



Sixty-fourth session

Item 65 (b) of the provisional agenda*

~~New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in
sustainable development of durable peace and~~

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Progress report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report addresses the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318). It is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 63/304, which was adopted following the Assembly's consideration at its sixty-third session of the Secretary-General's progress report dated 4 August 2008 (A/63/212). The recommendations addressing economic and social factors underlying the promotion of sustainable development are covered in the Secretary-General's companion report on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/64/204), which should be read together with the present report.

* A/64/150.



Following introductory remarks, section II of the report provides an overview of major peace and security developments in Africa during the past year, including the serious concerns being addressed by Africa and the international community in order to restore, maintain and promote peace and rebuild post-conflict countries. In section III, the report reviews progress in relation to the capacity-building needs and increased cooperation with the African Union and subregional organizations and provides an assessment of the United Nations support for the defence and promotion of human rights in Africa. The report concludes that, pending the General Assembly-mandated comprehensive review of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report and of the new challenges to achieving long-term peace and sustainable development, the international community must, more than ever, redouble its efforts

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I. Introduction

1. On 25 September 1997, the Security Council convened at the level of foreign ministers to consider the need for concerted international effort to promote peace and security in Africa. In the presidential statement issued on that day (S/PRST/1997/46), the Council observed that, despite the progress achieved by some African States, the number and intensity of armed conflicts on the continent remained a matter of grave concern requiring a determined response.

2. In reply to the request of the Security Council, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken in 1998 and a report, which is updated annually, on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

establish and train a small regional network of technical and mediation experts. The Department of Political Affairs is also deploying two officers to Botswana to support peace initiatives in Southern Africa and serve as points of contact with SADC officials. The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) provided support to strengthen the mediation role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission. **I call upon all donors and partners to assist the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen the partnership with African subregional organizations to establish workable and effective mediation capacities.**

10. In West Africa, the United Nations, ECOWAS and the African Union are working to ensure lasting peace and reconstruction in Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. Partnerships among United Nations system agencies, led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, have also been established to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crimes and Drug Abuse in West Africa. The United Nations also participated in efforts that led to the restoration of constitutional order in Mauritania and is contributing to a similar process in Guinea.

11. The United Nations and the African Union provided support to the Inter-Comorian Dialogue, which was held from 3 to 7 March 2009 and involved representatives from all levels of Government and civil society to discuss key

political opposition denounced some provisions of these laws noting their inconsistency with the 13 August agreement. A compromise was subsequently brokered by a mediation of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. However, in July 2009, the opposition rejected legislation adopted on political parties, since it did not preclude elected representatives from changing political affiliations during their term in office. **I call upon all parties to exercise restraint and stress the need for a political solution in the subregion.**

17. The situation in the Central African Republic has been more stable, but recent clashes between armed forces and rebels in the northern part of the country have led to an influx of approximately 17,000 refugees into southern Chad since January 2009, including within the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) area of operations. In addition, clashes between armed groups took place in and around the town of Birao, north-eastern Central African Republic, in May and June 2009.

18. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1861 (2009), on 15 March 2009, MINURCAT took over the military and security responsibilities in Chad and the Central African Republic of the European Union Force. As at 30 June 2009, 2,424 personnel (46 per cent of the authorized strength of 5,225) had been deployed. However, the tight timeline for new troop-contributing countries to generate forces and equipment, together with a lack of enablers, is a constraint on the force's operational effectiveness. An added challenge is the future financing of the 850 elements-strong Détachement Intégré de Sécurité deployed to 12 refugee camps

22. On 4 March 2009, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against President Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity. In response, the Government expelled 13 international non-governmental organizations from northern Sudan, which resulted in the reduction of capacity to provide humanitarian assistance in Darfur and the Three Areas (Abyei, Kordofan and the Blue Nile State). **I call upon States with influence over the parties of the conflict in Darfur to engage with the parties in a concrete way to encourage them to commit to good faith negotiations towards a comprehensive peace agreement.**

3. Côte d'Ivoire

23. By its resolution 1880 (2009), the Security Council mandated the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to assist the Ivorian parties and institutions in the organization of open, free, fair and transparent presidential elections in 2009 and in implementing other aspects of the peace process, including the disarmament of former combatants, the dismantling of militias, the restoration of State authority and the reunification of the two former belligerent forces. There has been progress since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement in March 2007 in restoring freedom of movement and stability in the country. This is thanks to the continued dialogue between the two former belligerent forces that is facilitated by President Compaoré of Burkina Faso and supported by UNOCI and Licorne forces, who continued to maintain a deterrent presence in the most sensitive areas of the country. The date for presidential elections has been set for 29 November 2009. As of 1 July 2009, some 6.4 million Ivoirians have been identified and registered for the elections. Despite this significant progress, much remains to be done to implement all aspects of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement.

