

Committee: Security Council (SC)

Issue: Mitigating Recent Terrorist Insurgencies in the Sahel Region of Africa

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PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates of the Security Council,

My name is George Nikitidis and I study at the 11th grade of the Model Lyceum of Anavryta in Athens. After participating in 8 MUN conferences as a delegate and one as a chair, it is my delight to have my second chairing experience in one of the most special to me conferences, the 6th DSTMUN.

Being one of the Deputy Presidents of the Security Council committee, it is my duty to introduce you to the first topic of our committee's agenda, namely "Mitigating Recent Terrorist Insurgencies in the Sahel Region of Africa". It should be noted that this study guide is not stand-alone and should be used as complementary and as a starting point to your own research on the topic. Bearing in mind that the Security Council is one of the most demanding committees I will try to be as informative as possible and will also provide you with further study recommendations at the end of this study guide.

On this note I would like to move on to the main body of this study guide. Should you require any clarifications or assistance do not hesitate to contact me via email at gnikitidis.student@gmail.com. I am looking forward to meeting you all in November. Until then, best regards.

Yours sincerely,

George Nikitidis

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Cameroon, Chad: these 7 African countries are some of those located in the Sahel region and are facing a plethora of crises, while action to resolve the issue has been inadequate if not minimal. As a result of the impoverishment, violence has begun to rise and multiple terrorist organizations have found an opportunity to seize power in the area. This in turn causes a further deterioration of the living conditions, forming a vicious circle. In order to take effective and sustainable measures it is critical to identify and break this vicious circle.

The initial cause of the current situation seems to have been the ongoing environmental, humanitarian and security crises in the area, in addition to economic decline, illegitimate governance and overpopulation. Desertification is causing agriculture to become an unviable occupation for locals resulting in poverty and all-pervading upheaval. In addition to that, following the independence of the area in the 1960's, a series of weak governments have risen to power and corruption has reached an all-time high. Ethnic conflicts were bound to take place as most states are composed of a variety of ethnic groups which were placed under unified governance. Another factor that contributes to the crisis is the population which is growing at the fastest pace than anywhere else on the planet, with the problems seeming to follow.

These kinds of crises were historically accompanied by a rise of extremism and the Sahel region is no exception. The existence of military equipment in the area due to ethnic conflicts, domestic and in neighboring states, formed the perfect conditions for terrorist insurgencies to occur. On 2 March 2017 JNIM, a terrorist religious group was formed in Mali, declaring allegiance to al-Qaeda, meaning they share values with the ISIS group while simultaneously strengthening the groups power. Ever since, they have taken action to seize control of the Sahel region. This action includes highly deadly conflict against local military forces and civilians. The number of conflict incidents seems to be increasing in all states apart from Mali which has experienced a small decrease in violence, but still remaining at a high level.

The effect of this multifaceted crisis on the welfare of the citizens is detrimental. Food is scarce, as characteristic to the extended region but additionally due to the inability to safely import goods. The countless injured medical personnel are far too few and undersupplied to satisfy the demand. People are fleeing their homes in hundreds of thousands, reaching countries that are often not much safer than their own but this is their last option to escape the hazardous conditions in their nation. All the numbers are pointing to the direction of a growing crisis that is slinging out of control and is causing devastation to millions.

A solution to the mayhem that takes place can only truly be found if a holistic approach is followed, dealing with each and every aspect of the problem. It is apparent that the inhabitants of the area are to be protected, however the sovereignty of the nations is also vital for the safety of the local population. Apart from the military measures, a humanitarian campaign should also be launched to avert further deterioration of living conditions. Action should additionally be taken to account for the environmental crisis that underpins the general degradation of the area. Should such a multi-faced plan be successfully implemented, amelioration is to be expected.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Sahel

Sahel, Arabic *Sāḥil*, semiarid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan. It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south. The Sahel stretches from the Atlantic Ocean eastward through northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, the great bend of the Niger River in Mali, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), southern Niger, northeastern Nigeria, south-central Chad, and into Sudan.¹

Illegitimate government

Government that forcefully takes office, not allowed according to law. Usually characterized by corruption, lawlessness and violence.²

Desertification

The gradual deterioration of the quality of the soil in a specific region, leading to the decrease and eventual disappearance of vegetation.³

Insurgency

Attempt to overthrow a regime and attain power using military force by an organized group.⁴

JNIM

¹"Sahel." Encyclopedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/place/Sahel.

