



Visit of H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI  
President of the Federal Republic  
of NIGERIA

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**PRESS KIT**  
Dossier de presse

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## **HIGH-LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN CAMEROON AND NIGERIA**

### **Visits of Nigerian Heads of State to Cameroon**

- President Goodluck JONATHAN participated in the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, which took place in Yaounde on June 24-25, 2013.
- President Goodluck JONATHAN's first trip abroad was in Cameroon on May 20, 2010. This was during celebrations marking Cameroon's 50th anniversary of independence. Two former Nigerian leaders; Mr OLUSEGUN OBASANJO and YAKUBU GOWON were also present in the event.
- President-elect His Excellency Alhadji Umaru Musa YAR'ADUA paid a courtesy visit to Cameroon on May 12, 2007.
- President Olusegun OBASANJO paid two visits to Cameroon (1999 and 2004).

### **President Paul Biya's Visits to Nigeria**

- President Paul Biya visited Nigeria in 1983 and 1991.
- He attended the Commonwealth Summit in Abuja in 2003.
- He was present at the swearing-in ceremony of President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003.
- He took part in the inauguration of President Yar'Adua on May 29, 2007.
- President Paul Biya equally attended celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Nigeria's independence on October 1, 2010 in Abuja.

### **Visits at the ministerial level**

- The Vice - Prime Minister, Amadou Ali has visited Abuja on many occasions as a Special Envoy of the Head of State.
- The Prime Minister, Head of Government, Philemon Yang represented the Head of State during the centenary celebrations of the Nigerian Federation on February 27, 2014 in Yaounde. He also participated in the International Conference on Peace, Security and Development, which was organised during the event.
- Mr. Rene Emmanuel SADI, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, paid a visit to Abuja on March 15, 2014. He was a Special Envoy of the Head of State to his Nigerian counterpart H.E. Goodluck JONATHAN.
- Minister Rene Emmanuel SADI was bearer of a message from H.E Paul Biya to President Muhammadu BUHARI on June 23, 2015.

Nigerian ministers have also been in Cameroon. For example:

- H.E. OJO MADUEKWE, Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- H.E. Nuruddeen Muhammad, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was a Special Envoy of the President of Nigeria to his Cameroonian counterpart.
- H.E. Ambassador AMINU Bashir Wali, Minister of Foreign Affairs was a Special Envoy of President Goodluck JONATHAN to President Paul BIYA on February 28, 2015.



## PRESENTATION OF NIGERIA

### I- General information

- Official name: Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- National motto: Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress.
- National Anthem: Arise Oh Compatriots, Nigeria's Call Obey.
- Date of independence: October 1, 1960 (from the United Kingdom).
- Independence Day: October 1.
- Form of government: Federal Republic (36 federated states and a federal capital territory in Abuja).
- President: H.E. Muhammadu Buhari (elected on March 28, 2015).
- Vice President: Yemi OSINBAJO.
- Official language: English.
- Major political parties: the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC), and the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

### Geographic data

- Location: West Africa (around the Gulf of Guinea). Nigeria shares its territorial boundaries with Benin (west), Cameroon (east), Niger (north), and Chad (northeast).
- Total surface area: 923,968 km<sup>2</sup> (ranked 32nd in the world).
- Neighbouring countries: Cameroon, Niger, Benin and Chad.
- Capital: Abuja (since 1991).
- Main cities: Lagos, Ibadan, Benin City, Kano, Port Harcourt etc.

### Demographics

- Population in 2014 stood at 177 million inhabitants. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the 7th in the world. This is made up of Hausa-Fulani (29%), Yoruba (21%), Igbo (18%), Ijaw (10%), Kanuri (4%), etc.
- Population density: 192 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>.

- Population growth: 2.8%.
- Life expectancy: 52 years.
- Literacy rate: 61.3%.
- Local languages: at least 250 (Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Edu, Kanuri, Tiv and Fulani).
- Religions: Islam (50% in the north), Christianity (40% in the south), animism (10%).
- Human Development Index: 152nd on 187 (UNDP).

### Economic data

- Currency: Naira.
- GDP: US\$ 574 billion (according to the IMF in 2014). Nigeria is the 1st economic power in Africa.
- GDP per sectors: Services such as banking, insurance, housing, and trade (52%), oil and gas industry (14.4%), agriculture (22%), other industries (11.6%), film and music industry (1.42%).
- Per capita GDP: US\$ 2,710 (IMF 2014).
- Growth rate: 6.3% (IMF 2014).
- Inflation rate: 8.1% (IMF 2014).
- Trade balance: US\$ 47 billion surplus (WTO 2013).
- Main customers according to the WTO in 2013: European Union (35.6%), USA (16.9%), India (11.1%), Brazil (7.5%), China (5.6%).
- Major suppliers according to the WTO in 2013: European Union (23.3%), China (21.5%), USA (13.6%), India (8%), Brazil (8%).
- 1st African oil producer.
- Cameroon's 1st trading partner.

### Other data

- Mo Ibrahim Index on Governance in Africa: 37th on 52 in 2015.
- Doing Business 2015: 170th on 189.

- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI): Nigeria was declared complaint on March 1, 2011. Next validation date is February 26, 2016.
- Transparency International ranking in 2014: 136th out of 175.

## II - Political History

Northern Nigeria was dominated for over 600 years by the Kanem Empire (until the 14th Century), and the Kanem-Bornu Empire by the Lake Chad area (at its peak in the 16th Century).

USMAN Dan FODIO merged most areas in the north to the Islamic empire of Sokoto in the early 19th Century.

The United Kingdom established a legal status for the Royal Niger Company in 1886. In 1900, this territory was divided into several protectorates, and was made a colony in 1914.

In response to the rise of nationalism after the Second World War, the British created a representative government in 1951, while the federal constitution was recognized in 1954.

Nigeria gained independence on October 1, 1960. The country was divided into three autonomous regions: North, West and East.

Major General Johnson Thomas Umunnakwe Aguiyi-Ironsi, an Igbo origin came to power through a January 1966 coup d'état, but he was assassinated in July 1966. Leaders of the new coup restructured the federal government with the creation of 12 states. Igbos suffered from a bloody reprisal in 1967, which led to secession with the creation of the "Republic of Biafra". This was followed by a war that ended on January 12, 1970.

A bloodless coup brought MURTALA RAMAT MOHAMMED to power in 1975. Although he promised a return to democracy, he was killed in a failed coup on February 13, 1976. He was replaced by General Olusegun Obasanjo.

The reintroduction of civil rule was established on October 1, 1979 with the election of Alhaji Shehu SHAGARI. His rule ended on December 31, 1983 in a coup led by General Muhammadu BUHARI. On August 27, 1985, General Buhari was ousted from power by General Ibrahim Babangida Badamassi, who propagated the return to democracy and civilian rule.

Initially scheduled to take place on January 2, 1992, presidential elections finally took place in June 1993. Chief Moshood ABIOLA was widely considered winner of the polls, which were cancelled by President Babangida due to widespread irregularities.

However, General Babangida voluntarily left office on August 26, 1993 and was replaced by Chief Ernest SHONEKAN, a civilian chosen by the military. He too resigned and was replaced by his vice, General Sani ABACHA on December 1993.

Coming to power on June 9, 1998, after the death of SANI ABACHA, General Abdulsalami ABUBAKAR opened a new political era in Nigeria marked by electoral reforms, and the organisation of general elections (municipal, governorship, senatorial, and presidential).

