



PRESS RELEASE

The 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel convened today in Dakar

Dakar, 03 October, 2014- The 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) was convened today in Dakar by the UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, Mrs Hiroute Guebre Selassie, and was attended by the Regional Directors of UN Agencies, Programs and Funds, Conveners of the three Regional Working Groups and the Regional Coordinators from the Sahel region.

The meeting provided an overview of the United Nations entities' support to the five countries of Sahel, namely Burkina, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Chad, and discussed various issues pertaining to the coordination with other Sahel strategies, and the need to accelerate the implementation of strategic projects as part of a United Nations' coordinated response to the challenges faced by the Sahel region.

"It is paramount that the UN support to the region be conducted in a coherent manner, and in close consultation with the governments of the Sahel region, and in coordination with regional organizations," said the Special Envoy for the Sahel at the opening of the meeting.

"The role of the UN regional coordinators and the working groups on governance, security and resilience, is critical to maintain and strengthen the national and regional engagement of the UN in support of the region's endeavors for enhanced security and development of the Sahel," she concluded.

This 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel is the first one to be convened by Mrs Hiroute Guebre Sellassie in her capacity as the new Special Envoy for the Sahel.

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