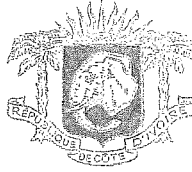


MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
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**Security Council: United Nations**

7004<sup>th</sup> Session

**United Nations Peace Keeping Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)**

**Statement of  
H.E. Mr Youssoufou BAMBA  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations**

*Only against delivery*

*July, 18 2013*

Madam President,

1. My delegation takes note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document S/2013/377, and thank Mr Hervé Ladsous, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for his excellent presentation.
2. Before making a few remarks on some points that appear critical to my delegation, I would like to congratulate your country for the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July 2013.
3. Please allowed me to also pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his personal commitment to the issue of UNOCI, a commitment which is reflected in the quality of the report submitted to us today.
4. Beyond the content of the report of the Secretary-General, who merely reflects the excellent relations and cooperation between the Special Representative of the Secretary General and the Ivorian authorities and people, my delegation would like to express its recognition and pay a tribute to Mr. Bert Koenders, the recent Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. We make ours the expression used by the Secretary General in his report, that "enlightened leadership" shown by Mr Koenders during the few two years at the head of UNOCI. My delegation wishes him to achieve the same great results in the brotherly country of Mali, where he now serves as the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Chief MINUSMA.
5. Finally, my delegation would like to congratulate Mrs. Aïchatou Mindaoudou Souleymane on her appointment as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and head of UNOCI. We note with satisfaction that Ms. Souleymane started to make contact with the different authorities and Ivorian entities under her new function. She can rest assured of the full cooperation of the Ivorian authorities.

Madam President,

6. Back to the report of the Secretary General and as it has been clearly pointed out, considerable progress has been made at all levels, particularly at the level of general objectives;
  - Security and stability, including SSR and DDR,
  - Justice and Human Rights,
  - and dialogue and national reconciliation,

**In terms of security and stability,**

7. As aptly noted by the report of the Secretary-General, President Alassane Ouattara and his government pay attention to the stabilization of the security aspect on the entire national territory, with good results, as the cities of Abidjan and Yamoussoukro were reclassified by the United Nations in May 2013, in the authorized areas to the families of the international staff of the Organization.

8. However, concerns remain along the border with Liberia, although the situation has improved significantly following the strengthening of the quadripartite cooperation between security services of Cote d'Ivoire, those of Liberia, the UNOCI and UNMIL.

9. **With regard to the reform of the security sector (SSR)**, I would like to point out that the coordination of the implementation of the RSS is at three levels:

- The political and strategic level;
- The level of coordination (Monitoring and Evaluation);
- The operational level (implementation).

The National Security Council (NSC) is at the political and strategic level;

The secretariat of the NSC and the Advisory Group are at the level of coordination;

The various ministries involved in SSR structures represent the implementing structures. Each department has a focal point that reflects the monthly progress of implementation of the RSS to the Secretary of the Department of CNS and Advisory Group which consists of partners. Each department should develop its matrix implementation and program it.

As such, the Ministries of Defense, Justice, Interior and National Security and Foreign Affairs are the most advanced in the process of implementation of the RSS.

10. **Regarding the fight against smuggling**, specific measures have been taken to eradicate smuggling of natural resources for the benefit of neighboring countries and the parallel tax system controlled by elements of the former New Forces and former combatants. These measures are:

- On one hand the redeployment of State administration throughout the national territory (Customs, Police, Gendarmerie, the Services of Finance and Tax);
- On the other hand bring awareness to the military personnel on the danger of such traffic to the national economy and the sanctions they may incur in the event of proven liability, up to their radiation.

11. **Finally, with regard to the case of Amade Ouérémi** briefly mentioned in paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary General, my delegation would like to state that after ten years of insecurity which he made himself guilty of in the classified forest of Mount Peko located in

West Coast d'Ivoire, Mr. Ouérémi was apprehended, prosecuted, charged and placed in custody on May 22, 2013.

12. The concerned is subject to the following charges: crimes against civilians, genocide, violation of individual freedom, murder, rape, assault and battery, threat of death, violence and assault, tribalism and xenophobia attack and other offenses against the authority of the state, constitution of gangs, participation in an insurrectionary movement, disturbing public order, looting, destruction or deterioration of goods, merchandise or equipment, flight meeting, extortion, willful destruction of real or personal property, coercion, abetting and attempt all these offenses. He is accused and charged along with nine others.

13. The process is well advanced. Intensive interrogations, personality and psychiatric assessments are made. As such, 50 rape victims and victims of 4000 various offenses have already been heard by the magistrate who indicted several suspects, including Amade Ouérémi himself and the investigations to find other accomplices is ongoing.

14. **On Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)**, the Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (ADDR) was established August 8, 2012 by presidential decree. The ADDR was established in October 2012 and has actually started operations in January 2013. After 6 months of operation, the following results were achieved:

- 7680 weapons were collected;
- 8044 ex-combatants have been demobilized and reintegrated or are in the process of reintegration.

