



Mayo Leinde: Secondary pillar under construction (Pillar number 054-2011PS) - Photo © D. BARIL - CNMC

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, towards a model peaceful settlement of a border dispute



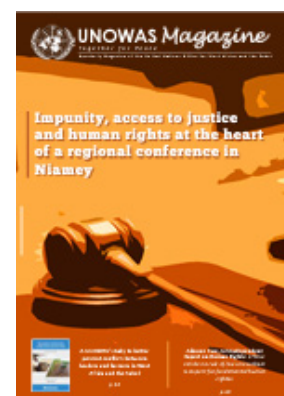
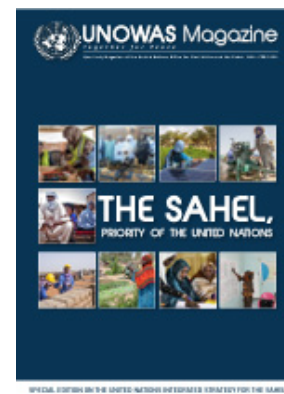
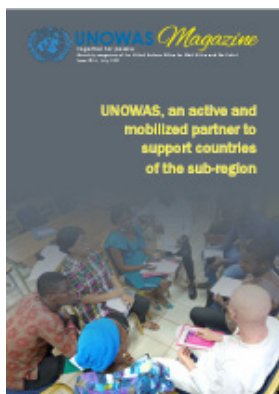
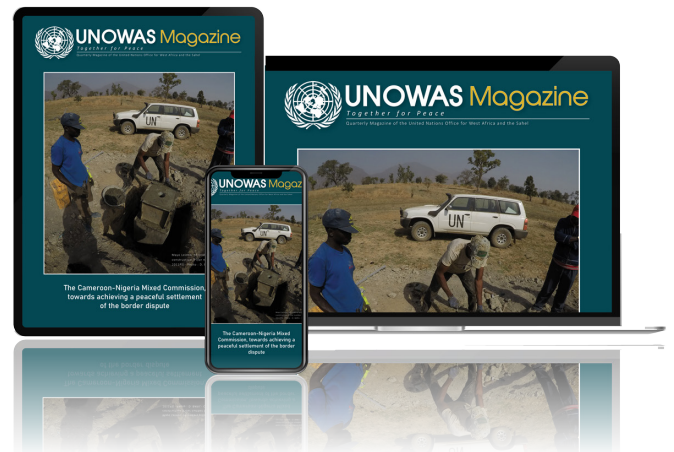
UNOWAS Magazine

Together for Peace

Quarterly Magazine of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

UNOWAS Magazine informs you about UNOWAS / CNMC activities and efforts in consolidating peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel.

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In Abuja, youth demand their full participation in decision-making processes





Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF

Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

Building Peace Together

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding are at the heart of the work that UNOWAS accomplishes in coordination with national and sub-regional partners.

In view of the prevailing situation in West Africa and the Sahel, marked, unfortunately, by a deterioration of security, political tensions, and a deficit of economic and social development, the role we play alongside the countries of the sub-region to accompany their efforts towards peace and development is more important than ever, as it contributes to achieving encouraging progress that reinforces our analysis of the necessity to coordinate our efforts to improve the situation.

Some recent examples can support this assertion.

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC) is undoubtedly the border dispute resolution tool that underscores the best the importance of conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Established on 10 October 2002 to facilitate the implementation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on the settlement of the Cameroon-Nigeria border dispute,



The sub-region does not lack human potential. In this sense, young women and men, who constitute the majority of the population and who are the major actors of tomorrow, must be perceived as the best opportunity.

the CNMC has played a significant role in the peaceful resolution of the border dispute and the consolidation of peace between the two major neighboring countries.

The holding of the thirty-third ordinary session of the CNMC in Yaoundé on November 19 and 20 2021, after seven years of interruption, to examine and adopt

the various reports related to the border demarcation, testifies to the will and determination of the two countries to finalize the process.

Today, we can confidently state that the parties have agreed on nearly 2050 km of the estimated 2100 km border, which leaves very few points of disagreement. The construction of pillars, physical symbols of demarcation, has also continued despite the insecurity. To date, 1673 pillars have been built, representing more than 60% of the project.

Furthermore, with the support of the United Nations, the two delegations have committed themselves to provide the necessary assistance to the populations affected by the demarcation activities. The thirty-fourth meeting of the CNMC, scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria, on August 25 and 26, will mark a turning point.

The sub-region, and more specifically The Gambia, experienced a historic moment in December. The presidential election was conducted on the 4th in a democratic and responsible manner. Gambians from all walks of life have exercised their civic rights and cast their votes freely, propelling The Gambia into a new phase of its history, a country that

is now oriented towards building stability and development.

This progress is now a reality thanks to the determination of Gambians, but also thanks to the commitment of regional and international partners who have accompanied the Gambia. But this positive phase that is beginning now, will undoubtedly require renewed support from all partners, and a strong commitment to development and democratic governance by the Gambian authorities.

The sub-region does not lack human potential. Young women and men, who constitute the majority of the population and who are the major actors of tomorrow, must be perceived as the best opportunity. While expressing their frustrations and expectations, they demonstrate every day their capacities and desires to contribute to building a better society.

The second annual youth forum organized in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Youth and Sports Development Center (YSDC) on December 9 and 10 in Abuja, Nigeria, underscored the need to accelerate and strengthen youth

participation in peacebuilding and development processes.

The Abuja Call launched by the youth to the authorities of the countries of the sub-region is a step forward towards the recognition of the role of youth in West Africa and the Sahel.

Finally, aware of the preponderant role of the traditional and religious leaders, UNOWAS took the initiative to organize a regional seminar in Dakar to discuss their contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The seminar of two days helped articulate ambitious recommendations that were the subject of a declaration at the end of the seminar.

This framework of exchange initiated by UNOWAS is an important step towards considering the contribution of traditional and religious leaders in peacebuilding processes.

In the accomplishment of our mission, we will continue to work with our various partners to strengthen this progress, and to accompany the people of the sub-region in their efforts towards consolidating peace and development.

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UNOWAS, fostering peace and preventing conflicts in West Africa and the Sahel

We work in with our regional partners towards peace and security

We support countries in the promotion and protection of human rights

We contribute to the effective participation of women and youth in peacemaking and conflict prevention efforts

We support the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel

We facilitate the implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling on the boundary dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria

We support countries in their efforts to address multiple challenges related to peace

The United Nations office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), a regional special political Mission of the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).

60th ECOWAS Ordinary Session



Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations for West Africa, and the Sahel (UNOWAS) participated in the Sixtieth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held on 12 December 2021 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria. In his speech, Mr. ANNADIF stated that "it is necessary to build inclusive societies, within which all social categories feel concerned by the collective project. It is therefore necessary, among other things, to step up efforts to further strengthen the rule of law and the participation of women and young people in political processes". The Summit adopted the ECOWAS Vision 2050 which aims, by 2050, "A community of peoples fully integrated in a peaceful, prosperous region with strong institutions that respect fundamental freedoms and work for inclusive and sustainable development".

