



Impunity, access to justice and human rights at the heart of a regional conference in Niamey



A UNOWAS' study to better prevent conflicts between herders and farmers in West Africa and the Sahel

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Alioune Tine, UN Independent Expert on Human Rights: «There can be no rule of law unless there is respect for fundamental human rights»

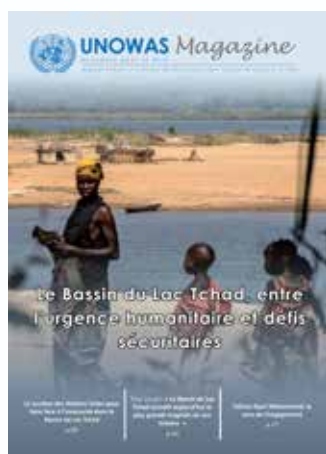
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UNOWAS Magazine

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

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LET'S BE VIGILANT



Mohamed Ibn Chambas

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

There is no peace without justice and there is no justice without peace. The two are intrinsically linked. They require conviction and conscience.

«Peace is impossible without justice,» wrote South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. Indeed, man's quest for peace and justice has never ceased to grow in a constantly changing world. A world that celebrates peace but does not hesitate to resort to violence and conflict.

Working for justice to have peace must be our leitmotiv, our objective, our daily conscience.

UNOWAS, whose role is to help prevent conflict and consolidate peace, works in synergy with countries and partners in West Africa and the Sahel to make this objective of peace and justice a reality and not a pipe dream.

The West African region and the Sahel is not immune to the turbulence of this world.

Indeed, the challenges facing this region are many. But they are not insurmountable.

Impunity, access to justice and human rights, as well as pastoralism in a security context marked by new threats, are important themes, the treatment of which can have direct consequences for peace and justice in the sub-region.

Building on its expertise in the field

of prevention, and the quality of the cooperation it has built up over more than fifteen years with regional and international partners, UNOWAS has recently coordinated two major activities: a regional conference on Impunity, access to justice and human rights, and a study on Pastoralism and security in West Africa and the Sahel.

Two observations can be made.

The first: After the Bamako Declaration in 2011, it was necessary, even urgent, to take stock of the human rights

situation in general, and impunity and access to justice in particular.

The deteriorating security situation in some parts of the sub-region and its unprecedented violence require us to be vigilant in order to better protect fundamental human rights principles and prevent abuses of all kinds.

It is in this spirit that the Niamey regional conference was able to offer an analysis and

a clear vision to fight impunity and improve access to justice. This is reflected in the Niamey Declaration, which illustrates the determination of the participants, including national and regional actors, to tackle these issues head on so that access to justice and human rights are the common good of all citizens in West Africa and the Sahel.

While progress has been made since the 2011 Bamako Declaration, much remains to be done. The countries of the sub-region have undertaken

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- ▶ significant reforms that have led to some improvement in the legal systems and the functioning of justice. However, more proactive action is needed to meet the legitimate demands of different social categories.

The second observation: In recent years, conflicts involving pastoralists and farmers have increased in parts of West Africa and the Sahel, causing thousands of deaths. These conflicts arise mainly from competition for access to land, water and food. But political and socio-economic factors are also associated with it, which relate to the way natural resources are managed.

As part of its conflict prevention work, UNOWAS has addressed this issue through an in-depth study on Pastoralism and Security in six countries in West Africa and the Sahel: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria.

The study, which is rich in lessons, encourages us to redouble our efforts and share our experience and expertise to help the countries of the region eradicate this phenomenon.

In the face of this phenomenon, we must work in synergy to ensure that relations between pastoralists and farmers are no longer another source of deadly conflicts, but a foundation for peace and prosperity in West Africa and the Sahel.

The prevention work we are carrying out with our various national and regional partners, either through this regional conference in Niamey or through the study on Pastoralism and Security, aims to make peace and justice a reality in West Africa and the Sahel.

This seventh edition of UNOWAS Magazine devotes considerable space to these two major issues.

The Global Compact for Migration, to ensure safety and dignity of migrants

The Global Compact for Migration was adopted on 10 December 2018 by leading representatives from 164 Governments at an international conference in Marrakesh, Morocco. The global compact for migration is the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

The adoption of the pact, now known as Marrakech Compact, coincides with the 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document which is central to the pact. The global compact is non-legally binding. It is grounded in values of state sovereignty, responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination, and human rights, and recognizes that a cooperative approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing its risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

For the United Nations Secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, the Compact provides a platform for “humane, sensible, mutually beneficial action” resting on two “simple ideas”. “Firstly, that migration has always been with us, but should be managed and safe; second, that national policies are far more likely to succeed with international cooperation.”

Along with Climate Change, unregulated migration has become a pressing issue in recent years. Every year, thousands of migrants lose their lives or go missing on perilous routes, often fallen victim to smugglers and traffickers. The global compact is a significant opportunity to improve the governance on migration, to address the challenges associated with today’s migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.

There are 23 objectives and commitments listed in the pact. These include collecting and using accurate and anonymized data to develop evidence-based migration policy, ensuring that all migrants have proof of identity, enhancing availability and flexibility for regular migration, encouraging cooperation for tracking missing migrants and saving lives, ensuring migrants can access basic services, and making provisions for both full inclusion of migrants and social cohesion.

► Impunity, access to justice and human rights at the heart of a regional conference in Niamey

Improving governance and strengthening peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel requires, among other things, measures that match citizens' aspirations to fight impunity and strengthen respect for human rights. To this end, a regional conference coordinated by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) was held in Niamey from 10 to 12 September 2018, in the presence of the President of Niger, Mohamadou Issoufou.



The countries of the West African region and the Sahel have made some significant progress in socio-economic development and the consolidation of democracy. However, challenges persist in the areas of combating impunity, access to justice and respect for human rights, particularly in a context marked by new threats to peace and security.

It is in this context that under the aegis of UNOWAS, the United Nations agencies represented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Platform for West and Central Africa, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR-WARO), the UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa, UN Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations, organized, from 10 to 12 September 2018 in Niamey, in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and the G5 Sahel, and in close collaboration with the Government of Niger, a regional conference on the theme: impunity, access to justice and human rights in the context of new threats to peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel.

Finding effective responses

This Niamey conference, which comes seven years after the one held in December 2011 in Bamako, Mali, and at

“New threats such as violent extremism, terrorism and conflicts linked to pastoralism require that we redouble our efforts to strengthen respect for the law and fundamental human rights principles.»

the end of which a Bamako Declaration on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights was adopted, testifies to the continued interest and determination of national, regional and international actors to find lasting and effective solutions to the challenges that hinder the full realization of human rights and make access to justice in the region difficult.

Indeed, the Niamey conference was an opportunity to assess the situation with regard to respect for human rights and the rule of law since the Bamako conference and to provide effective responses to combat impunity and improve access to justice and human rights.

