Committee: Security Council (SC)

Topic: Empowering stability in the Sahel region.

Student Officer: Katerina Patrinou

Position: Deputy President

Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Katerina Patrinou, I am 17 years old and I am a student of the 12th grade at Geitonas school. I have the utmost honor to serve as a Deputy President in the Security Council in this year's CSMUN conference. I am more than excited to work with each of you individually and I look forward to our cooperation during this conference. MUN for me is not just an extracurricular activity but an opportunity to make friends, exchange opinions and learn new things about the world we live in. Through my experience I have enhanced my knowledge on current affairs and history but most importantly I have evolved as a person. I believe that this topic is very interesting and will bring a lot of fruitful debate.

This study guide will provide you with the necessary information, including some previous attempts to solve this issue, background information, key terms and many more facts that will help you familiarize yourselves with the topic. Having said that, I strongly encourage you to read the study guide thoroughly in cohesion with conducting your own research, all while taking into consideration your country's policy.

In case you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me via email at katpatrinou@gmail.com. I wish you all a productive preparation, and I am looking forward to meeting you at the conference.

Best regards,

Katerina Patrinou

Topic Introduction

The Sahel region of Africa is a 3.860-kilometer surface area located to the south of the Sahara Desert and expands east-west across the African continent. The Sahel region is surrounded from Senegal on the Atlantic coast, through parts of Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Sudan to Eritrea on the Red Sea coast. [1]

The region is struggling with many problems, some of them being the growing threat of terrorism, anti-state rebellions, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, food shortages and climate change. During the recent years UN organizations, NGOs and governments all around the world are working together in order to ensure peace and safety in the Sahel. Geographical location, climate change, lack of resources and control over the territory can be some of the reasons causing human trafficking, terrorism and organized crime. Furthermore, the lack of functioning judicial and law enforcement institutions by the state is making the situation worse

[1] "Sahel region, Africa - The Conversation." 27 Feb. 2017, https://theconversation.com/sahel-region-africa-72569.

since there are no repercussions. 2 Food shortages were caused by large famines and droughts that resulted in undermining food production. Lastly, extreme climate and rising temperatures are problems caused by deforestation, and the evaporation of soil, reducing rainfall. 3

Both locally and globally this issue impacts the economy, the environment and the political stability of the region and the surrounding countries. Locally, this issue can heavily impact the security of the citizens since the lack of institutional and territorial governance can contribute to the collapse of state control. This can lead to uncontrolled attacks, human trafficking and organized crime. Traffickers and terrorists can easily expand their network, since national borders are unguarded, posing a threat to several countries outside the region and affecting world security. 4