15. In recent months, there has been an acceleration of the results and this happened after the installation phase and implementation of systems and procedures. With the opening of regional offices (RO) and branches (3 BR and 4 antennas are open) we expect to accelerate the activities of the ADDR. We expect to also open 3 BR and 6 other branches by the end of July.

16. The Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP) supported among others by the World Bank and the African Development Bank has provided assistance to the ADDR for nearly two months to develop a strategic framework for the national DDR strategy. This framework was shared with all partners in April 2013.

17. The ADDR has established a framework for overall coordination including national and international partners (multilateral, bilateral and NGOs) which meets once a month and four thematic groups

- \* Communication-awareness
- \* Reinsertion – Reintegration
- \* Repatriation, Disarmament, Demobilization
- \* Community Rehabilitation and social cohesion.

18. This coordination mechanism enables the development of sectoral strategies and action plans. Thus, the clusters mentioned above are finalizing thematic strategy documents that will be available at the end of July 2013.

19. In the same aspect, a programmatic document will be developed with the assistance of UNOCI, UNDP and the European Union who volunteered to support ADDR in this exercise. This programmatic document will serve as the basis document at the meeting of partners for resource mobilization scheduled for September 2013.

20. Regarding the database of ex-combatants, UNOCI has made available to the ADDR a computer expert in order to examine the database and make it more credible. Thus, the issue of access to the database by UNOCI is no longer an issue. The joint effort this current year has already helped detect and correct anomalies in the database. By mutual agreement, the ADDR and UNOCI further agreed to not proceed to a new registration of the ex-combatants. On the other side, a joint mechanism to check the status of ex-combatants has been developed and implemented.

21. In addition, a system of monitoring and marking of firearms in connection with the demobilization of ex-combatants has been established with the support of UNOCI. And regular statistics on Disarmament, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and weapons are provided to UNOCI.

22. Finally, discussions are underway with UNOCI and other partners to expedite the reintegration of ex-combatants. These discussions will be recorded in the Reinsertion-Reintegration action plan. This is to welcome the availability and much appreciated support of UNOCI in the development and implementation of thematic strategies which will allow the ADDR to achieve its objectives.

### **In terms of the Justice and Human Rights**

23. At a general level It should first be noted that members of the National Commission on Human Rights have been appointed. Then we see that progress has been made in the implementation of the national strategy for justice reform in the period 2012-2015, including the action plan and budget approved by the Council of Ministers of 6 June 2013. In addition to the above national strategy, a strategic plan to reform the juvenile justice system is being developed. My delegation would like to note that many efforts and investments are made by the State to reinforce the capacity of the judicial and penal systems.

24. **About the Armed Forces**, the supervisory authority and the General Staff of RFCI have established a technical training unit of RFCI on Human Rights. This cell conducts awareness and training to the RFCI throughout the territory. The commandments punish gross violations of human rights.

25. Following the report of the National Commission of Inquiry on crimes committed during the post electoral period the Military Court has opened investigations and proceeded to indictments and convictions even military indictments following a procedure in accordance with the rule of law in the matter. There are three categories of military and being subject to prosecution:

\* Defendants heard on the grounds: Armed forces and Gendarmerie 32 charged and National Police 08 charged;

\* Defendants under detention warrant: Armed Forces 23 charged and National Police 08 charged;

\* Defendant under detention warrant not yet heard on the grounds: 06 Militaries charged

26. A focal point between the office of UNOCI and the Army has been appointed;

27. **Regarding the attack on the investigation of the refugee camp of Nahibly**, the Judge of the Court of Man has been mandated to shed light on the facts of this case, charge and detain anyone involved. This investigation is ongoing and therefore the evolution of the investigation will be communicated as soon as available.

28. **In terms of other ongoing legal proceedings** and for which he heard all kinds of comments, my delegation would like to draw attention to the fact that the separation of powers is a fundamental parameter of good governance and the expression of the rule of law throughout the world. There cannot be an impartial justice if everyone tends to want to dictate to the justice how to conduct investigations and who to prosecute.

29. Based on the foregoing, I would like to emphasize that the main concern of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in its judicial procedures is to ensure that all citizens receive a fair trial within a reasonable time. Despite the difficulties in terms of infrastructure and superstructure of the Ivorian justice system, problems mainly related to the destruction that occurred during the post-election crisis, several procedures have been completed and submitted to the trial courts. Decisions were made and trials are about to begin.

30. I would like to emphasize that there no political accused or political prisoners in Côte d'Ivoire, because it is a generally accepted rule that the activity of a person does not affect the legal nature of the offense they can be charged with. In other words, it is not because someone holds an important position in the civil and political society that they are not prosecutable.

31. At this level, the following strategy has been implemented by the Prosecutor of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure a fair trial in Côte d'Ivoire. The Prosecutor of the Republic, Head of the Special Investigation Unit pointed out in a sequential approach, to give priority to the proceedings of detainees to ensure a speedy and fair trial within a reasonable time and in accordance with all statements and principles of Human Rights restated by the Ivorian Constitution.

