
Press Release

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Cameroon-Nigeria: The Maritime Boundary

UNOWA – CNMC, Dakar 01 September 2006: The fifteenth session of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC) is scheduled to take place from 6 to 7 September 2006, in Yaoundé.

This session follows the 31 August meeting in Geneva of the Follow-up Committee, composed of representatives of Cameroon, Nigeria and the United Nations. France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States are also members of this Committee. The committee was established to monitor the withdrawal of the Nigerian Armed Forces from the Bakassi Peninsula and the transfer of authority. Chaired by Sir Kieran Prendergast, it oversaw the withdrawal of Nigeria troops from Bakassi on 14 August 2006.

Three of the four issues - Lake Chad area, Land Boundary and Bakassi Peninsula – addressed by ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 10 October 2002 have already been resolved to the satisfaction of the Parties. The fourth and last one, the Maritime Boundary, is on the agenda of this XVth Session. The Chairman of the Mixed Commission, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, who has been given the mandate by the Parties to settle the issue, has stated that: "I have full confidence in the good will of the Parties".

Despite many challenges, the United Nations is most hopeful that next week's talks are bound to reinforce the good cooperation between the two countries. A new era of neighbourliness and joint activities will be beneficial to the border populations.

The Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission is a mechanism established by Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan on 15 November 2002 at the request of President Biya and President Obasanjo to follow-up on the implementation of the decision of the International Court of Justice on the border dispute. It is chaired by Special Representative of their Secretary-General Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.

Contact:

Ms. Marie-Thérèse Kéita: Tel : +221 869 85 52

For more information on the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, please visit our web site

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