4. Democratic Republic of the Congo

24. Significant progress has been made in the peace process in the Great Lakes region, where the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) and other rebel groups showed courage in coming together, on 23 March, to pledge themselves to peace. I applaud the efforts of the African Union/International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Co-facilitators, my Special Envoy on the Great Lakes Region, President Olusegun Obasanjo, and former President of the United Republic of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa, as well as the vital support of regional leaders for these achievements. I also welcome the rapprochement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. This rapprochement led to joined operations between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and other illegal armed groups. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is currently assisting the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) in the integration of CNDP combatants and remaining operations against FDLR. The Peace Agreement of 23 March is currently being implemented through the National Follow-up Committee with considerable challenges. In spite of this progress, the security situation remains volatile and the humanitarian situation has recently deteriorated, with new population displacements and the escalation of human rights abuses. **I call upon the leaders of armed groups to fully respect their commitments and work towards peace.**

25. In November 2008, the Security Council authorized a temporary increase of

1. Burundi

32. There have been positive developments in Burundi with the last rebel movement (Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL)) joining the peace process and its inclusion in the country's civil serv

5. Guinea

36. Guinea was declared eligible for funding in June 2008. In April 2009, the Priority Plan was finalized and approved with an allocation of \$6 million for phase one, the transition phase to the elections, to ensure an inclusive and sustainable dialogue, promote human rights and civic education, the reinforcement of the security sector and justice, and to strengthen the contribution and role of women and the youth in activities of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

6. Guinea-Bissau

endorsed the Government's Agenda for Change and the United Nations Family's Joint Vision for Sierra Leone. At the Special Session, the Commission also

ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The initiative calls for the development and adoption of a legal instrument to control small arms and light weapons in Central Africa and the development of a draft code of conduct for defence and security forces in the subregion. UNDP also provided operational and capacity-development support to the National Small Arms Commission in the 15 ECOWAS countries, institutional support to the Small Arms Unit of the ECOWAS Commission as well as the implementation of the regionally binding instrument, the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, 2006.

51. With the assistance of the UNDP-managed African Peer Review Mechanism Trust Fund, nine additional countries were reviewed by the Mechanism in 2008. UNDP also continued to provide support to the Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the setting up of a governance centre in Lusaka.

B. Human rights

52. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has provided technical assistance for strengthening the African Union's capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as for the drafting of an African Human Rights Strategy. A memorandum of understanding between OHCHR and the African Union was finalized during the period under review.

53. OHCHR and its four regional offices have also developed close cooperation for human rights mainstreaming in the agenda and programme of the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, ECOWAS, SADC and ECCAS, with a focus on building capacity of national actors to enable them to deal with accountability, including for past human rights abuses. Reparations for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law is a key issue, especially in the aftermath of conflict, where reparations may offer an opportunity to rebuild the lives for those who have lost it all, including their livelihoods. **I have urged the Security Council to call upon States to establish, or to itself mandate, in relevant contexts,**

systematic compliance with and application of international child protection standards.

59. The number of countries involved in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (established under Security Council resolution 1612 (2005)) on grave violations of

measures that are warranted to overcome barriers and facilitate enrolment and retention of women in biomedical HIV prevention and treatment trials.

IV. Conclusion

70. The African Union's unwavering rejection of unconstitutional changes in government as well as the resolve of African leaders to uphold the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union, combined with the determination of Africa's peoples to work towards peace and development has driven many of the successes and encouraging developments during the reporting period. Despite the existing vulnerabilities and the destabilizing effects of the current economic and financial crisis as a cause of increasing political tensions, Africa also appears to be on a positive, though at times uneven, path to growth. But much more is needed to nurture the roots of peace and stability in the continent. We must ensure that cyclical violence, destabilizing economic crises or deviations from the rule of law do not undermine the progress