

Standing Orders of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) (2002)

SECTION 1: Definition and Mission of the Central Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC)

Article 1

The Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) is a mechanism for the observation, monitoring and prevention of crises and conflicts, which shall work within the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). It shall be responsible for data collection and analysis in order to prevent crises and conflicts.

SECTION 2: Organisation of MARAC

Article 2

The Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) shall include: (a) A Central structure based at the ECCAS headquarters and consisting of: (i) A Bureau in charge of permanent monitoring and collection of

information on the security situation in the subregion, from national and international Networks, UNO, OAU and other public, private, national and international organisations and institutions.

(ii) A Bureau responsible for information analysis and evaluation, whose mission shall be to identify situations that may pose a threat to peace and security in a State or group of States in the subregion.

(iii) A Bureau responsible for the Central African data base, whose task shall be to store, to file, to keep and to disseminate information by way of any appropriate media, especially MARAC's written, printed, photographic, video, hearing, optical, electronic, mechanical, magnetic and numerical aids.

(b) Decentralised structures in each Member State of COPAX, made up of national networks called 'national bureax.' Each National Bureau shall include both governmental and legislative organs, agencies of international organisations, NGOs, civil society, members of academic and research institutions. National Bureaux in charge of information collection and analysis shall constitute observation and monitoring zones.

SECTION 3: Appointment and Rules and Regulations of MARAC Staff

Article 3

The MARAC central structure shall be conducted by a coordinator appointed by the ECCAS Secretary-General upon approval by the Council of Ministers, for a period of

three years renewable once, and whose criteria of reference shall be defined by the Defence and Security Commission.

Article 4

This co-ordinator shall work in close co-operation with national networks, as well as UNO, AU and other agencies, which may assist him in accomplishing his missions.

Article 5

The Bureau referred in article 2(a) shall be managed by Bureau Chiefs.

Article 6

Staff members appointed to work at the MARAC Central Structures shall be chosen among competent executives from Member States of ECCAS.

Article 7

(a) Applications for the jobs to be filled shall be sent by States through diplomatic channels.

(b) Staff members called to work at MARAC National Bureau shall be appointed by States.

Article 8

The staff working at the MARAC Central Bureau shall enjoy the same status as other ECCAS associate staff.

Article 9

Subject to the provisions of article 3 of these Standing Orders, the term of office of the Manager of the Central Bureau shall be three years renewable only once.

SECTION 4: Functioning of MARAC

Article 10

In the performance of its activities, MARAC shall collect and manage the data supplied spontaneously or at its request by Member States, international organisations, NGOs, independent experts, academic institutions and research institutes. MARAC shall be granted all facilities so as to have access to the sources of information available in Member States.

Article 11

National Bureaux shall collect data recorded on a daily statement of indicators, which have an impact on peace and security in each observation and monitoring zone, and in the sub-region.

Article 12

Under the supervision of the ECCAS Deputy Secretary-General in charge of Peace, Security and Stability Affairs, MARAC shall prepare and submit to the serving Chairman, monthly and detailed reports on the political, social, military, economic, health, and climatic situation which may have a direct or indirect impact on the stability of the Community.

SECTION 5: Final and Sundry Provisions

Article 13

These Standing Orders may be amended by the Conference at the proposal of the Council of Ministers.

Article 14

These Standing Orders, which shall enter into force from their date of signature, shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.