The Deputy Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel visits Bissau



The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Ms. Giovane Biha, undertook, from 18 to 20 October 2021, a three-day visit to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The visit focused on familiarization and outreach within the ongoing partnership between the UN system in Guinea-Bissau and UNOWAS, as part of overall efforts in support of implementation of activities under UNOWAS mandate. Ms. Biha met with the Secretary of State for Communities, Ms. Salome dos Santos Allouche, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Suzi Carla Barbosa. She also met the Minister for Public Administration, Ms. Maria Celina Vieira Tavares. She held meetings with the UN country team to assess progress as well as consider avenues to address challenges for enhancing partnerships in support of peace and development efforts.

12th meeting of the UNISS Steering Committee



The 12th meeting of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) Steering Committee took place in Dakar, from 3 to 4 November 2021. Co-chaired by Mahamat Saleh Annadif, the Special Representative of the United Nations for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and Mar Dieye, Special Coordinator for development in the Sahel, the meeting discussed geostrategic dynamics and strategic positioning of the UN in the Sahel region. Mr. ANNADIF underlined the importance of a regional approach to deal with the crisis created by Boko Haram and a closer synergy between UNISS and the regional stabilization strategy for the Lake Chad Basin.

Conference Defense Attachés based in Senegal



The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized on 25 November 2021, the Defense Attachés Conference under the theme: "Persistence of Violent extremism in the Sahel and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea: linkages and perspectives for addressing the twin security challenges". The meeting brought together diplomats, military officers, experts, and practitioners in the field of conflict, peace and security management, humanitarian and rule of law from the region. At the opening session, SRSG ANNADIF reiterated UNOWAS's commitment to continue to support efforts to eradicate insecurity in the sub-region.

Technical meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform of Sahel Strategies



On 9-10 December, UNOWAS and MISAHEL organized a technical meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform of Sahel Strategies (MCP) in Saly, Senegal. The meeting brought together representatives of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Mauritania, as well as representatives from regional organizations such as the G5 Sahel, Interstate Committee for Combating Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA), the Liptako Gourma Authority (LGA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Centre National D'Etudes Strategiques (CNES-Niger) and the UN (UNOWAS, UNODC, WFP, UNDP, ISU). Participants called for the organization of a Ministerial meeting within the first semester of 2022.

Regional Forum for Ministers of Justice



UNOWAS with UNODC, OHCHR and UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice of Ghana in its capacity as Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS to organize a high-level Expert meeting, on 8-9 December in Accra, to discuss and agree on modalities to establish a regional Forum for Ministers of Justice. Delegates from nine-member states attended the meeting. In his opening remarks, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of Ghana, Godfrey Dame, reiterated the importance of this initiative towards the promotion of the rule of law in the region, as well as the commitment of his government to provide the leadership required to bring the initiative to fruition. On behalf of SRSO UNOWAS, the Director of Political Affairs, Moudjib Djinadou, stressed on UN's continued support and the importance of such a Forum, when operational, to sustaining the political will needed to address challenges that undermine the rule of law in the region.

UNOWAS hosts 36th High-level Meeting of heads of UN missions in the region



At the invitation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mahamat Saleh Annadif, the heads of the United Nations missions in West Africa and the Sahel as well as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) François Louncény Fall, met on 15 November for the 36th High-level Meeting in Dakar, Senegal. The discussions focused on the political, socio-economic and security trends in West Africa and the Sahel and on their impact on neighboring regions, including the Central African region. As the security situation continues to deteriorate in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and in the Lake Chad Basin, the participants underlined the need for a multidimensional and regional approach to address the root causes of insecurity. They also called for enhanced cooperation to address these challenges.

MRU Meeting on the political situation in Guinea



From 22 - 23 November, SRSO Annadif attended the extraordinary Diplomatic, Peace, Security and Democracy Conference in Monrovia organized by the Secretariat of the Mano River Union (MRU). The meeting's focus was the political situation in the Republic of Guinea. MRU encouraged Guinean authorities to comply with ECOWAS' transition roadmap and to establish a clear transition process.

The Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission, close to its goal

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC), created following the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on November 15, 2002 to resolve the border dispute between the two countries, held its thirty-third session on 19 and 20 November in Yaoundé, Cameroon, under the chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for West Africa and the Sahel, Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF.

For the work it has accomplished since its establishment, the CNMC deserves the Noble Peace Prize". This is the statement made during the thirty-third session by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, in his capacity as the Chairman of the CNMC.

Indeed, slowly but surely, the two countries of Central and West Africa have been working with determination and confidence. On an estimated border of 2100 kilometers, the two neighboring countries have ratified their agreement on the demarcation of 2050 kilometers. And out of a total of 2696 pillars to be built, 1673 pillars have already been built and placed.

But beyond this technical and logistical aspect, which is necessary for all demarcation processes, the most important result lies in the fact that the two countries have succeeded since 2002 in converting a dispute that could potentially generate conflicts and disagreements into a source of cooperation and partnership between two major neighboring countries. This cooperation and partnership supported by the United Nations will undoubtedly remain as a model of conflict prevention and peaceful resolution of a border dispute.

It is in this spirit that the two delegations met in Yaoundé to assess the status of demarcation activities, to endorse achievements and agreements, and to reinforce their common vision for the finalization of the border demarcation process.

Supporting affected populations

Paying a heartfelt tribute to the two delegations and their respective governments for their continued commitment and efforts despite the many challenges, including security, the Chairman of the CNMC, Mr. ANNADIF, stressed the need to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries to support the populations affected by the demarcation work.

For their part, the two heads of delegations from Cameroon and Nigeria, respectively Mr. Amadou Ali, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr. Abubakar Malami, Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, reaffirmed their mobilization to take the necessary measures to build confidence between the populations living on both sides of the border.

Indeed, the thirty-third session of the CNMC noted that for the finalization of the demarcation process to be a complete success, it is necessary to consider the affected populations and to mobilize more funds to help implement cross-

border socio-economic projects.

The United Nations, through the Country Teams in Cameroon and Nigeria, will contribute to the launch in 2022 of various initiatives, particularly in the areas of assistance to food security, education, health, water and sanitation, and basic infrastructure.

Determined to accomplish the work on the ground, the two heads of delegations in coordination with the Chairman, agreed to hold the thirty-fourth session of the CNMC in Abuja on 25 and 26 August 2022. By this date, the CNMC will be closer to its goal!