In order to restore peace and eliminate poverty actions must be taken. Resolving this issue would bring an abundant amount of potential to the region, given its natural and demographic assets. A stable Sahel would offer immense opportunities to the global market and would enhance interaction between different cultures making their relations stronger. Malnutrition will be reduced restoring hope in the region and
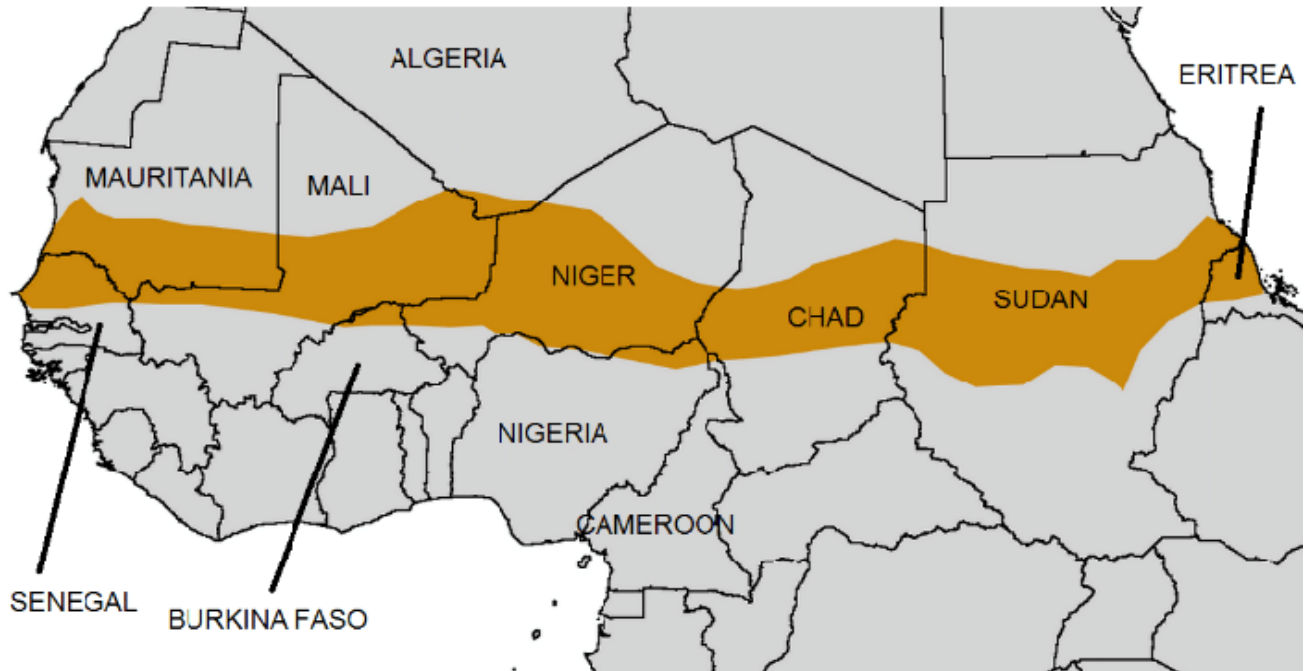
2 "The Sahel is engulfed by violence. Climate change, food ...." 23 Jan. 2019, https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/all-the-warning-signs-are-showing-in-the-sahel-we-must-act-now/.

3 "Sahel | Location, Facts, & Desertification | Britannica." 26 May. 2020, https://www.britannica.com/place/Sahel.

4 "The Sahel: One region, many crises | Africa Renewal." https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2013/sahel-one-region-many-crises.

increasing quality access to basic needs. In other words, solving this issue would help ensure stability while providing sustainable development and peace in the Sahel.

Definition of key terms

Instability

"Political instability is defined as the potential for sudden and significant change in the leadership, policies or a condition of a country." Political instability may include government change, political upheaval or violence in a society which can lead to national instability. [5]

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[5] "Political Instability, Indices of | Encyclopedia.com." https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/applied-and-social-sciences-magazines/political-instability-indices

Region

"An area, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries." [6]

Anti-Statism

"Anti-statism is a term describing opposition to state intervention into personal, social, and economic affairs. Anti-statist views may reject the state completely as well as rulership in general, they may wish to reduce the size and scope of the state to a minimum, or they may advocate a stateless society as a distant goal." [7]

Organized crime

"Organized crime, complex of highly centralized enterprises set up for the purpose of engaging in illegal activities. Such organizations engage in offenses such as cargo theft, fraud, robbery, kidnapping for ransom, and the demanding of "protection" payments. The principal source of income for these criminal syndicates is the supply of goods and services that are illegal but for which there is continued public demand, such as drugs, prostitution, loan-sharking (i.e., usury), and gambling." [8]

[6] "REGION | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary." 8 Jul. 2020, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/region.

[7] "anti-statism." Definitions.net. STANDS4 LLC, 2020. Web. 16 Aug. 2020. https://www.definitions.net/definition/anti-statism.

[8] The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Organized Crime." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 19 Nov. 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/organized-crime.

Famine

"A severe shortage of food resulting in violent hunger, starvation and death." The word famine is usually attributed to many people being starved.[9]

Civil War

"A war between citizens of the same country." [10] Civil wars are usually caused by political, cultural and religious disagreements and can lead to the disturbance of peaceful coexistence.

Separatism

"The advocacy or practice of separation of a certain group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion or gender." [11]

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[9] "Famine | Definition of Famine at Dictionary.com." https://www.dictionary.com/browse/famine.

[10] "civil-war noun - Oxford Learner's Dictionaries." https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/civil-war.

