

**Press release****UNOWA/CNMC/2005/7**

UNOWA – CNMC, Dakar 26 July 2005 The thirteenth session of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC) is scheduled to take place from 28 to 29 July 2005, in Yaoundé.

This session follows the Summit held on 10-11 May 2005 in Geneva between Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Presidents Paul Biya of Cameroon and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria

This session will be preceded by a technical meeting on Demarcation from 25 to 27 July. That meeting will consider the report of a field assessment pilot project and will begin planning for the full-scale field assessment, as well as the demarcation work to be carried out by private contractors along the border. Last May, a technical team successfully concluded this pilot field verification on a 62 km-stretch of the border between the two countries. The field assessment will continue along the entire 1600 km border later this year.

At this XIIIth session, the Mixed Commission will consider the report of its Sub-Commission on Demarcation and those of the observers' visits in the Lake Chad area and the Land Boundary.

The withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Lake Chad area and along the land Boundary have taken place smoothly and peacefully in December 2003 and July 2004, with no disruption to the daily lives of the affected populations. At the Geneva Summit last May, the two Heads of State and the UN Secretary-General "expressed their appreciation for the generally good atmosphere which prevails in the area and the good relation that exist between the population and the new administrative authorities".

As agreed at the Geneva Summit, discussions on the withdrawal and transfer authority in the Bakassi Peninsula and on the issue of the Maritime Boundary will continue during this forthcoming session of the Mixed Commission.

The Chairman of the Commission and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, welcomed the convening of the first meeting of the Mixed Commission since October 2004. Prior to the meeting he said: "Though the parties didn't meet within the framework of the Mixed Commission, contact never ceased at all levels between the Heads of States, the observers, and the technical teams working on the demarcation. This session offers the opportunity to resume the good work between the parties in the spirit that prevailed at the Geneva Summit".

The Mixed Commission is a mechanism established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 15 November 2002 at the request of President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and President Paul Biya of Cameroon in order to facilitate peaceful implementation of the International Court of Justice judgment on the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria.

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

www.un.org/unowa

Media Contact : Myriam Dessables Yaoundé + 237 906 1287