Welcoming the regional conference, the President of Niger, Issoufou Mahamadou,

stressed the importance of this meeting and the need for partners to remain committed: «The fight against impunity helps to restore the common values of a society, to affirm the superiority of good over evil, of order over chaos (...) we must relentlessly continue the many legal and institutional reforms that have been initiated here and there and multiply all the opportunities to pool our efforts», he declared at the opening ceremony of the conference.

For his part, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, recalled in his speech that «new threats such as violent extremism, terrorism and conflicts linked to pastoralism require that we redouble our efforts to strengthen respect for the law and fundamental human rights principles.»

Some 100 experts, including ministers of justice and presidents of supreme courts, academics, political actors, civil society representatives, human rights defenders, lawyers, heads of truth and reconciliation commissions and representatives of victims' groups in West Africa and the Sahel met for three days to assess the situation and formulate practical responses to current challenges in addition to those set out in the 2011 Bamako Declaration.

Participants discussed issues that focused on ways and

means to strengthen strategies to prevent and combat impunity, promote equitable access to justice and protect human rights against all forms of violations

Strengthening the administration of an independent

They also discussed ways to explore innovative approaches to strengthen the administration of an independent, impartial and effective justice system. Emphasis was also placed on improving legislative and operational frameworks to address structural and institutional obstacles to access to justice and respect for human rights. In addition, participants shared experiences and lessons learned from their respective countries' experiences on concrete measures taken to combat impunity and on approaches to enable judicial systems in the countries of the sub-region to better adapt to the challenges caused by emerging threats to peace and security, such as

violent extremism and transnational organized crime.

Other topics covered included: the role of transitional justice in national reconciliation and social cohesion processes and lessons learned from transitional justice mechanisms in West Africa and the Sahel; the scope and challenges of military justice in the countries of the sub-region; the interface between national, regional and international justice and experience in applying the principles of complementarity and subsidiarity; strengthening justice and human rights in the context of political processes (elections, constitutional and political reforms) and the development of strategic partnerships for the capacity building of justice sector institutions.

The Niamey Declaration

Based on the analysis and conclusions of the Niamey conference, participants were able to articu-

late a series of innovative provisions and practical recommendations contained in the Niamey Declaration on Combating Impunity, Access to Justice and Human Rights.

A notable element of the Niamey Declaration is the recommendation to create a ministerial platform that will facilitate consultations and follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations. The platform, which is expected to meet regularly, will provide an opportunity for policymakers and technical experts from countries in the region to dialogue and consult on measures taken to address challenges related to access to justice and respect for human rights.

Echoing the spirit that prevailed during the three days of work, many participants from various backgrounds welcomed the adoption of the Niamey Declaration and expressed their satisfaction with the commitment of the na-



People converge on market day in Djibo, in the Soum Province of Burkina Faso's Sahel administrative region. The majority of attacks by armed Islamist groups active in Burkina Faso have been on villages in the Soum Province. © Irene Abdou



tional, regional and international actors present at the conference.

In her closing address to the conference, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten, stated that «the adoption of the Niamey Declaration at the end of the conference provides a solid basis for further advocacy and action.

I am particularly pleased that the work of the conference and the Declaration highlighted the importance of accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, including by addressing the root causes.

Stressing the importance of accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, Ms. Patten stressed that sexual violence continues to be used as a tactic of war, terrorism, torture and repression, including targeting victims on the basis of their actual or perceived ethnic, religious or political affiliation. Parties to a conflict use this horrific crime as a mean to gain a strategic military advantage and advance their

“According to the Special Representative, the Niamey Declaration emphasizes access to justice and reparations for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the need for practical measures and mechanisms to address such violations, particularly in the context of violent extremism and terrorism.

ideological and political agendas.

According to the Special Representative, the Niamey Declaration emphasizes access to justice and reparation for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the need to establish concrete mechanisms to address such violations, particularly in the context of violent extremism and terrorism.

«In our responses, it is important

to have a holistic victim-centred approach to address the root causes of sexual violence, gender inequality, discrimination, poverty and marginalization as invisible factors. An effective response also requires the creation of strategic links and partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations,» Ms. Patten stressed, while reiterating her office's commitment to promoting the principles, priorities and actions set out in the Niamey Declaration, in partnership with the various actors, including civil society.

Representatives of civil society organizations also stressed the need for Member States to implement the recommendations adopted in the Niamey Declaration. They called on all actors to put in place measures to facilitate the implementation of the Niamey Declaration, which will contribute to combating impunity and promoting access to justice and human rights in West Africa and the Sahel.

Alioune Tine: «There can be no rule of law without respect for fundamental human rights»



Alioune Tine

After having been Regional Director of Amnesty International for West and Central Africa for three years from 2015 to 2018, Alioune TINE is now a UN Independent Expert on Human Rights in Mali. We took advantage of his participation in the Niamey Regional Conference on Impunity and Access to Justice to ask him some questions. Interview.

Justice is at the center of the political and social agenda in many countries in West Africa and the Sahel - What does this inspire you?

It is an excellent initiative of the United Nations to have organized in Niamey a conference on impunity bringing together all the key actors, including

ministers of justice, judges of national and regional high courts, lawyers and human rights organizations in West Africa and the Sahel on issues of impunity, because impunity is a real cancer for our democratic institutions and for our societies. Especially with the conflicts and tensions that are plaguing the sub-

region, to which neither States nor institutions had adequate and appropriate responses. Especially since the soft belly of African democratic institutions is justice, which is often denounced by human rights organizations or simply by public opinion because of the negative perceptions they have of it.

It is good to change the perception of an African justice system whose impartiality and independence would be questionable, or subordinate to the executive branch and often corrupt.

In your opinion, what are the issues and challenges of an independent judiciary in the service of a peaceful democracy and political and social stability?

The fundamental challenge is to build a state based on the rule of law, a democracy that is not disguised, an independent judiciary and, above all, the existence of respect for fundamental human rights. Here, we specify civil and political rights but also economic, social and cultural rights.

“The fundamental challenge is to concomitantly build a state of law, a strong democratic system, an independent judiciary and, above all, fundamentally the respect for fundamental human rights.”

All these principles and values are connected because, in my view, there can be no State without a State that functions properly, in other words, a State that does not fail, there can be no State of law without justice and there can be no State of law without respect for fundamental human rights.

Today, it must be noted that in most ECOWAS and Sahel States, the independence of the judiciary is increasingly contested. Human rights and human

“In the context of threats to peace and security, what comes up very often is that security is taken as a pretext for hijacking or putting human rights and fundamental freedoms on the back burner.”

rights defenders in most countries are in an increasingly vulnerable situation, which affects the quality of democracy and the rule of law, which are becoming more and more dysfunctional.

What is your assessment of the state of the relationship between justice and human rights in the context of the persistent threats to peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel?