On February 27, 1999, retired General Olusegun OBASANJO was elected president with 62.78% of the vote cast against Chief Olu FALAE (43.72%). He was re-elected in 2003 after winning 61.90% of the votes against General Mohammadu Buhari's 32.20%.

General elections (local, governorship and presidential) of April 14 and 21, 2007 led the PDP's Umaru Musa Yar'Adua to power, with Vice-President Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN. The latter was appointed Acting President after the hospitalisation of Yar'Adua in Saudi Arabia who passed away on May 5, 2010. Goodluck JONATHAN, in accordance with the constitution, took oath the next day, becoming President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

President Goodluck JONATHAN was elected for a five-year term on April 9, 2011. Cameroon was represented at his swearing-in ceremony by the President of the National Assembly, Right Honourable Cavaye Yeguie DJIBRIL.

Although a source of hope, Mr Goodluck JONATHAN was disputed by the opposition due to the extent of widespread corruption in Nigeria. For example, the disappearance of US\$ 20 billion crates of the NNPC oil company.

The insurrection of the Boko Haram movement in the Federated States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa was another challenge President Goodluck Jonathan faced during his stay in power. The inability of the federal government to end the insurgency has been criticised worldwide. The Boko Haram terrorist group led by Abubakar SHEKAU took control of two thirds of Borno state and has been threatening the northern part of Cameroon.

The presidential elections of February 14, 2015 finally took place on March 28, 2015. Retired General Muhammadu Buhari emerged winner with 15,424,921 votes (53.95%). He was candidate of the APC coalition of opposition parties. The party also won an absolute majority in the Senate (63 seats out of 109). The APC has a majority in the House of Representatives too, while it can boast of 21 governors out of 36 in Nigeria.

## Domestic Policy

Inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts (tensions between Muslims and Christians) regularly punctuate daily activities in Nigeria. Since 2009, Boko Haram has been the main source of insecurity in the country, especially in the north-eastern states of Nigeria (Borno, Kano, Yobe...) and the capital Abuja. The terrorist group has claimed suicide attacks and bombings against public and religious buildings as well as on security forces. These attacks led to the short-term closure of Nigeria's borders with neighbouring countries such as Cameroon on December 31, 2011. This was lifted on August 3, 2012. The same borders were closed again on February 23, 2014. Nigeria also imposed a state of emergency in the aforementioned states since May 14, 2013.

Nigeria requested for international assistance to fight against Boko Haram after the kidnapping of

276 schoolgirls in Chibok, Borno State on April 14, 2014. A summit devoted principally to Boko Haram was held in Paris on May 17, 2014. It was attended by the Heads of State of Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Chad, France, and representatives from the USA, Great Britain and the EU. The meeting concluded with several decisions to strengthen regional cooperation and international action in the war against Boko Haram, and to protect victims (see details on Conclusions of the Paris Security Summit on Nigeria). These resolutions are being implemented progressively.

The mobilisation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin has equally contributed to the creation of the Multinational Joint Task Force with headquarters in Ndjamena, Chad.

The newly elected President of Nigeria will face the following issues:

### 1) *Insecurity*

- President Muhammadu Buhari wants to eradicate Boko Haram with a major reliance on the Nigerian military. He has promised to provide financial aid and logistics to defeat the terrorists, and to pursue regional cooperation with neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Benin).
- President Buhari wishes to develop poor areas in the Northeast with a restart of oil exploration in Borno State. He wants to also promote solutions to preserve fishing and agriculture around Lake Chad.
- The Niger Delta remains sensitive especially with the kidnappings of oil engineers by men linked to the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). The amnesty programme launched in 2009 by the federal government (under the then chairmanship of President Yar'Adua) has brought relative calm, but it ends this year. Failure to renew the amnesty could re-establish another rebellion in a region controlled by the PDP opposition. President BUHARI is also committed to the fight against oil exploitation linked pollution, and to implement the August 2011 recommendations of UN Programme for the Environment.

- The Middle Belt of Nigeria forms the third front of insecurity with a significant increase of violence lately.

## 2) Corruption and inclusive growth

- President BUHARI wishes to engage many reforms in the oil sector. The largest economy on the African continent suffers from an unfavourable economic environment (lower oil prices, lower budgetary resources affecting the federal budget and foreign exchange reserves, borrowing, downward revision of the growth rate). Whereas it depends heavily on revenue from crude oil exports.
- The new government is oriented around reforms on oil and gas, and energy with gas prices that can attract investors. It also wants to end subsidies on already refined imported products, overhaul the administration for transparency, and finalise the ongoing privatisation of sub-sectors in the generation and distribution of electricity.
- Agriculture is 21.6% of Nigeria's GDP. Agricultural policies are expected to remain unchanged. Meanwhile the development and of the agro-industry shall be regionalised.

## Economy

### - Structural Elements

Nigeria is the 1st economic power in Africa with a GDP of US\$ 574 billion in 2014. She is ranked 26th in the world with the 20th best purchasing power parity. Nigeria is a key player in the economic transformation of Africa with a growth rate of 6% per year in the last ten years (figures revised by the IMF). In 2011, Doing Business considered Nigeria to be competitive and healthy despite security concerns.

The distribution of the GDP has been structurally transformed. Oil and gas account for only 14.4% of GDP (20 points less compared to 2003). This is due to the stagnation of the oil production capacity coupled with an increase in the share of services (52%) in the economy. However, hydrocarbons represented 90% of total exports in 2014. Agriculture (Nigeria is a major producer of cocoa, palm oil and various other agricultural products) represented only 21.6% of the GDP (against 40% in 2003). The country has a manufacturing

revolution (almost 7% of non-oil GDP, against 2% ten years ago). Transformation in the services and industry sectors is causing the emergence of an estimated 20 million middle class (US\$ 645 monthly income earners).

Unfortunately, the Nigerian growth is not necessarily synonymous with development, since over 60% of the population currently lives on less than a dollar a day. This is 10% more than ten years ago. Job creation is an important issue because 50% of Nigerians are under 18 years old and the official unemployment rate is 24%.

N.B. The GDP of Nigeria was re-valued on April 6, 2014 to integrate new sectors such as telecommunications, air transport and the film industry, making the country the 1st African economic power ahead of South Africa.

During the decade 2003-2013, foreign direct investment (FDI) was US\$ 4 billion.

Nigeria's economy suffers from a large deficit in infrastructure. The electricity supply is also insufficient: it is ten times lower than that of South Africa. Given its energy deficit, Nigeria established an acquisition of a nuclear energy programme on July 31, 2006 through the creation of the Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) by President Olusegun Obasanjo. In 2009, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) approved the nuclear programme in Nigeria. To mitigate any incident which may emanate from nuclear activity, the Federal Government had announced the release of two million US dollars in matching funds to the IAEA, for the expansion of medical services arising from the development of nuclear energy and radiation for detection, treatment and control of cancer in ten hospitals spread over the entire territory.

Finally, corruption is endemic in Nigeria as the country is ranked 136th corrupt country out of 175 by Transparency International (2014).

## Economic Conditions

The year 2014 was marked by slow growth related to falling oil prices.

Since September of the same year, the stock market

was down to 30% of its market capitalization. The election of President BUHARI has however led to a partial recovery. The central bank devalued the Naira twice against the US dollar (in November 2014 and February 2015). According to some experts, President BUHARI could encourage a further devaluation of the naira at the beginning of his mandate.