[11] "Separatism | Definition of Separatism by Oxford Dictionary on ...." https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/separatism.

Humanitarian Assistance

"Humanitarian Assistance is given to meet the immediate needs of victims of disasters or violence." [12] Humanitarian Aid can include food, water, medical supplies, tents, and other things required by those affected by everything from typhoons to civil wars.

Human Trafficking

"The action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation." [13] Anyone can fall victim of human trafficking, however vulnerable populations who have little social and legal protection are the most at risk.

Terrorism

"The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims."[14]

[12] "Defining humanitarian assistance |." http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/data-guides/defining-humanitarian-aid.

[13] "What Is Human Trafficking? | Homeland Security." https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking.

[14] "Terrorism | Definition of Terrorism at Dictionary.com." https://www.dictionary.com/browse/terrorism.

Rebellions

"A violent action that is organized by a group of people who are trying to change the political system of their country."[15]

Nomadic cultures

A nomad is someone who lives by travelling from place to place. Thus, nomadic cultures are the ones who do not live continuously in the same place but move cyclically or periodically. [16]

Climate Change

"A change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels."[17]

Ethno-religious group

"An ethnoreligious group is an ethnic group of people whose members are also unified by a common religious background. Ethnoreligious communities define their ethnic

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[15] "REBELLION | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary." https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/rebellion.

[16] "Nomadic | Definition of Nomadic at Dictionary.com." https://www.dictionary.com/browse/nomadic. Accessed

[17] "Climate Change | National Geographic Society." 28 Mar. 2019, https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/climate-change/.

identity neither exclusively by ancestral heritage nor simply by religious affiliation, but often through a combination of both." [18]

Background Information

Ethno-religious tensions

The Sahel is a land mass located in between the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. This means it is the site of interaction between Islamic, Arabic and nomadic cultures from the north, and indigenous and traditional cultures from the south. During the past the region was stable in terms of peaceful coexistence of religions, having minor conflicts that did not affect the stability of the states in any way. However, things changed two decades ago, where most countries of the Sahel were threatened by religious violence. There are two types of religious violence's in the region. The first one being communal violence and the second one being religious extremism. Every country has its own definition of communal violence however most African states define it as: "the violence that occurs between different communities who identify themselves based on religion, race, language, tribes and others". A second and more recent type of religious violence is religious extremism. This has been perpetrated by religious extremist groups that engage in violent activity in order to advance a cause in the Islamic state. Other causes of religious violence can be poor education and unemployment, leaving young men vulnerable to radicalization. [19]

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[18] "ethnoreligious group." Definitions.net. STANDS4 LLC, 2020. Web. 16 Aug. 2020. https://www.definitions.net/definition/ethnoreligious+group.

[19] "Religious Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Future of ...." https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/religious-violence-sub-saharan-africa-and-the-future-the-secular-state-0.

Religious armed conflicts have been increasing causing several problems in the society. With religious extremism, communities are turning in religious institutions that often lead to extremism only furthering violence. While there may be several factors to conflict that do not have religious roots, the resulting divisions could further alter the relations between religions.

Peace and Security Challenges

Apart from the ethno-religious tensions, the region faces a lot of peace and security challenges. Notable threats are terrorism and organized violence while interstate warfare and contests for state power can also lead to disrupting governance and security. One of the most important causes of recurring violence is separatism. Many rebel groups struggle for autonomy, aspiring self-governance and the opposition to state interference. At the core of the opposition to the state is a deep sense of political exclusion, inequality and marginalization. Another cause of separatism is the indifference that the government has to the living conditions and the suffering of the population. This indifference has triggered several rebellions, which in turn led to similar cruelties involving the execution and forced displacement of civilians. The region has also recorded several civil wars in Mali and other Sahelian states resulting in devastating effects in the area. Due to state neglect and political disagreements, civil wars are threatening the peaceful coexistence of the Sahel. As a result, corruption can be easily created, causing inequality and increased illegal activities. Another contributing factor to the unresolved political conflicts is the insufficient implementations of peace agreements and the lack of territorial governance. Because of that armed Islamist terrorists and other terrorist groups can expand their network

and pose a serious security threat. The establishment of these groups can be linked to state neglect, poverty and underdevelopment. [20]

