



Press Release**UNOWA/CNMC/2005/3****Statement by the Chairman of the Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission**

UNOWA, Dakar – 31 March 2005. The demarcation of the boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria started on 23 March 2005 with the pilot field assessment aimed at identifying pillar sites and verifying in the field the boundary line as drawn on preliminary maps for a 60 kilometer stretch of the border near Dumo according to the delimitation established by the International Court of Justice in its October 2002 judgment. The field assessment is conducted by the Joint Technical Team of the Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission, composed of technical staff from Cameroon, Nigeria and the United Nations.

Regrettably, soon after the start of the field assessment, the Joint Technical Team was informed of Nigeria's decision to skip verification of the boundary line in the village of Koja. This decision could have the effect of holding up the entire demarcation process.

The Chairman of the Mixed Commission and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, has reminded both parties that procedures for the field assessment have been mutually agreed and laid out in a set of guidelines in February 2005 in Abuja. These guidelines include, among others, guarantees for unrestricted freedom of movement for the Joint Technical Team along the border. They also contain specific provisions on the procedure to follow in case of disagreement between the parties.

Mr. Ould-Abdallah noted that the agreed procedures for the verification of the boundary have not been adhered to. He urged the parties to facilitate the continuation of the field work.

He added: "The pilot project is an extremely important endeavour and marks the beginning of the actual demarcation exercise, which has been entrusted to the Mixed Commission. Stalling the process is not an acceptable course of action. The work must continue."

For more information on the Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission please visit our website at:

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