



Security Council briefing on UNOCA, 13 December 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank SRSB Abarry and Ms. Nlate for their briefings.

We convene today after notable achievements in the Central African region. The adoption of the Presidential Statement on UNOCA last month, the first in five years, signifies an important step.

The Central African region, with its potential and challenges, continues to warrant the unwavering commitment and support of the international community.

With the region entering a demanding calendar of elections and transitions over the next two years, we echo the Secretary-General's call for the integrity of electoral processes and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The full participation of all political actors and societal groups, as well as the acceptance of electoral outcomes, is critical.



Malta welcomes the electoral needs assessment missions requested by Chad, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe. We encourage further dialogue between these countries, the UN and ECCAS, and others in transition or pre-electoral periods.

We also commend the work carried out by the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, and welcome the recent conference, organised by UNOCA in São Tomé and Príncipe, on unconstitutional changes of government. We look forward to the implementation of its recommendations.

President

The interplay of climate change with peace and security in the Central African region deserves our attention. Extreme weather events, such as erratic rainfall and droughts, exacerbate land degradation which in turn disrupts food security, fuels local conflicts over depleting resources, and induces displacement.



During last week's visit by the Informal Expert Group of members of the Council on Climate, Peace and Security, Council members had the opportunity to witness first-hand accounts of the Lake Chad Basin's vulnerability to climate shocks. These include their impacts on local communities and IDPs, particularly on women, children, and youth.

Better integrated early-warning systems and climate-sensitive approaches into peacebuilding strategies are needed. Such efforts would strengthen resilience-building and disaster preparedness within communities.

In this regard, we welcome UNOCA's support to ECCAS in developing a comprehensive regional strategy for peaceful transhumance in Central Africa. We also commend the Lake Chad Basin Commission for revising the Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery, and Resilience of the Lake Chad Basin.



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

The work of the CPS Advisor at UNOCA also deserves to be recognised. We hope that there can be further collaborations with the CPS Advisor at UNOWAS to analyse intersecting climate-security risks between West and Central Africa.

President

Children's basic rights remain under threat. We are deeply concerned by attacks on schools in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon, resulting in the closure of most public schools in the country's North-West region.

We urge parties to engage in genuine dialogue, and we call for intensified efforts to protect children, including the commitment to their enjoyment of the right to quality education.

We condemn, in the strongest terms, the violence perpetrated by Boko Haram and its splinter groups. To effectively target their offensives, regional security mechanisms, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force, must be continuously supported. The European Union remains an important partner to these efforts.



To conclude, President, the work of SRSG Abarry and his team at UNOCA requires this Council's continued support. Preventive diplomacy, mediation, and cross-cutting thematic approaches should remain at the core of our engagement with the people of Central Africa.

I thank you.