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**UN Special Representative for West Africa to attend Sahelo-Saharan States Summit**

**Dakar 14 May 2004.**- The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa, Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, will represent Mr. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, at the sixth Summit of the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), which will take place in Bamako, Mali from 15 to 16 May 2004.

Eighteen African leaders are expected to participate at this Summit, during which they will discuss the need for a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as other issues related to peace and security in the region.

Mr. Ould-Abdallah will deliver a message from the UN Secretary-general to the Summit. "The eighteen countries that form the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States have the unique advantage of putting at the service of peace and security in the region, the diverse links that unite their peoples, through a truly regional approach", said Mr. Ould-Abdallah, prior to his departure.

Mr. Ould-Abdallah is on his way back from Tunisia where, as a member of a tripartite delegation from Cameroon, Nigeria, and the United Nations, he had meetings with officials from the African Development Bank (ADB) as part of current efforts to muster financial and diplomatic support for the work of the Cameroon – Nigeria Mixed Commission.

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, following the October 2002 judgment of the International Court of Justice related to the border dispute between those two countries.

This experience is increasingly seen as an innovative approach for the preventive and peaceful resolution of boundary conflicts.

For more information on the UN Office for West Africa and the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, please visit our web site at:

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

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