Lower oil revenues led mechanically to lower foreign exchange earnings. In mid-May 2015, foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 28 billion, a drop of nearly US\$ 9 billion to the 2009-2013 average of US\$ 37.6 billion (about 4 months of imports during 7.5 months in 2013).

## Public Finance

While 75% of budgetary resources emanate from hydrocarbons, an oil shock during the summer of 2014 gravely affected the budget (the budget passed in April 2015 showed a decrease of 12.5% compared to 2014). The oil reserves account (US\$ 3.5 billion) are the lowest since its inception in 2004 (against US\$ 28 billion during the 2008 crisis) and the capitalization of the sovereign fund does not exceed US\$ 2 billion.

In 2014, budget revenues of the Federation were as follows: 75% from the petroleum sector (taxes and royalties), less than 15% of taxes and about 10% from Customs. The level of taxes is abnormally low (7% of GDP against 25% in South Africa).

In this context, the BUHARI Government could resume the measures envisaged by the outgoing administration: (i) to sell new public enterprises; (ii) stop subventions on gasoline.

## Debt Situation

The government resorts to borrowing to finance its development plans in the electricity and transport sectors. The loan, however, served in the first half 2015 to pay the salaries of officials and to purchase arms.

85% of the debt stock is composed of debt securities (treasury bonds and the federal government essentially). Nigerian debt has a low risk of debt distress in the federal state: the debt service is contained at 12% of GDP, only 1.5% of GDP in external debt.

However, the debt service this year would absorb 36% of federal budget revenues.

## Economic perspectives

Nigeria has set up a development plan called «Vision 2020», which aims at making the country to be one of the world's top 20 economies by 2020. In this light, the new government should place its actions in line with those of the previous administration.

Nigeria launched a major structural reform programme in 2009 called the transformation agenda. This agenda was supplemented by an industrial revolution program to promote national industrial champions, and attract international investors.

The main directions of this agenda could change, however: more expansionary fiscal policy, major works to reduce unemployment; devaluation of the local currency...

Space exploration also interested Nigeria. First, telecommunications satellites have been launched since May 14, 2007 with the cooperation of China. But it was a failure. Recently, two other satellites were launched into space. They will, among others serve in the management of natural disasters.

## Foreign Policy

Nigeria has become a leading player in West Africa and in the African Union. The country is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2014-2015 biennium. She is host to the ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja, which is a fundamental instrument of Nigeria's influence in Africa. In 2007, Nigeria lobbied within the organisation reject the signing, on time, of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union.

Nigeria is a member of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), one of the oldest African regional institutions (founded in 1964). The organisation has six member countries: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad, CAR and Libya. Its headquarters is in N'Djamena, Chad.

Committed to the maintenance of peace since the 1960s, Nigeria is currently the 5th largest contributor

(and the second in Africa after Ethiopia) in peacekeeping operations (PKO) within the United Nations with a total of 4,800 peacekeepers. Between January 2005 and January 2013 it has consistently positioned itself among the ten largest contributors in terms of troops.

The country is currently involved in 10 of the 16 UN peacekeeping operations underway. Major deployments are in UNAMID in Darfur (2,543 men or 17.6% of the total workforce) and UNMIL in Liberia (where Nigeria is also committed under the aegis of ECOWAS - ECOMOG).

In 2013, Nigeria was among the first African states to deploy troops in Mali to the benefit of MISMA (1,200 men), which was under its command, and the MINUSMA. A withdrawal of the quota was made in July 2013 (only 261 servicemen have been maintained).

The dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon on the sovereignty of the Bakassi Peninsula was settled by

a judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on October 10, 2002, but it was not until 2006 that Nigeria complied with the putting in place of the Green Tree Agreement. The Republic of Cameroon gained sovereignty, since October 2013, on the entire peninsula.

A UN program approved by Nigerian and Cameroonian authorities is intended, in this border region, to promote social-economic micro-projects in favour of the affected population.

Finally, Nigeria has an important influence on its regional environment thanks to its population and the importance of its Diaspora, not to mention the financial strength of its banks and the radiance of its audiovisual production (third film producer in the world with the «Nollywood» film industry).





## CAMEROON-NIGERIA RELATIONS

### Political and Diplomatic Relations

Bilateral relations between Cameroon and Nigeria were established in 1960. These relationships are greatly influenced by historical, geographical and economic factors. Several agreements govern these relations.

These are:

- The Agreement of Friendship and Cooperation of February 6, 1963;
- The Memorandum of Understanding on the control of movement of persons and goods of February 6, 1963;
- The cultural, social and technical agreement of March 22, 1972;
- The Trade Agreement of February 6, 1963, revised on January 13, 1982 and April 11, 2014 in Yaounde;
- Air services Agreement of May 19, 1978;
- The Agreement on Police Cooperation of March 27, 1972;
- Mutual Cooperation agreement of March 27, 1972;
- The Memorandum of Understanding on the transnational highway project to facilitate transportation between Cameroon and Nigeria on March 29, 2006 in Yaounde;
- The Green Tree Agreement of June 12, 2006;
- The Cameroon-Nigeria electrical interconnection Agreement, signed on February 18, 2011 in Yaounde;
- Cooperation Agreement in the field of Sports and Physical Education, signed on February 18, 2011 in Yaounde;
- The Agreement Establishing Cameroon-Nigeria Border Security Committee signed on February 28, 2012 in Abuja;
- Cooperation Agreement in the fields of Science and Technology, signed on April 11, 2014 in Yaounde;
- Memorandum of Understanding relating to the implementation of the programme on cooperation and cultural exchanges, signed on April 11, 2014;
- Agreement on Youth Development, signed on April 11, 2014 in Yaounde.

H.E. Mrs. Hadiza Mustapha, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Cameroon presented copies of her credentials to Cameroon's Minister of External Relations on August 10, 2012, and her credentials to the Head of State on December 7, 2012.

Appointed by decree No. 2008/132 of April 7, 2008, H.E. Salaheddine Abbas IBRAHIMA is Cameroon's High Commissioner to Nigeria. He presented his credentials on July 25, 2008. Cameroon has a Consulate General in Lagos and a Consulate in Calabar headed respectively by H.E. Dong Ekorong Paul and H.E ATANGANA Michel Auguste.

Nigeria has two Consulates General in Cameroon, Douala and Buea. It plans to open another one in Garoua.

Historically, relations between Cameroon and Nigeria have been based primarily on the internal situation, the temperament of the men in power, politicians, and governors of Border States of Nigeria.

The cooperation between the two countries has been hampered by misunderstandings arising from:

- The presence of suspected Boko Haram members in Cameroon ;
- The problems inherent in the demarcation of the border (including the lake area, sea and land) ;
- The fight to safeguard specific interests (energy resources, wildlife, forest and aquatic) ;
- The significant presence of the Nigerians on Cameroonian territory (estimated at 4 million people);
- The divergent interpretation of texts (protesting bad faith by Nigeria with respect to the 1975 Maroua Declaration and the Anglo-German Treaty of 1913) ;
- The sea and land border dispute, and the closure of the land border due to the outbreak of the Ebola virus.

Concerning the border dispute over the Bakassi

Peninsula, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on the matter on October 10, 2002. A Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission was created for the implementation of this judgement. Faced with hesitations from Nigeria, the then Secretary General of the UN, KOFI ANNAN, successfully brought the two Heads of State to adopt measures for the implementation of this judgment on five different occasions. The Green Tree Agreement was signed during the fifth meeting, which took place on June 12, 2006 in New York, USA. It regulates the details of the withdrawal of Nigerian from the Bakassi Peninsula, and the status of foreigners living on this peninsula. The transfer of authority and the withdrawal of Nigerian troops in the Bakassi Peninsula took place on August 14, 2008. On August 14, 2013 the special transitional regime came to an end.