On the Same subject

[Ground Truth - Atlas Obscura](#)

[The work of the Cameroon-Nigeria Joint Commission awarded the Raymond Milefsky Prize](#)

[Cameroon and Nigeria mobilized to complete the demarcation of their shared land border](#)

[CNMC continues its work to complete border demarcation](#)

[CNMC, demarcating the border in peace \(video in French\)](#)



From left to right : Amadou Ali, Deputy Prime Minister of Cameroon,
Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF and Abubakar Malami, SAN, Attorney
General of the Federation and Minister of Justice of Nigeria

The delegation of Cameroon during the 33rd Ordinary
Session of the CNMC



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Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in Action

Activities

Achievements

Facilitating the withdrawal of troops and transfer of authority in Lake Chad area, along the land boundary and in the Bakassi Peninsula

The CNMC facilitated the peaceful transfer of authority over Bakassi to Cameroon through the Greentree Agreement, in accordance with the judgment of the International Court of Justice.

Demarcation of the land boundary and delimitation of the maritime boundary between the two countries

2,050 kilometers of demarcation have been surveyed and approved by Cameroon and Nigeria out of a total of approximately 2,100 kilometers

Delineation of the maritime boundary in accordance with the Judgement of the International Court of Justice

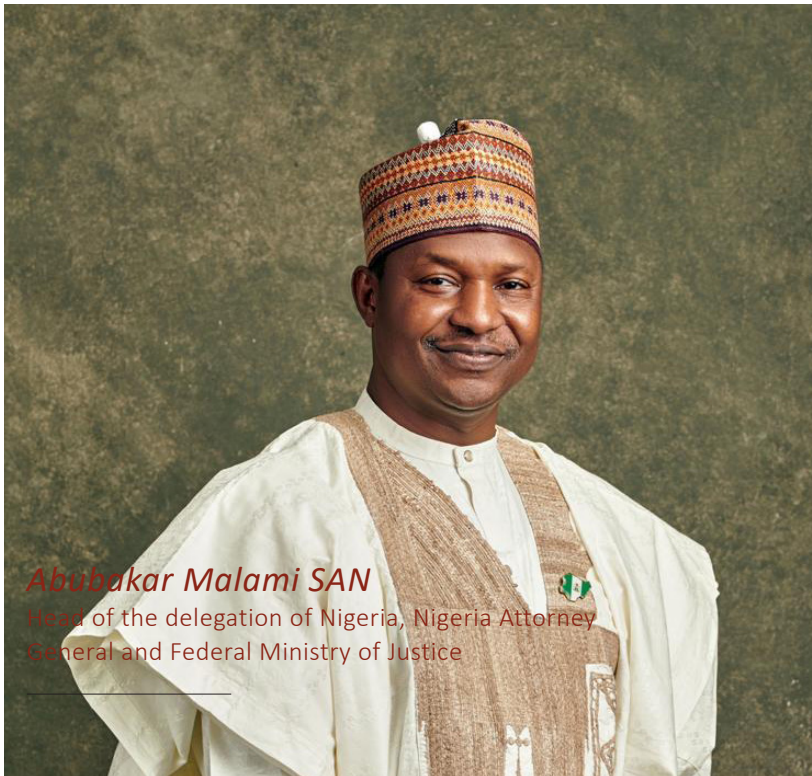
Out of a total of 2696 pillars to be built, 1673 pillars have already been built and placed

Addressing the situation of local populations in boundary areas affected by the demarcation activities

The CNMC, in liaison with partners, has developed confidence building programs to mitigate the impacts caused by the demarcation.

Making recommendations on confidence-building measures aiming at promoting peaceful cross-border cooperation

The Mixed Commission also approved the recommendations for crossborder cooperation on hydrocarbon deposits straddling the maritime boundary



Abubakar Malami SAN

Head of the delegation of Nigeria, Nigeria Attorney General and Federal Minister of Justice

On the sidelines of the 33rd session of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, (CNMC), UNOWAS Magazine exchanged with the Head of the Nigerian delegation, Abubakar Malami SAN, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Interview.

You have just concluded the 33rd session of the CNMC. The last one took place 7 years ago. What are the main results of this meeting?

Essentially, the basis of this meeting is to address issues of disagreement particularly regarding the borderline dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon on account of the ICJ Judgement.

So ever since the documents were handled down, the need has arisen for identifying the relevant borderlines in the spirit of the ICJ judgement.

The presidents of the two countries, Nigeria and Cameroon, came together through the facilitation of the United Nations and this commission was put in place as the CNMC. And that commission has the responsibility of identifying the disputed areas between Nigeria and Cameroon.

The committee that was put in place identified about 18 areas of disagreement and those areas

constituted the cases of negotiations between the two countries, under the mediation and facilitation of the United Nations. Before this meeting, the parties agreed on 12 out of the 18 areas. Now the major result of today meeting is the fact that parties have agreed substantially on two additional areas and the implication is when you have 12 before and you two additional now, that in essence makes it to 14 areas of agreement. The outstanding areas of dispute are reduced to 4. The essence and the result of the meeting is that parties have continued to engage over time, and they have recorded some successes in due of the level of contentious and controversies dispute arising from these 4 areas and we hope eventually to have a conclusive position towards agreeing in all the areas.

What are the next steps to accomplish the demarcation?

A meeting is fixed sometime in august next year. We will hold it in Nigeria after field officers are expected to continue engagement

on technical grounds with the purpose of bridging the gaps related to the disputes among the parties.

As the Head of the Delegation of your country, how would you assess the cooperation with your counterpart?

The Mixed commission as we have it today is a product of that cooperation. We are all here today in terms of bridging the areas of dispute. It is a function and indeed a product of the international cooperation between the 2 countries. So, political will and political cooperation have been demonstrated by the two leaders in trying to find a peaceful solution to the areas of dispute.

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The Gambian people have put all their marbles in peace and prosperity



The Gambia held on 4 December 2021, its first presidential election after the Yahya Jammeh era. This electoral moment constitutes a major step towards anchoring peace, democracy, and stability in The Gambia.

A single voting system with marbles

This Saturday 4 December, it's presidential election day. More than 964,000 Gambian voters have taken over voting centers to fulfill their civic duty. In a calm and friendly atmosphere, Gambians from all walks have been waiting in long lines their turn to cast their vote to elect their new president among the six officially declared candidates: Adama Barrow, Ousseinou Darboe, Mama Kandeh, Halif Ababacarr Sallah, Essa Faal and Abdoulie Jammeh.

In The Gambia, the voting process is simple and environmentally friendly. It is done with marbles which replace the ballot paper usually used in other countries. They were the main attraction of the various electoral observer missions..

In the morning, before polling begins, an official carries the voting drums outside the poll station to show voters and political parties' representatives that they are empty. At the vote time, after verifying that the name of the voter is on the list, the latter is assigned a single marble which he or she places in one of the barrels placed in the voting closet and which serve as ballot boxes. Each barrel is painted in the official colors of a political party and bears the photo corresponding to its presidential candidate. Once in the voting booth, the voter slips the marble into a small hole in the top of the drum of their choice. Then the long-awaited ringing of a bicycle bell attached to the inside of the drum is heard. This ringing signifies that the vote has been cast. To avoid confusion, sand is placed at the bottom of the barrel to mute the second click of the marble on metal.