In the context of threats to peace and security, what very often emerges is that security is taken as a pretext to take hostage or to put human rights and fundamental freedoms on hold.

To this end, it has been noted that many countries have adopted anti-terrorism laws whose net is so narrow that it is easy to assimilate dissident and terrorist. For us, whatever the situation, taking the example of the fight against terrorism as an illustration, this fight must be carried out in compliance with the international human rights obligations of States. Under no circumstances can states with international commitments, which have signed, and ratified international human rights treaties and conventions behave like terrorist armed groups.

What is your assessment of the transitional justice and national reconciliation mechanisms?

Transitional justice is necessary in countries emerging from periods of conflict or very harsh dictatorships where there are thousands of victims and where conflicts have pitted thousands of people against each other.

Transitional justice is the mechanism for acknowledging the harm done to victims and allowing perpetrators to tell the truth about what happened by confessing their crimes and asking for forgiveness.

This is a cathartic exercise that opens the door to reconciliation and peace. However, it must be made clear that transitional justice cannot deal with international crimes that are not time-barred and that fall within the jurisdiction of the criminal courts competent to try war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide that cannot be erased by national amnesty laws.

What do you expect from Governments, Regional Organisations, Civil Society Organisations and the United Nations in the implementation of the resulting Niamey Declaration?

What is expected first of all is that all these actors set up an advocacy strategy in each country for the implementation of the Niamey Declaration, which is an important declaration, which is the result of an exhaustive inventory by all the actors.

In my view, in every country where we have judges, lawyers, civil society organizations and ministers, they must constitute a kind of cell for the implementation of the Declaration.

THEY HAVE SAID



Amina J. Mohammed

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Remarks at Strategic Consultative Meeting on the Sahel, Nouakchott, 28 March 2018

“

The UN action in the Sahel will be implemented through six priority, multi-agency and cross-country programmes, ranging from providing support for cross-border cooperation to prevent violent extremism and human trafficking, to strengthening access to justice, addressing food security and conflict through climate-smart agriculture, promoting entrepreneurship and empowering women and youth, and supporting security sector reforms.”



Mahamadou Issoufou

President of the Republic of Niger

Regional Conference on impunity, access to justice and human rights, in Niger, 10 September 2018

“

Impunity is the absence in law or in fact of bringing into question the criminal responsibility of the perpetrators of human rights violations, as well as their civil, administrative or disciplinary responsibilities, in that case they escape any investigation to induce their indictment, arrest, trial and, if found guilty, their condemnation to appropriate penalties, including compensation for making reparations to their victims.”



Jonathan Allen

UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Security Council Briefing on the Group of Five for the Sahel, 15 November 2018

“

The United Kingdom emphasises the importance of operations the G5 Sahel Joint Force being conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. And we welcome the steps already taken to advance the compliance framework and encourage continued efforts to embed and operationalise this across the G5 Sahel Force. Civilian protection, operationalisation of this framework is vital to maintaining the support and consent of the populations the Joint Force was created to protect.”

► Nigeria, a priority for UNOWAS

Four years after the 2015 elections, which resulted in a peaceful political change, Nigeria is preparing to hold presidential and parliamentary elections in February 2019. The preservation of peace in this African great country also requires support of regional actors to ensure a peaceful and credible electoral process.

With elections in Nigeria approaching, all eyes are on this most populous country of the continent. This underlines the importance of this step not only for Nigerians themselves, but also for the region which continues to face multiple challenges, including security ones.

As a regional actor, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) places the next elections in Nigeria at the top of its 2019 priorities. Because, beyond the holding of elections, pre and post electoral periods are crucial for the maintenance of a peaceful environment that guarantees a non-violent political change.

That is the reason why UNOWAS has initiated a prevention work in order to support and sensitize major actors in Nigeria to work together to organize elections in a free of violence environment.

From 11 to 23 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas had undertaken a two-week travel across Nigeria to provide United Nations support to national organizations, including Nigerian civil society organizations for the organization of free and peaceful elections.

In the many meetings he had in Anambra, Benue, Kaduna and Rivers states, Ibn Chambas insisted on the need to prepare 2019 elections in a peaceful atmosphere and in the respect of human rights so that Nigeria can move forward in peacebuilding.

Indeed, in a country that continues to face the threat of the terrorist group Boko Haram, security forces have an important role to play in protecting citizens and allowing them to cast



“This mission, which was part of a joint effort, aimed at supporting Nigerian stakeholders to work together for a peaceful preparation of the next elections.”

their vote.

In this regard, Ibn Chambas called on all his interlocutors to redouble their efforts to sensitize voters to go to poll in a peaceful and responsible state of mind.

Prior to this two-week tour, the SRSG undertook, from 29 to 30 October, a joint visit to Abuja with his counterpart, Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the ECOWAS Commission.

This mission, which was part of a joint effort, aimed at supporting Nigerian stakeholders to work together for a peaceful preparation of the next elec-

tions.

Indeed, the series of peaceful elections that the countries of the subregion experienced a few years ago, demonstrated how important it is to undertake regional and joint initiatives to prevent possible political tensions that may degenerate into violence.

The various discussions the two officials had, allowed them to appreciate the quality of the work and the commitment of the actors involved, in particular the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), to organize credible elections, free of violence and in the respect of rule of law.

During this visit, the two regional partners welcomed the efforts of the Federal Government to provide the necessary resources for the electoral process and welcomed the efforts of the security agencies to ensure that the elections are conducted in a secure and peaceful environment.

▶ A UNOWAS' study to better prevent conflicts between herders and farmers in West Africa and the Sahel



UNOWAS presented, on 16 October 2018, its study on pastoralism and security in West Africa and the Sahel. This study, based on field research in six West African countries, highlights the importance of a two-way approach to responding to the spike in farmer-herder conflicts in the region: immediate efforts to stop the killings and address human rights abuses and violations in the areas most affected by conflict and long-term strategies to prevent violence from taking root in places that are relatively peaceful. For both approaches a regional perspective is essential given the crossborder nature of transhumance in many countries.

«**W**e have always lived according to our traditional principles that promote peace. But today, tensions between herders and farmers prevent us from living peacefully,» says Hadj Mohamadou, a 68-year old Nigerian farmer. Raised in a family of herders and a father of three boys, also herders, Hadj Mohamadou is worried about the rise in tensions between farmers and herders. This concern is shared by Babacar Selou, the son of a Guinean farmer who laments that «violent clashes between farmers and herders are common».

Historically, tensions have always existed between farmers and herders in West Africa and the Sahel, but

“**T**he study emphasizes the rising death toll from farmer-herder conflicts in a number of areas in the region.”

these tensions were often resolved by traditional mechanisms. Today, these tensions have become increasingly frequent and violent, threatening peace and security in the subregion.

As part of its conflict prevention work, UNOWAS embarked on a study to assess these challenges, focusing on six countries in the region where crossborder transhumance is a common feature: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria.

