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LET PEACE BE OUR QUEST / 2015

STUDY GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL:

TOPIC B: SECURITY THREATS IN THE GULF OF GUINEA



Letter from the Chair

Dearest delegates,

First and foremost let us welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) of the Third Edition of Pelotas Model United Nations! We are so glad you have chosen the UNSC as your committee and we are absolutely sure we will experience together the richest and the most rewarding discussions concerning International Peace and Security, within the UN's highest organ.

It is an immense pleasure to be part of the Director's board of the Security Council. We have worked during these last few months, willing to expose satisfactorily the issues raised in this committee and we hope that at the end of this reading you are provided with the necessary information to base your studies and have a good use of the future Council meetings.

This welcome letter precedes a briefing packet with information on the conflicts, its histories and a few of the past attempts at its resolutions. Hoping to clarify and allow a fruitful debate on these recent evolutions, we have chosen to bring to discussion two very particular situations in the Security Council's agenda: "The situation in Arctic Polar Circle" and the "Security Threats in the Gulf of Guinea"

The Security Council of the 3rd Pelotas MUN is organized by 8th semester International Relations students at the Federal University of Pelotas: Alexandre Barneche, Anelise do Pró, Juliana Hepp and Matheus Hermógenes. We are especially thankful to Prof. Daniel Carvalho, for lending us some of his experience and guidance throughout the construction of this Study Guide. In order to allow this discussion to happen, we are fully available to solve any doubts and questions that may appear during your preparation process. Our every effort is directed to the production of an enjoyable discussion and unique experience to all.

Best Regards,

Alexandre Barneche, Anelise do Pró, Juliana Hepp & Matheus Hermógenes

UNSC Directors.



Brief historical context

In order to assess the current situation in the Gulf of Guinea, one must first seek to understand how said region came to be in such situation. Therefore, we shall expose how the countries that currently compose the region came to be, which will be done by showcasing the conditions that led the region to its current state, for this, we will be starting by the moment just before the arrival of the first European traders to the region during the XV century, when conditions already existent in the region were combined to the growing needs of developing European powers and started to cause the changes that were most relevant to the evolution of the region to what it is today.

Colonisation

Now, before the arrival of the Europeans, this region of Africa was home to many proud and ancient Kingdoms, such as the Ghana, Mali Songhai, Wolof, Oyo, Benin and the Kanem Bornu (ECOWAS). Even so, the political organization in this region varied a lot from the one found in Europe, as concepts such well defined geographical borders were very alien to this region, which when joined to low population density, created an environment where migrations were common and easily made, therefore states could not count on boundaries to contain people, nor could they count on nationality, as the concept was very loosely defined amongst the population and could very easily be changed through marriage or simply by migrations themselves (Manby, 2015).

It was with the Benin that the Portuguese, first Europeans to arrive on the region started to trade by establishing trading posts along the coast, with the objective of acquiring slaves to their ongoing colonisation of the Americas (McElroy, 2005).

Even so, it was not until the second half of the XIX century that Europe started to in fact colonise the interior of Africa, more precisely, after 1885, when the Berlin Conference took place, to the turn of the XX century, period when the

so called "Scramble for Africa" happened (Michalopoulos and Papaioannou, 2011).

Although much resistance and rebellions ensued, by the turn of the XX century the whole western African coast, with the exception of Liberia, was under European dominion (Gueye and Baohen, 1985). The only major change in the region came after the Great War of 1914, when the former German colonies in the region were divided between the victorious powers (Crowder, 1985), making it so that the main powers in the region were now only Portuguese, British and French (ECOWAS).

Decolonisation

The process of decolonisation in Africa started right after the end of the Second World War, when the main colonial powers of the region, Great Britain and France, were about to fall, and in a last attempt to assert their power in the region started major institutional reforms on their colonies, aiming to pleasing it's population but it only served to strengthen the independence movements in the region (Wantchekon and Garcia-Ponce, 2011).

In the United States of America, internal pressure started to build up in relation to the African Independence question, which contributed to the formation of a favourable position of the country towards the African struggle for independence, and aside from that, the Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics and Socialist China also started to offer a different system to be followed, which served effectively as an increase in the bargaining power of African leaders as they were not confined to a single political system option anymore, and when combined to the Bandung Conference of 1954, that established a third option of non-alignment, the African Liberation Movements finally had gathered enough strength and political manoeuvring power that it needed in order to achieve independence (Poe, 2012).

These movements, in their majority, had succeeded by 1960, even if a few countries on the region still remained under colonial rule, most had achieved independence, and started developing in different ways, some in a democratic

way, some under authoritarian regimes. Their former colonial overlords also tried to create communities where the former colonial master and the new states could interact, still those attempts were unsuccessful (Cooper, 2008).