The United Nations accompanied the Republic of The Gambia throughout the electoral process

▲ *Gambian citizens viewing the lists on election day*

At 5 p.m., end of the poll, the heads of polling stations and representatives of each political party prepare to count the votes. The drums are then emptied, and the marbles collected and placed on wooden planks specially designed to mark 100 to 200 or 500 holes per plank, which allows them to quickly see the number of votes cast in each drum, for each candidate.

A peaceful, credible, and transparent election

Observers unanimously praised The Gambia's voting system. "This is our own practice of democracy," said former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, who led the Commonwealth observation mission, during an assessment presentation of the election day. "When I saw the marbles, I asked myself why other African countries do not adopt this way of doing things," he added, speaking on the effectiveness of the marbles to cast a vote.

The other heads of Observation Missions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), of the African Union (AU), and of the European Union (EU), respectively led by, Ernest Bai Koroma, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Kgalema Motlanthe, former President of the Republic of South Africa, and Mr. Norbert Neuser, all shared this view. "I am impressed by the simple but effective voting system, based on the use of marbles that fall into the drum reserved for each of the candidates, thus minimizing spoiled or invalid ballots", declared Mr. Bai Koroma.

Observation missions found this system to be transparent and much less expensive, and that it could be improved for better functionality. They appreciated the speed and

transparency with which the results were compiled, transmitted, and officially announced.

This single voting system has not changed since its inception in 1965, immediately after The Gambia's independence. It promotes a participatory election by allowing the entire Gambian population to vote, despite the high rate of illiteracy.

National and international observation missions have judged the voting peaceful, credible, and transparent with broad voter turnout amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, according to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the participation rate is around 87%, which shows the commitment and interest of the Gambians to consolidating democratic gains.

The day after the vote, the outgoing President, Adama Barrow was declared the winner by the Independent Electoral Commission with 53% of the votes. It should be noted that there was no female candidacy for these 2021 elections. For the first time in The Gambia, a woman, Marie Sock, had submitted her candidacy file which was subsequently rejected by the Commission Independent Electoral.

Civil Society Organizations were not left out. Their participation as citizen observers helped to strengthen the credibility and transparency of the electoral process. Through a coalition bringing together, among others, community and religious leaders, women, youth, civil society has played an essential role in the promotion of non-violence and peace in the electoral process.



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United Nations support for peacebuilding and democracy

The United Nations accompanied the Republic of The Gambia throughout the electoral process. Through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations strengthened key democratic institutions and processes in The Gambia with functional and inclusive electoral processes that helped ensure the peaceful conduct of the elections.

During the election period, Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), accompanied by Ms. Martha Pobee, Assistant Secretary-General for Africa to the Departments of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding, and of Peace Operations, visited

The Gambia to express the United Nations support to the efforts made to hold a peaceful, inclusive, and transparent presidential election.

Mr. ANNADIF praised the sense of responsibility of political actors as well as the determination of the Gambian people who have exercised their civic duty in an exemplary manner, to consolidate peace and democracy.

There is no doubt that after having put all their marbles to renew their confidence in the outgoing president, the Gambians have opened a new chapter in their history, that of consolidating the gains of the transition and building a country looking towards the future. The United Nations country team, and UNOWAS will remain an active partner in supporting The Gambia in this new chapter of its history.

On the Same subject

[The Gambia, a peaceful change](#)

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT UNOWAS

-  UNOWAS, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, was established in 2002 as a regional special political mission that reports to the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding (DPPA).
-  UNOWAS is chaired by Mr. Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of UNOWAS, and by Ms. Giovane BIHA, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General.
-  UNOWAS is mandated by the Security Council to act for the resolution of crises and conflicts through an active role in preventive diplomacy, good offices, and political mediation in the countries of West Africa and the Sahel.
-  UNOWAS covers 16 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo-Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone. Togo and (Chad).
-  UNOWAS works in close collaboration with other United Nations entities and regional and international partners such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Group of Five for the Sahel and the African Union, to promote an integrated approach to the prevention of conflicts and regional challenges.
-  UNOWAS supports the countries of the sub-region in their efforts to consolidate good governance, respect for legality and human rights, and the integration of gender in conflict prevention and management initiatives.
-  UNOWAS supports sub-regional institutions and States to build their capacities to face cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security in the sub-region. It also contributes to the analysis and assessment of the impact of climate change on security and stability in the sub-region.
-  UNOWAS participates in the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) to support the countries of the Sahel region in their fight against security threats, development challenges and management of the effects of climate change, and the promotion of sustainable development.
-  Mr. Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF is also the President of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CMCN), created to facilitate the implementation of the judgment rendered in 2002 by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria.
-  The mandate of the (CMCN) includes support for land border demarcation and maritime border delimitation; facilitating the withdrawal from the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the transfer of authority to the Republic of Cameroon; responding to the needs of the populations affected by the demarcation.



Ms. Seraphine Wakana

UN Resident Coordinator for the
Republic of The Gambia

Ms. Seraphine Wakana was appointed as the UN Resident Coordinator for the Republic of The Gambia in October 2018. She works closely with the UN country team and the Government to define and agree on the UN strategic response to the Government's development priorities. Interview.

"The Gambia is on the right track toward recognizing and upholding its citizens' fundamental human rights, and we, the United Nations family in The Gambia, are determined (happy) to support efforts that expand the country's democratic space."

You have been serving as the UN Resident Coordinator in The Gambia since 2018, what can you say about this country?

Gambia has changed significantly during the last five years. Probably the most significant shift has occurred in the democratic sphere. Consider the case of freedom of expression, which has improved to the point where the Afrobarometer Report 2021 affirms that «an overwhelming majority of Gambians say the media is in fact free to do its work without government interference.» While not everyone may agree with that assessment, we can safely assert that most Gambians do. Another, much more recent example is the

adoption of the access to information bill by the National Assembly. The judiciary's independence has also increased, as indicated by the number of cases recorded this year, including the reinstatement of a Nominated National Assembly member whose nomination was rescinded by the President. Overall, The Gambia is on the right track toward recognizing and upholding its citizens' fundamental human rights, and we, the United Nations family in The Gambia, are happy to support efforts that expand the country's democratic space.

What about the challenges? How the UN is supporting the Gambians to tackle them?

There is much that can be said regarding any country's development issues. The Gambia, like every other country in the Sahel, faces numerous and complex development challenges: First, the challenges that the country is least equipped to overcome. These are the urgent issues, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. They include a frail public health system, an economy that has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change-related extreme weather events such as windstorms, displacement and migration, as well as deteriorating infrastructure and unequal access to social services. According to our analyses, displacement and migration are the most immediate

challenge that the country is least prepared to handle and that challenge has the potential to have the most detrimental effect on social cohesion and equality. Second, development issues that the country can overcome but that must be prioritized in accordance with The National Development Plan, Food insecurity, gender inequality, internal security, political stability, and democratic space are just a few of these.