² https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/NPEC1011_StudyGuide_combined.pdf

³ "ESS Topic 5.3: Soil Degradation and Conservation." AMAZING WORLD OF SCIENCE WITH MR. GREEN, www.mrgscience.com/ess-topic-53-soil-degradation-and-conservation.html.

⁴ "Overthrow of the Government." Overthrow of the Government - an Overview | ScienceDirect Topics, www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/overthrow-of-the-government.

Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) is a jihadist group led by Iyad Ag Ghaly, widely considered the local branch of al-Qaeda in Mali. It seeks to replace established state authority with a conservative interpretation of Islamic law. It is responsible for several conflict instances in the Sahel region, counting a high number of casualties for all parties.⁵

Tuareg

The Tuareg are a traditionally nomadic people of Berber heritage located primarily in the regions of the Sahara spanning Mali, Niger, Algeria, Burkina Faso and Libya. Tuareg are generally Sunni Muslims of Sufist orientation, who speak Tamasheq.⁶

Liptako - Gourma

Liptako is a historic region of West Africa located in the bordering region of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, populated mainly by the Gourmantche people (thus the commonly used name Liptako - *Gourma*).⁷

Coup d'etat

A coup d'état, or simply a coup, is an illegal and overt attempt by the military or other government elites to unseat the incumbent leader.⁸

Mercenary Organization

A Mercenary Organization is a group of mercenaries, hired professional soldiers who fight for any state or nation without regard to political interests or issues.⁹

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Background

Independence and early years of the Sahel region

On 1 September 1939, the German invasion of Poland started, essentially declaring the initiation of World War II. Throughout this devastating large-scale conflict, multiple parts of Africa were to be constituted of strategic importance, including the Sahel region which was one

⁵ "Examining Extremism: Jama'at Nasr Al-Islam Wal Muslimin: Examining Extremism." CSIS, www.csis.org/blogs/examining-extremism/examining-extremism-jamaat-nasr-al-islam-wal-muslimin.

⁶ "Explaining the 2012 Tuareg Rebellion in Mali and Lack Thereof in Niger.", FOI MEMO, <https://www.foi.se/rest-api/report/FOI%20MEMO%205099>

⁷ "'Three Borders' Project." Alliance Sahel, 14 Oct. 2022, www.alliance-sahel.org/en/projets-pdu/three-borders-project/.

⁸ "Coup d'état.", Britannica Dictionary, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat>

⁹ "Mercenary.", Britannica Dictionary, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/mercenary>

of them. Through their contribution to the war, mainly as French colonies fighting for Free France, they became largely self-aware and conscious of their rights to sovereignty and independence.

Thus began a more than decade-long campaign for the independence of what was known as “L’ Afrique Noire”. Multiple lobbies were formed to support the self-governance of the French colonies in Africa and many legal frameworks were passed, gradually making that a realistic possibility. With the contribution of many domestic and foreign political figures such as Félix Houphouët-Boigny and Charles de Gaulle, in April 1961 with the cooperation agreements between Dahomey, Upper Volta, Niger and France the decolonization of the Sahel region had been achieved.

Coming out of the federal policies of the former French “Empire”, almost none of the newly born states were adequately prepared for independence. Economic viability was nonexistent in all nations due to high dependence on French funds while landlocked and covered almost entirely by thinly populated desert.

To tend to the needs of their former colonies, the French, who kept close ties with the nations of the Sahel, sent support, which reinforced their influence in the region. This in turn supported the widespread corruption and embezzlement as countries were run by elite groups that were accustomed to collaborating with the French.

The regimes that arose were characterized by kleptocracy that gradually robbed the region of the limited resources available to it. Multiple coup d’ états have taken place in all countries in the region and even when democracy is restored it is short-lived and mostly illegitimate. Weapon, human and drug trafficking is uncontrollable, often cooperating with corrupt authorities. The conditions were perfect for violence to occur.

