



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
To the United Nations, New York
Security Council -2021-2022**

DEBATE ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA: STRENGTHENING
THE FIGHT AGAINST THE FINANCING OF ARMED GROUPS AND
TERRORISTS THROUGH THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2022 (10:00 AM)

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you Mr President,

I congratulate you, and through you, **His Excellency, Michael Moussa Adamo, Minister of Foreign Affairs**, on Gabon's assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of October. Kenya holds your principled and cooperative efforts in the Council in high regard. We therefore have every reason to anticipate that your Presidency will be exemplary, and, to this end, our delegation will provide you every support.

I thank you for convening this important debate. I also thank **H.E. Bankole Adeoye, Ms. Ghada Waly** and **Mr Paul-Simon Handy** for their briefings. I also welcome the participation of the representatives of the CAR, Egypt, the EU, Morocco, and Senegal.

Mr. President, terrorist groups affiliated with Al Qaeda and ISIS are a dire threat to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and human rights in far too many countries in Africa.

Their militant campaigns begin with real or imagined grievances that are shaped by fascist ideologies into violent demands for political and social change. In time, even as the poverty of their ideas and the political impossibility of their positions become clear, sustaining their campaigns becomes an end in itself.

Their need for financing, smuggling and other criminal capabilities tips the scales as their ideological commitment wanes. Among their leaders and financiers, the motivation for personal financial gain and corruption take deep root. Groups that started claiming the moral prestige of a just cause eventually become thinly-veiled, brutal criminal enterprises.

We fear that if they are not defeated in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes, and elsewhere, the promises of security, development and human rights that bind the United Nations will remain unmet.

Unfortunately, Africa is filled with many opportunities for these malign actors. The UN Development Programme has assessed that the continent possesses, *“30 percent of the world’s mineral reserves, 8 per cent of the world’s natural Gas and 12 per cent of the world’s oil reserves.”* It has *“40 percent of the world’s gold and up to 90 percent of its chromium and platinum. The largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium in the world are in Africa. And that in most African countries, natural capital accounts for between 30 percent and 50 percent of total wealth.”*

These immense riches are at the core of the world’s industrial production and wealth creation. But the fact that they originate in countries with limited criminal-justice systems makes them irresistible to the terrorists and insurgents. They dominate and hold territory to trade in illicitly acquired natural resources.

Mr President,

Counterterrorism and counter-insurgency efforts are being undertaken by states, regional forces and international partners. They are necessary and must continue, but by now we can all agree that they are insufficient because the groups are able to financially replenish themselves.

We can also agree that the African states making heroic efforts are doing so with limited financial means: significantly because they cannot stop or tax illicit revenues. When the wealth is instead claimed by criminal actors, the state cannot meet its obligations, citizens become disillusioned, grievances grow and feed into terrorist recruitment.

To truly come to grips with the challenge, we need to grant that militants are not the only ones partaking of this destructive exploitation.

Mr President,

By recognising the fundamental underpinnings of today’s debate, we are led by logic to conclude that the protection of peace and security in Africa is impossible if the continent’s natural resources are not reclaimed for the people.

For real development to be achieved, we must break with the inhumane approaches used in the last few centuries when African natural and human resources have been an important part of international trade and production.

We therefore propose that the bottom line of our debate be that law and order — guided by fairness and equity to Africa — must prevail in the extraction, transport, sale, and utilisation of Africa's natural resources. To deliver peace and security, we must minimise illegality and, frankly, immorality toward African resources at the local, national, regional and international levels.

During our Presidency in October 2021, we convened a High-Level Debate on the Great Lakes Region about utilising the region's natural resources lawfully to promote peace. By consensus, this Council, in a resulting Presidential Statement, renewed its commitment to support countries in the Great Lakes Region to address the root causes and drivers of conflict by harnessing the region's natural resources for social and economic transformation.

Our urgent task now is to build on this promise, and extend it to all other regions suffering from illicit extraction. We must then go beyond the statements and practically support the following measures if security is to prevail in Africa.

Mr. President,

First, the main changes for the private sector. All companies globally importing and processing African natural resources should have in place conflict minerals awareness and monitoring systems. Governments in countries receiving these resources should deliver the necessary regulation and compliance oversight as a way of contributing to peace and security. Transparency to enable pro-peace advocacy will help ensure that offending companies deal with reputational and market consequences.

Second, on the global nature of the illicit trade. We have to close the gaps that enable illicit financial flows from natural resource sales in Africa. This needs effective legislation. Sectoral risk assessments. Rules against conflicts of interest. Making corporate structures more transparent. Punishing trade invoice fraud. Analysing supply chains for weaknesses and deploying counter-measures. Providing expertise and funding in these areas is a win for peace and security.

Third is about supporting states in the fight. Supporting national and regional military actions must be accompanied by state strengthening campaigns according to national priorities. We also urge that the Council consider additional ways of supporting the affected countries to ensure that under-governed spaces are properly controlled by states. This will require either changing the nature of UN peacekeeping or providing predictable and adequate financing for regional forces. The Peacebuilding Commission has a valuable role to play as well.

Fourth regards action at the regional and continental level. Africa's peace and security architecture should incorporate the tools we have recommended. Further, the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area should account for conflict minerals so that it is strongly supportive to countering terrorist and insurgent groups.

Fifth, and finally, the Security Council must be more committed to dismantling terrorism networks in Africa. As we have stated before, the Council must equally apply its counter-terrorism architecture against terrorist groups and their affiliates including those in Africa such as Al-Qaeda linked Al Shabaab. This should include sanctions against dealing in what we suggest to call terrorist-minerals.

Mr. President, it is time that Africa's natural resources fully benefitted the African people. Our common efforts to this noble end will determine the human condition in the 21st century. It is our determination to change the old ways of doing business that will deal the greatest blows to terrorist groups and their cruel assaults on the innocent.

I thank you