The study emphasizes the rising death toll from farmer-herder conflicts in a number of areas in the region. A driving cause of these conflicts is the competition for access to diminishing grassland and water. Yet political and socio-economic factors also contribute. Where there is limited resource management and government oversight among both groups, conflicts tend to erupt. In addition, climate change, the weak presence of state institutions, the presence of armed groups, and the erosion of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms aggravate the situation.

«Conflicts between farmers and herders are intertwined with multiple security, economic, environmental, and political factors that seriously threaten peace in West Africa and

the Sahel. More than ever, we must increase our efforts and share our experiences and expertise to help the countries of the region to eradicate this phenomenon, «said the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, at the official launch of the study in Dakar. He also called on local, national, regional and international partners to work together so to promote peaceful coexistence between farming and herding communities in West Africa and the Sahel.

UNOWAS' study notes that while the general trend is an increase of conflicts between pastoralists and farmers in the region, the scale and frequency of those conflicts vary considerably between countries, within states and regions. Areas in northeast and central Nigeria, central Mali and the Liptako Gourma zone, are most severely affected given the already existing instability there. However, it is important to recognize that there are many places in different countries of the region where farmers and herders are managing their relations peacefully.

For Ngozi Amu, head of UNOWAS Research and Analysis section, who commissioned the study, «It is essential that local communities themselves be involved in determining how to resolve the conflicts and how to preserve their respective livelihoods. The United Nations and partners have an important role to play in supporting ECOWAS and national governments in these efforts, «she stressed.

To seek sustainable solutions to this phenomenon, the study proposes a series of recommendations addressed to local, national and regional actors. Among those is the need for:

Greater attention to indigenous land rights and natural resource management

The implementation of ECOWAS's protocols on transhumance and the free movement of people, goods and services

Communication strategies that pro-

“UNOWAS' study notes that while the general trend is an increase of conflicts between pastoralists and farmers in the region, the scale and frequency of those conflicts vary considerably between countries, within states and regions.

mote peaceful coexistence between different groups and address stigma-

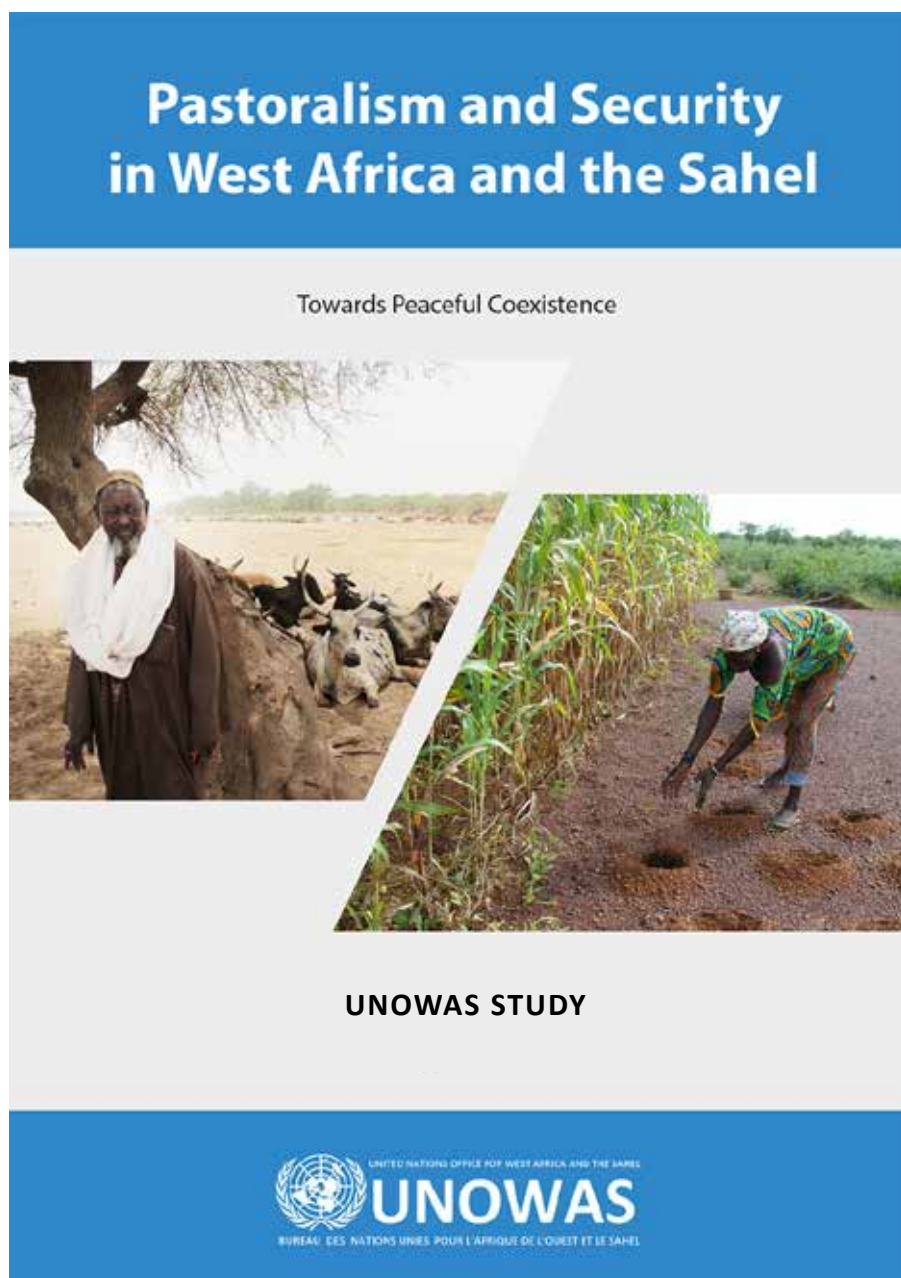
tization and misconceptions

Supporting and reviving traditional conflict management structures at local levels in all ECOWAS member states

Now, local, national, and regional partners will need to move forward to strengthen their common approach to prevent potential new conflicts between farmers and herders in the region.

UNOWAS study on Pastoralism and Security in West Africa and the sahel

Download the study : bit.ly/2QITzGZ



9 Questions & Answers about the study

Why is the study mainly focused on pastoralists as opposed to pastoralists and farmers?

The Study focuses on pastoralism as the main unit of analysis, attempting to understand why conflicts involving pastoralists appear to have escalated in West Africa and the Sahel in recent years.

Specifically, the Study attempts to answer what the causes and drivers of pastoralist-related conflicts are and how they can be resolved.

Are pastoralism-related conflicts a regional challenge?

Yes, they constitute both a national and regional challenge given the cross-border nature of transhumance.

As pastoralists are mobile, tensions can be difficult to contain and spill across borders.

What are the countries covered in the Study and how they were selected?

The Study is based on fieldwork in six countries: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria.

These countries were selected as they form an interconnected transhumance belt across the region. They were also chosen for comparative purposes.

