de la Cité", the monthly UNOCA newsletter, particularly caught his attention and that of his collaborators when visiting the stand of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (see picture above).

**THE EVENT**



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**WORKING VISIT IN YAOUNDE**



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**Intense diplomatic and political activities in Cameroon**

**F**rom **16 to 20 October 2012**, Mr. Abou Moussa paid an official visit in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital. During his visit, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA had working sessions with colleagues of the United Nations System (Third photo from the left), diplomats and the Minister of External relations as well as with the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Supreme state audit office. On **18 October**, Mr. Abou Moussa held talks with the President of the Confederation of African Football (Second picture). The Meeting with Mr. Issa Hayatou help to precisely define the terms of a partnership to use football to better promote peace and security in Central Africa.

■ The other highlights of the visit was the audience granted on the same day (18 October) by the Head of State, Mr. Paul Biya, to the Special Representative of the

UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA (First photo from the left from the Communication Unit of the State House). The Cameroonian President renewed his country's support to the Regional Office, particularly with regard to conflict prevention and peace building in Central Africa. Mr. Abou Moussa noted with satisfaction the important role played by Cameroon in the peaceful resolution of conflicts. He conveyed to President Biya, the congratulations of the UN Secretary-General for his personal involvement in the peaceful closure of the Bakassi case. Furthermore, the discussions with the Head of State confirmed the commitment and determination of Cameroon to organize the Regional Summit on the fight against maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea. The visit was widely covered by the national and international press. *The specialized magazine "Integration" (from 5 to 18 November 2012, pages 6 and 7) produced a comprehensive and detailed interview in which Mr. Abou Moussa draws key lessons.*

**08 November 2012, Cité de la Démocratie, Libreville (Gabon)** - For the second time, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa received at UNOCA's headquarters the leaders of the former "Union nationale", including Mr. Zacharie Myboto, President of the said political party. The latter wanted to take stock of their activities since their first encounter with Mr. Abou Moussa on 26 September 2012. They also unwound their action plan with respect to claims relating to the rehabilitation of their political party and the future of Gabon. The Special Representative met with the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic of Gabon on this issue on 29 September, two days after his first meeting with members of the former "Union nationale".

**11 November 2012, Malabo (Equatorial Guinea)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA was received by the President of Equatorial Guinea, in the presence of the Resident Coordinator, Mr. Leo I. Heileman. He reported on the status of the issue relating to the organization of the Regional Summit on maritime piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. Mr. Abou Moussa recalled particularly the main resolutions of the first meeting of the Steering Committee. The Equato-Guinean Head of State, Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, thanked the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa for his visit and for the briefing on the management of some important issues. He emphasized the necessity to strengthen sub-regional cooperation. This, according to the Equato-Guinean President, required primarily the maintenance and preservation of good relations with neighbouring countries. *After the audience, Mr. Abou Moussa responded to questions of journalists of the national television.*

**12 - 14 November 2012, Cité de la Démocratie, Libreville (Gabon)** - Twenty-officials of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) participated in a mediation skills enhancement training workshop at UNOCA's headquarters. After the training, they expressed their satisfaction, saying that they were now better equipped in this domain. In particular, the workshop helped in building their professional and operational capacities in the area of mediation and facilitation of dialogue processes, the first step in understanding the stakes related to the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

**17 - 18 November 2012, Washington DC (USA)** - At the invitation of the International NGO "Invisible Children", the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA participated in the World Summit on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The event, which was attended by over 6,000 persons representing about ten institutions and some unknown persons feeling concerned about the atrocities of the LRA, enabled him to assess the efforts of the UN and its partners within the framework of the fight against this armed group.

