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## PRESS RELEASE

UNOWA/2008/13



COMMUNIQUÉ ADOPTÉ AT THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE  
CAMEROON - NIGERIA MIXED COMMISSION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO  
THE JOINT GENEVA COMMUNIQUE OF 15 NOVEMBER 2002

**UNOWA – Dakar, 20 June 2008:** The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, which was established pursuant to the Joint Communiqué adopted at the meeting held on 15 November 2002 in Geneva between His Excellency President Paul Biya of the Republic of Cameroon and His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo then President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in the presence of Kofi Annan then Secretary General of the United Nations, held its Twenty-second Ordinary Meeting in Abuja on 19 and 20 June 2008. His Excellency Ambassador Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations chaired the deliberations of the Mixed Commission in the presence of His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Amadou Ali of Cameroon, and His Excellency Prince Bola Ajibola (CFR) of Nigeria, who led the Cameroonian and Nigerian Delegations respectively.

The Mixed Commission considered and adopted the report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Sub-Commission on Demarcation, which was held on 16 and 17 June 2008. The Mixed Commission approved the field assessment programme for Phase 3C, to be undertaken by the Joint Technical Team from 18 October 2008. It further approved the terms of reference for a field mission to be undertaken by the Sub-Commission on Demarcation during December 2008 with a view to finding a solution to the difficulties encountered during Phase 3A of the field assessment. The Mixed Commission further urged the Parties to do their utmost to keep up with the schedule for the implementation of future field assessment missions.

The Mixed Commission examined and adopted the report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Working Group on the Maritime Boundary held on 18 and 19 June 2008 in Abuja. Cameroon and Nigeria agreed that information will be handed over by Nigeria to Cameroon on the Nigerian offshore installations in Cameroonian territorial waters in keeping with the Minutes of the meeting held at Greentree on 12 June 2006. Cameroon and Nigeria also agreed to provide information to the United Nations on areas immediately adjacent to the maritime boundary where concessions, licenses or contracts have been awarded or concluded. Presentations made by the Expert of the United Nations on experiences in cross border oil and gas cooperation, such as unitization, earned praise from the Parties. Cameroon and Nigeria urged the United Nations to take the necessary steps to continue to provide the services of this Expert to the Mixed Commission.



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The Mixed Commission noted with satisfaction the Report of the Seventh Field Visit to the Bakassi peninsula by the Observer Group Team. While commending the Team, the Commission reminded all interested parties to remain mindful of the needs of the affected populations of both countries and the protection of their rights.

The Mixed Commission invites its Chairman to take all necessary measures in consultation with the concerned parties with a view to prepare the practical modalities for the peaceful withdrawal and transfer of authority from the Zone in the Bakassi Peninsula to be implemented on 14 August 2008 in accordance with the Greentree Agreement of 12 June 2006.

In light of the events which occurred on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008, Cameroon and Nigeria agreed on the need to coordinate their efforts and to strengthen their cooperation with a view to enhancing security around the Bakassi peninsula.

Both parties agreed on the need to resume the work of the Cameroon-Nigeria Joint Commission during which issues relating to consular and economic relations would be reviewed.

The Mixed Commission considered the issue of affected populations. It commended the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria for the efforts deployed to address the humanitarian needs of the concerned populations. It agreed with a proposal by its Chairman to strengthen coordination efforts of the United Nations in Cameroon and Nigeria to work out, with the backing of donors, programmes in support of each country's endeavors to simultaneously contribute to relief projects throughout the Bakassi peninsula and to assist with the resettlement of the affected populations of both countries.

The Mixed Commission expressed satisfaction with the presentation made by the Representative of the African Development Bank on the Nigeria-Cameroon Multinational Highway project, which it regarded as a concrete milestone in the development of economic cooperation and the strengthening of good neighbourly relations between the two countries. It took note of the African Development Bank's call upon Cameroon and Nigeria to address the issues of harmonisation of laws, regulations and standards governing the use of commercial vehicles as well as movement of goods and persons between the two countries.

Cameroon and Nigeria accepted a proposal from the Mixed Commission's Chairman to convene a retreat to review the progress achieved and the challenges faced in the process as well as to discuss the lessons learned from the Mixed Commission in the field of peaceful dispute settlement.

The Twenty-third meeting of the Mixed Commission shall take place in Yaoundé on 09 and 10 October 2008 with the possibility of extension to 11 October 2008.

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