Pastoralism is important in each of these countries, but the scale and dynamics of conflict involving pastoralists vary.

One aim of the comparison is to identify examples of good practice and, conversely, to highlight factors that contribute to violent conflict.

Are all countries in the region equally affected by pastoralism-related conflicts?

No. Although the general trend is of increased conflict, between pastoralists and farmers, this does not apply in all ECOWAS countries. The scale and frequency of farmer-herder conflicts varies greatly between and within West African states.

Nigeria and Mali are currently the most severely affected, due to ongoing instability in both countries.

However, in some countries (e.g. Mauritania and Guinea) farmer-pastoralist cooperation has been reinforced through the adoption of local pastoral codes, dispute resolution mechanisms and good management of natural resources.

Why is there a spike in pastoralism-related conflicts in West Africa and the Sahel?

Recent years have seen a growing competition between different groups over access to grazing land and water in places where such resources are not well managed.

This situation is exacerbated by multiple context-specific factors: heightened demographic and ecological pressures; climate change and acute variability in rainfall patterns; economic and political issues; absence of state institutions in some areas; the presence of extremists and other armed groups; the increased circulation of firearms in the region.

Are these conflicts only between herders and farmers?

Pastoralism-related conflicts frequently take the form of clashes between herders and farmers, but there are many nuances and complex dynamics involved.

Conflicts can sometimes be between pastoralists groups themselves, or involve other actors such as fishermen, forest guards, illegal miners, local bandits and armed groups.

There is a growing phenomenon of herder-farmer conflicts being interlinked with local bandits and violent extremists given the increased presence of such groups in the region along with the prevalence of weapons circulation.

What are the key recommendations of the Study?

UNOWAS Study lists 20 recommendations. Specifically, UNOWAS sees two main areas of response:

Immediate conflict resolution: The redouble our efforts in support of Governments in the region to stop the violence, address human rights abuses, and ensure justice in countries where the death toll and violence relating to pastoralism-related conflicts are high.

Long-term conflict prevention: To promote integrated approaches (economic, political, security, human rights, environment) to prevent conflict between farmers and herders to take root in places that are relatively stable but where there are simmering tensions. To prevent the spill-over of conflict from one country or one zone to another.

What is the current death toll from pastoralism-related conflicts in West Africa and the Sahel?

It is difficult to determine because of limited data and credible sources. However, according to regular media reports and field research, it appears the number of casualties reach over 1000 yearly in the countries covered by the study.

Nigeria is most severely affected. This year, it is reported that over 1500 people have died in conflicts involving herders and farmers and other groups. In Central Mali the number is in the hundreds this year.

This is alarming. We should act swiftly to stop this and prevent further escalation.

What is the UN doing to address this problem?

UNOWAS is working closely with ECOWAS, the UN system and other partners.

With ECOWAS: UNOWAS is supporting ECOWAS since 2017 to identify ways to prevent and resolve conflicts between herders and farmers. ECOWAS held a ministerial meeting on this subject last April; it produced a report with a number of recommendations. The recommendations of UNOWAS Study mirror those of ECOWAS. In terms of concrete activities, UNOWAS will be supporting ECOWAS to:

- develop a regional communications strategy to raise awareness of farmer-herder conflicts and how to address them.

- organize a workshop to capture best practice of traditional dispute resolution mechanism to resolve farmer-herder conflicts.

With the UN system: UNOWAS is working with the UN system in the region to implement some of the recommendations of its Study. We are working closely with FAO, with the UN Country Teams, with non-UN partners and civil society organizations. UNOWAS is also working with UNOCA to share experiences between West – and Central Africa.



▶ A UN Support Plan to boost the development in the Sahel

The UN Support Plan for the Sahel was presented in the margin of the African Union Summit held in June in Nouakchott. What is the objective of this plan and what are the modalities of its implementation?



(c) UNHCR Xavier Bourgois

The UN's commitment to the Sahel has never faltered, on the contrary.

The Sahel Support Plan testifies to the UN's determination to accompany the countries of the Sahel and to see a land of opportunities and not a land of insurmountable challenges.

While facilitating consistency and coordination in favor of greater effectiveness of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), the Support Plan aims at giving new impetus to development and cooperation in the Sahel. According to the Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General for the Sahel, Ibrahim Thiaw, «It is also a question of finding a point of convergence to resolve three overlapping, parallel crises in the

“The Support Plan aims at giving new impetus to development and cooperation in the Sahel.”

region. There is an obvious economic crisis, and there is an ecological crisis, which, of course, includes very serious climate change, and there is a security crisis.

In the spirit of the Security Council Resolution 2391 (2017), the UN Support Plan for the Sahel is a reference framework aiming at serving national, regional and international stakeholders and promote coherence and coordination.

Another important point: The Support Plan highlight the enormous potential of the Sahel and its assets in terms of natural resources, tourism and culture, among others, in the 10 countries covered by the Plan (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal). The development of the potential of the region will also serve as a lever for investment and support in the region..

The potentials of renewable energy

According to M. Ibrahim Thiaw, renewable energies open up a unique opportunity. Although the electrification rate is only on average 31 per cent, almost exclusively concentrated in urban centers, the Sahel is never lacking in sun and wind, and the fall in prices of solar and wind energy is a

unique opportunity to seize, not only for lighting, but especially for inclusive development.

Mr. Thiaw explains: « Just as in the case of Ross Bethio, Senegal and Birni Konni, Niger respectively, women farmers should have solar pumps to irrigate their plots, or clean stoves for cooking. And with Bol's hot sun, Chad should be the source...and no longer the [cause of] the destruction of milk, vegetables and fruit, but the source for producing cold for their conservation.

The strong winds of Boulanouar (Mauritania) are a nuisance due to the sand dust. Yet, the captured wind energy will provide or could provide the means to increase the fish or meat value chain, thus generating multiple jobs for youth in search of a better life,» emphasizes the Special Adviser for the Sahel. «the Sahel is constantly blessed by the sun. The solar irradiation rate is very high. And so there is huge potential», says Ibrahim Thiaw. «The Sahel can be self-sufficient in energy and also provide energy to the rest of Africa or even beyond» he added.

In Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania, 80 per cent of the energy consumed comes from renewable energy. «It's possible also in N'Djamena, Dakar and Ouagadougou,» continues Ibrahim Thiaw. «But also, in Nema, Gao and Timbuktu, and in the most remote villages in the region of Maradi, in Niger, or in Bol on the shores of Lake Chad.»

With the support of ever-changing technologies and declining prices, the Sahel can thus use this energy for agricultural and pastoral production, for the conservation of its products such as meat and fish, and to develop jobs in the region.

The Special Adviser also indicates that investors have already expressed their interest in renewable energy «because they find it profitable». «Renewable energy proves that you do not need to be connected to the grid to produce energy. It's an op-



(c) PNUD Sénégal / Aude Rossignol

portunity to produce and transform wealth locally and create thousands of local jobs, which contribute to curbing the rural exodus of Sahelian youth and migrations to Europe or elsewhere.»

