

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA



United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel

Peace, Security and Development, for and with the People of the Sahel

FACT SHEET

Key dates

In 2012, the **political and security crisis in Mali** brought to the fore the **multiple and complex challenges facing the Sahel region**, in the areas of security, governance, development, and human rights.

In October 2012, the Secretary-General appointed **Mr. Romano Prodi** as his **Special Envoy for the Sahel** and entrusted him with the development of a United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel to respond to these challenges.

In June 2013, the **United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel** was presented to and **endorsed by the Security Council**.

In September 2013, the Secretary-General convened a **High-Level Meeting on the Sahel** in the margins of the 68th General Assembly. The governments of the region expressed support and **adhesion to the UN Strategy**.

What is the UN Strategy about?

- The Strategy is the **result of a comprehensive consultative process** among the United Nations system, governments of the Sahel region and their partners, regional and international organizations as well as international financial institutions.
- The Strategy highlights the nexus between **security and development** and is articulated around three strategic goals:
 1. **Governance**
 2. **Security**
 3. **Resilience**
- The three goals of the Strategy are complemented by an **Action Fund for the Sahel region** to be hosted by the African Development Bank.
- The Fund is intended to provide **innovative funding for infrastructure development projects** that fall beyond the realm of the United Nations system.
- The implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy is **firmly anchored in the Sahel region**.
- At the regional level, the overall responsibility lies with the UN system under the authority of the **Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa (UNOWA)** in collaboration with **national authorities** of concerned countries and **participating regional and international organizations**.

- At the national level, the **UN Resident Coordinators oversee the implementation** of the Strategy in **close collaboration with respective national authorities**.
- A **two-layered United Nations implementation mechanism** is composed of a Steering Committee – which is chaired by the SRSG and includes the conveners of the regional working groups on the three goals of the Strategy, the UN Regional Directors’ Team, UN Resident Coordinators, and the Sahel team of the United Nations Office for West Africa – as well as the three regional working groups. This mechanism oversees concerted inter-agency efforts at the regional level to advance the three goals of the Strategy: Governance, Security and Resilience.
- The United Nations Sahel Strategy stresses the **importance of the coordination of all efforts for the region as articulated by the Secretary-General** during the high-level visit he led in the Sahel in November 2013.
- International initiatives in the Sahel including the UN Integrated Strategy and its implementation are being coordinated by a **Coordination Platform** established by the 5 November 2013 Ministerial Meeting in Bamako.
- The Coordination Platform is composed of the **governments of countries in the Sahelo-Saharan region, sub-regional, regional and international organizations** as well as **financial institutions**.
- The Platform is to meet every six months. The **Republic of Mali** has assumed the **first two-year rotational Presidency** of the Platform.
- The Platform will be assisted in its work by a **Technical Secretariat**.
- The Technical Secretariat is **co-chaired by the United Nations and the African Union**. Its members include the **World Bank**, the **African Development Bank**, the **Islamic Development Bank**, the **European Union**, the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation**, the **Arab Maghreb Union**, the **Economic Community of West African States**, the **Economic Community of Central African States** and the **Community of Sahel-Saharan States**.

SNAPSHOT

Five core **countries**: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger

Three pillars: **Governance**, **Security** and **Resilience**

An Action Fund for **regional infrastructure development**

An implementation anchored in the **region**

A **Coordination Platform** of the Sahel countries with a two-year rotating Presidency

A collaborative effort of **national**, **regional** and **international actors**

A new effort to channel **support and resources** where they are **most needed**