Terrorist groups challenge the integrity of the state and the instability of the region. The takeover of these groups has affected the inhabitants since the attacks and protests can lead to the collapse of the local economy and hinder the security of the population. [21]

Humanitarian Issues

In recent years the Sahel has been in the global spotlight due to the humanitarian crisis that it is facing. With lacking economic opportunities and no access to basic necessities, the population of the Sahel is trapped in extreme poverty. Moreover, most migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa going to Europe travelled through Niger. But today the number of migrants has dropped sharply due to the fact that the countries have changed migration policies, forcing them to stay there.[22]

The humanitarian crisis has devastating effects on the society and the population of the region. Due to the lack of economic opportunities the region has reported an economic shortfall, while the society has been in a state of civil insecurity.

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[20] "West Africa and the Sahel, between security challenges and ...." 3 Dec. 2019, https://unowas.unmissions.org/west-africa-and-sahel-between-security-challenges-and-need-consolidate-peace.

[21] "UN: Sahel conflict having devastating impact on children ... - DW." 28 Jan. 2020, https://www.dw.com/en/un-sahel-conflict-having-devastating-impact-on-children-hundreds-killed/a-52169412.

[22] "Humanitarian crisis in the Sahel | International Committee of ...." https://www.icrc.org/en/humanitarian-crisis-sahel.

Day by day, countless families are being pushed deeper into poverty and supply roots are being disrupted due to conflicts, meaning that there is less access in basic necessities.

Geographical Conditions

The region recorded 20 years of severe drought and it is characterized by strong climate variations and irregular rainfalls. Since 1993 the frequency and severity of the droughts and floods has increased. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that the temperatures are rising 1.5 times faster than the global average while climate scientists believe that in 2050 the temperatures there will be 3-5 degrees warmer and extreme weather events will become more frequent. [23] Climate Change is also a factor to consider when talking about the geographical conditions of the region. Due to Climate Change causing less rainfall therefore worsening droughts. [24]

Climate Change and extreme weather conditions can have socioeconomic and environmental impacts in the region. Due to dry weather farmers crops fail to grow, leading to famine, hunger and food insecurity. Instantly, there is a long-term issue for the farming community, since the land is less fertile. With less crops being grown and an increase in demand, food prices will increase. Due to the increase of the food prices, people will get poorer, raising the rates of criminality and posing a threat to the security of the region.

[23] "The Sahel is engulfed by violence. Climate change, food ...." 23 Jan. 2019, https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/all-the-warning-signs-are-showing-in-the-sahel-we-must-act-now/.

[24] "Case study - the impact of drought in a developing country: the ...." https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zt9ncwx/revision/4.

Organized Crime and Human Trafficking challenges

Most of the Sahel states have legitimate routes for trade and migration. However, factors such as the lack of state authority and lack of judicial and law enforcement institutions have created an ideal environment for illicit trafficking. Apart from drug trafficking the region is also witnessing illicit trafficking of human beings (including the smuggling of migrants), fuel, cigarettes and medicine [25]

Organized crime and human trafficking can have a serious impact on the security of the region. Organized crime and human trafficking infringe on human rights and undermine the safety and security of the Sahel. Furthermore, due to the collapse of state control and lack of governance, criminal organizations have intensified their operations in the Sahel and expanded their networks in the entire region. Coupled with this, the profits generated from drug trafficking and organized crime are used to fund government corruption, which only makes an already precarious situation even worse.

