

# Excerpts from the 6971<sup>st</sup> meeting of the United Nations Security Council

29 May, 2013

Discussing S/2013/297 [Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas](#)

## **Statement of Security Council President on behalf of members**

"The council encourages the UN, African Union and ECCAS [Economic Community of Central African States] to work together, including through joint field assessments, to develop a common operating picture of the LRA's current capabilities and areas of operation, as well as to investigate the LRA's logistical networks and possible sources of military support and illicit financing, including alleged involvement in elephant poaching and related illicit smuggling.

The council calls on the secretary-general to report on possible findings in his report on implementation of the UN's counter LRA strategy."

## **Statement by France**

"President, I'd like to conclude by speaking of a worrisome trend, which the special representative of the secretary-general also touched on, that is the growing scope of poaching in Central Africa to fund criminal activities, even terrorist ones. This phenomenon, which endangers the security of the region and endangered species, has been proven now. Here, cooperation of states of the region, ECCAS and the African Union and the United Nations must be scaled up."

## **Statement by Russia**

"We share the concerns in the rise of-- the increasing scale of transborder crime, including poaching, which Libyan weapons are also used for. We are particularly concerned that the output of these crimes could serve as funding or financing for the terrorist and criminal groups operating in the subregion."

## **Statement by Rwanda**

"Mr president, before concluding let me say a word on the scourge of poaching in Central Africa mentioned in the secretary-general's report. The consequences are well known: dramatic decrease of elephants in Africa, effect on environment, financial shortfall for tourism, but also financing of armed groups. And here we support the [secretary-general's] call to consider this issue as a major national and subregional security concern requiring concerted and coordinated action.

But we also believe that as the ivory demand is mainly from outside Africa countries of destinations should also play their part within the framework of the Convention on International Trade [in] Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES."

### **Statement by Togo**

"Besides the criminal acts of the LRA we are also concerned at the poaching and killing of elephants, which are happening in some countries of the region and the subsequent illegal sale of ivory, which is one of the sources of financing for criminal and rebel groups. We therefore call on the states concerned to strengthen, with the support of patterns, the security measures around the parks and other protected areas where elephants live."

### **Statement by Australia**

"As the LRA's tactics evolve, cross-border coordination and information sharing is all the more important. As the secretary-general's report notes, for example, the possible use of funds from illegal ivory trade as an important source of financing for LRA activities needs to be addressed."

[...]

"As the [secretary-general's] report notes, economic growth, while sustained is not yet inclusive. Youth unemployment is high, women's participation in key political decision-making is low in all but a few countries, and piracy and cross-border criminal activity, including elephant poaching, has increased. We welcome, therefore, regional efforts to address these issues and the assistance UNOCA is providing to support them."

### **Statement by Morocco**

"A lack of security in the Gulf of Guinea and the Sahel region, terrorist attacks, and transborder trafficking, as well as poaching, all of these things have an increasing impact on the stability and the development of the region of Central Africa."

### **Statement by Republic of Korea**

"The LRA is known for funding its activities through poaching and illegal ivory trade. LRA is also regarded as a serious perpetrator of transboundary trafficking in illegal materials. The activities of the LRA pose a fundamental threat to the rule of law in the entire region and the international community must, therefore, deal with them as such."

### **Statement by Pakistan**

"The Central African region continues to face numerous interlinked and cross-cutting challenges. As evident from the recent crisis in the Central Africa Republic, instability in any part of the region has ramifications beyond the borders of that directly-affected state. The overall fragile security situation in the Sahel, lack of economic opportunities, the proliferation of weapons, threats posed by terrorism, increasing incidents of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, cross-border criminality, including poaching, and the continued threat by the Lord's Resistance Army to civilians impact all countries in the region."

### **Statement by Guatemala**

"UNOCA [the UN Office for Central Africa] should also work with the various states in Central Africa in order to respond to the illegal exploitation of natural resources, especially the poaching of elephants, which has been reported Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon. This was touched upon by Mr Moussa in his presentation and the distinguished representative of France has just mentioned it as well."

### **Statement by Azerbaijan**

"We note with concern a growing menace posed by the spread of cross-border criminal activities, such as poaching and illegal ivory trade, to sustainable peace and security in Central Africa."