

Conference of Ministers 2018

Side event

United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel

United Nations support plan for the Sahel (2018–2022): Joint United Nations intervention to improve security, governance and resilience in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal)

Organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa, through the Subregional Office for West Africa, the regional team of the United Nations Development Group for Central and West Africa and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

To be held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, on 13 May 2018

Background

1. The United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel was launched in 2013. A review of the strategy indicates that its implementation must be accelerated, following a long-term, holistic approach in partnership with other relevant stakeholders. In addition, there is need to update and integrate the contextual and forwards-looking analysis in the review through the inclusion of new data across a range of sectors, in order to tell the story more accurately and strengthen the implementation of responses.
2. Against that background and under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, the United Nations support plan has been formulated to complement the integrated strategy and to build on progress already achieved. At the same time, the strategy to align its objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the “One United Nations” initiative in line with the reform processes currently under way across the United Nations. The United Nations support plan is not a new strategy or a new programme but an articulation of specific actions and mechanisms, as called for in Security Council resolution 2391 (2017), to accelerate collective delivery and move rapidly from strategy to results on the ground. The support plan and its approach to implementation have been framed to ensure effective support for the national priorities of the 10 member States included in the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The plan further prioritizes existing gaps in crisis response and preparedness related to regional, subregional and cross-border challenges.
3. The United Nations support plan recognizes the importance of the nexus between humanitarian and development work, on the one hand, and security and peace considerations, on the other, and enshrines an approach that is both proactive and oriented towards the prevention of crises. A key principle of the new integrated strategy is that Governments should be in the driving seat. To that end, the United Nations has begun engaging with Governments and regional organizations on the substance of their strategic and programmatic priorities for inclusion in the integrated strategy. Although initial consultations with partner Governments

and regional organizations have already started, the Conference of Ministers offers a good opportunity for stakeholders to engage widely with potential partners.

Objective

4. The main objective of this high-level side event is to engage with government officials and partners on the new direction taken by the United Nations in its support for the Sahel. The event will provide policymakers and other partners with updated information on the support plan and other work to be carried out by the United Nations for the Sahel. It will offer an invaluable opportunity to engage with them on the social and economic prospects for the Sahel.

Expected outcomes of the side event

- Updated information on the United Nations support plan for the Sahel
- Engagement with officials, partners and donors on the implementation strategy
- Dissemination of work by the United Nations on the Sahel and information on the social and economic prospects for the Sahel

Target audience

- Ministers of finance, economic planning and industry of Sahel countries
- Officials from ministries of finance, economic planning and industry
- Investors
- Development partners
- Representatives of civil society and the private sector

For further information, please contact:

Ochozias Gbaguidi
ECA
Tel.: +22792195762
Email: ochozias@un.org

Mensah Aluka
Regional team of the United Nations Development Group; United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
Tel.: +221 775295055
Email: Mensah.aluka@undp.org