To date, the Joint Commission for the implementation of the October 10, 2002 judgment has held 33 regular sessions and five special sessions. At its fifth special

session, held on May 11, 2007 in Abuja, the Joint Commission approved the final maritime boundary. As for demarcation of the land border, work is continuing normally. Over 90% of the border between the two countries has been demarcated. The process to delimit the boundaries is underway. However, there are a few tens of kilometres which remain a stumbling block.

The sessions of the Enlarged Joint Commission on Cooperation were resumed in 2008 with the holding of the fourth Session on October 9-11, 2008 in Yaounde. The 5th Session was on November 23-24, 2010 in Abuja. The 6th session took place on April 9-11, 2014 in Yaoundé. The 7th session is scheduled to take place in Abuja in 2016.

These meetings enabled both sides to discuss issues relating to security cooperation in the consular, economic, commercial, scientific, judicial and socio-cultural milieu.

## **Economic, commercial and technical cooperation**

As part of the implementation of resolutions of the Mixed Commissions, open days on the economy and trade in Nigeria were held in Douala in February 2009, while those on Cameroon were held in Calabar (2009), Kano and Port Harcourt (2010), and Lagos (2012). A Business Forum between the two countries is being prepared.

Cooperation in the field of Post and Telecommunications has been consolidated through the holding of a sector by sector joint committee on Posts and Telecommunications on October 28 - November 4, 2009 in Abuja. A monitoring committee has been set up in Cameroon's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Nigeria took part in every edition of the International Exhibition of Crafts in Cameroon (SIARC). In return, Cameroon participates in the annual editions of the exhibition on African arts and crafts, «African Festival for Arts and Craft Exposition» (AFAC) in Abuja, Nigeria since 2008.

Experts worked on the management of protected areas shared between Cameroon and Nigeria on November 11, 2010 in Limbe, Cameroon. A draft agreement has been approved by both parties.

Regarding the implementation of the Agreement on the electrical interconnection between Cameroon and Nigeria, a meeting between the Cameroonian and

Nigerian experts in charge of the electricity sector was held on June 7-10, 2010 in Yola in the Federated State of Adamawa. A draft Memorandum of Understanding emerged for the establishment of a Steering Committee.

Experts of the two countries met on December 27-29, 2012 as part of the establishment of a warning system in cases of floods from the Lagdo Dam. The Honourable Minister of Water Resources of Nigeria visited Cameroon on July 23-26, 2013. A draft MOU was negotiated on December 19, 2014 in Abuja. Its signature remains pending.

From February 27 to March 2, 2013, Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and Cameroon's National Agency for Standards and Quality (ANOR) began negotiations on establishing a partnership between the two institutions, to further facilitate trade and the fight against the circulation of counterfeit drugs between Cameroon and Nigeria. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ANOR and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has been signed, while a partnership agreement between NAFDAC and ANOR is being negotiated.

Cameroonian and Nigerian experts met in Abuja on November 11-14, 2013 as part of the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement in the field of Sports and Physical Education.

## Security Cooperation

To fight against insecurity along their common border, the two countries signed an Agreement on the establishment of a Cross Border Security Committee (CST) on February 28, 2012 in Abuja. In this connection, officials in charge of surveillance and intelligence gathering shall meet should it be necessary.

The fight against Boko Haram is a major concern between the two countries. Cameroon has reorganised its military structures in the northern region. The fourth inter-military region (RMIA4), a fourth police region and the 41st motorized infantry brigade (4th BRIM) were created in August 2014. Heavy military equipment and 6,000 men are deployed in the Far North to defend the country's territory.

The Cameroon-Nigeria Cross Border Security Committee held its first session on November 6-8, 2013 in Yaounde. The second session was on July 8-11, 2014 in Abuja. Yaounde hosted the third session on February 18-20, 2015. Recommendations to jointly fight effectively against crime in general have been developed. From January 16-19, 2015, a workshop on cross-border cooperation was held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. This workshop identified several areas of common interest that require cooperation between the two countries, to develop the border areas.

The cooperation between Cameroon and Nigeria was strengthened through the release of the seven French hostages kidnapped in Cameroon by Boko Haram on February 19, 2013, and released on April 19, 2013. A French priest was kidnapped on November 14, 2013. Security cooperation between the two countries resulted in the release of the priest on December 31, 2013. This was same for some Chinese and Cameroonian hostages.

As part of the fight against insecurity in Nigeria, the two Heads of State participated, alongside other Presidents of neighbouring countries, and officials from the USA, Britain and the European Union, in a summit held in Paris on May 17, 2014. Follow-up meetings to implement resolutions of the summit held on June 12, 2014 in London, August 5, 2014 were in Washington, September 3, 2014 in Abuja and on January 20, 2015 in Niamey, Nigeria.

On January 29, 2015 the African Union officially supported the putting in place of the Multinational Joint Task Force of the LCBC and Benin. A meeting for the development of the rules of engagement was held in Yaounde on February 5-7, 2015. The documents produced were forwarded to the AU, which submitted them to the UN Security Council for adoption.

However, Nigeria has changed its position on the idea of a vote in the UN Security Council. At an Extraordinary Summit of the LCBC on June 11, 2015 in Abuja, Nigeria opted for the enhancement of cooperation between the countries of the LCBC and Benin. The 8,700-man coalition force shall consist mainly of Nigerian soldiers under the command of a Nigerian born General Tukur Burutai. Its headquarters shall be based in N'Djamena, Chad. Nigeria has pledged to donate 100 million US dollars.

Furthermore, ECCAS, after the February 2015 extraordinary COPAX summit in Yaounde, designated Heads of State of the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to meet with Nigerian and Ghanaian authorities for the organisation of an ECOWAS-ECCAS summit for the adoption of a bi-regional strategy against Boko Haram. The ECOWAS-ECCAS Summit, originally scheduled for April 2015 has been postponed indefinitely.



## **PROJECTS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES**

- The construction of the Bamenda-Enugu cross-border road, which started on June 21, 2010. Its completion is highly anticipated;
- The electrical interconnection project for the transfer of energy from Cameroon to Nigeria, whose finalisation was made during the fifth session of the Cameroon-Nigeria Enlarged Mixed Commission for Cooperation in 2010 in Abuja (Nigeria) and signatures were accorded for the electrical interconnection agreement of February 18, 2011 in Yaounde;
- The proposed construction of a bridge over the Mayo Tiel border river in the Northern Region of the Federated State of Adamawa with the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference (TDR's) relating thereto are under negotiation;
- The proposed visit to Nigeria of senior Cameroonian officials. Similar to visits to Cameroon in 2011 and 2013, by participants of a refresher course for senior officials of the National Institute of Political and Strategic Studies of Nigeria (NIPSS).

## **PERSPECTIVES ON PENDING CASES**

- The proposed construction of a bridge over the Mayo Tiel to facilitate the movement persons and goods between Nigeria and northern Cameroon;
- A meeting by the Committee on Consular and Immigration Issues;
- Negotiation on a draft Agreement on Cross border Cooperation especially on hydrocarbon products in the maritime border area;
- Negotiation on a Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Warning System on Flood Risk Management in the Benue Basin;
- Opening of negotiations on the partnership agreement between Cameroon's Agency for Standards and Quality (ANOR) and Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC);
- Visit to Nigeria by senior Cameroonian officials in 2015;
- Organisation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Business Forum in April 2015 in Abuja;
- Opening of the land boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria, closed because of outbreak of the Ebola virus since August 2014;
- Opening of a Nigerian Consulate General in Garoua.