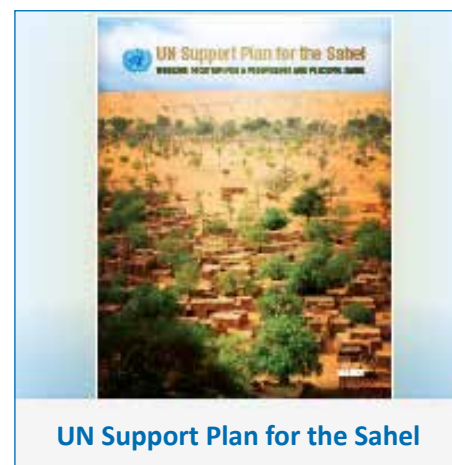
A very young population

The region has another strength: more than two-thirds of the Sahelian population are under 25 years old. «Providing viable and reliable prospects for young people by capitalizing on natural resources, which are abundant in the region, is the best guarantee for peace, and stability and to fight against illegal and dangerous migration for countries of origin, transit, and destination», says Ibrahim Thiaw.

The geographical, historical and cultural proximity of the Sahel to Europe and the United States of America make the ten countries of the Support Plan for the Sahel with their 300 million inhabitants, key partners.

The Sahel is a market to be conquered and captured by locally processing raw materials and creating value added, jobs and small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Today, the clear majority of Sahelian migration (80 per cent) takes place in West Africa. To have a job, an income to support their families, or to create one is an imperative for young people. «We have to give opportunities for young people who want to remain where they are, to be employed and to create local wealth. It is true that in desperation, some young people may be tempted to join extremist movements – all of this is linked to poverty and lack of hope.



UN Support Plan for the Sahel

Downloading of the UN Support Plan for the Sahel:

<https://bit.ly/2QITzGZ>

Young people who are better educated and connected to the rest of the world will use their energy to remain rather than spend time on Google Maps to find out where to go. A young population is a population that has hope, strength, and the capacity to produce and transform the economy. Therefore, we should invest in these young people. They must be more involved in decisions that affect their future and that of their regions... make decisions ... In a country like Niger where nearly 50 per cent of the population is under 18, these young people are a force that must be valued”, says the Special Adviser.

Progress in implementing the Support Plan

During the last UNISS Steering Committee held on 2 November 2018, participants were briefed on the latest developments of the United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel. The two new initiatives stemming from the priorities of the Plan were presented by M. Thiaw. They cover the field of renewable energies and agriculture, which are resilient to climate change. In addition, the Special Advisor for the Sahel announced the creation of a pool fund, which will facilitate resources mobilization.

Finally, on 7 November, a meeting on the strategic cooperation framework between the UN and the G5 Sahel was held in Dakar. During this meeting co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the G5 Sahel, Maman Sidikou and Ibrahim Thiaw, the implementation of the Roadmap for Cooperation between the G5 Sahel and the UN was reviewed.

► UN and regional organizations coordinate their efforts for peace and security in the Sahel

On 18 September, the Special Representative, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Jean-Claude Brou, and MISAHÉL High Representative, President Pierre Buyoya, co-chaired a high-level meeting bringing together regional organizations working on the Sahel.

In order to better assist the G5 Sahel countries, it was necessary for the regional organizations involved in the Sahel to take stock of the various initiatives undertaken by each organization, to coordinate their efforts and reinforce the coherence of their interventions

The high-level event, organized in Abuja, Nigeria, saw the participation of the leadership of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), G5-Sahel Permanent Secretariat, Autorité de développement intégré de la région du Liptako-Gourma (ALG), Conseil de l'Entente, Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Sénégal (OMVS), Autorité du Bassin du Niger (ABN), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and the Chadian presidency of the Ministerial Coordination Platform.

“The participants emphasized the concerning trends of violence in the Sahel region and the Lake Chad Basin...”

The participants emphasized the concerning trends of violence in the Sahel region and the Lake Chad Basin, in particular in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

A joint diagnostic of the most pressing threats to stability in the region was made, which stressed the urgent need to curb the violence between

herders and farmers through local as well as regional solutions. Socio-economic inequalities, youth unemployment and challenges to the role and participation of women were also noted as common priority areas.

Each organization presented their priorities as well as the challenges they faced in implementing their strategies. They highlighted the continuous disconnect between national and regional programmes, while donors continue to favor bilateral cooperation; funding gaps persist in most of the programmes undertaken by regional institutions.

Most of the pledges made during recent donors round tables have not materialized. Challenges to the funding of the G5 Joint Force were also raised. The regional institutions called for increased coherence in resource mobilization and diversification in the sources of funding, bringing in the private sector and diaspora.

The regional organizations highlighted the priorities for joint initiatives including in climate change; the fight against terrorism; migration; governance; cross border security; transhumance; and youth empowerment. The added values of each mandate and comparative advantages, including technical expertise on specific topics such as desertification, were emphasized.

► A Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to replace a culture of impunity with a culture of justice and peace

On 15 October 2018, The Gambia officially inaugurated the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, which will investigate human rights violations committed during Yahya Jammeh's 22-year rule. The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, participated in the inauguration ceremony, along with Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and Ambassador Ion Jinga, Chairman of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission.



of The Gambia into a new era, that of peace, justice and prosperity.

«A milestone has been reached in the history of The Gambia» said Mr. Ibn Chambas in his speech delivered at the launching ceremony of the Commission while stating that this commission “builds a platform to replace a culture of impunity with a culture of accountability.» Focusing on the testimony of victims of atrocities, the commission will also allow to recognize the suffering of most affected people.

In fact, the commission, which is not a court, may recommend legal action against some officials, or amnesties, for those who accept to testify.

«The Commission must ensure that the truth be known; that the truth be complete; and that the truth be officially proclaimed and publicly exposed, «said the Special Representative who urged the Government of The Gambia, in line with its consultative approach and commitment towards national reconciliation, to ensure that the independence of the appointed Commissioners and the staff assigned to the Commission is not compromised.

A major act has just been accomplished in The Gambia. A new history of this country which has been for a long time under the yoke of an authoritarian power is being written. «Today, we, the victims, want to tell the truth about what happened to us, before thinking about reconciliation,». these words are from Sainey Faye, a victim of the abuses committed during Jammeh rule. «Finally, we are going to be able to tell what happened,» he added.

“This Commission is the outcome of the dreams of a people united in their wish for a better future: a future free of oppression, persecution and tyranny.”

After a long consultation process with the civil society and local communities, The Gambia officially inaugurated, on 15 October 2018, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission with the swearing in of 11 commissioners. The Commission has two years to investigate the nature, causes and extent of human rights abuses committed from July 1994 to January 2017, during the rule of Pres-

ident Yahya Jammeh.