**23 November 2012, Libreville (Gabon)** - At the traditional briefing with ambassadors and members of diplomatic corps accredited to Gabon, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa, Mr. Abou Moussa, expressed deep concern over the "painful situation" prevailing in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since May 2012. He insisted to recall that the United Nations condemn violence in all its forms, considering, among other things, "serious humanitarian and security consequences it engenders" and whose victims are usually civilians. *Mr. Abou Moussa spoke to the national and international press at the end of the discussions.*

**26 - 28 November 2012, Luanda (Angola)** - Mr. Abou Moussa's official visit to Angola. During his stay, he was received in audience by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gorges Chicoti, and the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. Gaspar Santos Rufino with whom he reviewed



*Audience with President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on 11 November in Malabo*



*14 November: the Special Representative and the participants in the workshop on mediation*

the activities of UNOCA since its official opening in March 2011. They also shared their thoughts on issues related to peace and security in the sub-region, including those in connection with the management of migration flows. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA also had a working session with colleagues from the United Nations system operating in Angola as well as with Mr. Miguel Trovoada, Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission. In addition, on 27 November, he represented the UN Secretary-General to the official opening ceremony of the "Conference of Luanda on peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea." *Before leaving Angola, Mr. Abou Moussa gave a press conference at the international Airport of Luanda, in the presence of about fifteen journalists.*

**30 November 2012, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** - The Special Representative and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, participated in a high-level symposium on the political and strategic aspects of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration program (DDRRR) implemented within the framework of the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Organized by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the encounter was preceded by a technical meeting of four days (**26 - 29 November**) during which experts developed a Standard operating procedure on this important program. This was realized with the significant contribution of several UN missions and key partners, including representatives of the African Union, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), the United Nations Mission for Stabilization in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), UNOCA, etc.

## THE EVENT

## SIGNATURE OF A PARTNERSHIP CAF - UNOCA



*Exchange of official documents between Messrs. Abou Moussa and Issa Hayatou*

### Central Africa: better promote peace and stability through football

**O**n **10 November 2012**, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) signed in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, a partnership which will enable to join their efforts to better promote peace, security and stability in Central Africa. The Document embodying this cooperation was signed on the sidelines of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Women's Football African Cup of Nations by Messrs. Issa Hayatou and Abou Moussa, respectively CAF President and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA. They were surrounded for the occasion by Mr. Leo I. Heileman, Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Equatorial Guinea and Mr. Hicham El Amrani, Secretary General of CAF, who came to Malabo especially for this event, which mobilized several members of the football family and many journalists. *The ceremony was more over punctuated by a joint press conference animated by Messrs. Hayatou and Moussa. The latter also participated in a program broadcasted on the national TV (TVGE) and on LC2 International, TV channel based in Cotonou (Bénin).*

**01 - 02 December 2012, Brazzaville (Congo)** - Organization of a workshop on how to implement the "Declaration on a Roadmap for the fight against terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons in Central Africa" adopted at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of UNSAC held in December 2011 in Bangui, Central African Republic. A regional network to coordinate the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons in the sub-region was established. The workshop was organized by the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United Nations Counter Terrorism Center (CTITF/UNCCT), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa with the cooperation of the States of the sub-region. Mr. Anatole Ayissi, Chief of Staff, represented the Special Representative and Head of UNOCA. *Further to a press release on the event, the Public Information Officer gave an interview to BBC on 4 December 2012.*

**07 December 2012, Brazzaville (Congo)** - The "Tout Puissant Mazembé" (a football team) of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) won the "Match for Peace and Security in Central Africa" organized within the framework of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSAC, defeating the "Diables noirs" (another football team) of the Republic of Congo by 2 goals to 0. Before kick-off, players, accompanied by the referees, unwound a poster expressing support for the "initiatives (...) of the United Nations and the States of Central Africa in favour of peace and security in the sub-region." On the banners deployed at the Alphonse Massamba-Debat stadium of Brazzaville, several other messages strengthened this idea by emphasizing the importance of football as a tool for preventive diplomacy. Both teams also pose with UNOCA's flags (see picture). Considering this spirit of brotherhood and solidarity, they logically received each a trophy offered by the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), which had organized the match with the Confederation of African Football (CAF). Mr. Constant Omari, a member of the Executive Committee of the CAF and the President of Congolese Federation of Football Association (FECOFA), represented the President of CAF.