Even though by the 1960s the regions that formerly were under the power of Great Britain and France were already independent, those regions that belonged to the other main colonial power in the region, Portugal, still remained under Portuguese dominion up until the middle of the 1970s, when the Caetano government was finally overthrown and the African Colonies achieved independence (Cornwell, 2000).

Statement of the issue

In this section we will seek to expose the main issues that have been afflicting the Gulf of Guinea, the various reasons and factors that contributed to the formation of said issues and their consequent surfacing, as well as the major impacts that have been dealt not only to the region itself, but also to the whole international system, as a result of the region's position as an important trade post between Asia and Europe and as major oil producer.

Organised crime

Although Piracy has been widely publicised as the great threat looming over the Gulf of Guinea, other kinds of issues start to threaten the region, as governments start to take each time more action against the classical methods with which crimes are committed in the region, new ways to profit out of the region's lack of security and governance start to be developed, which can cause a drop in the rate of Piracy crimes, but at the same time a raise on the rate of smuggling for instance, hence causing not a eradication of crime in the region, but it's branching (Security Council, 2012).

Another factor contributing to the rise of organised crime in the region is the high levels of poverty and exclusion, which make it very easy for the populations

of those countries to be recruited, under the promise of high earnings, into these kind of activities (International Peace Institute, 2014).

Finally, together with this shift from Piracy into other kinds of crimes on the region, a shift on the way criminals use the region has also been occurring. Basically when the region was solely used as a trade post for smugglers looking to take their products to other markets such as Europe and North America, the native population was not so much involved into these activities, but with the way crimes committed in the region have been shifting, this native population has started to become a market in on itself, mainly for drugs, which has drawn the attention of authorities for this new kind of threat to the region (UNOWA).

Piracy

Modern Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea is not a new subject, it has been happening ever since the 1970s, caused mainly by ongoing economic issues on the recently independent countries in the Gulf of Guinea. As time passed and the underlying issues on these countries were not resolved, at the same time as new industries started to grow on the region so did Piracy, which began to develop in a higher rate after the turn of the XXI century (Fiorelli, 2014).

Lack of governance, ill prepared maritime forces and weak states have been the main cause of the rise of Piracy in the region, as these Pirates, who developed, in a first instance, from the region's economic fragility, find easy targets in its vast territorial sea, have little chance of being caught and face barely any punishment from their home countries when they are (Barrios, 2013).

These Pirates usually attack ships on shallow waters near the coast, most times seem to perform these attacks out of chance, with little to no planning, making it difficult for authorities to predict their behaviour (International Peace Institute 2014). Cargo theft and kidnappings are their most common ways of action, which is met by little resistance most of the times, as hostages are only taken when their value is big enough, and stolen cargo is usually paid by insurance companies, which sometimes do pay off more than the cargo itself was

worth, thus creating a situation where pirates have their actions facilitated by these various factors (Fiorelli, 2014).

Oil theft

Oil theft has been happening in the Gulf of Guinea for as long as the region has been producing Oil, but it was from the late 1990s onwards that it became more of an organised market other than just actions of opportunism. As the region's importance in the International Scenario grew, along with the economies of the states in the region, which happened based mostly in the exploration of Oil, opportunities for Oil theft also grew, which generated the higher rates of theft seen in the last few years (Hodgkinson, 2013).

One of the biggest impacts Oil Theft has done to the region is economic, as illegally obtained Oil can easily be sold in the black market. So as the regional economy started to grow as a result of oil production and more opportunities for theft started to appear, those who practice these actions were able to improve their operations, causing each time more financial damage to the already poor countries in the region, being that the Nigerian government alone estimated a loss of around 300.000 barrels of crude oil, accounting for around 30 million United States Dollars, every day in the year of 2013 (Simmonds, 2014).

The other great impact Oil Theft has been doing to the region is environmental, as these illegal operations of stealing, and many times refining, crude oil often end up with spillages on the rivers and the sea. These spillages have been causing a great deal of problems to the fishing industry in the Gulf of Guinea, as not only the looming threat of pirates but also the destruction of the local ecosystem are contributing to increasing the costs of operation and diminishing the production at the same time, aside from this, tourism in the region is also affected as much of it is based on nature, that is being ravished by the oil pollution, hence, contributing to the downfall of the already economically weak states of the region (Boris, 2015).

