



Press Release**UNOWA/CNMC/2004/4****Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission touring western capitals**

Dakar 4 march 2004 - From 5 to 12 March 2004, a tripartite delegation from Cameroon, Nigeria, and the United Nations will visit several countries to mobilise further diplomatic and financial support for the work of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in implementation of the October 2002 judgment of the International Court of Justice related to the border dispute between those two countries. This trip follows the conclusion of the first field visit by Mixed Commission representatives to the Bakassi Peninsula.

The delegation will hold meetings with Government and other officials, including from the World Bank, in London, Paris, Washington, and New York and will brief them on the progress achieved by the Commission.

The delegation will be composed of Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Amadou Ali, Ministre d'Etat for Justice and Keeper of the Seals of the Republic of Cameroon, and Prince Bola Ajibola (CFR), former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Following the tripartite summit held in Geneva, on 31 January 2004, between Presidents Paul Biya and Olusegun Obasanjo and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Cameroonian and Nigerian delegations have increased their contributions to the demarcation Trust Fund to a total of six million U.S. Dollars, which represents 50% of the overall cost of demarcating the border. However, further support is still urgently needed for the demarcation exercise, scheduled to take two years.

The Secretary-General and the two heads of state have expressed their strong belief that the demarcation of the boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria will contribute decisively to peace and development in the two countries, as well as sub-regional stability. The Cameroon-Nigeria experience could also provide an innovative approach for the preventive and peaceful resolution of boundary conflicts elsewhere on the African continent.

With the goal of promoting confidence-building measures in mind, the Mixed Commission has also started to deal with several issues related to infrastructure, development, and the environment in the border areas. Some of these projects could benefit from external support and will also be discussed with potential donors.

The Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission was established in November 2002 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the request of the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria.

For more information on the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission please visit the web site at :
www.un.org/unowa

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