Global and regional effects from the instability in the Sahel region

The regional effects of the issue are many. Firstly, terrorist attacks and civil wars are disrupting the general well-being of the region creating an environment of insecurity and fear. Ethno-religious tensions and conflicts are altering the relations between countries while the lack of territorial and institutional governance can contribute to the collapse of state control leading to uncontrolled illegal activities. Secondly, famines are threatening millions of people with severe malnutrition causing food insecurity and poverty. Due to conflicts supply routes are being disrupted making

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[25] "The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ... - unodc." https://www.unodc.org/documents/westandcentralafrica/2018.04.06_Contribution_of_UNODC_to_the_UNISS_FINAL.pdf.

access to basic necessities difficult. Thirdly, climate change has resulted in a long-term issue in the farming community due to the dry weather that makes the crops unable to grow which negatively impacts the economy and, hence increasing poverty. This, combined with the severe food crisis that the region faces, will increase the food shortages making the population poorer. Lastly, organized crime and human trafficking can be used to fund government corruption resulting in instability and the insecurity of the citizens.

The global effects of the issue are interconnected with the regional effects and can disrupt the peaceful coexistence of the Member States. Due to the lack of governance criminal operations can expand their networks causing serious security issues outside the region. Moreover, because of the instability that occurs in the Sahel there is a reluctance of foreign investment and tourism causing economic problems in countries that could possibly benefit by investments in the region.

© picture-alliance/AP/J. Delay

Major countries and organizations involved

Mali

Mali is a landlocked country of Western Africa that borders Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger. Mali is one of the countries in the Sahel which recently experienced a military coup and civil war. In 2012 rebel groups in northern Mali sought independence from the Malian State causing the proclamation of an independent state later that year. However, the occupation of northern provinces was soon taken over by armed Islamists. Discontent within the armed forces with the government's handling of the rebellion led to a military coup overthrowing the democratically elected president. Through international mediation, the military force that had control over the country at the time handed over power to a civil administration, which was replaced in to 2013 with a new democratically elected president and a new parliament. Despite Mali's return to constitutional order, armed groups returned to the area in 2014. [26] In May 2015 a peace agreement was signed between the government and the armed groups. However, the situation is far from improving with instability spreading to central Mali. Apart from the armed conflicts Mali also suffers with forced displacement, caused by the escalation of attacks, and food insecurity. [27] Mali shares its security and sources of conflict with the rest of the region, meaning that in order to empower stability in the region, actions must be taken in order to tackle the situation in Mali.

[26] "the sahel and the lake chad crisis - Aecid." https://www.aecid.es/Centro-Documentacion/Documentos/Acci%C3%B3n%20Humanitaria/180416_estrategia_humanitaria_Sahel_lago_chad_ENG.PDF.

[27] "Transnational Threats to Peace and Security in the Sahel ... - FOI." https://www.foi.se/rest-api/report/FOI-R--3881--SE.

Mauritania

Mauritania is one of the biggest traditional routes for drug and human trafficking between South America and Europe. Because it's sparsely populated, Mauritania is one of the hardest areas to control. This combined with lack of territorial governance makes illicit trafficking way easier. Mauritania is one of the five Sahel states meaning that any problem that occurs can instantly affect the other states causing long-term problems, due to the lack of local governance which cannot restrain the problem within Mauritania. In the rest of the country, most of the needs are chronic and require humanitarian and developmental interventions in order to stabilize the situation.

France

Former colonial power, France was the second largest empire in the world after Britain and the biggest in Africa during the 19th and 20th century. Even after colonial times came to an end and most of the colonies gained independence, France maintained relations with its former colonies. Today, France is one of the European countries that is fully committed to support the Sahel states. Along with international partners, France's main role is to stop instability caused by terrorist groups and trafficking of drugs, weapons and people. France has sponsored both the G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance, by donating more than 400 million euros. Along with other international partners, French agencies are supporting short, medium and long-term projects in order to improve access to basic needs such as water, energy, education and health. [28]

[28] "France's action in the Sahel - Ministry for Europe and Foreign ...." https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/article/france-s-action-in-the-sahel.

