Letter dated 7 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

By order of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the attention of the Security Council, the plan prepared by Chad for the sustainment of the Détachement intégré de sécurité in accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1923 (2010) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad Allam-mi
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Annex to the letter dated 7 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Détachement intégré de sécurité sustainment plan submitted by the Republic of Chad

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1923 (2010) of 25 May 2010, the Government of Chad undertook to submit a plan concerning the support to be provided to elements of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) following the departure of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). The plan is to include all measures for building the capacity of DIS to provide effective security in and around refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites, security escorts and area security, in coordination with the gendarmerie and the Nomad Guard (Garde nationale et nomade (GNNT)). Chad’s preparation of the plan without the contribution of MINURCAT was delayed by the slowness of that Mission’s finance department, which did not deliver to Chad in a timely fashion the 2009/10 budget for the operation of DIS pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint High-level Working Group.

Security system sustainment plan

Protection of civilians in the country is primarily the Government’s responsibility. There have been positive developments in the security situation in eastern Chad owing essentially to the normalization of relations between Chad and the Sudan following the N’Djamena Agreement of 15 January 2010, which led to the deployment of a 3,000-strong joint Chadian-Sudanese force along the border. The decision was also taken to open the border between the two countries, which led to action being taken to deny any cross-border movements of armed elements.

This new context has enabled the Government of Chad to assume full responsibility for the security and protection of the civilian population in the performance of the following tasks:

(a) Ensuring the security and protection of civilians in danger, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons;

(b) Facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by improving security in the area of operations;

(c) Ensuring the security and freedom of movement of MINURCAT personnel and of United Nations and associated personnel.

It should be recalled that the Government of Chad had withdrawn all Chadian military personnel from humanitarian work so that the United Nations force and DIS elements could take their place. In this new state of affairs, security will be — and indeed is already being — strengthened through the relocation of military personnel to the centres vacated by the United Nations force and through the strengthening of security in towns by elements of the Gendarmerie and GNNT. DIS, which was responsible for security in and around refugee camps and displaced persons sites within a 10-kilometre radius, will then have broader scope for action throughout its areas of jurisdiction, in addition to the provision of escort details for humanitarian workers that will need to be arranged in cooperation with other security forces in the
The security belt in eastern Chad, in Salamat, Moyen-Charî and Logone Oriental, will consist of three levels:

- The first level of security comprises the sovereignty forces (the Chadian National Army), which are based in the garrison towns along the border from Bahai to Tissi. In addition, the joint Chadian-Sudanese force is based in 10 locations on either side of the border and its headquarters, which was in El-Geneina (the Sudan), is now in Abéché (Chad), based on a six-month rotation.

- The second level comprises the forces of the territorial gendarmerie and GNNT, which are located in all large villages on the Chadian side of the border between the DIS area of operations and the garrison towns. There is also a joint disarmament force which continuously patrols the entire eastern area. This is a mobile force which provides support to other security forces where necessary.

- The third level is the DIS line of surveillance, i.e. the area in and around refugee camps and towns monitored in conjunction with local security forces such as the gendarmerie and the National Police. It should be noted that all these forces have communication devices for real-time information exchange.

These three levels of security have already proven to be effective. The activities of the bandits and criminals who used to scour this area until quite recently have been sharply curtailed because they now lack places of refuge or shelter. As a case in point, when Hubert Blama, an employee of the humanitarian NGO Oxfam, was kidnapped, the defence and security forces and DIS elements were able to work together to surround the area and prevent the kidnappers from crossing the border before launching their attack to free the hostage. Another act of bravery by DIS elements took place on Sunday, 27 June 2010, when a gang armed with assault rifles invaded the headquarters of the NGO Intermoon Oxfam in Koukou Angarana and took Ms. Sandrine Robert, a French national, along with two vehicles, a computer and a portable telephone. Once notified, DIS elements immediately began to pursue the assailants. The agents intercepted the criminals and, following a skirmish, subdued them and brought back Ms. Sandrine Robert safe and sound, along with the two vehicles. On 3 July 2010, around Oum-Hadjer, a vehicle belonging to the NGO Africaire was hijacked by criminals. DIS elements based in Guereda were able to recover the vehicle and arrest the assailants. On 4 July 2010 in Abéché, a MINURCAT vehicle bearing licence plate UN 00779 was hijacked. Once again, DIS elements were able to recover the vehicle in less than two hours, arrest the hijackers and take them into custody.

Presently, the security situation is well under control, to the point where DIS elements can even conduct patrols and escorts in other vulnerable communities. They provide security in and around refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel, in liaison with the gendarmerie and GNNT. Chad is now in a position to exercise its sovereign responsibility to provide full security for persons and goods throughout its territory.

The Government has also undertaken to improve the security situation along its south-eastern border. To this end, it has deployed a DIS team to Haraze to enhance security for the 6,227 Central African refugees in that area. In an effort to
provide security in and around refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites, it has taken measures to organize escorts and secure the areas. It has assigned a vehicle to Goré and another to Maro for the escort of humanitarian workers, so that such workers do not have to “pay for escorts”, as they put it, while awaiting the deployment of DIS elements to Daha in Salamat, Goré in Logone Oriental and Maro in Moyen-Chari.