Interconnection of the issues

Therefore the main issues on the region are basically: Organised Crime, Piracy and Oil Theft, being that these issues are all related to the maritime spectrum, where Organised Crime is practiced by smuggling drugs, human beings and diamonds across the ill protected maritime borders of the region. These ill protected border also gives room to Piracy, where vessels are attacked just offshore or on international waters where their escape possibilities are considerably lowered, and have either their cargo stolen or the crew made hostage, depending on their value. And finally, since oil is one of the main commodities produced in the region, it is also a target for thieves, who take advantage of the situation in various manners, including stealing oil from oil pipes and smuggling it through the sea, or attacking offshore platforms for hostages (Council of the European Union, 2014).

One of the main concerns about these issues is that terrorist organizations in the region may take advantage of them, since it has already been established that these organizations do make use of smuggling and theft to fund themselves, the weak security in the gulf may incline those acting in the region to join in to what has been up until now a very lucrative venture. Not only there is a possibility for smuggling and theft, there has already been cases of terrorist organizations attacking vessels and making hostages (Adesanya, Aworawo and Ifedayo, 2013).

These issues have also been hindering the region economically, because the lack of security contributes to high costs in production and transport, which causes loss in investment. Aside from these matters, the local fishing and tourism industry is also affected, since Oil theft contributes to pollution in the region, which causes a considerable impact on the whole ecosystem, creating a difficulty in attracting tourists to the region and diminishing ever more the quantity of marine wildlife (Gilpin, 2007).

Present situation

In order to understand the threats in the region, it is important to notice that the States in the Gulf of Guinea face peculiar and collective challenges, security being characterized as a major one. For many countries in the region, the security challenges that are spreading down from the Sahel is ominous, the economic sabotage from piracy and organised crime is destabilizing the area. With assistance and support from the international community, development partners and the goodwill and sacrifice from the States and Regional Organizations in the Gulf of Guinea, the emergent challenges can be diluted and overcome.

Having an strategic position, with satisfactory resources surrounding the countries, the deficiencies conditions in the Gulf of Guinea involves its military strength. This condition determined the current security challenge and most of the threatening situations that are faced in the region.

The Gulf of Guinea is an important host of shipping lanes and ports that represents a good part of the global maritime transportation system and is thus an integral part of the free transit of international and regional trade. This area served as an alternate route for maritime trade between Europe, North Atlantic, Asia, the Far East and Pacific regions with the closure of the Suez Canal.

Usually, the regions shipping routes and facilities serves as a platform to export and import goods for the Coastal countries and their neighbouring states, regional and national coastwise transportation and trade.

Thereat, the capacity to produce security in the Gulf of Guinea depends on several factors. To ensure the safety of the shipping routes of the area, the immediate focus should be on national actions, regional cooperation and international partnerships to contain suppress, and to ultimately eradicate piracy, sea robbery and oil theft.

The security needed for the states of the Gulf of Guinea may be achieved through maritime domain awareness and control, implementation and enforcement of international maritime convention and the development of other

rules and regulations for shipping, ports management and practices. (Ferdinand, 2012)

The international tools being developed and lessons learned from other jurisdictions that had faced similar challenges of piracy, organized crime and theft can be helpful. In some countries, amendments to the Penal Code and the Merchant Shipping Act gave national courts the jurisdiction over offences committed on the high seas. These could be studied for adoption by Gulf of Guinea States, especially jurisdictions where piracy have been given a broader definition, and courts can now prosecute suspected pirates captured within and outside their country's territorial waters. (Ferdinand, 2012)

Gulf of Guinea countries may consider the idea of a specialized national, regional or international judicial structure to investigate and prosecute their security deficits. Therefore, the member states will take advantage from frameworks of better practices, intelligence and information sharing between flag states, ports states and coastal states as well as with regional bodies and international partners that are cooperating to oppose the regions threat.

Regional actions

Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC)

The Gulf of Guinea Commission was established by the Treaty signed in Libreville, Gabon, on 3 July 2001 by Angola, Congo, Gabon, Nigeria and Sao Tome and Principe. It constituted a permanent Institutional framework for cooperation amongst the countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea, with the objective of defending their common interest, promoting peace and socio-economic development based on dialogue, consensus, ties of friendship, solidarity and fraternity. Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo joined the Gulf of Guinea Commission in 2008. Membership of the Gulf of Guinea Commission is open to other states in the Gulf of Guinea for purposes of transforming the sub region into a Zone of Peace and Security. (GGC, 2008)

The creation of the GGC is considered a response to the need of a permanent consulting and negotiation mechanism to manage the threats and problems common to the region, notably in the particular domain of maritime security. The GGC seems to be a bridge between ECOWAS and ECCAS and could facilitate the harmonisation of policies and activities within the gulf of Guinea region. (Gulf of Guinea Commission - Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, 2013).

ECCAS

Signed in October 1983 in Libreville, Gabon, the treaty creating the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) entered into force in December 1984. It comprises of ten member States: the Republic of Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and Chad.