## BASIC FACTS ON BOKO HARAM

**Boko Haram:** “Western Education is Forbidden”, in Hausa.

**Official Name:** People of the Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad or Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’Awati Wal-Jihad in Arabic.

**Year of Creation:** 2002

**Leadership:** Mohammed Yusuf, founder (2002-2009) from the Bornu state and since 2009 Abubakar Shekau from the Yobe State of Nigeria.

**Areas of Operation:** Northeast Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad where they currently control some 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land.

**Strength:** 7000-10,000 fighters divided into units of 300-500.

**Allies:** Al-Qaeda via AQMI and ISIL in Iraq and the Levant.

**Funding:** Bank robbery, highway banditry, ransoms from kidnappings, donations from International terrorist groups and sympathizers, drug trafficking, poaching, etc.

**Activities:** Boko Haram has been changing its activities and strategies since its creation, which have resulted in:

- Radical mass education of its ideology based on Wahhabism, Salafi Jihadism, and Islamic

Fundamentalism, mostly between 2002-2009;

- Armed attacks, suicide bombings, and extra-judicial killings resulting in over 10.000 deaths between 2009 and 2015;
- Abduction of more than 1000 men, women, and children including the 276 Chibok schoolgirls;
- Forced migration of about 2 million people including refugees in Cameroon, Chad and Niger as well as Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria;
- Capturing of territory to create a Caliphate, which started with Gwoza in Bornu in August 2014 and now includes several towns and villages covering a total of some 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>;
- Atrocity propaganda of its extra-judicial killings aimed at creating fear; etc.

**International Response:** Since 2013, Boko Haram has been classified as a terrorist group by the UK, the US, Canada, the UN, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Arab Emirates. The US has even pledged a reward of US\$7 million on its leader, Abubakar Shekau. Other countries like France, the Russian Federation, Spain, Brazil and China have promised assistance in the fight against the terrorist organisation.

In Africa, regional organizations such the AU, ECCAS, ECOWAS, LCBC, and CEN-SAD have been involved in providing regional and global military solutions to fight the terrorist organization.



## BOKO HARAM: ISLAMIST SECT TO TERRORIST GROUP, BECOMING A REGIONAL THREAT

The Nigerian group Boko Haram was originally a sect of Muslim extremists. It has evolved since its creation in 2002 into an armed terrorist group affiliated to the Islamic State (ISIS), and is threatening countries of the region.

Boko Haram means «Western education is a sin» in Hausa, the most spoken language in northern Nigeria. But the group prefers to be called Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (Group for Preaching and Jihad).

Advocating a radical and rigorous Islam, Mohammed Yusuf, the founder of Boko Haram, accused Western values introduced by British colonists to be the cause of the ills befalling the country. His wish was to establish an Islamic state.

He seduced the idle youth of Maiduguri, capital of Borno (northeast), with a critical speech against a Nigerian regime he accused of being «corrupt, neglecting the socio-economic development of the populous region made up of mostly Muslims.» His sermons in mosques attracted more and more followers in the 1990s. Boko Haram is considered to be born in 2002 when Yusuf began to attract the attention of authorities.

In 2009, clashes broke out between Boko Haram and the Nigerian police in Maiduguri. The army came in force, killing 700 people. It also captured and executed Mohammed Yusuf.

The movement became illegal, its main actors who survived fled abroad. A French researcher called Marc-Antoine Perouse de Montclos says: «*It was at that period that they were retrieved by an international jihadist group, which convinced them of the uselessness of peaceful protests.*»

In their underground exit, the leaders of Boko Haram passed to a higher level: it is no longer just wanting to apply Islamic law in Nigeria, it must

destabilise the state with a campaign of violence (denial of fundamental freedoms and human rights, kidnapping, hostage taking, looting and destruction of property, sexual violence, civilian massacres, crimes against humanity, etc.).

Abubakar Shekau, aide to the executed leader, took his place at the head of Boko Haram. This was followed by an escalation of violence, with dozens of attacks causing several thousand deaths, targeting schools, churches, mosques and symbols of the state and security forces in the North East.

Considered by the US as a «global terrorist», Abubakar Muhammad Shekau has already been declared dead on three occasions by Nigerian security forces, before reappearing in videos.

The kidnapping in mid-April 2014 of more than 200 teenage girls from a high school Chibok in Borno State, gave worldwide recognition to the group.

In August 2014, Boko Haram declared a «caliphate» in areas under its control. This terrorist group recorded territorial conquests in the North-East of Nigeria (especially in the states of Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno). It multiplied deadly attacks in the far north of Cameroon and in January 2015 it attacked Niger and Chad too.

The worsening situation led to the outbreak of a Chadian offensive in January 2015, supported by the Nigerian and Cameroonian forces and relayed by Niger's military.

According to diplomats, members of Boko Haram allegedly trained with al-Qaeda fighters in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in northern Mali in 2012-2013. Washington also said that there are links between the two organisations.

In terms of funding, Boko Haram receives support from believers in mosques and also money from banks and military bases. This enables it to enlist

hundreds of underprivileged youth to go to battle.

The call for international mobilisation by President Paul Biya on January 8, 2015, to deal with Boko Haram is clearly resonating. The African Union condemned the terrorist attacks by Boko Haram and called for the creation of a regional force of 7,500 men to counter the terrorist group. The Heads of State of ECCAS express solidarity to President Paul Biya and congratulated the defence and security forces of Cameroon for their bravery in the fight against Boko Haram. They also expressed their gratitude to the President of Chad, Idriss Deby ITNO, for the fraternal support that Chad brought to Cameroon by sending a large contingent to the fight against the terrorist sect, Boko Haram.

An extraordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) dedicated to the fight against Boko Haram met in Yaounde, Cameroon, on February 16, 2015. It resulted to the Yaounde Declaration which reaffirms the determination of member States of ECCAS to fight against Boko Haram, and their commitment to fully cooperate with ECOWAS to jointly coordinate actions against Boko Haram.

The establishment of a Multinational Joint Task

Force, as decided by the African Union in January 2015, is in progress. Nigeria has pledged to contribute US\$ 100 million (of which US\$ 20 million has already been paid to Chad). Discussions on a resolution at the UN Security Council resumed after the installation of the new Nigerian authorities.

France has played a facilitating role in regional cooperation with Nigeria's Francophone neighbours, particularly through the Paris Summit (May 17, 2014). It supports (nearly € 10 million) the Chadian, Nigerian and Cameroonian armies through the sharing of intelligence, facilitating coordination and providing logistics and training.

The US and UK partners also provide substantial support.

The many setbacks suffered by Boko Haram on the ground against the vigorous response of the coalition forces from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria pushed Boko Haram to pay allegiance in early March 2015, to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, which accepted.

In recent months, Boko Haram has lost most of the localities it captured in north-eastern Nigeria, according to Nigerian authorities. But it is in possession of terrifying weapon, suicide bombings, to terrorise civilians especially in crowded places such as markets and bus stations.