“This Commission is the outcome of the dreams of a people united in their wish for a better future: a future free of oppression, persecution and tyranny,” said President Adama Barrow.

After more than two decades of oppression, the Gambians want to be the actors of change and of the entry

The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission will also be an opportunity to launch the process of restoring trust among citizens as well as their confidence in their judicial system and institutions of The Gambia. It is a mechanism that should promote healing, social cohesion and tolerance, and strengthen peace and stability in this country.

► 2019 presidential elections in Senegal: Young people as actors of peace

With the presidential elections in Senegal approaching, UNESCO is raising awareness among young people and women to support prevention of pre- and post-election violence.



Young people from Guédiawaye participating to UNESCO Dakar MOST School © Académie Culturelle de Guédiawaye

In 2012, the campaign for the first round of the presidential elections led to fears that Senegal, the only West African country never to have experienced a coup d'état, would fall into a cycle of violence when brutal protests broke out.

In order to prevent the repetition of such events and to raise awareness among Senegalese youth on the issue of living together, the UNESCO Dakar Office, in partnership with the Académie Culturelle de Guédiawaye, the local Senegalese authorities and with the participation of the Ministry of Youth, organized a « MOST School¹ » (strategic workshop) on

¹ MOST is UNESCO's intergovernmental science program on social transformations. It supports governments, social and human science communities and civil societies to improve synergies between knowledge and action, synergies that are one key to positive social change. Within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, MOST contributes to the development and the eradication of poverty, as well as the achievement of UNESCO's Global Priorities:

“During this pre-election period, we think it is important to join forces, not only to spread messages of peace, but also to ensure that the elections are free and transparent”

«Youth leadership in the overall preparation, management and monitoring process for the 2019 presidential elections in Senegal» in Guédiawaye, Senegal, on October 03-4, 2018.

The overall objective of the workshop, which brought together nearly 40 participants including young lea-

Africa and Gender Equality

ders from different social categories, was to strengthen their capacities, with the appropriate skills and mechanisms of action, to better assume their role in consolidating peace, building a just and equitable society and promoting responsible citizenship and non-violence. «As young people, we want these elections to be peaceful, but we are also aware of the need to improve electoral processes in Africa,» explains Maty Mbaye, a law student in Dakar. «During this pre-election period, we think it is important to join forces, not only to spread messages of peace, but also to ensure that the elections are free and transparent,» she added.

A campaign to strengthen civic engagement and call for peaceful elections

The event, gathering several organizations including young people from the National Youth Council, the Departmental Council, repre-

sentatives of municipalities, police forces, young academics, women's organizations, was divided into four thematic sessions, which covered different topics such as «Women, Gender and Development: Theoretical Perspectives and Challenges», «Conflict Management and Peacebuilding», «Youth, Leadership and Citizenship» and «Developing Communication Messages and Strategies». These sessions enabled participants to develop key recommendations and relevant messages that should be included in a public campaign to strengthen civic engagement and call for peaceful elections in the coming months.

Finally, the young beneficiaries identified the relevant methods and tools helping them to ensure the follow-up of the training. These methods include networking, which would enable the beneficiaries to coordinate their actions, working together to ensure better participation of young people in decision-making processes, in the process of democratization of society, in peacebuilding and, more specifically, in the process of monitoring the upcoming elections. «What we are asking these young people,» explains Marèma Touré, head of UNESCO Dakar's Human and Social Sciences Sector, «is to share the lessons learned during this workshop, not only within their respective associations and political parties, but also within their communities. We want them to become role models, willing to say no to violence, and we encourage them to become real actors of change and social transformation through their peers.»

UNESCO Dakar, through the organization of this MOST School, focuses on the promotion of inter and intra-cultural dialogue and youth engagement for a peaceful and inclusive society, in line with the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda and those of the African Union 2063 Agenda.

BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS TO READ

► Think and write Africa today

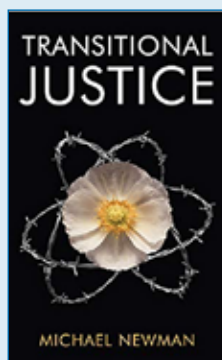


By U.S. Government
Published on April 2018
Pages: 81
Price: \$9.99

In the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, it became apparent to U.S. foreign policy makers that Northwest Africa was more than just a humanitarian concern. This realization led to the establishment of a multi-pronged, multi-year counterterrorism strategy in the Trans-Sahara region that incorporated diplomacy, development, and defense. Despite these unprecedented efforts, the Sahel sub-region has witnessed a steady rise in the presence of Salafi-Jihadist organizations since 2003. Furthermore, the states in the region remain incapable of defending against these organizations without significant outside assistance. This study examines the efficacy of U.S. counterterrorism strategy in the region vis-a-vis African states' capacity to explain the persisting Salafi-Jihadist organizations in the region...

For more information : amzn.to/2r11nxh

► Transitional Justice: Contending with the Past

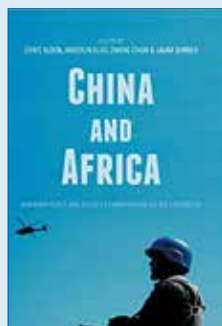


By Michael Newman
Published on July 2019
Pages: 210
Price: \$61.7

What should be done after the end of a repressive regime or a civil war? How can bitter divisions be resolved in a way that combines reconciliation with accountability? These are central questions in transitional justice. In this book, Michael Newman concisely and accessibly introduces these debates, outlining the key ideas and giving an overview of the vast literature by reference to a range of examples and case studies, such as South Africa, Cambodia and Sierra Leone. Newman also develops his own perspective, arguing that it is vital to fully contend with the past and address the fundamental causes of mass human rights abuses, while recognising that every situation is different. The aim is to encourage the reader to question existing practices and assumptions...

For more information : amzn.to/2rkyhj

► China and Africa: Building Peace and Security Cooperation on the Continent with the Past



By Chris Alden
Published on Sept 2019
Pages: 420
Price: \$142.49

This book investigates the expanding involvement of China in security cooperation in Africa. Drawing on leading and emerging scholars in the field, the volume uses a combination of analytical insights and case studies to unpack the complexity of security challenges confronting China and the continent. It interrogates how security considerations impact upon the growing economic and social links China has developed with African states...

For more information : amzn.to/2Ef5vaN

Madjiguène Samba

Female driver at UNOWAS and then!

► *Establishing oneself as a woman in a sector of trade traditionally reserved for men is not an easy task, particularly in Africa. But Madjiguène Samba knew with obstinacy and serenity how to twist the blow to this reality, often maintained by the male genius.*

“I like driving,” she says with a smile that almost never leaves her lips. She started working as a driver in 2007. She was one of the top 10 female taxi drivers in West Africa. “At first, everyone was surprised to see me driving a taxi. It was not a profession that left room for women. Especially in Africa. »

Indeed, with the help of prejudice, some people could not have bet that this forty-year-old married woman could be a “yellow and black” taxi driver in a city like Dakar.

