

PRESS RELEASE

THE CAMEROON-NIGERIA MIXED COMMISSION ACCELERATES WORK

Dakar/Abuja, 15 December 2012 – The Cameroon Nigeria Mixed Commission concluded today in Abuja, Nigeria its thirtieth session dedicated to the implementation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) judgment of 10 October 2002 regarding the demarcation of the boundary between the two countries.

The Delegations of Cameroon and Nigeria reaffirmed their willingness to expedite the demarcation of the land boundary areas which remain to be identified. Therefore, the parties reviewed their work program to deploy the technical team to the field as early as February 2013. To date, over 1,845 km out of an estimated distance exceeding 2,000 kilometers boundary have been located on the ground by the Joint Technical Team composed of surveyors and experts. The Commission also decided to move forward with pillar emplacement project.

The demarcation of the land boundary is the third component of the mandate of the Mixed Commission. The two countries agreed on the delimitation of the maritime border in 2007. The withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Lake Chad area, along the land border and in Bakassi Peninsula were finalized 2008.

The meeting also stressed the importance of the fourth component of the mandate, which is addressing the needs of the population affected by the demarcation through confidence building initiatives and cross border socio-economic projects. The Resident coordinators of the United Nations System in Cameroon and Nigeria demonstrated progress in the development of joint program proposals on poverty reduction for the benefit of the people. These include projects in infrastructure, food security, energy and environment, as well as education and capacity building for employment. These will be implemented by UN agencies in collaboration with the governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, in addition to existing national programs. A round table of donors will be organized to raise the necessary funds.

“Addressing the needs of the affected populations is key ,as this will not only to give a human dimension to the technical and political processes of the demarcation, but also to bridge the communities together across border in lasting peace,” stated Said Djinnit, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in West Africa and Chairman of the Mixed Commission. He congratulated Cameroon and Nigeria and their respective leaders, President Paul Biya and President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, for their unwavering commitment to the peaceful implementation of the ICJ judgment.

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