

Mr President,

First of all, we would like to thank SRSG Loucény Fall for his briefing, as well as for the substantial work undertaken, as evidenced also by the Secretary-General's report.

The work of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and its biannual reports have an undeniable value through their **regional and thematic focus**.

The Council is of course regularly briefed on the region or on certain of its constitutive countries but our biannual debates, such as the one conducted today, allow us to better understand the major developments and trends which are affecting the region as a whole, whether in regards to human rights issues or the humanitarian situation, the growing problem of the management of transhumance, or even the scourge of the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

In addition, this report demonstrates the extent to which certain challenges and security threats, due to their cross-border nature, render regional analysis not only desirable but necessary. Problems which are initially considered local or national often call for regional or sub-regional solutions. These include approaches for preventing and resolving the problem of armed groups, such as the LRA or Boko Haram – which both continue to negatively affect certain countries in the region – or ways and means to consolidate and safeguard the first positive achievements of the recent Central African Republic peace deal.

- Another file which deserves our continued attention is the situation in **Cameroon**. We share the concerns of the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian, security and human rights contexts, which have had a demonstrative, negative impact on the region. We also agree with the solutions prescribed in the report. Dialogue must prevail, humanitarian access must be guaranteed and international humanitarian law must be respected by all parties involved in conflict. Given the holistic nature of the crisis, we must all provide a response: at the sub-regional, regional and UN levels, as well as at the level of Member States and humanitarian, religious and civil-society actors.

The UN Regional Office for Central Africa is a key instrument in terms of conflict prevention and early warning. It is this very function that guides the good offices of the SRSG. In this sense, the Office supports inclusive, transparent and credible electoral processes as essential factors for regional stability.

Which brings me to my second point:

In a few weeks, this Council will be discussing the **strategic review of UNOCA**. The challenge will be in maximising the role of the Office in terms of prevention, while also minimising any overlap with the other activities of the United Nations in the region. We see this strategic review as a unique opportunity for the United Nations and for this Council to further develop our means of action in terms of early warning and response mechanisms.

Thank you.