



Bureau des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel

UNOWAS

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

Ensemble pour la paix

Together for peace

THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HEAD OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL (UNOWAS), MOHAMED IBN CHAMBAS, BRIEFED TODAY THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE LATEST REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF UNOWAS

Dakar, 11 January 2021- West Africa and the Sahel region continues to suffer from multiple challenges, triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, that are plunging most countries of the region into recession and leading them to a diversion of resources from productive investments and the fight against insecurity. “Now that we are facing a second wave of the pandemic, and relieved that vaccines are being distributed, it is ever more important that we collaborate to apply the manifold lessons learnt in terms of improving governance and delivering essential services for societies to emerge more adept, secure, and resilient,” said the Special Representative to the members of the UN Security Council, adding that “Nowhere has this resilience been more sorely tested than in the Sahel, where an ever more volatile climate has brought massive floods, affecting more than 1.7 million people and resulting in the destruction of houses and livelihoods”.

But despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the electoral calendar was maintained, and the polls overall went well. “Electoral Management Bodies have demonstrated impressive technical capacity to organize and conduct five presidential, three legislative, and two local elections in West Africa,” stated Mohamed Ibn Chambas. He further noted that increasingly, elections have also been funded exclusively from national budgets.

During his briefing to the Security Council, the Special Representative underlined the significant progress made on both women and youth, peace and security agenda in West Africa and the Sahel. “I am encouraged that action plans are now in place in 14 out of the region’s 16 countries and I am pleased that this Council is giving the matter its utmost attention. Girls’ education remains a critically important lever for development. Political will and resources to implement the various instruments, especially education for girls, must therefore remain a priority,” he stressed.

The Special Representative reiterated the commitment of UNOWAS to continue accompanying national and regional actors to enhance peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel.

More on the briefing:

[Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel](#)

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