



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA

UNOWA

BUREAU DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Twenty- seventh High-Level Meeting of Heads of UN Peace Missions in West Africa

Final communiqué

At the invitation of Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the Heads of the United Nations Peace Missions in West Africa held their Twenty-seventh high-level consultation meeting on 8 May 2015 in Dakar.

In attendance were the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General and Heads of UN Missions in Liberia (UNMIL), Ms. Karin Landgren; in Mali (MINUSMA), Mr. Mongi Hamdi; in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), Mr. Miguel Trovoada; in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Ms. Aïchatou Mindaoudou; in Ebola-affected countries (UNMEER), Mr. Peter Graaff; and the Special Envoy for the Sahel and Head of OSES, Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie.

The objective of this regular meeting is to review progress in the implementation of the respective UN mandates in the region, to strengthen coordination in order to address common challenges in the areas of elections, Ebola, security, organized crime, and terrorism and to examine the prospects of democratic transitions in the West Africa region.

The Heads of peace missions welcomed the peaceful, transparent and free electoral process in Nigeria and noted the paramount need for inclusive political reconciliation and dialogue in several countries in the region, including Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea. They expressed hope that the upcoming elections in these three countries will consolidate reconciliation and strengthen the peace process.

Participants recognized with satisfaction the advances made in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease and called for continued attention in most affected countries. The Heads of peace missions welcomed the efforts of national, regional and international partners in this regard. They noted that particular attention is required to ensure that political developments, especially in Guinea, do not thwart the progress made thus far.

The meeting expressed concern about the security situation in northern Mali and called on all parties to adhere to the ceasefire agreement and the declarations on cessation of hostilities signed in Algiers. They called on all parties to remain committed to the peace process and to work together to ensure the signing of the peace accord on 15 May in Bamako.

Regarding the situation in the Sahel, participants recognized that the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel creates opportunities for criminal networks to prosper and called for increased cooperation between United Nations missions and entities, as well as strengthened regional cooperation.



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The Heads of peace missions noted the progress made since the return to constitutional normalcy following the 2014 elections and called on partners to honor the promises made at the donor round table on Guinea Bissau in Brussels.

Participants noted the positive ongoing transition from UNMIL to the Liberian government in the security field and welcomed national efforts in the area of decentralization.

The meeting expressed deep concern about the ongoing tragedy of the migrants from the sub-region and urged national governments of the region and the international community to cooperate to address this matter.

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