

Republic of Senegal/Republique du Senegal

Positions for the Security Council

I. Addressing the Issue of Nuclear Proliferation by Strengthening the 1540 Committee

It is the position of the Republic of Senegal that there is no greater threat in the modern world than the proliferation of nuclear weapons. When Senegal co-sponsored S/RES/2270 and voted in favor of S/RES/2321 in November 2016, our representatives called for total nuclear disarmament. Senegal reiterates that goal and calls on all states to ratify and comply with both the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Senegal believes the unanimous adoption of both S/RES/2321 and S/RES/2325 send the strongest possible message that the UNSC is united in its goal to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. S/RES/2321 sent a strong message to the world that the UNSC will continue to impose sanctions in response to the escalation of tensions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with their flagrant violations of international law and of UN Resolutions. However, Senegal's position has long been that sanctions are a temporary solution. We strongly encourage the resumption of the Six-Party Talks in order to denuclearize the region and provide a long term solution to the escalating tensions. Senegal also believes that proper implementation of S/RES/2325 is the solution for preventing future nuclear proliferation crises both in general, and specifically with respect to Iran. Though S/RES/2325 is a great step towards preventing nuclear proliferation, it is the position of Senegal that it did not do enough to strengthen the ability of the 1540 Committee.

Senegal has been a leader in national and regional level implementation of S/RES/1540 throughout Africa and will continue to lead the region as we implement S/RES/2325. Domestically we have set up a National Commission charged with overseeing the implementation of the 9 treaties on nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons that Senegal has ratified. Regionally, the African Union has held multiple conferences in 2016 concerning this issue. A conference was held in April 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia concerning the implementation of S/RES/1540 in Africa and an interparliamentary meeting was held in February 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire where Senegal was honored to represent the 1540 Committee. It is the belief of the Republic of Senegal that all regions should undertake such efforts to ensure proper implementation of S/RES/1540.

Senegal commends the work of the 1540 Committee but reiterates calls for strengthening its capacities. Though S/RES/2325 addressed the increasing threat of non-state actors who would proliferate nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, it did not increase the 1540 Committee's ability to coordinate with State and non-state partners. Senegal therefore calls for the adoption of a new resolution that will increase the capacity of the Committee. By ensuring that the Committee can adequately respond to the requests of Member States, increasing the size of the Panel of Experts, and allowing closer coordination with NGOs and other members of civil society, the UNSC can expand the capabilities of the Committee so that it can be more effective at identifying and responding to issues concerning the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

Senegal also believes that strengthening the 1540 Committee will prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and help ensure transparency as certain Member States seek to generate nuclear power for peaceful consumption. With 30 member states currently utilizing nuclear power to generate more than 10% of the world's electricity, Senegal fully understands the importance of peaceful nuclear power. We emphasize the importance of transparency and cooperation between all Member States as a way to monitor peaceful energy production and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Transparency will simultaneously help to ensure all treaties concerning biological and chemical weapons are followed. We also recommend the creation of national level commissions by all Member States to help ensure each State successfully implements both S/RES/1540 and S/RES/2325 and abides by all treaties concerning this serious issue. These National Commissions can also help both the 1540 Committee and the IAEA be more effective by coordinating each State's national policy.

II. Empowering Regional and Sub-Regional IGOs to deal with Peacekeeping and Security Issues

It is the position of the Republic of Senegal that the future of conflict prevention and peacekeeping lies with increasing the levels of cooperation between the UNSC and regional and sub-regional IGOs. Regional and sub-regional IGOs are in a better position to help detect and prevent future conflicts. By better utilizing the unique abilities of regional IGOs and by working in conjunction with these organizations, the United Nations can prevent the conflicts that threaten the peace and stability this institution was created to work towards. One only has to look to the recent issue in The Gambia to see how successful this proposed solution can be. We thank the UNSC for unanimously adopting S/RES/2337 that supported the successful peaceful intervention by ECOWAS Member States in The Gambia during their transfer-of-power crisis in late 2016-early 2017. S/RES/2337 reaffirms the potential of giving Regional IGOs more authority and more support to act. We also reaffirm our support for S/RES/1769 which created the African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The success of S/RES/1769 and S/RES/2337 reinforces Senegal's belief that UNSC coordination with Regional IGOs is the future of peacekeeping and conflict prevention. The current humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is another chance for successful regional IGOs humanitarian intervention. S/RES/1996 which created the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) did not replicate the hybrid operation created by S/RES/1769, instead creating a traditional peacekeeping mission that does not fully integrate the African Union (AU) or The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) into the operation. Both the AU and IGAD are in a position to help solve the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and the Security Council should work in conjunction with the AU and IGAD to do so. Senegal's position on action in South Sudan was clearly explained on December 23rd of last year when our representative, Mr. Gorgui Ciss, explained why our delegation abstained on draft resolution S/2016/1085. Regional and sub-regional IGOs are in a positioned to deal proactively with crises because they have a more in-depth awareness of the issues, countries, and peoples involved in potential or ongoing crises. Therefore they are better able to implement viable long-term solutions to these complex situations. If our collective goal truly is conflict prevention and peace, and not conflict management, then it is in everyone's best interest to empower those that seek to help the UNSC achieve these goals. Encouraged by the passage of S/RES/ 2320 and S/RES/2337 and in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, Senegal once again puts forward closer coordination with regional IGOs as an approach to conflict prevention to the Security Council. It is our goal that the success of Africa will set a standard to be adopted by the whole of the UN.

Senegal understands that the biggest obstacle to these types of proposals is not political, but instead, budgetary. The Security Council has a limited budget with which to work and this proposal seems like it would significantly increase the strain on resources. However this is not the case and again Africa is leading the way in this regard. With the passing of S/RES/2320 last year the African Union committed to funding 25% of peacekeeping mission costs by 2020. With 9 successful peacekeeping operations active in Africa, the AU uniquely understands the important role peacekeeping operations play and has committed to making sure these operations have the resources they need to continue their work. However, it cannot be just Africa leading the way. This proposal suggests that those regional and sub-regional organizations match the 25% investment for the peacekeeping operations they spearhead. Doing this would increase the overall budget for regional peacekeeping operations but not require more financial commitment on the part of wealthier countries as per S/RES/235. Senegal understands that budgeting is traditionally the responsibility of the General Assembly's Fifth Committee. While we have no desire to usurp their authority on this matter, we fully believe that a strong show of support from the UNSC will help reinforce the importance of these issues.