

PRESS RELEASE

Said Djinnit attends the Mano River Union Summit in Monrovia

Monrovia, 30 April 2013 - Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa, participated in the 22nd ordinary Summit of the Mano River Union (MRU) held in Monrovia, Liberia, today that brought together the Heads of State of Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

In his interactions with the MRU leaders, SRSG Said Djinnit commended them for their vision and leadership. He emphasized the contribution made by the United Nations for the stabilization of the Mano River Basin, which hosts three UN peace operations, namely the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). Said Djinnit recalled the UN Security Council request for the development of a sub-regional strategy, in support to the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which is intended to address the threats posed by the cross-border movements of armed groups and weapons as well as illicit trafficking in the sub-region.

The Special Representative hailed the MRU leaders in particular for their commitment to tackling ongoing challenges to sub-regional stability. He also encouraged them in their efforts to foster democratic and economic governance, consolidate the dividends of peace for the long-term and trigger socioeconomic development. SRSG Djinnit welcomed the progress made by the MRU Secretariat for the implementation of the Operational Plan on Peace and Security adopted in June 2012. He underscored the progress made, in recent months, by the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, with the support of UNOCI and UNMIL, in the areas of border security and confidence building, for which the MRU Secretariat also played a crucial role.

Said Djinnit seized the opportunity to reiterate the continued support of the United Nations to the efforts of the MRU leaders in the search for lasting peace and stability and in forging collective security and shared prosperity.

For more information: Laurence Gerard, Public Information Officer - Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa – O: +221 33-869-8560 – M: +221- 77-3324928 – gerardl@un.org – unowa.unmissions.org