The Tuareg Rebellion and the JNIM

One of the main outbreaks thereof was the Tuareg rebellion of 2012 in Mali, which marked the initiation of religious conflict in the Sahel. The Tuareg people have had a history of rebellion, mainly in Mali and Niger. In 1963 and 1990 to 1991 in Mali and in 2006 to 2007 in Mali and Niger, major withdrawal attempts took place due to marginalization in local societies and failure to implement resilient solutions. With the downfall of the Gadaffi regime in Libya in 2011 an influx of trained, armed military personnel of Tuareg people fled to Mali. Their existence in the region reignited the conflict, giving a religious spirit to the revolution by aligning themselves with multiple jihadist

organizations including al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), and Ansar Dine.

More specifically, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (also referred to as Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa) was a militant organization which resulted from a secession from AQIM, aimed at spreading jihad in the extended region of West Africa. Furthermore, Ansar Dine is a jihadist group seeking to impose absolute sharia (Islamic law) across Mali. Its relationship with al-Qaeda is established through the familiar relationship between its leader, Iyad Ag Ghaly, and a commander of AQIM Hamada Ag Hama. It has also displayed links with MUJAO through exchange of highly ranked members. It is widely considered as a backbone of the Tuareg Rebellion of 1990 and has thereafter had unfriendly relations with JNIM, due to conflicting interests in Mali, following a short-lived collaboration in the 2012 Tuareg Rebellion.

The inability of governmental forces to suppress the rebellion resulted in a military coup which was relatively unsuccessful in tackling the ongoing crisis. The institution in the Northern parts of Mali experienced a collapse following the overthrow of the former government, opening a window for the Tuareg, who had organized in the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), to take over the region. The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad is a self-declared Islamic caliphate, maintaining control of the northern parts of Mali. It resulted from the revolt of the Tuareg people in Mali in 2012, gradually absorbing the JNIM, essentially constituting its state-successor. After capturing urban centers in the area including Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu, the MNLA disconnected themselves from al-Qaeda and sought to establish an Islamic caliphate in April-June 2012.

Following that a small peace break took place until violence erupted once again in January 2013. In August of the same year democracy was restored in Mali which, in 2015, signed a peace agreement with Tuareg secessionists. This ceasefire however did not include organizations apart from the MNLA and other Tuareg groups such as AQIM and MUJAO, which rushed to increase their influence locally and in neighboring states. Following that violent extremism has been at an all-time high in the region of Liptako - Gourma.

The next major escalating step was taken with the formation of the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) in Burkina Faso in 2016 and Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) in Mali in 2017. The two have organized local al-Qaeda affiliated organizations, thereby achieving high scale terrorist operations in the regions of their interests. Their relationship is

mainly antagonistic but occasionally cooperative. The both of them continue to take action to this day.

Parallel to the conflict in Liptako an epicenter for violence has emerged around lake Chad where Boko Haram focused its activity. Since its foundation in 2002 it has strived to attain power in the intersection between Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. Making its return in June and August 2011 after a two-year disappearance, it has since been known worldwide for deadly suicide attacks and the abduction of 276 girls from a town in Chad. The Chibok schoolgirls kidnapping was an attack orchestrated by Boko Haram on 14-15 April 2014 where 276 girls were abducted from the Government Girls Secondary School at the town of Chibok in Nigeria. Many have managed to escape or were rescued but most were forced into conversion to Islam and marriage while 100 still remain missing. In 2015 Boko Haram was renamed to Islamic State in the West African Province (ISWAP). ISWAP is currently in control of northern Nigeria and parts of Niger.

Another factor in the equation is international involvement, which, as expected, began with the French forces in 2013. Operation Barkhane based in Chad, with the support of local forces, had the aim of tackling terrorist action in the extended region and cracking down on Boko Haram. Other states and organizations shortly followed suit with the UN-led Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and Task Force Takuba by the European Union.

The Situation Nowadays

Despite the initiation of international efforts to put an end to the conflict in the Sahel region, the latter only seemed to increase, while specifically targeting foreign military campaigns and UN peacekeepers. This resulted in the withdrawal of both operation Barkhane and Task Force Takuba in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Their absence from the area resulted in a drastic increase in violence. It additionally attracted the Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary organization which is widely critiqued for human rights violations and attacks against civilians.

