

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the A3+1 countries, namely Tunisia, Kenya, Niger and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

We thank Mr. François Lounceny Fall, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, for his comprehensive and informative briefing.

We commend the work done by the Special Representative to promote peace in the region through mediation and preventive diplomacy. We also commend his support to the electoral process, conflict resolution, post conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding and to further enhance capacity-building activities in several areas.

We seize this opportunity to extend our condolences to Chad for the death of President Idriss Deby. We further offer our sympathies to the Multinational Joint Force in the Lake Chad Basin and to the families of the Cameroonian soldiers killed by Boko Haram.

Mr. President,

Our statement will focus on the political and socio-economic developments, as well as security issues and the humanitarian situation in Central Africa.

On the socio-economic front, the region has been severely affected by unrest in recent months, especially in the fight against the covid-19 pandemic and the resultant economic setbacks.

We commend the efforts of the regional states that have committed significant resources to stop the spread of the virus, through the launching of vaccination campaigns. We hope that these steps will quickly pave the way for the revival of socio-economic activities.

We are encouraged by the IMF's forecast for economic growth in the region. It is a signal of Africa's resilience and that with some further support, as part of Building Back Better, full economic recovery can be realised. It cannot be over-emphasised how important jobs and shared prosperity are to peace.

On the political front, we commend UNOCA's efforts in facilitating dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building initiatives to address security related challenges in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad.

Regarding Chad, in line with the Communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of 20 May 2021, we encourage the transitional authorities to ensure that inclusive dialogue prevails, and that the transitional timetable is respected. We look



forward to return to constitutional order through the installation of a civilian-led Government resulting from free, credible and peaceful elections.

With regard to Cameroon, and while we commend the Authorities' efforts towards decentralization in line with the recommendations of the Major National Dialogue, we appeal to all stakeholders to continue on the path of dialogue as the only way to bring lasting peace to the North-West and South-West Regions.

Mr. President,

On the security front we regret the persistence of violence in the northwest and southwest of Cameroon, which has resulted in the displacement of approximately 4,200 people due to attacks by armed separatist groups, the use of improvised explosive devices, and attacks on schools and teachers.

We are concerned with the increase in Boko Haram attacks in the Lake Chad Basin, resulting in 145 civilian casualties in Cameroon and 199 in Chad between December 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.

We call for resolute action against this group. We also support the Secretary General's recommendation to strengthen coordination among States and partners in the Lake Chad Basin against the threats of Boko Haram, its root causes and impacts.

We agree that joint actions by UNOCA, UNOWAS and UN entities in the region, supported by joint analysis, advocacy and programs remain key to addressing the impact of Boko Haram in the region.

We are deeply concerned that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continues to perpetrate attacks on civilians, especially women and children, and engage in clashes with the military forces of some countries in the region.

We welcome the International Criminal Court May 6, 2021 which convicted and sentenced an LRA commander to 25 years in prison for crimes against humanity and crimes of war. This conviction, the first of its kind against a member of the group by the ICC, which considered for the first time the crime of forced pregnancy, and made the first conviction for forced marriage.

We support International mobilization to combat the LRA, whose violence in the CAR and the region sustains its history of atrocities in multiple countries. Its actions highlight the importance of the joint UNOCA-CEEAC 2021-2025 strategic plan for peace and stability whose implementation we look forward to.



We are also very concerned about the worsening of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. In this regard, we welcome the holding of the virtual meeting of the ECCAS Peace and Security Council on May 4, 2021, with a view to strengthening mechanisms to combat maritime insecurity.

Mr. President,

On the humanitarian front, the A-3+1 are gravely concerned about the continued deterioration of the situation due to the persistence of conflicts, epidemics and natural disasters. According to UN data, in Cameroon alone more than 1 million people have been displaced with, 4.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, more than 1 million displaced persons, and whose. Their humanitarian response plan for the current year requires 362 million dollars with only 18% of the amount mobilized to date.

The situation is even more serious in Chad with more than 5.5 million people in need of emergency humanitarian assistance. The number of refugees from CAR to the Republic of Congo is on the rise. Cholera, measles and polio epidemics, combined with the effects of climate change, are having a major impact on the Lake Chad Basin region. More than 1.2 million people need emergency humanitarian assistance in the region.

In this regard, we call on the international community to increase funding to the humanitarian response plan. We further call on all on the United Nations, the African Union, UNOCA, ECCAS and all regional, sub-regional and international partners to remobilize to stop the progression of this already dire situation.

We also express deep concern about the continuing reports of human rights violations and offenses, including sexual and gender-based violence, by both armed groups and other actors.

Mr. President,

Despite the difficult situation prevailing in the region, we commend the continuing regional cooperation and diplomatic initiatives by the region's leaders.

We are encouraged by the ongoing efforts between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to seek a peaceful settlement of their border disputes.

We welcome the efforts of the African Union and UNOCA to support regional cooperation. We urge for further support to the ECCAS Commission, as well as its coordination efforts with the ICGLR.

Mr. President,



We commend the work of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in supporting regional efforts to enhance economic cooperation, development and peacebuilding in the region.

The A3+1 further welcome the Special Envoy's continued and active engagement with key stakeholders in the region.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the A3+1 support the renewal of the mandate of UNOCA for three years from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024, to continue its actions in favor of regional integration and the ongoing fight against persistent fragilities in the peace and security area.

I thank you.