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

After requests by the Security Council, the Office of Special Envoy for the Sahel (OSES) and the United Nations Office of West Africa (UNOWA) merged into a single entity creating the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel. UNOWAS has the responsibility for preventive diplomacy, political mediation and facilitation efforts in West Africa and the Sahel. UNOWAS also works to ensure peace, stability and democratic governance in the countries that face conflicts and political crises. [29] UNOWAS works closely with the African Union, the G5 Sahel and many regional partners in order to support solutions to threats such as violent extremism, organized crime and terrorism. Furthermore, UNOWAS assists regional institutions and the G5 Sahel states in order to enhance their capacities to govern and the importance of gender in conflict prevention.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

The Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975 and consists of 15 members. The member states comprising ECOWAS are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo. ECOWAS mainly focuses on creating a large trading bloc through economic cooperation. ECOWAS also aspires in creating a borderless region where the population has access to its abundant resources. [30] Peace and security are a prerequisite for economic development, so in order to achieve economic growth there

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[29] "UNOWAS." https://unowas.unmissions.org/..

[30] "Member States | Economic Community of West African States ...." https://www.ecowas.int/member-states/.

must be stability in the region. Today, the organization is being acknowledged globally as a successful regional body, meaning that it can provide effective solutions in order to tackle this issue. [31]

World Food Programme (WFP)

Assisting almost 100 million people in over 83 countries the World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. In emergencies the WFP provides food assistance to victims of civil war, conflicts, natural disasters, droughts and famines. [32] In 2013 the WFP provided food to more than 5 million people in the Sahel. With its initiatives the WFP can provide food assistance to the region, helping with the severe food crisis that it faces.

Timeline of events

Date	Description of Event

[31] "Basic information | Economic Community of West African ...." https://www.ecowas.int/about-ecowas/basic-information/.

[32] "United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) - WFP.org." https://www.wfp.org/.

12 March 1488 (14th century)	The Cape of Good Hope, in South Africa was discovered by Bartolomeu Dias, opening an important sea route to India and East Asia
15th-18th century	Arab slave traders established extensive networks and supported the economy of several Sahelian kingdoms
1881-1914 (19th century)	The colonization of African territory by European powers occurred. The Western Sahel fell to France as part of French West Africa
1960	The French territories were decolonized
1970-1993	The region recorded 20 years of severe drought, causing a major environmental crisis
2008-2009	The kidnapping of foreigners became more frequent along the Chad/Darfur borders causing the withdrawal of many international aid organizations
2012	More than 18 million people were put at risk due to a food crisis causing one of the largest famines that the region has ever faced
2012-2014	Mali experienced military coup and civil war
2016-2019	A series of terrorist attacks occurred with more than 4,000 deaths reported in 2019 alone

Previous attempts to solve the issue

The Sahel Alliance

The Sahel Alliance was created in Paris on the 13th of July 2017. The main purpose of this alliance is to provide sustainable development and stabilize the region. The Alliance currently has 12 members: France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Denmark, the European Union, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. In October 2018, the G5 Sahel States signed a partnership agreement with the Sahel Alliance aiming to deliver a faster and more effective assistance to vulnerable areas. In order to provide an effective response to the challenges that the Sahel countries face, the members of the Sahel Alliance have chosen to concentrate their efforts on six priority sectors. These sectors are: development of agriculture and food security; education and youth employment; domestic security; access to renewable energy; basic services; the enforcement of territorial governance. More specifically, the Sahel Alliance has supported displaced people in Chad and Mali and has endorsed border management and security. These projects are a step closer in restoring the foundations of a stable society in order to ensure peace and stability in the Sahel. [33]

G5 Sahel Joint Force

The G5 Sahel Joint Force is an intergovernmental cooperation framework created on the 16th of February 2014 as an initiative of the Mauritanian Presidency of the African Union. The Joint Force fights terrorism, cross-border organized crime and human trafficking in the G5 Sahel countries. Along with international partners the G5

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[33] "Home - Alliance Sahel." https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/.

Sahel Joint Force aims in restoring peace and eliminating security threats by supporting the development of the region.34 The Force has successfully carried out several operations, with others planned in 2020, indicating the effectiveness of its creation.35