The targeted goals of this regional body are the promotion and reinforcement of a harmonious cooperation and a dynamic development, balanced and self-managed in all domains of social and economic activity, particularly in the domains of industry, transport, communication, energy, agriculture, natural resources, trade, customs, monetary and financial issues, human resources, tourism, education, culture, science and technology and the movement of persons to realise the collective autonomy and improve the living conditions of the population.

Due to the socio-political unrest and armed conflicts in the majority of its member States, ECCAS, apart from traditional cooperation and regional integration missions, committed itself to promote peace and stability in Central Africa as well as sustain the democratic process within the member States.

It is in this vein that Central African States take collective measures to fight against piracy by putting in place, in October 2009, a global structure of common maritime security, the Central Africa Regional Centre for Maritime Security, based in Pointe-Noire (Congo). The ECCAS maritime security strategy is based on six pillars which are as follows: the common information management; local

surveillance measures by the detection and mutualisation of air and naval means; legal and functional harmonisation of States' maritime operation; self-financing through a Community tax; purchase and maintenance of equipment dedicated to the strategy; and the institutionalization of a maritime conference for Central Africa. (ECCAS - Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, 2013).

ECOWAS

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has set for itself the goal of creating a large trading bloc to enhance free trade within the region. ECOWAS is a regional body of sixteen countries –Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo –that was established with the signing of the ECOWAS Treaty on May 28th, 1975 in Lagos, Nigeria. One of ECOWAS' main tasks is to create a favourable business environment for development within the region and to ensure that the private sector is effectively supported and sustained. The objective is thus clear: ECOWAS must champion regional integration, with the aim of attracting more investments and projects to the region. The private sector therefore has a key role to play in efforts towards the attainment of sustainable development.

Consequently, ECOWAS has since been improving its investment climate conditions. The aim of the ongoing structural reforms and liberalisation of national economies in the member states is to create a conducive business environment to enable the private sector in West Africa to grow and become the engine of the regional economy. (ECOWAS- Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, 2013).

Considering that, the States of the region and the international community understand the necessity to elaborate an adequate strategy to prevent the transnational crime wave in the zone. Considering their common awareness, the member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) are the main actors involved with the security issues in territory.

Hence, their efforts are based in developing an adequate instrument of security, based on the improvement of maritime security, joint efforts, the setting-up of consistent security projects and programs as well as proper coordination of support, born out of international cooperation.

It is in this perspective that in June of 2013 in Yaoundé, the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, ECCAS and GGC, was created to effectively lay the foundation of a regional strategy aimed to secure the maritime space of Central and West Africa. The Gulf of Guinea region is at the thresholds of this great opportunity.

“The Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea” lead to three actions: 1) The Adoption of a 'Code of Conduct Concerning the Prevention and Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa. The Code is inspired by the IMO Djibouti Code of Conduct for the Western Indian Ocean. Its main features are a particular emphasis on information sharing and coordination, facilitated by a designated national contact point in each State, and a number of regional transnational and trans- regional maritime security coordination centres; and clear engagement by States to declare their exclusive economic zones and enforce their own laws, including on fishing, piracy and armed robbery at sea, environmental protection, waste dumping and mineral resources including oil. The Code is kept under ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC auspices for greater African ownership. The Code is non-binding for now.

2) The Adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the heads of ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC on Maritime Safety and Security in West and Central Africa. The memorandum establishes the experts group to prepare a follow-up action plan for implementation of the Code of Conduct.

3) The decision to locate the Intra-regional Coordination Centre in Douala, Cameroon. This will be the region's' mechanism to oversee implementation.

International actions

In consideration of the international actions in the Gulf of Guinea, it is important to evince the cooperation of various actors concerned on empowering the member states of the region. Many of the Gulf of Guinea countries are aware of the economical impacts created by the insecurity that affects the region. In fact, most of the external interventions in the area are focused on cooperating for the consolidation of the states in order to strengthen their capacity. The Western powers have sought to use a less militarized version of naval intervention, focusing more on statebuilding measures (Vrëy, 2010).

Beside that, it is necessary to emphasize that some actors have special interests in the region because of its large number of natural resources, so they aim to maintain cooperation agreements in order to ensure their naval presence in the zone. The absence an effective coast guard in the zone connected to the deficiencies state institutions end up justifying the heavy naval interference from other countries in the Gulf of Guinea (Anymadou, 2013). Being so, multilateral cooperation is still needed in order to create institutions that may help to combat the Gulf of Guinea problems.

