



Security Council

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Letter dated 31 January 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 19 December 2019 ([S/2019/1009](#)) concerning the intended renewal of the mandate and functions of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

The members concur with the recommendation contained in your letter to extend the mandate of UNOWAS, as set forth in the annex to this letter, for a further period of three years, from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2023. The members of the Council request that you report to the Council every six months on the fulfilment by UNOWAS of its mandate.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
President of the Security Council



Annex

Proposed mandate for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

Objective 1

Monitor political developments in West Africa and the Sahel and carry out good offices and special assignments on behalf of the Secretary-General to support conflict prevention, peacebuilding, sustaining peace and mediation efforts in the subregion, in partnership with regional and subregional entities and other national and international actors, with specific attention to countries in which United Nations presences are undergoing reconfiguration or transition, while mindful of the sustainable development context in the region

Function 1.1

Monitor and analyse the situation in West Africa and the Sahel, in particular emerging threats to peace and security, and provide the Secretary-General, the Security Council, regional and subregional organizations and national Governments with early warnings, updates on the humanitarian situation and on constraints on humanitarian access, and recommendations for preventive action

Function 1.2

Perform good offices roles in West African countries to prevent conflict and election-related tensions, sustain peace and consolidate peacebuilding efforts and political stability, in partnership with regional and subregional entities and other actors, as relevant

Function 1.3

Support countries in which United Nations presences are undergoing reconfiguration or transition in West Africa and the Sahel through conflict prevention and peace consolidation efforts, in partnership with regional and subregional entities and other actors, in close cooperation with the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group and United Nations country teams in the region

Function 1.4

Enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention, management and resolution, mediation and good offices, mindful of the sustainable development context in West Africa and the Sahel, promoting the women and peace and security agenda, and the youth and peace and security agenda, including by providing support to existing subregional mechanisms, in coordination with international donors, to promote conditions and capacities for sustainable peace and development

Function 1.5

Facilitate the implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling of 10 October 2002 on the land and maritime boundary dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria

Objective 2

Enhance regional and subregional partnerships to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel, in particular with regional and subregional entities such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Group of Five for the Sahel, the Mano River Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Development Bank

Function 2.1

Raise awareness of and promote integrated and holistic subregional and cross-border responses to emerging threats to peace, security and stability, in collaboration with sustainable development efforts in West Africa and the Sahel and, in the Lake Chad basin region, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

Function 2.2

Support the development of networks of practitioners and subregional frameworks and mechanisms to address challenges related to security sector reform, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, conflicts between farmers and herders, terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism

Function 2.3

Collate, analyse and/or, where appropriate, conduct regional research and analysis on transnational issues relevant to peace and security and the links to humanitarian action and sustainable development, in collaboration with the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group, resident coordinators, humanitarian coordinators, United Nations country teams and other United Nations entities, as well as with international partners, regional and subregional organizations, think tanks and civil society

Function 2.4

Take into consideration the adverse implications of climate change, energy poverty, ecological changes and natural disasters, among other factors, including by assisting the governments of the region and the United Nations system in undertaking risk assessments and risk management strategies relating to these factors

Objective 3

Support, through political advocacy and convening, the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, and in line with United Nations reforms, enhance collaboration across the United Nations system and promote coherence in the international and regional response to the root causes and impact of conflict in the Sahel

Function 3.1

Provide political and strategic leadership to the United Nations system for the effective implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel through its three strategic pillars, namely, governance, security and resilience

Function 3.2

Facilitate United Nations system-wide integrated collaboration and coordination at the regional level, including through joint analysis, planning and strategy development through a cross-pillar approach, to promote a coherent, comprehensive

and integrated approach to current and emerging threats, to address the root causes of instability and conflict in West Africa and the Sahel

Function 3.3

In the context of United Nations reforms and drawing upon the prevention and sustaining peace agenda, work with the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group, the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the subregion to contribute to integrated analysis and joined-up action to tackle increasingly complex and interrelated peace and security dynamics in the region

Function 3.4

Contribute to efforts aimed at sustaining international engagement in support of the Sahel and help coordinate the various Sahel strategies and the efforts of international partners, including by continued support to the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel and its Technical Secretariat, the Economic Community of West African States, as well as the Group of Five for the Sahel

Function 3.5

Support and promote enhanced regional cooperation for the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel

Objective 4

Promote good governance, respect for the rule of law, human rights and the mainstreaming of gender in conflict prevention, management and resolution initiatives in West Africa and the Sahel

Function 4.1

Promote social cohesion and inclusive political dialogue, including by facilitating the exchange of information and the sharing of best practices among national Governments, regional organizations, civil society and other entities by providing support for the building of local and national capacities to foster peace, strengthening the rule of law institutions and promote good governance, promoting dialogue and mediation at the community, local and national levels, facilitating full, effective and meaningful participation of women, youth and other relevant stakeholders and improving electoral processes

Function 4.2

Provide support for the enactment of resolutions and frameworks of action pertaining to respect for human rights in conflict prevention and conflict management initiatives in West Africa and the Sahel

Function 4.3

Provide support to national Governments, regional organizations and institutions and civil society to mainstream a gender perspective in conflict prevention and management initiatives, as recognized in Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and its subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security, as well as in resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) and the subsequent resolution on youth and peace and security