From this experience, Madjiguène has acquired a good knowledge of Dakar and a good knowledge of urban traffic. This allowed her to be recruited by UNOWAS, first as a contract worker in 2015 and then permanently in 2016, after competitive driving and mechanical tests.

With a barely concealed determination, Madjiguène has been able to impose herself in this world which is generally the preserve of men. Today, she has found her place among UNOWAS’ team of drivers. Better still, Madjiguène is the only female driver in the entire United Nations system in Senegal. “I was welcomed when I arrived, and I feel like a family with my colleagues,” she says.

Now, as a professional female driver among her male colleagues, this woman who dreamed of being a great businesswoman, does her job with pride and without complexes: “Even if it is my job, and I am proud of it, I do not consider myself only as a driver. I like to interact with my colleagues at the office and with the visiting colleagues I drive during their mission in Dakar,” says Madjiguene.

As an act of recognition and trust, Madjiguene is designated by the office the driver of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohamed during her visit to Dakar in 2017, Madjiguene remembers as if it was yesterday the day, she welcomed the number two of the United Nations in her UN armoured vehicle. A moment of emotion and pleasure that Madjiguene will never forget. “Mrs. Mohamed was really surprised and happy to see me, she said it was the first time she had been driven by a woman,”

Madjiguene says with a certain pride, while acknowledging the importance of the trust placed in her by her leaders to lead this kind of mission, not often easy.

If Madjiguene likes to drive, she also likes her role as a wife. She blossoms fully in what she does and manages to reconcile her work and her role as a wife: “After work, I go home quietly to manage my household well,” she said, adding “I thank god for having given me an understanding husband”!

Yes, like her male colleagues, Madjiguène is often called upon to work at night or to finish at undue hours depending on the tasks entrusted to her.

Madjiguène, a professional driver, is also a good example of the progress made by UNOWAS in achieving the objective of parity by 2021 initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

“Whether we are men or women, I remain convinced that we can succeed perfectly in all professions, as long as we have the qualities and skills required for the job,” Madjiguène concludes with a mischievous smile.

Madjiguène is the only female driver of the entire United Nations system in Senegal



Mohamed Ibn Chambas welcomes the signing of the 2019 National Peace Accord by all political parties in Nigeria

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, welcomes the holding today in Abuja, Nigeria, of the Conference of all Political Parties and the signing of the 2019 National Peace Accord ahead of Nigeria general elections, scheduled for February and March 2019.

“The signing of the National Peace Accord by all candidates for the presidential election demonstrates their commitment to hold peaceful, fair and credible elections which will consolidate

democracy and rule of law in Nigeria,” said Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

The Special Representative commends the National Peace Committee (NPC) and all actors involved in this effort and calls on them to uphold their commitment to ensure an environment conducive to free, fair, and credible elections, including by refraining from violence. He encourages all political stakeholders to redouble their efforts to uphold fundamental rights and freedoms, which are essential to a credible electoral process.

UNOWAS supports dialogue on women’s political participation in Senegal’s presidential elections

As part of UNOWAS’ commitment to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, the United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel, Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, participated in the «Dialogue on Women’s Political Participation in the Presidential Elections in Senegal» held in Dakar on 26 November 2018.

In her address, the RSASG commended Senegal for its leading role in promoting and holding credible, inclusive, transparent and non-violent elections in the subregion. She stressed that the 2019 presidential elections were a major step in the consolidation of democratic progress in Senegal and West Africa. Ms. Sandhu-Rojon also commended Senegal for the adoption of the Gender Equality Act and the measures taken to ensure the representation of women in national institutions,

which reflects the Government’s commitment to ensuring the effective participation of women, while noting that much remains to be done. In addition, it welcomed the participation of women in political life and called for a strengthening of their involvement in the political decision-making process.

Initiated by the Regional Unit of the ECOWAS Peace and Security Network for Women in the ECOWAS Region (REPSFECO) and the Réseau pour l’égalité entre les hommes et les femmes de la Francophonie (RF-EFH), with the financial support of UNOWAS, the «Dialogue on women’s political participation in presidential elections in Senegal» saw the participation of representatives of Senegal’s electoral body, in particular the elections department of the Ministry of the Interior, civil society organizations, as well as women and youth from political parties and unions.

UNOWAS and ECOWAS organize the First Forum of Youth for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel

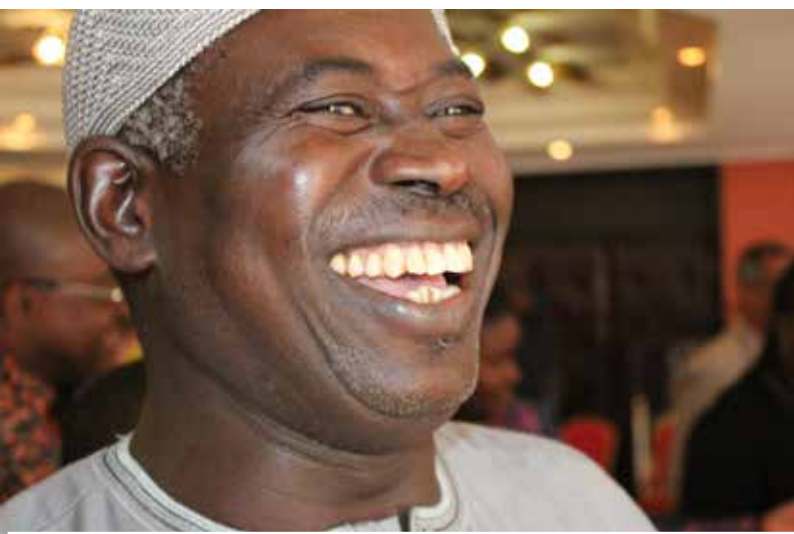
As part of the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace and Security, UNOWAS and ECOWAS organised with the support of the Government of Burkina Faso, the First Forum of Youth for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel from 10 to 12 December, in Ouagadougou.

In his statement marking the official launch of the Forum, SRSRG Ibn Chambas underlined the importance of youth in the sub-region and the vital role it plays in consolidating peace and security. He also called on all partners to do their utmost

to enhance the participation of young women and men in decision making processes.

On his part, the Resident Representative of ECOWAS in Burkina Faso stressed that the organisation of the Forum is a concerted effort of ECOWAS and the UN to find new alternatives to consolidate peace in the sub-region.

Around 80 young women and men representing youth networks of the sub- region participated in the Forum which culminated with adoption of “the Declaration of Youth for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel”.






UNOWAS *Magazine*

Together for Peace

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

A large, light gray circle is centered on the page, surrounded by a dense, colorful spray of bubbles in various sizes and colors, including pink, orange, teal, and purple. The bubbles are scattered around the circle, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

*UNOWAS
WISHES YOU
A HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2019*