Furthermore, in the context of piracy, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and other relevant international organizations, are committed to formulate guidance on use of privately contracted armed security personnel onboard of vessels to prevent maritime hijackings; and recommend provisions to protect seafarers who fall victims of piracy and to assist them after their release. The IMO's Strategy for implementing sustainable maritime security measures in West and Central Africa outlines IMO's undertaken and programmed work to implement all of the key areas identified in the Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy, armed robbery against ships, and illicit maritime activity in west and central Africa, adopted formally in Yaoundé in June 2013. (IMO's strategy for implementing security measures in West and Central Africa, 2014)

In general terms, the aim is for the IMO Member States to put in place national legislation to criminalize piracy, attacks against ships, and other illicit

maritime activities; coordinate structures and procedures; and have in place well-trained operational, technical and logistical personnel to effectively discharge their responsibilities in all aspects of maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection, thereby also enhancing regional trade by sea. In December 2013, the IMO Assembly adopted resolution A.1069(28) on Prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea. The resolution appeals to States in the region, in close cooperation with international and regional organizations, to take all measures possible within the provisions of international law, to ensure that all acts or attempted acts of piracy, armed robbery against ships and other illicit maritime activities are terminated forthwith and any plans for committing such acts are also forthwith abandoned; and any hijacked ships, kidnapped seafarers held on them and any other persons on board such ships are immediately and unconditionally released and that no harm is caused to them. (International Maritime Organization, 2014).

The European Union has shown its preoccupation in the matter of helping the states of the region in the matter of achieving peace, security and prosperity through the successful and legitimate development of their economies and their institutions. The EU and the countries of the region have major common economic, developmental, commercial and security interests. The region has a long coastline, and is rich in resources which are crucial both for local employment and consumption, and for trade with Europe. Maritime commerce to and from the Gulf of Guinea is widely conducted by the EU. There is an average of 30 EU flagged or owned vessels at any one time in the Gulf of Guinea. The main concern for local communities is the sustainability of all marine resources, including fisheries. This fact also affects European consumers, what results on the block concern to maintain the proper functioning of these activities in the region. Noticing that secure global shipping lanes are necessary to trade and trouble-free fishing. It is equally in the EU's interests to promote stability in the Gulf of Guinea to protect the EU's own citizens from the threats of drugs, terrorism, piracy and armed robbery, and other forms of crime emanating from the region (EU Strategy on the Gulf of Guinea, 2014).

The bloc also provides support to the regional organisations (ECOWAS, ECCAS, GGC) as well as to individual states in order to help them design effective strategies to tackle the challenges and implement them in a coordinated manner, in accordance with the Code of Conduct (EU Gulf of Guinea action plan, 2015).

The United Nations is showing effective leadership, concern and understanding for the assistance needed of the Gulf of Guinea States. Understanding that the United Nations is a better place to initiate efforts for global jurisdiction over piracy and to formally reaffirm it as a crime against humanity. The organization has also expressed its concern about the emergence in creating support for the regional actors that are committed on building strategies to combat security threats. The United Nations appealed for the Gulf countries to adopt preventive measures at the national and regional level, with the support of the international community when available, to face the region's problems. In 2012, the UN Security Council discussed the piracy in the Gulf of Guinea for the first time through a global perspective, not just from the regional perspective (The Royal Institute for International Affairs, 2013).

In 2013, the statement by the President of the Security Council declared the UNSC awareness about the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea pose to international navigation, the security and economic development of States in the region, to the safety and welfare of seafarers and other persons, as well as the safety of commercial maritime routes. This statement also recalls that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, sets out the legal framework applicable to activities in the ocean, including countering piracy and armed robbery at sea.

Yet the region is an increasing magnet for western countries investment, not only in the natural resources but in the consumer goods and services sectors. The Gulf of Guinea is growing in importance as a potential market for exports as the region's economic growth accelerates. These facts demonstrate the growing interest from western countries to promote economical growth by ensuring security and stability in the region.

What has been done

The 28th Ministerial Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee of the United Nations in 2008: Held in Libreville in Gabon in September 2008, it is in this committee that Cameroon evoked for the first time the need for the development of an international conference on the maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

The Luanda Conference on peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea region in November 2012 in Luanda, Angola revealed the piracy threat in the Gulf of Guinea.

The African Union adopted an African Integrated Maritime Security Strategy (2050 AIM strategy) in January 2014. The 2050 AIM Strategy provides a broad framework for the protection and sustainable exploitation of the Africa's Maritime Domain (AMD) for wealth creation. The strategy is the product of crosscutting inputs from African experts. The Strategy integrates a Plan of Action for its operationalization with, clearly defined vision with achievable goals, including specific desirable objectives, activities and milestones towards attaining the Strategic End State of increased wealth creation in a stable and secured AMD. (2050 AIM STRATEGY).