At the same timeframe the third coup recorded in the past decade took place in Mali with vice president Assimi Goïta forcibly attaining power. The rise of his military regime was matched with increased violence against the local population. In May 2022 all connections to French Defense programs were cut while the country withdrew from the Sahel G5, a regional cooperative framework focused on defense from terrorist action, noting a noticeable decrease in the capabilities of the organization. Major terrorist events have taken place since the success of the coup with a notable being the mayhem of 132 villagers in central Mali in June 2022 and

the Moura massacre in March 2022. The Moura massacre was an alleged mass execution of over 300 civilian men on suspicion of the existence of Islamist fighters in the group. The event is attributed to the Malian forces in conjunction with the Wagner Group.

Following the coup d' état in Mali a trend that became known as the "Coups Epidemic" appeared where multiple nations in the Sahel displayed a military turn. Burkina Faso experienced such an event on the 24th of January 2022, following protests for the failure to find a solution to the crisis. Niger is currently experiencing an attempted overthrow over the democratically elected government by military personnel with the detention of President Mohamed Bazoum by the Presidential Guards in his palace in the capital. The political fragility of the region allows unlawful factors to operate unrestrained while political violence is at an all-time high. The UN is considering an investigation of the alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Wagner Group and governmental forces recently.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries of the Sahel region as a result of the scarcity of fertile land and population able to cultivate it. It has a population of 22.5 million people, 52% of which are Mossi and 73.8% of which are Muslim. Being a highly ethnically and religiously diverse nation, especially for the Sahel which is predominantly Muslim, it has attracted jihadist groups, which have declared religious war on the state and the Christian population of the region. Currently, it is home to various terrorist organizations, the main one being ISGS.

Chad

Chad holds the first place in size in the list but is no exception to the problems exhibited in the region. It is home to ISWAP which constantly undermines the stability and welfare of the nation. Despite its partly successful attempts to remove it in 2009, it made its return in 2011 with two devastating suicide attacks that heralded a new era of conflict in the shortly peaceful country. Apart from its domestic difficulties, Chad is additionally dealing with an unprecedented number of refugees fleeing mainly from Niger and Cameroon, constituting one of the largest refugee hosts worldwide.

France

After giving up control of its former colonies, France remained in close ties to the countries of the Sahel region. Although the support they provided may have

been vital for newly born, minimally economically independent states, it normalized a regime of elitism and corruption. When terrorist insurgencies began to arise, they supported the region militarily with Operation Barkhane, which was terminated in 2021 for various overt and covert reasons.

Mali

Mali is another landlocked state of the Sahel holding one of the most militarily active areas of the extended region. The Tuareg Rebellion in 2012 solely occurred in Mali due to failure to implement a peace accord and led to the rise of the MNLA. The unofficial secession of the northern part of the country has brought a full-scale humanitarian crisis in place that is constituting the country militarily handicapped. Any attempts to crack down on the notorious organizations active in the land of Mali have only caused more unrest and violence, leading to the formation of radical governance. The latter has escalated the issue by launching highly deadly operations, with no regard to collateral casualties.

Niger

Niger, the second largest country of the region in focus, is neighboring to both the epicenters of the security crisis. It is currently undergoing a military coup d'état, the result of which is to be determined in the following days. It has a 99.3% Islamic population, which is the highest amount in the Sahel yet it remains the target of unspeakable crimes by both domestic and sovereign powers. It was targeted by the first, second and third Tuareg Rebellion but managed to keep the population at ease during the fourth in 2012, through the implementation of provisions mentioned in past peace accords.

Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is a Sunni pan-Islamic jihadist militant organization taking terrorist action worldwide with the ultimate goal of forming a supra-national Islamic state comprised of all the Islamic world, a global scale Caliphate. It has historically been active in the Sahel region, which is majority Muslim in its entirety, through official and unofficial branches including Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine, JNIM and Boko Haram. The latter two have taken major action, even declaring themselves as sovereign states and therefore require further analysis.

ISGS

The counterpart of JNIM in Burkina Faso, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, formed in 2016, in contrast to other Islamist militant groups in the area, is not affiliated with al-Qaeda. Therefore, conflicts often occur with other terrorist

organizations active in the region, which have resulted in its influence being limited to northern Burkina Faso and western Niger.