Our support is enshrined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In short, what we did as the UN was to identify common priority areas for leveraging support for poverty eradication, human capital development, and sustainable natural resource and environmental management with a strong emphasis on good governance. Working with national stakeholders, development partners and the government, 17 UN agencies developed a joint, people-centred comprehensive response to national development priorities with the goal of eradicating poverty and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Gambia's development challenges gives.

The UN has been instrumental in The Gambia. What are its major achievements?

At the United Nations, we would prefer to emphasize partnerships. Our accomplishments are a result of the collaboration with our partners and the support of the government leadership. I would say that partnerships are our most significant accomplishment since they serve as the «engines» that power our activities. Consider the recently concluded elections. It almost goes without saying that the progress we have all witnessed would not have been possible without the collaboration with Civil Society Organizations, the Gambia police force, the independent Electoral Commission, and development partners such as the EU and ECOWAS, to name a few. Each partner had and

always will have a role to play, and without them, no partnership can succeed and no single organization can claim any success.

I would also argue that the most important relationship is the one that we, the UN, have developed with the Gambian people, which has enabled Gambians to trust us, rely on us, and even advise us when they think we are going astray. I've heard a Gambian proverb that highlights the value of partnerships, and warns that «a fly that has no one to advise it, follows the corpse into the grave» and indeed, we would be lost without this crucial partnership with the people and government of The Gambia.

Having said that, I should also mention our support to the TRRC as, just one example made possible by these partnerships. You may be aware that exactly one year ago, the TRRC gave awards to three UN agencies (OCHR, UNDP, and PBF) in recognition of the crucial role that these agencies' support has contributed to the TRRC process.

The peaceful presidential election marks a new milestone. In your opinion, what are the priorities the UN and the Gambian authorities should work on to achieve?

We look forward to continuing work on the outstanding reform processes including the constitutional reform process; support the implementation of the TRRC recommendations, and focus more on development, climate change and food security, gender equality with a focus on promoting women's leadership and political participation. We also want to push for greater representation of women in cabinet, gender equality within public and private enterprises through the Gender Equality Seal. We will also continue to support the security sector reform agenda, land and the fisheries sector, social cohesion and reconciliation, skills development and opportunities for job creation for young Gambians who constitute more than 60% of the population. In addition, the UN will support a

cross border initiative between the Gambia and Senegal to strengthen cross border cooperation for increased community resilience and social cohesion along the identified borders between the two countries. We also aim to support cross border initiatives that promotes economic and social growth, implement the global compact on migration and continue to provide strategic support to Gambia's COVID-19 response.

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Ya Mammie Ceesay & Alhajie Ceesay,
The Gambia ©Jason Florio

The Gambia Truth Reconciliation and Reparation Commission and the Transitional Justice Process

Many Gambians believed the change of government in 2017 would reverse a 22-year slide in human rights. However, few could have predicted the TRRC's pivotal role in building social cohesion and human rights consciousness.

The Gambian government established the TRRC to document human rights violations committed between July 1994 and January 2017. Notably, the TRRC fosters healing and reconciliation, assists victims of human rights abuse, and combats impunity.

Ensuring transparency is a critical part of the TRRC's work. In line with this, the Commission aired live all 393-victim testimonies on YouTube, radio and television for

871 days beginning in January 2019.

The TRRC's initial roadblocks included female witness humiliation and threats. The Commission heard complaints about people shaming female witnesses. This regrettable scenario prevented many female victims from telling their stories. In response, the TRRC contacted its partners for assistance. While the UN and other organisations like the ICTJ that responded

couldn't solve the problem, they helped over 75 female victims testify.

The TRRC's mission has always emphasised community healing. Over the last two years, the TRRC has organised civic education workshops and facilitated restitution conversations with individuals and communities. The Commission also funded the medical treatment of four female victims of human rights abuses in Turkey. Such help to

victims has undoubtedly increased people's trust in the transitional justice process.

The TRRC process has not been without controversy. Derisive criticism of its motives has come from allies of the former president.

Furthermore, the Gambian TRRC is unique because it can grant reparations; very few truth commissions worldwide have this authority. However, it has been challenging to navigate the issue of reparations. While the government has called for patience, victims of human rights violations have naturally found the process of waiting for reparations painfully long and have demanded urgent restitution.

In general, the TRRC has aided societal cohesiveness by promoting dialogue and allowing victims to voice their experiences.

However, the TRRC's success may be undone if the government does not implement its recommendations or compensate victims on time. Consequently, all the country's development partners must work together to identify and fund this critical stage of The Gambia's transitional justice process.

The TRRC received support from several organisations, including the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the first donor that funded a joint OHCHR and UNDP Transitional Justice and Human Rights Project that ended

in July 2021. The UN supported the strengthening of capacities of Gambian civil society organizations, including women and youth led organizations, women community leaders and youth leaders as well as religious and traditional leaders, to facilitate outreach activities and support victims. This responding to the needs of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and encouraged their active participation in the activities of the TRRC. Consequently, and whilst being mindful of the unique experiences and needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, the TRRC witnessed a 300% increase in statements on SGBV between January 2019 and January 2020.



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UNOWAS and UNOCA support stabilization efforts in the Lake Chad Basin

Mr. Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and Mr. François Louncény FALL, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Head of the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), undertook, a solidarity high-level tour in three countries of the Lake Chad Basin affected by the Boko-Haram crisis.

Resurgence of terrorist attacks in the Lake Chad Basin

The threat of violent extremism and terrorism is not limited only to the Sahel or the G5 Sahel countries. It is spreading to other territories, notably in the region of the Lake Chad Basin. It has been more than a decade that XX terrorist activities of the Boko Haram group are spreading in the Lake Chad Basin area causing great suffering, enormous losses in human life, social and economic infrastructure as well as massive displacement of populations which has generated important humanitarian needs.

Because of this reality that the UN Security Council adopted, on 31 March 2017, the Resolution 2349 on the terrorist threat in the Lake Chad basin by Boko Haram. The resolution reiterates the primary responsibility of member states to protect civilian populations in their territories and encourages countries in the region to prioritize human rights concerns and facilitate greater cooperation with United Nations agencies.

Today, the countries of the Lake Chad Basin face an upsurge in attacks from terrorist and criminal groups who exploit local conflicts and social fractures to weaken national cohesion and unity. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 10.6 million people need humanitarian assistance in the Lake Chad Basin region. 2.8 million people are internally displaced and a further 264,000 are refugees. Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, within the framework of the Multinational Joint Force (MNJTF), continue to fight against these various actors who threaten peace and security in northeastern Nigeria and in the Lake Chad.