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is conducting an ongoing programme of tabletop exercises aimed at promoting the development of national maritime security committees pursuant to the Yaounde Code of Conduct. In addition to the ongoing work of its own committees on maritime security the IMO adopted in late 2013 a Resolution on the Gulf of Guinea. The Resolution on the prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea covers all the IMO's activities in the region and how it intends to strengthen its cooperation with MOWCA – e.g. through establishing a sub-regional integrated coast guard network in West & Central Africa, and address threats and challenges onshore and offshore in a holistic, comprehensive manner. (IMO, 2013)

Individual countries in the Gulf of Guinea have begun to increase resources and develop strategies in partnership to address organised crime both offshore and on land such as the joint patrols by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Benin.

Other international partners such as the United States, Brazil, China, India, South Africa, have set up bilateral programmes for policy formulation, coordination and institutional capacity building. In this same matter, the “G8 ++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea Group” was established to better coordinate the maritime capacity building efforts of international partners in the Gulf of Guinea. It focuses on the importance of African ownership; the link between economic development and security; the importance of coordination and exchange of information; and the need for a comprehensive response including governance and justice. In terms of defining the strategic requirements and necessary policies, much work has therefore been done. Implementation, however, has been severely limited by resource constraints, and the gap with the level of further investment needed to reverse the rising trend of organised crime, remains wide (EU Strategy on the Gulf of Guinea, 2014).

The interministerial conference of Cotonou, March 2013 had as objective, to validate fundamental documents developed in the bid of fighting against illicit activities in the maritime domain of ECCAS and ECOWAS. Besides the Memorandum of agreement between the ECOWAS, the ECCAS and the GGC on the safety and maritime security in these two regions of the continent, the Ministers also validated the draft code of conduct concerning the prevention and the repression of piracy in Central Africa and in western Africa. At the end of the inter-ministerial conference, member states agreed on the fact that the Yaounde Summit would have as objective the adoption of value documents validated by ministers of member states.

The Code of Conduct concerning the prevention and repression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in west and central Africa: it was developed by GGC together with the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Signatories to the Code intend to co-operate to the fullest possible

extent in the repression of transnational organized crime in the maritime domain, maritime terrorism, and other illegal activities at sea. (IMO, 2013).

The UNSC Resolution 2018 actors condemns piracy and reveals the need to join efforts between states and regional actors. It also articulates an encouragement for them to develop domestic laws, a regional counter-piracy framework which should include both information-sharing and operational coordination mechanisms, as well as noting the importance of implementing regulations and international agreements for safety and security of navigation, requests that all actions should neither impair nor deny freedoms that are customary seafarers. There is also support to the international community to assist, if and when requested, the states concerned in the region. Finally it speaks of welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to deploy a UN assessment mission and proclaims its eagerness to receive and view the report.

The UNSC 2039 Resolution recommended to ECCAS, to ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, with the cooperation of the UN, the African Union and other partners, the holding of a summit of the Heads of state and governments on maritime piracy and the armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. This resolution expresses that the UNSC encourages the States of the Gulf of Guinea, ECOWAS, ECCAS and GGC, to develop and implement transnational and trans-regional maritime security coordination centres covering the whole region of the Gulf of Guinea, building on existing initiatives, such as those under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Also says that the international partners should provide support to regional States and organizations for the enhancement of their capabilities to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, including their capacity to conduct regional patrols, to establish and maintain joint coordination centres and joint information-sharing centres, and for the effective implementation of the regional strategy, once adopted.

It is important to point out that on the July 20-22th of the present year will happen The Gulf of Guinea Security Summit. The event is going to count with the participation of represents from the states of the Gulf of Guinea, IMO, AFRICOM, UNICEF and other organizations that deal with security threats.

UNSC Members position

Angola: considering maritime security to be very much linked to economic development, Angola did not face many attacks on its territorial waters. As a member of GGC, the country has recently announced it will host an international conference on maritime security later this year. In order to counter piracy efforts in the region, however, effective cooperation on the regional level will need to be established noticing that acts of piracy and armed robbery are becoming more prevalent in the Gulf of Guinea.

With acts of piracy centrifugally moving away from Nigeria, Angola's biggest economic rival, the country is aware of this contemporary threat and wants to take the matter into its own hands. As the host of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), Angola may be willing to renew the international community's attention to its regional importance, showing itself as an emergent dominant player at the regional level on maritime affairs. (Global Risks Insights, 2015)

Chad: since Chad's oil is connected to that of Cameroon, analysts usually add Chad as a player in the region. This happens because companies are extracting oil in the south of Chad and sending it by pipeline through Cameroon to the Gulf of Guinea. Being one of the signatories countries of the Code of Conduct Concerning the Prevention and Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illegal Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa, Chad is committed to act in full cooperation in the suppression of transnational crime organized in maritime areas such as maritime terrorism, illegal fishing and hacking, therefore it has an important role in achieving peace and security in the region (Onuoha, 2012)

Jordan: the country is one of the signatories of the IMO's Code of Conduct (Djibouti Code of Conduct) of counter piracy in the Western Indian Ocean and

the Gulf of Aden. This instrument involves information sharing, legal reform, and the training of coast guards as a major factor in facing Piracy in the region.

