



Security Council

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Letter dated 19 December 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter to the President of the Security Council of 15 November 2019 ([S/2019/890](#)) conveying the recommendations of the independent strategic review of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).

I recommend that the mandate of UNOWAS be extended for a period of three years, from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2022. I have attached hereto the proposed mandate for the Office, which sets out its core functions (see annex).

The mandated tasks are to be implemented in close collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union, the Group of Five for the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the African Union and the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional partners.

The proposed mandate takes into consideration the recommendations of the independent strategic review of UNOWAS and the ensuing discussions between the Secretariat and members of the Security Council on the review. It also responds to the evolving political, security, sustainable development, climate change, humanitarian and human rights situation in West Africa and the Sahel.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres



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, sustainable development, sustaining peace and mediation efforts in the subregion, in partnership with regional and subregional entities and other actors

Function 1.1

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

Function 1.2

Perform good offices roles in West African countries to prevent conflict, sustain peace and consolidate peacebuilding efforts and political stability, including in support of the holding of peaceful elections, in partnership with regional and subregional entities and other actors, as relevant

Function 1.3

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 youth and peace and security agendas, and including providing support to existing subregional mechanisms

Function 1.4

Enhance and promote United Nations system-wide integrated collaboration and coordination on current and emerging threats, including through joint analysis, planning and strategy development through a cross-pillar approach

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

Support transition and post-transition countries through conflict prevention and peace consolidation efforts, in partnership with regional and subregional entities and other actors, as relevant

Function 2.1

Provide good offices to Governments in collaboration with United Nations resident coordinators and in partnership with regional and subregional entities and other actors, as relevant

Function 2.2

Support the holding of peaceful elections and the consolidation of democracy through preventive diplomacy and early warning, involving engagement with political stakeholders at all levels

Function 2.3

Promote social cohesion and inclusive political dialogue by providing support for the building of local and national capacities to foster peace, support democratic consolidation and promote good governance, facilitating the full and effective participation of women and youth, in close cooperation with the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group and United Nations country teams in the region

Objective 3

Enhance regional and subregional partnerships to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel, such as election-related instability and challenges related to the rule of law, security sector reform, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, intercommunal violence, terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the effects of inequality and climate change on security

Function 3.1

Raise awareness of and promote integrated and holistic subregional and cross-border responses to emerging threats to peace, human security and stability, in collaboration with sustainable development efforts in West Africa and the Sahel

Function 3.2

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 and terrorism

Function 3.3

Facilitate coordination of the work of the United Nations system at the regional level, to promote a coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing the root causes of instability and conflict in West Africa and the Sahel

Function 3.4

Conduct regional research and analysis on transnational issues relevant to peace and security and their 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 regional and subregional organizations, think tanks and civil society

Function 3.5

Promote social cohesion and inclusive political dialogue in the subregion, including the effective participation of women and youth, by supporting the establishment of infrastructures for peace and promoting dialogue and mediation at the community, local and national levels, as relevant

Objective 4

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 4.1

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 4.2

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 ensure integrated analysis and joined-up action to tackle increasingly complex and interrelated peace and security dynamics in the region

Function 4.3

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

Function 4.4

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

Objective 5

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

Function 5.1

Facilitate the exchange of information and the sharing of best practices among national Governments, regional organizations, civil society and other entities to promote good governance and respect for the rule of law, foster gender equality and enable women's participation and leadership, and the improvement of electoral processes

Function 5.2

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 5.3

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