A solidarity visit

To assess the impact of this security crisis, the two



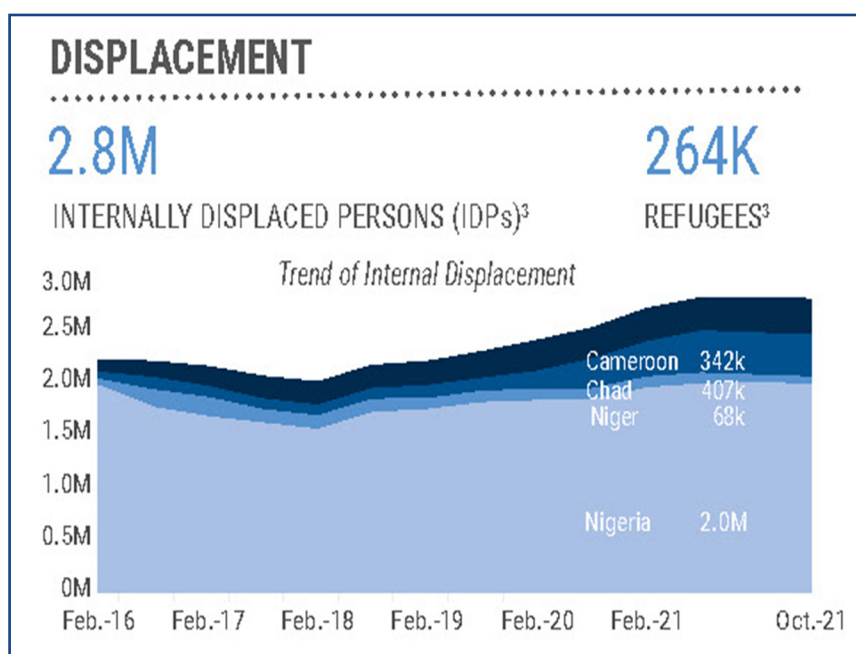
10.6 million people need humanitarian assistance in the Lake Chad Basin region

Special Representatives, François Louncény FALL and Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, undertook a joint tour in the countries of the Lake Chad Basin affected by the Boko-Haram. In a spirit of solidarity, they successively visited Cameroon (18 – 20 October 2021), Chad (20-22 October 2021) and Nigeria (28 – 30 October 2021). In all the three countries, the Special Representatives met with members of the government, local and military authorities, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), as well as humanitarian and development partners.

The Special Representatives also visited Maroua (Far-North Region in Cameroon), Baga Sola (Lake Province in Chad) and Maiduguri (North-East Nigeria) where they met with local communities, internal displaced populations, and refugees. While stressing the importance of having a holistic response to the security and humanitarian challenges affecting the Lake Chad Basin region, the two UN officials called for a strong collaboration at the national and regional



Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF and François Lo



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levels and for the adoption of a regional approach to the insurgency of Boko Haram and other extremist groups.

During their visits, FALL and ANNADIF noted the progress made by countries, with the support of United Nations agencies, in the implementation of the regional strategy for the stabilization, recovery and resilience of areas affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin.

This strategy was adopted in August 2018 by the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)and approved by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in December 2018. It is a response to threats and helps tackle the root causes of the conflict and ensure long-term stabilization in the region. UNOCA and UNOWAS and their partners will continue working in cooperation to support the LCBC in its tireless efforts towards the stabilization of the Lake Chad Basin.

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[The United Nations' support to tackle insecurity in Lake Chad Basin](#)

The UN social cohesion initiative, for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the sub-region

On 10 and 12 November, the towns of Nzérékoré in Guinea, and Niamey in Niger, hosted the launching ceremonies of the regional social cohesion initiative. A UN initiative designed in coordination with the countries of the region to promote inclusive dialogue, peace, cultural diversity, and social cohesion between communities.



Nzérékoré, the starting point of the cultural caravan for peace in Guinea

The Guinean population is characterized by its great ethnic diversity. It includes three main linguistic groups: the Fulani in Middle Guinea (or Foutah Djallon), the Malinké in Upper Guinea and the Soussous on the Coast (or Maritime Guinea). The forest region has about 24 distinct languages. It is therefore this heterogeneous region, more precisely the city of Nzérékoré, which was chosen to host the official launching ceremony of the UN Social Cohesion initiative in the Republic of Guinea.

The «Promotion of Inclusiveness and Social Cohesion in Guinea» initiative is a United Nations contribution to help facilitate a peaceful and inclusive transition in Guinea. A cultural caravan will promote reconciliation processes at the national and community level, local

cultures, and the strengthening of local peace infrastructures, human rights and a larger participation of women and all communities in reinforcing social cohesion and the living together.

Guinea's second largest city, Nzérékoré is not only known for its large markets which make it an essential trade center in the country. It is also notorious for its rich cultural and ethnic diversity.

A common dream: A united and prosperous Guinea

Against the backdrop of a drum and balafon accompanied by a few sketches of traditional dance steps, the University of Nzérékoré looks like a festivity place. Representatives of national, local, community, religious authorities, women, men, but also representatives of the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European



Young people must surpass themselves and work to be men and women of integrity in a country where justice is regaining the place it deserves



Theater troupe performing at the launching ceremony of the Social Cohesion Initiative in Nzérékoré

Union, ambassadors, from Conakry, and above all, young people are settling in the amphitheater prepared for this special occasion. Everyone is talking about social cohesion, peace, diversity, culture, and living together.

Aissatou Yaya Diallo, Fatoumata Binta Diallo and Houssainatou Diallo, three young Guinean students who came to attend this important event which marks the launch of the Cultural Awareness Caravan for the promotion of peace and living together. After endowing the audience with a beautiful and engaging poem denouncing conflict, inter-ethnic violence and calling for peace, Aissatou, undergraduate student, environmental sciences, reunites with her group of friends. "I dream of a united and prosperous Guinea", she says to them, adding that "if there is peace, we can hope that everything will be better". The three students at the University of Nzérékoré discuss among themselves and talk about their aspirations for Guinea which is so dear to them. Aissatou's dream for her homeland is widely shared by her two friends who also repeat that they would like to see their country united. And Houssainatou, who is studying hydrology, adds that "it is only in an environment of peace that we can develop".

For his part, Diakité Aboubacar Sidiki, president of the youth of the University of Nzérékoré believes that the development of Guinea must be done with the young people. "Guinea cannot move forward if we do not join hands and forgive each other. Young

people must surpass themselves and work to be people of integrity in a country where justice is regaining the place it deserves," he declared.

Echoing the declarations of the young people, and taking into account the political situation that the country is facing, the United Nations Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, emphasized in his remarks the importance of this event in the context of the current transition in the Republic of Guinea: "This day offers us the opportunity to recall the individual and collective responsibility of all Guineans in the behavior, actions, and facts likely to weaken the social fabric," he said.