Jordan also shows its commitment on promoting peace, stability, and moderation in the matter of international relations. Being so, Jordan supported international patrols on the region in an attempt to minimize the maritime issues in the area. The State has played an important role in maintaining international peace and security over the past decades and has been committed to the strengthening of international action through the United Nations in order to achieve collective security. (The Permanent Mission of Jordan To The United Nations)

Lithuania: in its activities at the UN, Lithuania places emphasis on sustainable development, good governance, rule of law, human rights, peacekeeping, arms control and disarmament. Lithuania's commitment to international peace and security is realized through its contribution to the UN-led peacekeeping missions and the UN-mandated European Union (EU) operations.

Lithuania attaches particular importance to the predictability and legitimacy of the actions of states in their international relations. Just like the relations themselves, the choice of means for peaceful settlement of disputes emanating from those relations relies upon the willingness of the parties and is central in maintaining international peace and security.(Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations). Lithuania is a member of OTAN who has sent naval missions to the Gulf of Guinea with the objective of give stability to the area.

Chile: with the preoccupation of ratifying the work of the UN on maintaining international peace and security, supporting the United Nations global efforts to promote sustainable development, and to support the United Nations collective action, Chile seeks the promotion of relations based on mutual cooperation and confidence creating a foreign climate that is receptive to the development of our nations, international peace, and the protection of human rights and democratic stability.



The country is committed to cooperate for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, under international law and the UN Charter with a focus on the human person, protection, and development opportunities perspective. Above, ensuring compliance with Security Council resolutions that treats the Gulf of Guinea security threats. (“Chile en el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU”, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile)

Nigeria: Nigeria’s pirate gangs represents only one subset of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. Besides that, the country faces the issue of piracy as of great importance for its safety, since the illegal activities at sea are often linked to crime happening on land. Therefore piracy is a threat not only to its largely dependent oil economy, but also for national and regional security. The country has one of the best equipped navies of the region, and it has made efforts to improve its combat capabilities piracy, acquiring surveillance infrastructure and patrol ships - were 80 in the last three years (Nigeria, 2011). As a collaborator of the UN peacekeeping missions, Nigeria considers of great importance regional efforts to reach a political and economic consistent in the territory of the Gulf of Guinea. (Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations)

New Zealand: the country is committed to an inclusive, transparent and effective Security Council that delivers on its international peace and security responsibilities. New Zealand is a strong believer in cooperation between the UN and regional bodies, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Thereat, the country shows its support to the existing regional organizations in the Gulf of Guinea that focus their actions in the pursuit of bringing security and both political and economic balance for the region. (New Zealand Mission to the United Nations).

Malaysia: Malaysia, a member of the United Nations since 1957, and has always been in favor of multilateralism, viewing the United Nations as the main intergovernmental entity capable of fomenting peace amongst the many states in the world. Therefore, Malaysia has expressed great support and commitment to

the objectives of the organisation, fully recognizes the centrality of the United Nations and wishes to see its accountability and efficiency in applying the mandates assigned to it by its member states, and for that, Malaysia enters the United Nations Security Council with the motto of "Peace and Security through Moderation", hoping to help solve conflicts through peaceful means (Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations).

Although Malaysia hasn't yet taken any significant actions towards the current situation in the Gulf of Guinea, it does have a lot of experience in the combat of piracy, seeing that the Strait of Malacca, where the country is located, has been historically plagued by pirates, being that it is a choke point in the region where great quantities of oil and gas go through (Vavro 2008). So it can be expected that Malaysia has a lot to contribute to the security issues in the Gulf of Guinea.

Venezuela: Venezuela views the United Nations as privileged space in the international community, where policies for a multipolar world must be developed and the pacific coexistence of nations protected.

Its mission is based on developing an inclusive multilateralism, following closely what is established on the United Nations Charter, fighting for the right of countries still in development to have their interests respected and have full control of their natural resources, aside from this, Venezuela shall also seek an agenda for Human Development and Sustainable Development (Misión Permanente de Venezuela ante la O.N.U.).