## CONCLUSIONS OF THE PARIS SUMMIT ON SECURITY IN NIGERIA (17 MAY 2014)

The Heads of State of Benin, Cameroon, France, Nigeria, Niger and Chad as well as the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the European Union participated in a summit on security in Nigeria on 17 May 2014. The summit was occasion for the intensification of regional and international mobilisation to fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

The meeting ended with several decisions which will reinforce cooperation amongst the states in the region, not only to free the young girls who were taken captive but also to intensify the fight against Boko Haram. The partners at the meeting (France, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the European Union) committed themselves to support this regional cooperation and to increase the international means required to fight Boko Haram and to protect the victims. All the states reasserted their commitment to the respect of human rights, in particular the protection of the rights of young girls who are victims of violence, forced marriages or threatened with slavery.

### Regional cooperation

Nigeria and its neighbours will develop the capacity to analyse and to react thereby contributing to reinforce the security of the population and the rule of law in all the zones affected by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram.

To fight against the threat emanating from Boko Haram, which of recent carried out several deadly attacks and kidnapped over 270 school girls, Nigeria at its neighbours decided to immediately:

#### 1. On a bilateral bases.

- Institute mixed patrols that are well coordinated to fight Boko Haram and search for the missing persons.
- Put in place a system of intelligence sharing so as to sustain this operational action.
- Put in place mechanisms for the exchange of information on arms trafficking and reinforce measures to secure arms stocks.

- Put in place mechanisms for the monitoring of borders.

#### 2. On a multilateral bases.

- Put in place a unit for the convergence of intelligence.
- Institute a team dedicated to the identification of the means to be required and also to elaborate a regional strategy for the fight against Boko Haram within the Lake Chad Basin Commission.
- This approach is a logical follow-up to the Lake Chad Basin Commission which took place in 2012. The United States, the United Kingdom, France and the European Union will coordinate their support to this regional cooperation: technical expertise, training programmes, and support to programmes for the management of frontier areas.

### Action at international level

The participants committed themselves to accelerating the process of putting up international sanctions, first of all within the ambit of the United Nations, against Boko Haram, Ansaru and their main leaders.

- Mobilisation in favour of marginalised zones and the fragile population, especially women who are exposed to all forms of violence.
- The three countries and the European Union committed to mobilising funding for programmes geared towards the socio-economic development of the regions concerned, with particular emphasis on the equality between men and women, the rights of women and girls, and especially their right to education, the reinforcement of the participation of women in all levels of decision making as well as the support of victims of sexual violence (judicial assistance, medical help and psycho-social support).
- The European Union will devote a good number of its programmes in this direction and will reinforce its fight against radicalisation.
- The participants agreed that the United Kingdom will host a meeting next month at ministerial level to review the progress on the implementation of this plan of action.





## DECLARATION OF YAOUNDE

### BY MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND SECURITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA (COPAX) ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TERRORIST GROUP BOKO HARAM

- We, Heads of State of the Member States of the Council for Peace and Security of Central Africa (COPAX)**, meeting in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, on the occasion of the Extraordinary Conference of Heads of State of COPAX, devoted to the fight against Boko Haram;
- 1. Considering** the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States, signed in Libreville (Republic of Gabon) on 18 October 1983;
  - 2. Referring** to the relevant provisions of the COPAX Protocol and the Mutual Assistance Pact between ECCAS Member States, signed in Malabo on 24 February 2000;
  - 3. Concerned** by the repeated and growing attacks of the terrorist group Boko Haram against the Republic of Cameroon, and the Republic of Chad;
  - 4. Taking into consideration** the negative security, economic, social and humanitarian consequences the actions of this terrorist group have on the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad;
  - 5. Taking into consideration** also the fact that the countries concerned are compelled to divert substantial resources that were previously earmarked for their economic and social development to the fight against this terrorist group;
  - 6. Considering** the risk posed by this terrorist group Boko Haram to destabilize the entire Central African Sub-region;
  - 7. Aware** of the need to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism that cannot be justified under any circumstance;
  - 8. Noting** that terrorism cannot, and should not, be associated with any specific religion, nationality, civilization or group;
  - 9. Referring to** the various United Nations Resolutions on terrorism and violent extremism, notably Resolution 2178 of 24 September 2014, adopted at the meeting of the United Nations Security Council devoted to threats against international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism;
  - 10. Referring to** Resolutions 2195 of 19 December 2014 and 2199 of 12 February 2015 of the United Nations Security Council, devoted respectively to terrorism and organized trans-border crime, as well as to the condemnation of any form of financing of terrorism;
  - 11. Referring to** the Communiqué of the 455th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at the level of Heads of State and Government on the phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, held on 2 September 2014 in Nairobi;
  - 12. Referring equally** to the Declaration of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Matters in Central Africa, during their 39th Session held on 5 December 2014 in Bujumbura, in support of Cameroon and Chad in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram;
  - 13. Taking into to consideration** the Conclusions of the Meeting of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers of Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and of Benin of 20 January 2015 in Niamey;
  - 14. Considering** the Communiqué of the 484th Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 29th January 2015 in Addis Ababa on the terrorist group Boko Haram;

- 15. Building on** the Conclusions of the Consultation of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS on the terrorist group Boko Haram, held on 31 January 2015, on the sidelines of the 24th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
- 16. Strongly condemn** the terrorist actions of Boko Haram in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger;
- 17. Equally condemn** the financing and any form of support to the terrorist group Boko Haram;
- 18. Equally condemn** the unjustifiable ambitions of this terrorist group to establish an “Islamic Caliphate” in the Lake Chad area, thereby tending to challenge national boundaries in the area;
- 19. Support** all initiatives taken by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the African Union and the International Community in seeking solutions to this problem, in particular, the establishment of the Multinational Joint Force (MJF);
- 20. Undertake to** fully cooperate and at all levels with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in view of coordinating actions against the terrorist group Boko Haram;
- 21. Encourage** in particular the Federal Republic of Nigeria to increase the synergies with the other countries of the Lake Chad Basin in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram;
- 22. Congratulate** the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad on their exemplary cooperation to wipe out the terrorist group Boko Haram;
- 23. Undertake to** provide as soon as possible an active and multifaceted support to Cameroon, Chad and any other Member State of the Community that will be affected by the actions of this terrorist group Boko Haram, in particular military, financial, logistic and humanitarian assistance;
- 24. Urge** the International Community to maintain and increase its multifaceted support for the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram;
- 25. Appeal** to the United Nations and all the stakeholders involved in the resolution of the crisis in Central Africa, to speed up the political and national reconstruction process so as to enable the Central African Republic to have defence and security forces to fully control its entire territory and prevent the country from being used as a fall-back and resupply area for the terrorist group Boko Haram;
- 26. Mandate** the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to:
- a) **develop**, by the end of March 2015, in collaboration with the States concerned, a plan for political-diplomatic actions, logistical support, b) **set up**, in this regard, within the Secretariat General, a **Special Fund** in view of carrying out activities in the Member States concerned;
  - c) **maximise** synergies with existing institutional partners and immediately start identifying partnership opportunities with international and local stakeholders that may come to support, technically and financially, the actions of ECCAS Member States;
  - d) **sustain** the link with the African Union in order to guarantee its multifaceted support and ensure that it is in line with the MJF;
  - e) **ensure**, the follow-up of the implementation of this Declaration and submit to us on a constant basis a Report on the evolution of the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, as well as on all the measures undertaken in order to implement this Declaration.

