



Security Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2010
English
Original: French

Letter dated 21 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached, for the attention of the Security Council, a memorandum drawn up by Chad on the future of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (see annex). I would particularly like to draw the Council's attention to the commitment renewed on several occasions by the Government of Chad to maintain the *Détachement intégré de sécurité* (DIS), to strengthen it, to address its material and financial needs, and to provide it with operational support from the Chadian defence and security forces in order to enable it to perform its mission effectively until the voluntary return of refugees to their places of origin. In addition, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Chad to fulfil its responsibility to protect and ensure the safety and security of civilians and related individuals in accordance with humanitarian law.

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

(Signed) Ahmad Allam-mi
Ambassador



Annex to the letter dated 21 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Memorandum on the future of MINURCAT and the post-MINURCAT period

1. According to the 23 April 2010 non-paper between the Government of Chad and the United Nations Secretariat, the new configuration of the MINURCAT military component will consist of 1,900 troops. It will be deployed in two primary locations, Farchana and Goz Beida, and will also maintain a reduced logistics base in Abéché and a headquarters in N'Djamena. The military component will perform the following tasks:

- (a) Provide security for MINURCAT personnel in their base locations, facilities, installations and equipment;
- (b) Maintain situational awareness in the vicinity of MINURCAT locations;
- (c) Provide escort details for United Nations military personnel carrying out enabling support functions; and
- (d) Provide extraction support for United Nations and humanitarian personnel, if necessary, in cooperation with Chadian forces.

2. In order to carry out the aforementioned tasks, the 1,900-man military component of MINURCAT will consist of troops, support staff and a rapid reaction force.

3. The new military component will remain in Chad until 15 October 2010. At the end of its mandate, the military component will cease its operations and commence its final withdrawal, which will be a gradual process.

4. The activities of MINURCAT under its civilian mandate will also be assessed on 15 October 2010. The United Nations and the Chadian side will decide on the appropriate measures to take pursuant to the outcome of this assessment.

5. There have been positive developments in the security situation in eastern Chad, despite criticism to the contrary. This is due to the normalization of relations between Chad and Sudan following their N'Djamena Agreement of 15 January 2010. This Agreement led to the deployment of a 3,000-strong joint Chad-Sudan force along their common 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 and stem criminal activities.

6. 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) To ensure the security and protection of civilians in danger, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons;
- (b) To facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by improving security in eastern Chad; and

(c) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of MINURCAT staff and United Nations and associated personnel.

7. It should be recalled that the Government of Chad had withdrawn Chadian military personnel from humanitarian work so that the United Nations force and DIS elements could take their place. In view of the new state of affairs, security will be strengthened if military personnel are relocated to the centres vacated by the United Nations force and if towns are strengthened by elements of the Gendarmerie and the Garde nationale et nomade du tchad (GNNT). The Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS), which was responsible for security in and around refugee camps and displaced persons' sites within a 10 kilometre radius, will then have a broader scope for action throughout its areas of jurisdiction, in addition to the provision of escort details for humanitarian workers that would need to be arranged in cooperation with other security forces in the region. The security belt in eastern Chad will consist of the following 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 current headquarters is in Eldjineina (the Sudan); this will be relocated to Abéché in sixth months;
- The second level comprises the forces of the Gendarmerie Territoriale and GNNT, which are located in all large villages on the 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 within 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 to exchange information in real time.

8. 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 now been sharply curtailed because they now lack places of refuge or shelter. We hope that the considerable period of calm that has reigned in the area since the beginning of the year will be maintained and sustained.

9. MINURCAT provides significant communications support to DIS. MINURCAT has just established a mechanism for coordinating DIS activities with local security and administrative bodies through the distribution of VHF radios to Chadian authorities in the main towns in eastern Chad. This system will enable forces to mobilize immediately to combat crimes in real time.

10. Contrary to the views of some Security Council members, who are influenced and encouraged by some malicious NGOs, Chad is now in a position to exercise its sovereign responsibility to provide full security for persons and goods throughout its territory. It should be recalled that at the height of the Darfur crisis, which resulted in the influx of thousands of refugees into its territory, Chad dealt with the situation all alone, providing protection and security for refugees and humanitarian workers alike. Neither the European Union Force (EUFOR) nor MINURCAT existed during that difficult period. Thus, Chadian gendarmes of the Commission nationale d'aide

aux réfugiés (CNAR), precursor to DIS, provided outstanding protection for humanitarian workers, since there were no criminal acts nor kidnappings of humanitarian personnel until the multinational force arrived. Such criminal acts became common with the presence of that force. Thugs took advantage of the vacuum to carry out their nefarious activities, thus tarnishing the image of our country because the defence and security forces were guarding the borders while the multinational force hunkered down behind sand bags left behind by EUFOR.

11. Given the current state of affairs, especially improved relations with the Sudan, all the defence and security forces will be committed to providing area security in order to enable humanitarian workers and other actors to discharge their duties in a climate of peace.

12. MINURCAT and the Coordination nationale d'appui à la force internationale au Tchad (CONAFIT) will coordinate all these activities.

13. 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' camps and key towns in eastern Chad, and to help to provide security for humanitarian operations in that part of the country.

14. DIS members are selected, trained and supervised by the international police (UNPOL) of MINURCAT and we are very grateful for this. We would like to acknowledge at this juncture that MINURCAT and Chad have gone through a successful and unique experience with respect to the training of DIS, which has been an effective tool. DIS has done MINURCAT and Chad proud. It was exclusively responsible for security in refugee camps, internally displaced persons' camps and key towns, community policing and the provision of armed escorts for humanitarian workers.

15. That is why 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 resources, even after the withdrawal of MINURCAT, until such time as the Darfur crisis is settled and the refugees have returned to their homeland.

16. DIS, which is under the command of the Special Representative of the President of Chad responsible for CONAFIT, is placed at the disposal of MINURCAT until the expiration of the latter's mandate. Members of DIS remain Chadian gendarmes and police officers working in their country and retain their national entitlements in addition to such stipends as they may be paid by MINURCAT. After the final withdrawal of MINURCAT, Chad will assume full responsibility for DIS in terms of logistics, equipment and funding. The Government of Chad hopes that, with respect to the requirements and management of the humanitarian space, it can count on the cooperation of its United Nations partners, including on the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme.

17. Chad once again expresses its confidence in the ability of the United Nations to come up with a rapid and mutually advantageous solution to permit a gradual withdrawal of MINURCAT in accordance with the time lines agreed under the non-paper of 23 April. Chad trusts that the Security Council will authorize the Secretary-General to honour his commitments — all his commitments — including with respect to infrastructure. Chad would be deeply disappointed should the

Council fail to do so, in which case it reserves the legitimate right to demand payment of fees for airport services, since Chad understood the non-payment of such fees by MINURCAT as being in exchange for the construction of parking aprons at Abéché and N'Djamena for the huge MINURCAT air fleet.

18. The Government of Chad and the United Nations are partners who will have to work together to find a viable outcome to the Darfur crisis to someday permit the voluntary repatriation in secure conditions of the Darfur refugees to their country. We are pleased to note that the internally displaced persons have returned to their home villages thanks to the support measures taken by the Government and its partners. Had it not been for the tendency of some humanitarian agencies to prolong assistance unnecessarily, all these persons would have returned to their villages already. However, this will happen by the end of the year.

Done at New York on 20 May 2010