**10 - 12 December 2012, Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, took part in activities marking the fifth anniversary of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), in the capital of Turkmenistan. Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under Secretary General in charge of Political Affairs also attended this important event, as well as Mr. Saïd Djinnit, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia is headed by Mr. Miroslav Jenca. Such as the UNOCA and the UNOWA, the Centre comes under the UN Department of Political Affairs.

**17 - 18 December 2012, Abidjan (Ivory Coast)** - Colonel François Ndiaye, Military Adviser of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), represented the Office at the second meeting of the Steering Committee Preparatory for the Summit of Heads of State and Government on maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea.



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**18 December 2012, New York (USA)** - Mr. Abou Moussa presented to the Security Council, the third Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa. He noted that the sub-region continues to face some challenges, especially in the regions where the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rages an armed rebel group spreading terror in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan. In this context, Mr. Abou Moussa observed that one of the main concerns of the moment is the completion of the programmatic document required for effective implementation of the Regional strategy against the LRA and the mobilization of substantial resources. The Statement of the President of the Security Council (**19 December 2012**) sets out clear guidance on this issue, asking the UN Secretary-General to submit, among others, projects and priorities plan indicating the order of execution of activities and the distribution of tasks between the different components of the international system and the United Nations.

**20 December 2012, Bangui (CAR)** - Colonel François Ndiaye, Military Adviser, represented UNOCA to the Meeting of the Joint Coordination Mechanism of the Regional cooperation initiative of the African Union for the elimination of the LRA. This meeting allowed the participants and the Chiefs of Defence Staff of the countries affected by the LRA, to reaffirm the necessity to implement urgently the Regional strategy against the LRA adopted in June 2012 by the UN Security Council.

THE EVENT

UNSC: 35<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AND 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN BRAZZAVILLE



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A view of the participants at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSAC



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The Congolese head of state in the middle of Heads of Delegations to the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of UNSAC

A Declaration for the revitalization of UNSAC

The 35<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) took place from **3 to 7 December** in Brazzaville, Congo. The "Brazzaville Declaration" for the revitalization of the Committee was adopted in the presence of President Denis Sassou Nguesso, who presided over, on 7<sup>th</sup> December, the opening ceremony of the proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSAC. "We need (...) to show more commitment, political will, respect of the decisions taken, solidarity, to build a safer, stronger Central Africa, more stable,

more integrated and more prosperous," he said. The depth of this subject can better be understood by rereading the speech delivered by Mr. Abou Moussa on behalf of the UN Secretary-General: "as we celebrate 20 years of your Committee, we cannot fail to note that this celebration takes place when the sub-region of Central Africa continues to face significant challenges related to its peace and its security." He enumerated the urgent questions that challenge the Committee: resurgence of armed groups in some member countries and their security and humanitarian consequences for the entire region; the rise of terrorism in nearby Sahel and

their impact on Central Africa; organized transnational crime and trafficking of all sorts, including drug trafficking and human trafficking (especially of children and young girls); proliferation of light weapons and of small arms, cross-boarder insecurity and organized crime along major roads linking countries of the sub-region; piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea and the persistence of internal conflicts in some states. Mr. Ban Ki-moon recalled that the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) will continue to support the efforts of the sub-regional organizations in the search for solutions to these problems.



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.

#### MISSIONS

- Carrying 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 ;
- 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 ;
- 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;
- 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 peace building initiatives in the countries affected by the activities of the LRA. The LRA has been declared a "terrorist group" by the African Union;

- 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 (UNSCAC).

#### 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 security in the sub-region. In the same vein, UNOCA also works in cooperation with the African Union (AU). It also shares good relation with the European Union (EU) and civil society as well as other partners and stakeholders, including the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

#### MANAGEMENT

UNOCA is headed by a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG). Mr. 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 and Office of the Chief of Mission Support.**

#### COUNTRIES COVERED

UNOCA covers the 10 Member States of ECCAS : Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe. Rwanda participates in the activities of UNSAC, to which UNOCA has provided 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.

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**MARCH 2011 - MARCH 2013**

*For the past two years, we have been promoting preventive diplomacy in Central Africa by developing and supporting mechanisms to avoid the outbreak of conflicts.*