

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 13 September 2019 from the Permanent Representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, the Russian Federation and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

We have the honour to inform you that the Russian presidency of the Security Council, together with African members of the Council – Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa – intend to hold, on 26 September 2019, a ministerial briefing on the topic “Peace and security in Africa: partnership to strengthen regional peace and security”.

In that regard, we transmit herewith a concept note on the event, jointly prepared by our delegations (see annex).

We would like to request your assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Kacou Houadjia Léon **Adom**  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

*(Signed)* Anatolio **Ndong Mba**  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**  
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

*(Signed)* Jerry Matthews **Matjila**  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa



**Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2019 from the Permanent Representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, the Russian Federation and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Concept note for the Security Council ministerial briefing on the topic "Peace and security in Africa: partnership to strengthen regional peace and security", 26 September 2019**

**Introduction**

1. Conflict situations in Africa and their implications pose a serious challenge to both regional and international peace and security. Conflicts on the continent, resulting from various factors, constitute a large part of the Security Council's agenda and therefore require a fair share of the United Nations resources allocated for conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. The conflicts are serious impediments to the achievement of the African people's aspirations for sustained peace, security and development.
2. One of the main issues impeding progress towards stability and prosperity in Africa is the increased threat of terrorism and extremism, as evidenced by growing terrorist activities conducted primarily by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Qaida-affiliated groups, such as Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram.
3. Past experience shows that, for sustained conflict settlement or effective counter-terrorism strategies to be successful, collaborative efforts and the active participation of key regional players – both States and organizations – are a necessity. These collective and collaborative efforts have led to a number of situations reaching a stage where they could be removed from the Security Council's agenda.
4. With recent and ongoing positive developments on the continent, it is apparent that the principle of "African solutions to African problems" has illustrated the continent's ability not only to take timely action but also to provide sustained solutions to its conflicts. However, in many cases, regional efforts alone are not enough; they need to be complemented with actions of support by international partners, including relevant United Nations structures or the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Such actions are in addition to the support of the Peacebuilding Commission, which is mandated to assist countries in transition and post-conflict situations by providing strategic assistance within peacebuilding approaches. Further international efforts are needed to support African-led solutions on many of the unresolved issues, with the financing of African Union peace support operations being a key example.
5. The African continent, through its African Peace and Security Architecture under the framework of the African Union, has undertaken progressive efforts in dealing with acute challenges to its peace and security. These efforts need to be complemented by support from external partners, while maintaining African leadership in regional initiatives, which has proved to be effective as long as adequate resources are provided.

**General objectives of the briefing**

6. It would be useful to review the existing mechanisms to effectively support African and regional responses to the current threats to peace and security on the African continent, with a view to enhancing regional and international efforts in

addressing these challenges in a strategic, sustained and coordinated manner, thus helping to achieve the noble goal of silencing the guns in Africa by 2020.

**Questions for consideration**

- What are the root causes of conflicts in Africa and how do they affect international peace and security? What can be done to better support multidimensional efforts deployed to address them?
- What is being done by the countries of the continent to address the most urgent security issues at the regional and subregional levels, and through the African Union, the regional economic communities and key subregional organizations?
- How can the international community contribute more effectively to African efforts and what further actions are required to build up the capacity of the continent in the area of international peace and security, including peace support operations?
- Which forms of existing partnership have proved to be the most effective and efficient and what other ways of creating new synergies might be explored in the future?
- What can be done to strengthen partnership with the African Union and subregional organizations?
- What can be done to avoid competition among key international players in Africa and prevent interference in the internal affairs of African countries?

**Briefers**

7. We expect the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, to brief the Council on the subject.

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