

**Press Release****UNOWA/CNMC/06****At the UN Secretary-General's request, two African countries continue to implement the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

**UNOWA - Dakar 12 July 2004:** Tomorrow, Cameroon and Nigeria will begin the second stage of the implementation of the decision of the October 2002 ICJ decision on the border dispute between them.

On 16 December 2003, the two countries had already carried out a first transfer of authority in the Lake Chad area. Like the previous one, tomorrow's official ceremony, which is taking place this time on the land boundary, is expected to be marked with dignity. The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General of the United Nations, accompanied by his team, will chair the ceremony in the presence of the two heads of the Cameroonian and Nigerian delegations, Mr. Amadou Ali, Minister of State in charge of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, and Prince Bola Ajibola (CFR).

The day will be marked by a flag raising ceremony with the Cameroonian flag being replaced by the Nigerian flag in Bourha-Wango and Ndabakura and its surroundings. In Narki it will be the opposite with the Nigerian flag being replaced by the Cameroonian flag. Observers of the Mixed Commission will be deployed in the area to reinforce the process.

As was the case in the Lake Chad area, the populations of the cities and localities concerned speak the same languages and have constantly repeated their rejection of war. They expressed their support for the decision taken by Presidents Biya of Cameroon and Obasanjo of Nigeria to implement the decision of the International Court of Justice.

In the next few weeks, discussions on the modalities for the withdrawal of the Bakassi Peninsula will carry on. Thereafter, the discussions will focus on the delimitation of the maritime border between the two countries.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, noted that the Governments of the two countries seem determined to pursue this peaceful approach to settle their border dispute, with the United Nations. "It is the right decision at the right time and for the right reasons", he said. He added: "The Nigerian Presidency of African Union and the upcoming elections in Cameroon encourage even more a speedy settlement of this old dispute."

At this occasion, he intends to stress again that "it is time for the African borders to become zones of cooperation and not of confrontation".

Chaired by the Special Representative, the Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission is a mechanism established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 15 November 2002 at the request of Presidents Biya of Cameroon and Obasanjo of Nigeria to follow-up on the implementation of the decision of the International Court of Justice on the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria.

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

[www.un.org/unowa](http://www.un.org/unowa)

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