**Done at Yaounde, 16 February 2015**



## FINAL COMMUNIQUE\_ENGLISH\_JUNE 2015

### FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION IN ABUJA (11 JUNE 2015).

1. An Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin was hosted by **H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI** the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 11 June 2015 at the Presidential Conference Lodge Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport Abuja (Nigeria) under the Chairmanship of **H.E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU**, President of Niger Republic, Current Chairman of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of LCBC member countries.
 

the coalition of the troops from Cameroun, Niger, Nigeria and Chad which have significantly broken down military capability of Boko Haram terrorist group. However, they agreed on the need to keep on this drive marked by solidarity in action by taking decisive measures in order to totally curb Boko Haram insurgency.
2. The following Heads of State were present in the Extraordinary Summit:
  - **H.E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU**, President of the Republic, Head of State of Niger
  - **H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI**, President of the Federal Republic, State of Nigeria
  - **H.E. IDRIS DEBY ITNO**, President of the Republic, Head of State of Chad
  - **H.E. PAUL BIYA**, President of the Republic, Head of State of Cameroon ably represented by Mr. **MEBE NGO'O EDGARD ALAIN**, Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence
  - **H.E. Dr. YAYI BONI**, President of the Republic, Head of State of Benin.
3. Deliberations focused on '**The Security Situation in the Lake Chad Basin, the Immediate Operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Adoption of Emergency Development Plan**' were preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Ministers of Defence, the Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Security and Intelligence Services of the LCBC member States and Benin.
 

5. The Heads of State and Government of LCBC and Benin further agreed on the need to support military operations with an emergency development plan in favour of vulnerable populations in the region in order to fight against the root causes of insecurity relating to poverty.
4. In the course of their deliberation, the Heads of State and Government of LCBC and Benin Republic acknowledged with satisfaction the success recorded on military operations jointly conducted in the field by
 

6. At the end of their deliberations, the Heads of State and Government of LCBC and Benin Republic took the following decisions:
5. Approved the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) Strategic and Operational and related documents of the MNJTF for the fight against Boko Haram terrorist group.
 

7. Approved the immediate deployment of the MNJTF HQ at N'Djamena (Chad) by implementing its human, logistic and financial requirements;
6. Approved the deployment of the national contingents to the MNJTF under the operational command of the MNJTF Commander assisted by his Joint Headquarters by 30th July 2015.
 

8. Approved the funding of the sum of Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000) USD for the installation and equipping of the MNJTF HQ.
7. Approved the establishment of the Executive Secretariat as the Headquarters of the Mission and the Executive Secretary of LCBC being the Head of Mission.

12. Approved the nomination of the 3 key post of responsibility of the MNJTF HQs as follows:

13. Force Commander: Nigeria (Until the end of the mission)

14. Deputy Force Commander: Cameroun (Rotational every 12 Months)

iii. Chief of Staff: Tchad (Rotational every 12 months)

g). Requests the African Union's support to the MNJTF in its operations, logistics and general mission support by mobilizing financial support.

1. Resolved to seek the support of strategic partners, notably European Union, France, United Kingdom and United States of America in favour of the MNJTF.

i). Requests the President of the UN Security Council to make a declarative statement in support of MNJTF Operations against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

1.j) Adopted the Emergency Plan for Development in the Lake Chad Basin.

7. At the end of their deliberations which were conducted amid a warm and brotherly atmosphere, the Heads of State and Government of LCBC and Benin Republic conveyed to their Brother, **H.E.M. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU**, President of the Republic of Niger and Current Chairman of the LCBC Summit, heartfelt gratitude for calling this important Summit; they also conveyed to **H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI** GCFR profound appreciation for hosting the Summit and requested him to transmit to the Government and good people of Nigeria, their deep gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to them and their delegations.

8. Done at Abuja, on June 11th, 2015, in French and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**H.E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU** President of the Republic, Head of State

For the Federal Republic of Niger

**H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI**

President of the Republic, Head of State

For the Federal Republic of Nigeria

**H.E. IDRIS DEBY ITNO**

President of the Republic, Head of State

**For the Republic of Chad**

**H.E. Dr. BONI YAYI,**

President of the Republic, Head of State

For the Republic of Benin

**H.E PAUL BIYA**

President of the Republic, Head of State,

represented by Mr. **MEBE NGO'O EDGARD**

**ALAIN**, Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence

**For the Republic of Cameroon**



## BIOGRAPHY OF HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL BIYA

President Paul BIYA was born on 13 February 1933 at Mvomeka'a, Meyomesalla Sub-division, Dja-et-Lobo Division, South Region to the Late Etienne Mvondo Assam and Mvondo Anastasie Eyenga Elle. President Biya, who is the second Head of State of Cameroon assumed office on 6 November 1982 following the resignation of President Ahmadou Ahidjo.

### 1. Education

**Primary Education:** Nden, culminating in the First School Leaving Certificate (CEPE) in 1948.

**Secondary Education:** St. Tharcissus pre-Seminary Edea (1948-50), Minor Seminary Akono (1951-54), culminating in a secondary school certificate, (BEPC) in June 1953.

**High School Education:** Lycee General Leclerc High School (1954-55), culminating in a Baccalaureat Part 1 Certificate in June 1955, and the Lycee Louis le Grand in Paris culminating in the Baccalaureat certificate Part 2 in June 1956.

**University Education:** Degree in Public Law, Graduate of the Institute of Political Science, Paris and the Institute of Advanced Overseas Studies (IHEOM), and holder of a post-graduate diploma in Public Law.

### 2. Professional Development and Career

- Senior Policy Adviser (Charge de Mission) in the Presidency of the Republic: October 1962;
- Director of Cabinet (Chief of Staff), Ministry of National Education: January 1964;
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Education: July 1965;
- Director of the Civil Cabinet (Chief of Staff), Presidency of the Republic: December 1967;
- Secretary General and Director of the Civil Cabinet: January 1968;
- Minister of State, Secretary General in the Presidency

of the Republic: June 1970;

- Prime Minister: 30 June 1975;
- Prime Minister and Constitutional Successor: 29 June 1979;
- President of the Republic following the resignation of President Ahmadou Ahidjo : 6 November 1982.

### 3. Achievements as President of the Republic

On taking the oath of office, President promised to democratize the political life, introduce social and economic liberalization, rigour in the management of public affairs, moralization of attitudes and reinforce international cooperation. In this connection, he was:

- Elected President of the Cameroon National Union (CNU): 14 September 1983;
- Elected President of the Cameroon Peoples Democratic Party (CPDM) on the transformation of the CNU in Bamenda: 24 March 1985 and re-elected in all the party's subsequent congresses;
- Elected President of the Republic on 14 January 1984 and 24 April 1988 under the one-party democratic system;
- Elected President of the Republic under the multi-party democratic system on 11 October 1992, 12 October 1997, 11 October 2004, and 9 October 2011;
- Elected Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for 1996-97 and that of the CEMAC and ECCAS on many occasions.

In 1990, President BIYA said he will like to be remembered as the one who brought democracy and prosperity in Cameroon. Today, Cameroon stands out as one of the most democratic countries in Africa with some 254 political parties, 308 foreign association and 47 religious associations. The country also has over 600 private newspapers, 98 private radio stations, and 19 private TV stations.

A committed democrat, President BIYA believes in power-sharing and shared responsibility in governance,

which explains his interest in forming governing coalitions with Opposition parties since 1992 in spite of his crushing majority in Parliament.