Indeed, Nzérékoré has always been a melting pot of peaceful coexistence, exchange, and solidarity. It is in this area that on 19 November 2013 the intercommunity pact of non-aggression and peaceful cohabitation

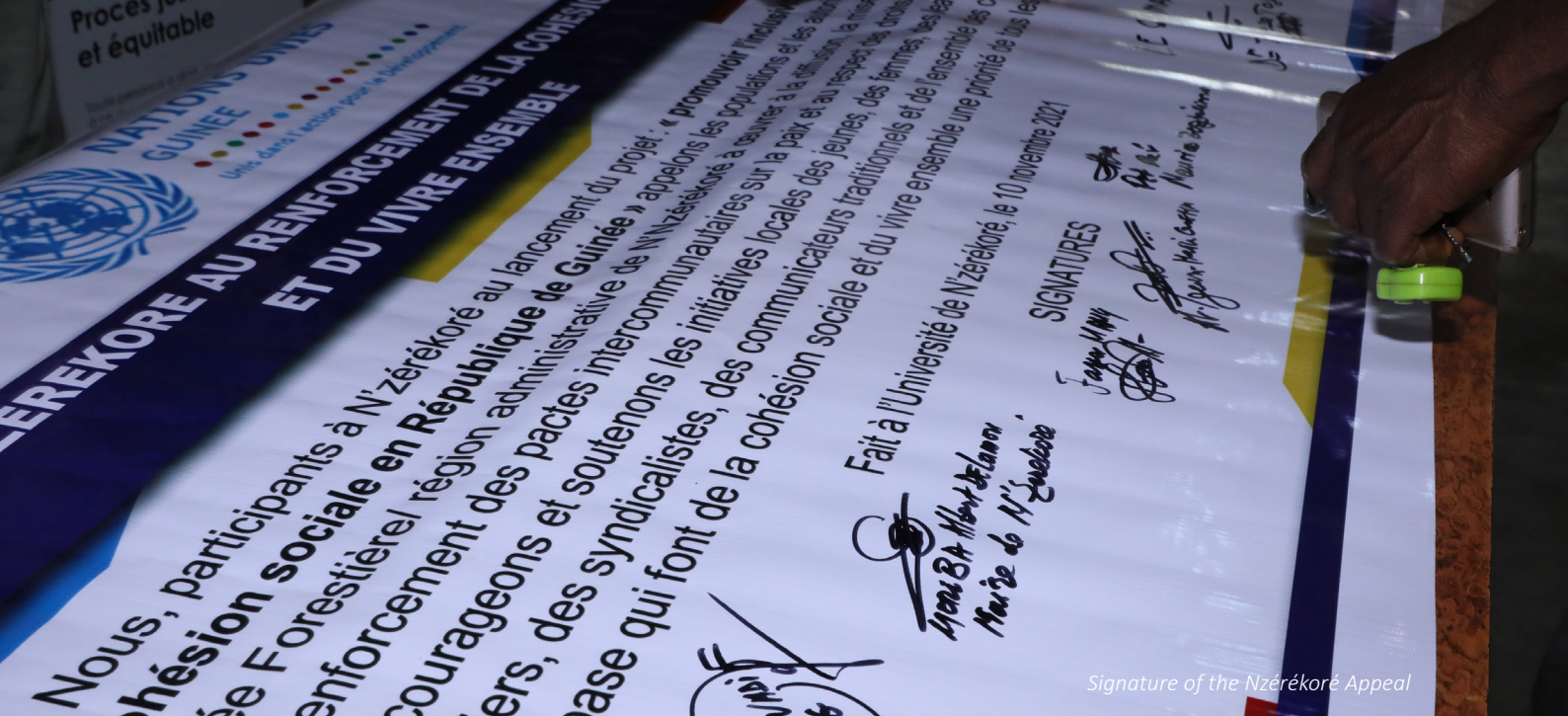


I dream of a united and prosperous Guinea, if there is peace, we can hope that everything will be better

between the social groups living in Forest Guinea was signed with the involvement of customary, intellectual, and religious authorities, social workers, goodwill, including civil society organizations.



Students of the University of Nzérékoré



Signature of the Nzérékoré Appeal

For his part, the mayor of the urban municipality of Nzérékoré, Moriba Albert Délamou, believes that this initiative is timely to strengthen social cohesion and the living together. "For various causes, interethnic clashes were recorded in our country from 1991, leading to social unrest and mistrust. This fracture of the social fabric must necessarily be healed by sensitization at all levels to prevent further conflicts on the one hand and accelerate reconciliation on the other", he declared.

Present at the ceremony, the representative of the transitional government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, Morissanda Kouyaté, who indicated that this program will be important in the lives of young people and called on them "to fight the evil spirit of ethnic division" and to "Walk hand in hand."

This first step in the launch of this initiative led to the adoption of the Nzérékoré Call to strengthening the implementation of solidarity and social cohesion pacts concluded between communities in the region.

Social cohesion, a daily renewed effort

In addition to Nzérékoré, the cities of Macenta, Siguiri, Kankan, Dabola, Mamou, Labé, Koundara, Boffa, Kindia, and Conakry will, throughout

2022, host the cultural awareness caravan to continue promoting inclusive dialogue, peace, cultural diversity, and social cohesion between communities.

Forums for exchange and dialogue are planned to discuss issues related to social cohesion and identify endogenous local solutions that can help ensure a peaceful and inclusive transition in Guinea. The results of the various consultations will be presented to the highest authorities of Guinea, in December 2022, in Conakry, the last stop of the tour.

Nzérékoré set the tone for this initiative, which falls within the framework of the United Nations conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategy, and which makes it possible to support countries in the sub-region in their efforts to strengthen social cohesion.

A similar project to strengthen social cohesion and consolidate national dialogue was also launched in the Republic of Niger on 12 November 2021, by the Special Representative ANNADIF and the Prime Minister, Ouhoumoudou MAHAMADOU. It will also be initiated in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

"Social cohesion is not just a theoretical concept, it is an effort that is renewed everyday", recalled Mr. ANNADIF.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Religious and traditional leaders, major actors in peacebuilding



An imam, a priest and a traditional chief in discussion during the seminar organized in Dakar.

Considering the role that play different actors in the sub-region to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, UNOWAS organized on December 16 and 17 a regional seminar on the contribution of traditional and religious leaders to peacebuilding in Dakar.

Consolidating peace and preventing conflicts in the sub-region requires a long-term effort and a constant commitment from all national partners and actors. The participation of civil society, especially youth and women, in peace processes is both necessary and urgent. The same applies with religious and traditional leaders whose role, increasingly important at the local and national levels, could make a significant contribution to the efforts of national authorities and regional institutions to prevent conflict and consolidate peace.

UNOWAS took the initiative to bring together about sixty religious and traditional leaders recognized in the sub-region for their commitment to peace and social cohesion. The objective was to create a framework for discussion to share different experiences and diagnoses, and to articulate recommendations to further strengthen the participation of religious and traditional leaders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes, as well as the promotion of values of tolerance and justice.

