



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*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel concludes his visit to Benin, encourages all stakeholders to redouble their efforts to ensure the organization of a peaceful, participatory and transparent presidential election**

**Dakar, 10 February 2021** - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, concluded today a three-day visit to Benin.

This visit is part of the regular activities of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in support of the countries of the sub-region. Its objective was to support and encourage the Beninese stakeholders to do their utmost to ensure that the presidential election, scheduled for 11 April, is a peaceful, inclusive and credible vote.

The Special Representative spoke with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the heads of the institutions in charge of organizing the election, the leaders of political parties, civil society, as well as representatives of the international community and the United Nations country team. He was also received by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Patrice Talon.

During these talks, the Special Representative renewed the support of the United Nations to the people and government of Benin in their efforts to consolidate peace and safeguard democratic and socio-economic gains.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas called on all stakeholders in the electoral process to spare no effort to ensure the organization of a peaceful, participatory and transparent election.

In this regard, he stressed that the conduct of a peaceful presidential election, on 11 April 2021, will constitute a major step in strengthening democracy and an opportunity to reaffirm the model role of Benin in the sub-region.

The Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel called on all stakeholders to prioritize dialogue to resolve any differences, and to act in the interest of the people of Benin.

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**Bureau de la Communication Stratégique et de l'Information Publique / Strategic Communications and Public Information Office**

Kouider Zerrouk, Chef de bureau / SCPIO Chief – (+221) 33 869 85 60 / 77 332 49 28 – [zerrouk@un.org](mailto:zerrouk@un.org)  
Angelita Mendy Diop, Chargée de communication / Public Information Officer – (+221) 33 869 85 47 / 76 721 78 92 – [mendya@un.org](mailto:mendya@un.org)

• [www.unowas.unmissions.org](http://www.unowas.unmissions.org) • [Facebook.com/UNOWAS](https://www.facebook.com/UNOWAS) • [Twitter.com/UN\\_UNOWAS](https://twitter.com/UN_UNOWAS)  
Ngor, route de la plage – PO Box 23 851, Dakar Ponty (Sénégal)