

**Press Release****UNOWA/CNMC/2004/09****Statement of
the Chairman of the Cameroon – Nigeria Mixed Commission
Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah**

Dakar, 13 September 2004- Established in November 2002 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the request of the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria, the Mixed Commission is charged with following up the implementation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling of 10 October 2002 regarding the case concerning the land and maritime boundary between the two countries.

In its Work Programme, the Mixed Commission had planned to witness the withdrawal and the transfer of authority from Nigeria to Cameroon in the Bakassi Peninsula this 15 September. While the sovereignty of Cameroon is not disputed, the planned operation may be delayed due to unexpected technical difficulties.

Having just concluded extensive discussions with Nigerian authorities, in addition to the head of Nigeria delegation to the Mixed Commission, Prince Bola Ajibola, I remain confident that progress is close at hand. In the next few days a new agenda should be made public by my Office. The Government in Yaounde has been duly informed of these new developments and I count on its usual support and cooperation.

Meanwhile, I would like to recall that the Mixed Commission is carrying out its other activities in a satisfactory manner. The observer personnel is now operational and its current activities include field visits to the Lake Chad area, which it undertook last weekend, and to the Land Boundary which is scheduled for 15-16 November.

The demarcation process is progressing well, under an experienced new UN Official. On the Maritime Boundary, the two Parties have submitted to my Office their views on how to proceed on the delineation of the Maritime Boundary as delimited by the ICJ. The matter should be discussed without precondition with the concurrence of the Parties.

The UN Secretary-General is being kept informed of the developments on this matter, to which he attaches great importance.

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

www.un.org/unowa

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