Sahel G5

Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Chad: these five nations constitute the members of the cooperation lobby of G5 Sahel, formed on 19 December 2014. It is responsible for the organization of governmental counter-terrorism action in the region, with the Sahel G5 Joint Task Force being the most important one. Its impact was greatly decreased with the withdrawal of Mali from the lobby in November 2021.

Wagner Group

The Wagner Group is a Russian mercenary group founded and commanded by Yevgeny Prigozhin. It is thought to have assisted in the 2014 annex of Crimea. It arrived in the Sahel region in December 2021 in response to requests by local governments to assist in tackling Islamist terrorist insurgencies. In getting to the task, the Wagner Group is thought to be responsible for multiple human rights violations and crimes against the local population.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc 1

The first Bloc will be composed of all nations seeking to establish Western-type sovereign democratic states in the Sahel. Its goal will be to put an end to the violence by suppressing the insurgent activities and cracking down on terrorist activity. Means they may exploit will be the escalation via support missions from foreign factors and humanitarian campaigns focused on undisputed territories, to boost state factors and allow the conditions in Islamist-held regions to deteriorate due to the absence of solid institutions. Another goal that will be accomplished as such will be the limitation of the international spread of terrorist activities.

Bloc 2

The second Bloc will be formed by all parties seeking for the fighting to be momentarily prolonged, to serve whichever agenda. This could include states aimed at establishing Islamic states in the region, therefore supporting the insurgent activities or nations that seek to exploit the crisis to promote their control in the region. They will attempt to implement more moderate measures, to allow the situation to unfold under the illusion of action being undertaken. They will boycott

political stability by condemning and sanctioning state-factors for atrocities committed against civilians, while promoting the establishment of peace accords and recognizing emerging Islamic states. Humanitarian aid will be focused on terrorist-held land on the justification of the institution collapse and acute crisis while control on the transferred goods will be limited to allow for ammunition to be smuggled.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
April 1961	Decolonization of the Sahel is completed
1963	First Tuareg Rebellion in Mali and Niger
1990-1995	Second Tuareg Rebellion in Mali and Niger
2002	Formation of Boko Haram
2006-2009	Third Tuareg Rebellion in Mali and Niger
23 October 2011	Collapse of Gaddafi's government, declaration of Libya as "liberated"
16 January 2012 – 6 April 2012	Fourth Tuareg Rebellion
21 March 2012	Military coup in Mali is successful
January 2013	Reignition of violence in Northern Mali
11 January 2013 – 15 July 2014	Operation Serval takes place
11 August 2013	Democracy is restored in Mali
14-15 April 2014	Chibok Schoolgirls Kidnapping
1 August 2014	Operation Barkhane is launched
20 June 2015	Mali - MNLA peace accord
30 October 2016	Official recognition of the ISGS
2 March 2017	Formation of the JNIM
24 May 2021	Coup d'état in Mali
December 2021	Arrival of Wagner Group in Mali
27 March 2020 – 30 June 2022	Takuba Task Force takes action in the region
27 March 2022 – 31 March 2022	Moura Massacre
24 January 2022	Coup d'état in Burkina Faso
9 November 2022	Termination of Operation Barkhane

26 July 2023	Coup attempt by presidential guards in Niger
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RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

2015 Mali - MNLA Peace Accord¹⁰

In May 2015 a peace agreement was negotiated between state parties in Mali including the sovereign Malian government and self-declared Islamic states MNLA, HCUA and MAA. The terms of the agreement call for the decentralization of state institutions, greater representation of peripheral areas in national institutions, the integration of combatants from the signatory armed groups into the national army, and the creation of a Northern Region Development Zone to support economic growth in northern Mali. Although the terms were respected by the signatory parties, the settlement did not include al-Qaeda affiliated organizations, which continued to claim territory and spread their influence with alleged covert support by the MNLA. The accord resulted in a temporary ceasefire but failed to establish long-lived peace and put an end to the crisis.

UNSC Resolution 2085¹¹

The African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) was a military mission organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), launched in January 2013.¹² Deployed forces were tasked to support the local security forces in their reorganization and attempt to secure their sovereignty and protect civilians, as well as to take counter-terrorist measures. The deployment of the troops was authorized on December 20, 2012 by the Security Council in resolution 2085 (clause 9). The mission was deemed a success after its combined efforts (almost 7,500 troops deployed) to regain control of Northern parts of Mali but a counter-campaign by Jihadist groups called for more drastic and organized action.