Spain: Spain has been a member of the United Nations since 1955, over 120.000 of its troops have already served under United Nations mandate as Blue Helmets, therefore being well known inside the organisation and in the international sphere. Its will is to be a part of the United Nations Security Council with an open spirit and commit itself to peace and international security, seeking promotion and defence of Human Rights and Sustainable Development for each



and every member state (Misión Permanente de España ante las Naciones Unidas).

Regarding the Gulf of Guinea, Spain has taken some actions, being the most important its membership of the Friends of Gulf of Guinea, which together with the G8, has made some advances towards better cooperation of maritime capacity in the Gulf of Guinea (France Diplomatie 2014).

China: being one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China has enough power to interfere in the region, although historically it has followed a policy of non-interference on sovereign states, preferring different approaches.

Since it has one of the world's largest economies, China's energy consumption is also very high, therefore it does have a clear interest in the Gulf of Guinea, where it has already started to create some influence by aligning itself to the G77 and providing financial aid to some of the countries in the Gulf of Guinea, where it already made commitments to invest large sums in Nigeria, and started to approach other countries in the region such as Angola, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea (Osaretin 2011).

Russia: a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Russia too is concerned with the maintaining of peace and security worldwide (Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations).

Although Russia has currently little interest in the Gulf of Guinea, some of its companies still do maintain certain economical relations with the region, mainly in field of Oil production, which can contribute to turning Russia's attention to the security threats in the region (Reuters 2015).

Aside from what has already been showed, Russia still does have to deal with Piracy in the region, which affects many Russian ships moving through the region, either by kidnappings or cargo thefts (BBC 2014).

France: France, also a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, has had a historical part on the protection of Human Rights, participated a great deal on peacekeeping missions and is currently engaged on the matter of the reform of the United Nations (Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York).

In regard to the Gulf of Guinea, France has had a great deal of participation on the region, owed mostly to its colonial past and ties to the countries that now exist there. Therefore, France does keep a permanent naval presence in the Region, through it's CORYMBE mission (Council of the European Union 2014).

Aside from this, France has also thrown in it's support on developing the maritime defence apparatus of the countries in the Gulf of Guinea as whole, which it did by conducting training and educational activities through cooperation and financing regional mechanisms (Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York 2012), such as the G7++FooG, where France is a prominent member (France Diplomatie 2014).

United Kingdom: The United Kingdom, also a member of the United Nations Security Council, has had over the years a great deal of participation on the improvement of the organization's finances, strengthening it's capacities to deal with social and economic issue, peacekeeping and conflict prevention. Not only that, but the United Kingdom has also been very proactive in developing proposals for the reform of the United Nations, with the aim of optimizing it's effectiveness (The United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in New York).

The security threats in the Gulf of Guinea has had an important impact on the United Kingdom's policy in the region, as it has various economical interests in the region, which stems from simple oil imports, goes through British companies owning certain property in the region, mainly in the oil industry, and finishes at countries in the region being important consumers of British goods (UK Chamber of Shipping 2014).

The British have given some support to maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, both on its own and through European Union initiatives (United Nations

2011), as their ships have also fell victims to the high rates of Piracy in the region (Reuters 2013).

Aside from this support, the United Kingdom is also a member of the G7++FoGG (France Diplomatie 2014), and has taken part on maritime security exercises on the Gulf of Guinea, both with countries of the region as well as with other countries from Europe (Embassy of France in Abuja 2014).

United States of America: The United States of America, last of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, has a great commitment to the United Nations as an indispensable institution for the advancement of security in the International System. It's aim is to make the United Nations a better forum to promote peace, advance democracy and respect Human Rights (United States Mission to the United Nations).

The Gulf of Guinea is an important region for the U.S, as a significant provider of Oil to it's economy (The Royal Institute for International Affairs 2013), which has prompted the United States to launch several operations aimed at improving the security of the region, amongst which we can highlight the Africa Partnership Station, launched in 2007, used by the U.S to maintain a permanent presence in the region and the United States African Command, responsible for U.S military actions in Africa. Aside from these military operations, the U.S also has the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, which focus on maritime security issues in a non military way (Kamal-Deen 2015).

Questions to ponder

1. Considering that most of the Gulf of Guinea countries have been suffering several problems since their decolonisation, how could the UNSC act to guarantee the institutional steadiness in the region?
2. What are other possible instruments of the UNSC that could be used to achieve a higher security condition in the Gulf of Guinea based on Resolutions 2018 and 2039?

3. How could the UNSC help to coordinate the actions of the several regional organizations involved in the area, in order to achieve the cooperation needed to fight against the Gulf of Guinea threats?
4. How lessons previously learned in the matter of combating piracy in other regions could be used by the UNSC and the regional organizations involved in the given situation?
5. Under the principle of non-intervention, which measures could be taken to assure the legitimacy of peacebuilding actions in Gulf of Guinea?

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