32. However, especially for the leaders of the old regime, it is important to note that most of the facts for which they are prosecuted are of a criminal nature, which forces the court to make use of a two-tier education before the indictment in the Criminal Court. A ruling indicting the accused persons before the Criminal Court has been taken recently and shows that the judicial procedures will come to an end with judgments to be scheduled without delay.

**In terms of political dialogue and national reconciliation,**

33. My delegation wishes to reaffirm the continued commitment of the Ivorian authorities in the process of political dialogue and national reconciliation. **In Côte d'Ivoire, there is a long well ingrained tradition about permanent dialogue**, and, this, despite all that is said and written in the media and other sources of information. Contacts are patiently and constantly maintained between all parties, and tangible results will be seen shortly.

34. At this point, the President of the Republic continued to maintain a close dialogue with his people through his tours in all the regions of the country. Thus, after Western part of the country last April, he has just completed a tour on Monday in the North. While these tours are an opportunity for communion between the President of the Republic and the people promoting direct interaction, they also set the tone for the equitable redistribution of wealth in the country since many achievements of socio-economic and even cultural facilities are made for the benefit of the concerned regions during presidential visits. Thus, in the case of Ferkessédougou, this gave the opportunity to reconcile political leaders representing political parties in power or those in the opposition.

35. It is equally reassuring to note that apart from these actions at the highest level of the State, local authorities, through the awareness and early alert Committees actively contribute to calm tensions and communal violence. A national program for social cohesion was launched on May 10, 2013 in order to coordinate all the initiatives taken by the Government in this area. To give a dimension taking into account the parameters of the national development planning, this program was housed in the Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development that ensures the institutional anchoring.

**36. With regard to the process of national reconciliation, there are reasons to celebrate significant progress.**

37. Indeed, after field studies that lasted several months, the heuristic Dialogue Truth and Reconciliation Commission (DTRC) held in December 2012, a dissemination workshop to make a first assessment. It was followed by a listening seminar, in order to ascertain the views of Ivorian on the causes of the crisis, after which, the Commission met on the 10, 11 and 12 of July during a symposium held in Yamoussoukro, to determine the deep roots of the crisis.

38. The Symposium was attended by 120 participants from all socio-economic parts in order to share their views as part of seven subcommittees each in charge of the following themes;

- Land,
- Citizenship, nationality and democracy,
- Communication and Society
- Justice and security
- Gender,
- Education, training and youth
- and poverty.

39. After three days of intense and fruitful work, the DTRC can be credited to have achieved remarkable results since all the causes of the Ivorian crisis were exhaustively listed by each of the seven sub-committees and proposals for appropriate solutions were recommended under the above causes.

40. The matrix thus developed, will help formulate appropriate policies to achieve the objectives of national reconciliation.

41. For forgoing and given the current positive dynamic, it is urged that the international partners in general and UNOCI in particular provide all the necessary support for the proper performance of the next steps of the work of the DTRC before submitting its final report to the President of the Republic in September 2013.

Madam President,

42. To Conclude, my delegation believes that the issue of plans to reduce military personnel, police and civilians of UNOCI by 2015 should be treated with great care in order to not create a security vacuum in the field on the practical implementation of complex mandates given to UNOCI by the Security Council itself.

43. Therefore, I would like to strongly remind that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire is aware that sustainable recovery of the country is its primary concern. That is the reason why it will spare no effort or will stop at nothing to achieve the expected progress in regard to related sites;

- \* Reform of the security sector,
- \* The smooth running of the DDR process,
- \* To achieve the objectives of the National Reconciliation,
- \* The pursuit of a strong, sustainable and inclusive economic growth,
- \* Preparation and the organization of free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections, deadlines for 2015,

44. I also remember that the UN Charter gives the Security Council the statutory responsibility to maintain peace and international security. It is for this reason that UNOCI supports Côte d'Ivoire in achieving the above objectives.

45. In this regard, my delegation shares the view of the Secretary-General that the sustainable recovery of Côte d'Ivoire will certainly contribute to the strengthening of peace, stability and development in West Africa.

46. It is therefore important that the Council's decisions on military and police of UNOCI take into account this aspect. That is why my delegation expresses its reservations regarding the proposed reduction of two battalions under the quotas of UNOCI by 2015.



47. We believe that the progress being made on all ongoing projects deserve to be maintained and protected, and that, at least until the 2015 elections, after which an orderly transition to a regime of peace could be considered with confidence.

48. In the same logic, my delegation emphasizes the urgent need for UNOCI to continue to work closely with the Ivorian authorities to identify and evaluate together criteria for achieving the long-term stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

49. This is also to take into account the needs of long-term stability of Côte d'Ivoire and the Ivorian authorities have formally requested the deployment of surveillance drones along our borders in general, and those with Liberia in particular and we are hopeful that this request will be considered by the Board with the attention it deserves.

**Thank you.**