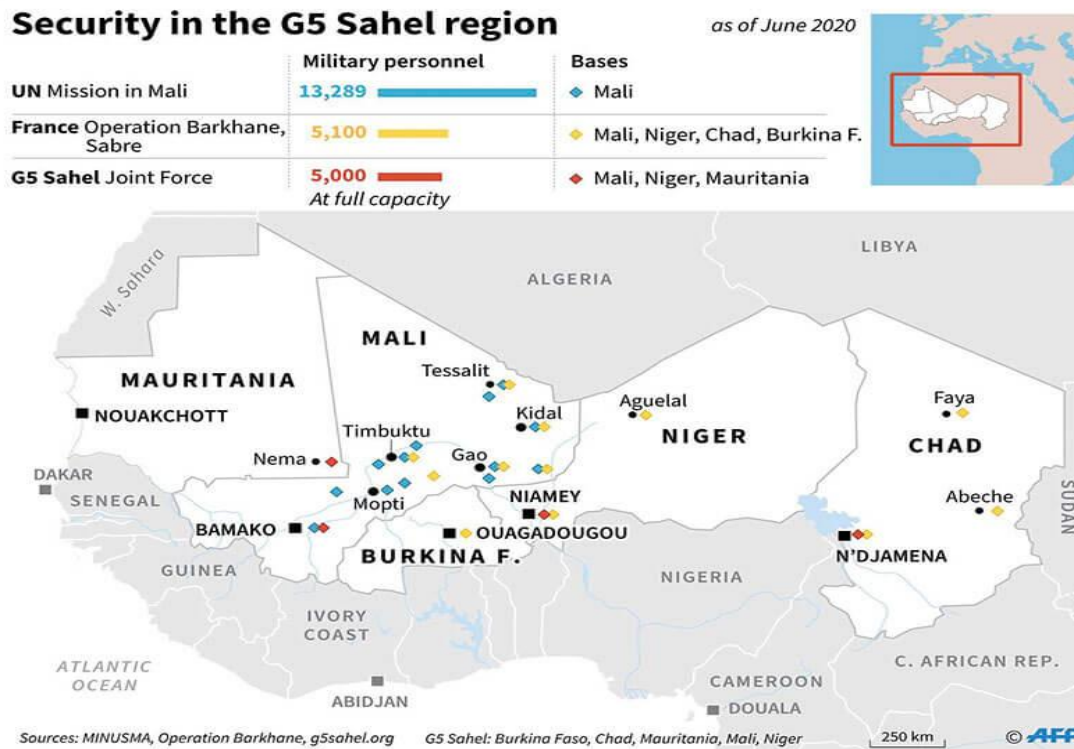## Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

The United Nation Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was established by the Security Council resolution 2100 on the 25th of April 2013. MINUSMA is a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali that ensures security, stability and protection of the citizens. This mission has carried out several security related tasks that have helped Mali return to constitutional order. Since Mali is part of the G5 Sahel it shares its problems with the rest of the region and it highlights the important contribution of MINUSMA in not only helping Mali but also helping to stabilize the region as a whole, demonstrating the beneficial role of this action. 36

34 "G5 Sahel Joint Force - France ONU." 31 Mar. 2020, https://onu.delegfrance.org/G5-Sahel-Joint-Force-10433.

35 "G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance - Ministry for ...." https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/crises-and-conflicts/g5-sahel-joint-force-and-the-sahel-alliance/.

36 "MINUSMA | United Nations Peacekeeping." https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma.

Security in the G5 Sahel region — *as of June 2020*

Sources: MINUSMA, Operation Barkhane, g5sahel.org   G5 Sahel: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, Niger

Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

Security Council Resolution 2391 (S/RES/2391)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8129th meeting, in December 2017 the Security Council resolution 2391 was passed. The resolution makes 3 important statements. Firstly, the resolution encourages Member States to support missions such as MINUSMA and the G5 Sahel Joint Force in order to continue to make progress and reach their full operational capacity. Secondly, the resolution also mentions the importance of stabilizing Mali and countering the activities of terrorist groups in order to create a more secure environment in the Sahel region. Lastly, it underlines the need for military operations to be conducted in full compliance with international and

humanitarian law in order to minimize the risk of harm to citizens. 37 These implementations will strengthen governance, security and development in the region.