¹⁰ PA-X: Peace Agreements Database.

www.peaceagreements.org/wview/1365/Accord%20Pour%20la%20Paix%20et%20la%20Reconciliation%20au%20Mali%20-%20Issu%20du%20Processus%20d%27Alger.

¹¹ Resolution 2085, unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2085.

¹² African-led International Support Mission to Mali - Wikipedia. (2013, January 17). African-led International Support Mission to Mali - Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-led_International_Support_Mission_to_Mali

UNSC Resolution 2100¹³

The Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali is an ongoing peacekeeping mission in Mali orchestrated by the Security Council by its resolution 2100 of 25 April 2013.¹⁴ Its mission is to restore political stability and carry-out a number of security tasks. With resolution 2164 its focus is shifted to the political processes and the security of the civilians rather than the offensive pursuit of terrorist forces that was previously followed.¹⁵ It inherited the tasks of the AFISMA, which was then integrated into the new mission. Success has been limited, while the mission has been characterized “UN's second-most dangerous peacekeeping mission after Lebanon, with 304 peacekeepers killed out of a force of about 15,200 as of May 2023”.¹⁶

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

G5 Sahel Force

Similar to the MNJTF, the Sahel G5 Joint Force is a task force containing units from the Sahel G5 nations. They take anti-terrorist action throughout the region with permission to cross borders to pursue their vocation. They collaborate with USA information agencies and European forces in the region. Initial success was undermined by the Malian withdrawal on 15 May 2022.

Operation Barkhane

Operation Barkhane was the evolution of a premature French supportive operation in Mali which then undertook a broader role as an anti-terrorist force, seeking the complete uprooting of jihadist groups from local societies. It was finally terminated in 2021 mainly as a result of its limited success and high casualties but several suspect secret agenda items.

Task Force Takuba

Following the initiation of Operation Barkhane, the European Union adopted a joint policy on the matter with the launch of Task Force Takuba. Similar to its predecessor, it was an anti-terrorist campaign but with a stronger peacekeeping role and humanitarian aid. It reached an end in 2022 following the announcement of the

¹³ Resolution 2100, unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2100.

¹⁴ MINUSMA. (n.d.). United Nations Peacekeeping. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma>

¹⁵ Resolution 2164, unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2164.

¹⁶ “At Least 32 Peacekeeping, Associated Personnel Killed in Malicious Attacks during 2022, United Nations Staff Union President Says | UN Press.” United Nations, press.un.org/en/2023/org1730.doc.htm.

termination of operation Barkhane as its main proponent, France had withdrawn from the issue.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Measures Against the Humanitarian Crisis

To successfully tackle the humanitarian part of the crisis in the Sahel region both short term and long-term solutions are required, to account for both the urgency and the persistence of the matter at hand. On the short-term side, immediate attention is vital in the unresolved health and food crisis. Medical personnel along with medical and food supplies must be sent without hesitation. On the long-term side, opinions begin to vary. One possible measure to be implemented would be the allocation of large funds for the development of urban centers to act as solid starting points for widespread prosperity. Another idea could be to focus on decentralizing the market to increase agriculture and boost the countries' economy and independence. To deal with the scarcity of water, desalination of seawater could be an option for coastal nations, taking advantage of the abundant solar energy. However, what is certain is that the population must receive education to break the cycle of radicalization.

Establishing Peacekeeping Forces in the Region

The protection of remote villages that are vulnerable to attacks such as the abduction of the schoolgirls from Chibok in 2014 is an eminent problem, one that we can resolve by placing peacekeeping forces in the region. These forces will remain in the area and report back regularly to the UNSC. They will report and new attacks and respond immediately to them as well as provided a clearer picture on the tension on the region so as to come up with more fitting and effective measures to deescalate the situation.

Practicing a New Technological Response

Technology is evolving and so is the techniques used by the attackers to trace their victims and hide themselves from the forces in the area. The launch of an organized campaign with modern equipment and information services from across the world could be an important step towards locating terrorist hideouts.

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