



Press release
UNOWA/2008/06**Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa Undertakes
Consultations in Abuja with Nigerian Authorities
and President of ECOWAS Commission**

UNOWA – Dakar, 21 May 2008: As part of his continuing tour of West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, undertook a visit to Nigeria from 19-21 May 2008. During his visit, he met with Mr. Goodluck Jonathan, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The discussions focused on the on-going efforts regarding the activities of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC). Mr. Djinnit also met with Mr. Baba Gana Kingibe, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, with whom he discussed a wide range of issues, including CNMC-related matters. In his capacity of Chairman of the CNMC, Mr. Djinnit further discussed with Prince Bola Ajibola, head of the Nigerian delegation to the CNMC, the agenda of its next session, which is scheduled to be held in Abuja 19-20 June 2008.

During his visit, Mr. Djinnit, who addressed the Extraordinary ECOWAS Ministerial Meeting on the rising cost of food, stressed the need to revitalize agriculture and rural economy as the best route to address the core issues of food security, unemployment and rapid urbanization in West Africa. He further stated that we should learn from similar challenges that were successfully addressed in other parts of the developing world, as well as from the experience of developed countries showing that no sustainable development can be achieved at the expense of agriculture. He encouraged the countries of the subregion to join hands in creating conducive conditions, including appropriate land and investment policies for securing self-sufficiency.

The SRSG also held consultations with Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission, on the best ways and means for deepening the cooperation between ECOWAS and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). They reviewed the prevailing situation in the subregion and agreed on coordinated approaches and actions.

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