Security Council Resolution 2359 (S/RES/2359)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 7,979th meeting, on the 21st of June 2017, the resolution mainly focuses on maintaining peace and combatting terrorism. The resolution welcomed the G5 Sahel Joint Force emphasizing its responsibility to ensure the protection of citizens and address the impact of terrorism and transnational organized crime, while conducting cross-border military counter-terrorist organizations. Furthermore, the resolution focuses on the lack of resources and urges the European Union to provide financial support to the region, along with sending military personnel in order to restore peace and security in the Sahel. 38

Possible solutions

For the Sahel region to overcome the political, security, humanitarian and environmental challenges that it faces, effective solutions must be implemented.

Preventing conflicts and sustaining peace

In order to build peace and address the roots of the conflicts, the law must be enforced. Access to justice and human rights must be implemented, by issuing specific laws, in order to combat corruption and gender-based violence. Regular and safe migration must also be achieved, while fostering reconciliation and cohesion of the

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37 "Security Council Resolution 2391 - UNSCR." http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2391.

38 "Security Council Resolution 2359 - UNSCR." http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2359.

communities will build trust among the states that have been affected by conflicts. Lastly, in order to prevent violence and combat terrorism, development programs must be created in order to educate the population of the region.

Local governments must act and implement new laws that will help the region avoid armed conflicts and organized crime. Functioning judicial organs must be elected whereas officers and military personnel must be trained in order to prevent and face attacks. NGOs and international organizations could also help to consolidate peace and democratic governance while raising awareness and educating citizens.

Education is important when referring to conflicts that are mostly caused by religious factors. Schools must emphasize in values such the freedom of religion and peaceful coexistence for people to learn how to resolve their issues in a peaceful manner without causing violence. Furthermore, the lack of territorial support must be addressed in order to reduce criminality rates and restore peace in the region. Lastly, enhancing economic growth in the region would contribute to stability, hence maintaining peace.

Promoting inclusive and equitable growth

Promoting inclusive and equitable growth can only be achieved by addressing prevailing socio-economic marginalization and supporting minorities. Economic growth can be achieved with the creation of job opportunities, entrepreneurial development and providing incentives for establishing new businesses. New technologies can be embedded in the workforce making it a more effective environment. Health coverage is also important. Medicine and vaccines could be provided in order to ensure the prevention of various diseases that could cause serious problems in the economy and stability of the region.

The government of each state can provide job opportunities when creating initiatives such as new infrastructure. NGOs can also provide the proper technological knowledge in order for the citizens to use electronic devices more proficiently and

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widely. Lastly, international organizations such as Doctors Without Borders or the Red Cross could offer medical assistance to the people of the region.

The promotion of inclusive and equitable growth could boost the economy of the country. Having economic independence could help the region's stability and support the development of small enterprises.

Climate Action and Decreasing Malnutrition

Building resilience to climate change and improving management of natural resources could help solve the issue of extreme climate. There must be land planning and better governance of land and water to prevent and manage conflicts between farmers. Food security must be ensured for all people in the Sahel and mobilization of resources must take place in order to assist communities in need.

Governments should also be fully informed regarding climate change and extreme climate conditions. Scientists could consult local governments and help them make the proper decisions depending on the climate of the region. In this way natural resources can be easily managed in order to avoid overuse. Lastly, international organizations can provide food assistance and empower communities that have been affected by climate change.

Solving the issue of malnutrition would bring hope and confidence to the region's population. Famines will be less frequent, and people will not suffer from hunger. This combined with climate action will resolve the humanitarian and environmental crisis that the Sahel is facing.

Women and youth empowerment

Empowering women and youth would bring peace and development in the Sahel. The number of women and young people that are participating in leadership positions should be increased in order to enforce equality and specific incentives to

achieve this goal, such as maintaining gender balance, must be put in place. Also, women should be given equal rights as men, especially as economic resources are concerned.

It's important for governments to accept the presence of the youth and women in order for them to participate in all levels of decision-making. Members of the society must also accept and respect women in order to tackle discrimination and inequality. Finally, organizations and NGOs can educate and empower women by helping them integrate in society.

Empowering the youth and women is a necessity for the development of the region, since it enhances both the quality and the quantity of human resources available for development. Sustainable development would be impossible without gender equality meaning that the empowerment of women brings the Sahel a step closer towards peace and development.

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