Major player

Knowing the proximity of traditional and religious leaders to local communities, as well as the importance of their presence in the West African social space, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, was keen to emphasize the major contribution of traditional and religious leaders in raising awareness among the people, and in rooting social cohesion in a sub-region beset by various challenges. "You are a major player whose contribution to conflict prevention and resolution must be supported to better consolidate peace in the sub-region," said ANNADIF at the opening of the regional seminar.

Responding to the invitation of UNOWAS, the participants shared their diagnoses on the social and political reality and exchanged on the necessary measures to be put in place so that they can, in coordination with local and national authorities, make a more effective contribution to the processes aimed at resolving conflicts and consolidating peace.

Participants highlighted various experiences of conflict prevention while emphasizing the effectiveness

of holistic approaches based on political, social and economic inclusiveness as a mechanism for the emergence and strengthening of alternatives to violence and conflict.

A first its kind

For religious and traditional leaders, the seminar was "a first of its kind" that must be repeated. Indeed, the challenges related to security and peace in West Africa and the Sahel are increasingly complex and require continuous mobilization and coordinated action to better contribute to peacebuilding.

At the end of two days of discussions, the religious and traditional leaders launched an Appeal to national and regional authorities and to various partners calling on them to support the recommendations made by the seminar for an effective contribution to peacebuilding and conflict prevention in West Africa and the Sahel.

For its part, UNOWAS, within the framework of its mandate and within its capacity, is committed to supporting the establishment of a platform of traditional and religious legitimacies and experts in order to enable better coordination of strategies and actions for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

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Participantes à l'Open Day de Bissau

West African women call for a swift implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325

Bissau, the capital of Guinea-Bissau, hosted on 23 November 2021, the regional Open Day on the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on Gender, women, youth, peace and security.

Resolution 1325, adopted unanimously on 31 October 2000 by the United Nations Security Council, has a special significance which underlines the need to involve women in conflicts prevention and resolution, negotiations and peace consolidation, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction. It provides a decisive political framework that makes women relevant to negotiate peace agreements, plan peacekeeping operations and rebuild conflict-torn societies.

About a hundred women and young people from the sub-region took part in the 2021 Open Day which was co-chaired by HE Umaro Sissoco Embaló, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, and Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and

the Sahel. The event also saw the participation of Mrs. Maria da Conceicao, Minister of Women, Family and Social Solidarity of Guinea-Bissau; Ms. Suzi Carla Barbosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of Guinea-Bissau; Ms. Amina Priscille Longoh, Minister of Women, Family and Child Protection of the Republic of Chad and President of the G5 Sahel Council of Ministers; Mr. Emmanuel OHIN, Ambassador, Representative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Guinea-Bissau.

During five hours, women and young people exchanged with M ANNADIF on new and appropriate initiatives and approaches to adopt to prevent, manage conflicts and consolidate peace with a view to accelerate the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security”



I will continue to advocate with states to get involved and enforce the laws that have been passed

agenda in West Africa and the Sahel.

In the region, an impact assessment carried out in 2020 by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNOWAS showed that over the past 20 years of implementation of the resolution 1325 (2000) of the UN Security Council, notable achievements and progress have been made, but additional efforts will be necessary as there is still a long way to go to achieve better results.

Among other achievements, laws, mechanisms, and strategies have been adopted to protect women and girls and promote their participation in conflict prevention, political processes, and peace mediation and negotiation processes. “All these

positive developments require us to advocate for the effective implementation of the laws on gender-based violence, parity and quotas voted by most countries in the region”, said M ANNADIF during the exchange session with the participants.

At the end of this day, M ANNADIF pledged to continue to advocate and support all initiatives and action plans towards the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions. “I will continue to advocate with states to get involved and enforce the laws that have been passed,” he stated

Organized annually by UNOWAS, in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the G5 Sahel, the Mano River Union (MRU), peace missions, UN Women and other entities of the United Nations in the region, the Regional Open Days are a framework for exchange where women and young leaders share with senior UN officials and regional organizations their experiences, their concerns and priorities in the framework of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security.

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In Abuja, youth demand their full participation in decision-making processes

Nearly 200 young women and men gathered on December 9 and 10 in Abuja as part of the 2nd annual West Africa and Sahel Youth Forum to discuss the theme: "Young women and men at the heart. innovation and building peaceful and resilient societies".

The annual forums of young women and men for peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel are part of the activities of UNOWAS in partnership with ECOWAS for the implementation of Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) relating to youth, peace and security.

After the first edition held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in December 2018, the second edition, organized jointly by UNOWAS and the Center for the Development of Youth and Sports – CDJS of ECOWAS, with the support of the Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria, aimed at discussing initiatives and means to strengthen the contribution of youth in building peaceful, resilient and prosperous societies in West Africa and the Sahel.

During the two days, discussions focused on various themes, in particular: the role of young people in the consolidation of democracy and peace, the challenges of promoting gender equality and a culture of non-discrimination, the contribution of young people in the construction of an innovation ecosystem for development, among others.

Synergies for development

Many synergies have arisen from

the thematic workshops. Like Joshua and Mitchell, two young residents of Abuja who met during the Forum and who are particularly interested in the issue of youth entrepreneurship as a solution to the problem of employment. "In Nigeria, increasingly young people are almost forced to choose entrepreneurship given the precariousness of the jobs and the low wages available to them. By growing their own business, they do better than when they are employed in a company," said Mitchell, sharing his first work experience as a young engineer.

Other testimonies from the experiences of participants, from Guinea-Bissau to Mali, from Cabo Verde to Chad, were also shared. All these young people underlined the importance of their participation in democratic institutions and the need to better integrate them into decision-making bodies at national and regional levels. They also expressed their concerns about violent extremism and the phenomenon of clandestine migration that affect young people, while stressing the urgency of equipping them so that they can fully play their role as a major actor of the change towards a better situation.

Abuja Call to Action

Following the work of the Forum, young women and men launched the Abuja Call to Action, which contains a series of recommendations, formulated for the attention of the authorities of the countries and partners in the sub-region. One of them urges young women and men of West Africa and the Sahel to pool their efforts and know-how to actively contribute to the consolidation of peace and the building of societies. economically and socially strong.

Echoing the interrogations and proposals of the youth, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF, reaffirmed the need to take measures to further support young people. "Innovation by the youth as a strategic tool to strengthen peace and development should be considered as a priority," he said during his intervention. He also reiterated the commitment of the United Nations and UNOWAS to remain mobilized to provide, in collaboration with ECOWAS and other partners, the necessary support to help young people fully play their role in strengthening peace, democracy and development in West Africa and the Sahel.



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▲ Participants au deuxième Forum des annuel des
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▼ Young leaders in discussion during thematic
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