



Press Release**UNOWA/CNMC/2006/03****A leap forward in the delineation of the maritime boundary
between Cameroon and Nigeria**

UNOWA – Abuja, 8 November 2006: The XVIth meeting of the Mixed Commission, which took place in Abuja on 6 and 7 November 2006, was unanimously considered by both parties and the United Nations as so far the smoothest and most consensual one.

The main item on the agenda of the meeting was the remaining issue of the maritime boundary. It was decided to undertake a joint field visit by a team of experts, under the UN leadership, from 16 to 26 November 2006. The objective of this visit is to collect data that will enable the physical delineation of the maritime boundary between the two countries. In this respect, their agreement on the methodology to establish a datum for the maritime chart used for the delineation is one more a positive development.

The meeting further reviewed the progress of demarcation operations along the 1700 km long land-boundary and pledged to double the teams of surveyors in order to speed up the process.

Concerns were shared about the environmental situation, especially fisheries and the status of the mangrove in the Bakassi peninsula. The dramatic shrinking of the size of the Lake Chad caused by lack of maintenance of canals, population pressure and climate change was also debated. The Mixed Commission urged all interested governments as well as concerned civil society organizations to pull efforts together with a view to addressing urgently these matters.

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 ICJ on the border dispute. It is chaired by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.

**For more information, call 00 221 869 85 85 (Marie-Thérèse Keita) or visit the
Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission website at www.un.org/unowa**