Pursuant to the aide-memoire of 15 May 2010 between the Government of Chad and the United Nations, 150 gendarmes and police officers have been placed at the disposal of MINURCAT for pre-selection and training as part of the last group of DIS elements required to reach the target of 1,000 elements. The Government also proposes to recruit and train 400 secondary school graduates in order to strengthen the DIS force and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by helping to improve security in the areas of operation.

Coordination of security activities is monitored by an entity called the Office of Security and Movements, whose mission is to assess the security of humanitarian workers and goods within the security zone and to decide on modalities for the movement and security of personnel and installations as dictated by the security situation. The Office is operational and is established in all refugee and displaced persons areas.

Finance and logistics sustainment plan

DIS is made up of Chadian gendarmes and police officers. It is a corps that was specifically established for the maintenance of law and order in refugee camps, internally displaced persons sites and key towns in eastern Chad, and to help to provide security for humanitarian operations in that part of the country.

Accordingly, Chad intends to maintain the structure of this efficient force, which has been well trained in accordance with international human rights standards, while expanding its size and providing it with more human and material resources, from the withdrawal of MINURCAT until such time as the Darfur and Central African Republic crisis is over and the refugees have returned to their homeland. Members of DIS remain Chadian gendarmes and police officers working in their own country and retain their national entitlements. They will be entitled to hazard pay which will replace the stipends paid by MINURCAT. The Government will assume full responsibility for DIS in terms of logistics, equipment and funding.

Finances

The 2011 draft budget prepared by the budget and finance unit of DIS is based on article 16 of Decree No. 1131/PR/08 of 27 September 2008 on the creation and organization of DIS, which grants national and other entitlements to DIS members. Accordingly, budgetary and financial allocations are estimated at 3,200,652,000 CFA francs, broken down as follows:

- Food and general subsistence allowances for a force of 1,000, calculated on the basis of operating rates, amount to CAAF 61,200,000. Administrative expenses, calculated on the basis of the operating rate, are estimated at CAAF 162,432,000.
• For 2011, the budget and finance unit carried over the annual allowances paid to DIS personnel by MINURCAT. For a force of 1,000, the budget is CFAF 2,677,020,000, in addition to the base salaries paid by the originating institutions of DIS personnel.

• Internal and external continuous education in humanitarian law is estimated at CFAF 100,000,000.

• Mission expenses for field visits and security assessments are estimated at CFAF 100,000,000.

• An intelligence fund of CFAF 100,000,000 is also included in the budget, as it is considered indispensable for the effective implementation of actions to prevent and suppress acts of banditry in eastern Chad; as is well known, intelligence comes at a price.

Added to this are the base salaries paid by the corresponding departments of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security.

Logistics and equipment

The 2011 draft budget of the DIS logistics unit was prepared on the basis of MINURCAT data from previous years, but also takes into account the new environment in eastern Chad, in Salamat, Moyen-Chari and Logone Oriental. The logistics budget amounts to CFAF 3,952,421,000, broken down as follows:

1. Purchase of office equipment and supplies CFAF 184,625,000
2. Purchase and maintenance of generators CFAF 70,000,000
3. Purchase of housing materials CFAF 160,700,000
4. Purchase of tanks and water CFAF 45,000,000
5. Purchase of computer equipment CFAF 729,300,000
6. Purchase of ambulances and vehicle maintenance CFAF 300,200,000
7. Purchase of fuel and lubricants CFAF 963,854,000
8. Purchase of security equipment CFAF 250,312,000
9. Purchase of uniforms and flags CFAF 331,000,000
10. Vehicle workshop (spare parts) CFAF 324,000,000
11. Transmissions and communications CFAF 492,430,000
12. Health CFAF 101,000,000

This 2011 budget was drawn up taking into account expenses incurred by partners to support DIS elements. This is a fairly reasonable budget. For the time being it stands at CFAF 7,153,073,000. At the end of the 2011 budget cycle the amount will be either increased or decreased, depending on the situation on the ground.

Overall, the Government has been spending $12 million per month to meet security and humanitarian obligations in eastern and south-eastern Chad, excluding the cost of border security operations conducted by joint Chadian-Sudanese forces. It should be recalled that logistical support for providing security in refugee camps,
displaced persons sites and key towns, community policing and escorts for humanitarian workers requires the support of key partners. This means that managing and meeting needs in terms of humanitarian space concerns not only the Government, but also its partners from the United Nations, the European Union and other friendly countries. By combining our efforts, we will be able to support Sudanese and Central African refugees and displaced persons until their voluntary return and resettlement in secure and sustainable conditions in their respective countries and villages of origin.

For the sustainment of DIS, Security Council resolution 1923 (2010) calls for the transfer by MINURCAT of the trust fund established to support DIS. In concrete terms, however, no new contributions have been made for the sustainment of DIS, because MINURCAT has noted that some of the contributions promised have not yet been paid into the trust fund. The most recent information indicates that MINURCAT will have only $2 million to cover the needs of DIS only up to 31 December 2010, when the Mission is scheduled to end. There is a risk that Chad might find itself assuming sole responsibility for DIS as it is doing for its other security forces. The Government of Chad does not understand why the international community, particularly the Security Council, is insisting that Chad should account for the sustainment of DIS, while at the same time ceasing to contribute financially to this end. Chad therefore reiterates its appeal to the international community to continue making financial contributions to DIS, with the encouragement of the Security Council.

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