President BIYA is highly respected as a “Wiseman of Africa” and for his international peace, security, development and humanitarian initiatives, which have

earned him a number of international recognitions and awards, the latest being that of the Pan-African Lawyer’s Union of 6 June 2014 for peaceful resolution of conflicts. President BIYA has been married to Mrs. Chantal BIYA since 23 April 1994 and is a father of three: Frank BIYA, Paul BIYA Jnr., and Anastasie Brenda Eyenga BIYA.



## WHAT PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA SAID... ON BOKO HARAM

### 1. Statement on the occasion of the reception of freed French hostages (Moulin-Fournier family) at Unity Palace – Yaounde, 19 April 2013

The happy ending to this incident is definitely the result of exemplary cooperation between the French, Nigerian and Cameroonian Governments. Their services showed remarkable efficiency and great discretion.

The main lesson I learn from this incident, as I speak to you, is that **the security problems facing our continent will be resolved only through close international cooperation**. Obviously, there is an urgent need to strengthen such cooperation.

For my part, I wish to reaffirm my determination to spare no effort to ensure that Cameroon remains a land of hospitality, tolerance, stability, peace and progress.

### 2. Speech at the opening session of the 15th Summit of la Francophonie, Dakar 19 November 2014

For instance, I would like to draw your attention to the situation in my country which is currently facing attacks from the Boko Haram sect. I will mention in passing that all of Nigeria's immediate neighbours are OIF members and just like Cameroon, are concerned.

**Faced with a common enemy who rebuffs every value we hold dear, solidarity must come fully into play**. Recent history teaches us that there can be no compromise with such an opponent.

### 3. Statement on the theme "Regional Peace and Stability". Washington, 6 August 2014

Today, Cameroon has to grapple with Boko Haram incursions. We have taken self-defence measures.

However, Boko Haram is a transnational phenomenon which also calls for a transnational response. This is a form of fundamentalism that defies the values of democracy and of our societies. It poses a threat not only to Africa but also to other parts of the world.

**We must pool efforts to stem its tide**. Terrorism begets piracy, illegal arms trade, and trafficking of all kinds. There again, we must pool our efforts.

Lastly, the most pernicious threat to peace is poverty.

**The global nature of this threat to regional peace and stability equally requires a global response to which all members of the international community must contribute**.

Here also, we believe it is worthwhile to establish a true partnership for, as elsewhere, peace and security are prerequisites for the stability and development of African States.

They are the sine qua non for harmony between nations.

### 4. Message to the Nation at the end of the year 2014 and the beginning of the New Year 2015, 31 December 2014

Initially, the Boko Haram terrorist organization carried out raids to seize isolated hostages or loot public or private property.

Buoyed by their grip on north-eastern Nigeria, the so-called "jihadists" launched major attacks on the Far-North Region of our country, for instance, the attack on the workers' camp of a Chinese company at Waza and the raid on Kolofata, resulting in several deaths and the abduction of many hostages.

This could not be tolerated. We therefore set up a response and prevention mechanism which quickly

proved its worth. Since then, Boko Haram has suffered heavy human and material losses in each of its attacks. It is hoped that they would learn their lesson.

**At this juncture, I would like to pay glowing tribute to our defence forces whose valour has been demonstrated in recent fighting.**

**I have had occasion to say that the Nation as a whole ought to mobilize and rally behind its defence forces.**

Such seems to be the case by all accounts from our regions. I have most particularly appreciated the stance of our Muslim compatriots. They, like all the other Cameroonians, have clearly understood that this war is by no means based on religion. They have clearly understood that it is a response to external aggression by a terrorist organization that does not subscribe to the values of a fraternal society.

I would also like to recall here that Cameroon is not the only country facing this threat which knows no boundaries. Some of our neighbouring countries, namely Benin, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, are collaborating with us to form a united front against Boko Haram.

The United Nations Organization and several big powers, particularly the United States of America, Germany, France, Russia and China, also back us. I will be revisiting this issue before long.

## **5. Speech in response to the Diplomatic Corps, Yaounde, 8 January 2015**

In my message to the Nation a few days ago, I mentioned the escalation of attacks by Boko Haram in the northern part of my country and how we have responded.

As you are aware, we have beefed up our defence forces in the region concerned by taking measures to protect our population against repeated terrorist attacks and maintain our territorial integrity. As in many other countries around the world confronted by such threats, we have adopted laws and regulations to prevent and stamp out terrorism. Such is the purport of the law recently passed by Parliament. The law has been welcomed by the large majority of the Cameroonian people who clearly understand its rationale.

Today, I would like to underscore the global nature of the threat we are facing.

Those who tried to subjugate Mali, those who sporadically carry out raids into our country, those who probably influenced some factions in the Central African Republic and those who created chaos in Somalia have the same goals: to establish their authority on the Sahel strip from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean and set up their ruthless obscurantist regime therein.

### **A global threat calls for a global response.**

Such should be the response of the international community, including the African Union and our regional organizations. We must not delude ourselves. Although weakened by the losses it has suffered, our foe nonetheless remains capable of bouncing back. Its raids in northern Mali and the repeated attacks launched against our territory should convince us of this fact. We must bear in mind that the distance separating a country from the combat zones is no sure-fire guarantee of safety.

**Personally, I still believe that the threat posed by Jihadists, Boko Haram and Shebabs may be defeated only through global mobilization.** Many have understood this, but are yet to draw lessons from it. I would like to commend the multi-faceted support provided by the United Nations organization, but also some big powers, notably the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and Germany. We thank them for their firm determination to stand by us in this struggle.

## **6. Message to the Youth, 10 February 2015**

Take the example of our young soldiers who are ensuring our security along our borders. Their bravery, their sense of duty and sacrifice show us what utmost love for fatherland can be.

**The war they are waging on our behalf, at the risk of their lives, involves the entire Nation. There is no doubt that with the support of us all, we will emerge victorious.**

Friendly countries that cherish peace and freedom, the international community and world opinion are on our side.





## The Bakassi Affair : An example of peaceful resolution of conflicts between States.

The process that ended with the withdrawal of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the final transfer of sovereignty to the Republic of Cameroon over the Bakassi peninsula can be seen as an example to others. In a rare occurrence of peaceful resolution of boundary conflicts on the African continent, and which needs to be emphasized is that throughout the course of the conflict, Cameroon opted to follow a judicial process rather to resort to force. And international justice proved showed that it was the right thing to do.

In his message to the Nation on 14 August 2008, President Paul BIYA underscored very strongly the fact that: *“ By opting for dialogue and negotiation, we have proved that resorting to force is not necessarily the best way to resolve disputes. Perhaps in this regard, the peaceful outcome of the Bakassi issue will set a precedent in our continent.”*

The peaceful resolution of this conflict which hindered secular relations between the two brotherly and neighbourly countries was only made possible by the political will and the firm personal determination of President Paul BIYA.

Note should also be taken of the maturity and sense of responsibility shown by Cameroonians throughout the conflict, which demonstrates once more, their attachment to peace, dialogue and good neighbourliness.

Also, we should equally appreciate the good attitude of our brotherly people and Authorities of Nigeria, especially President Olusegun OBASANJO, who, just like Cameroonians, honoured their commitments, by allowing the law to take its course.

One cannot forget to mention the important role played by the witness countries, such as the United States of America, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, and the decisive role played by the United Nations Organisation, through successive Secretaries General (especially Kofi ANNAN), in the application of the

agreements signed between Cameroon and Nigeria.

### CHRONOLOGY OF THE CAMEROON-NIGERIA LAND AND MARITIME BOUNDARY CONFLICT.

Cameroon-Nigerian bilateral relations in their complexity recounts the difficulties of cohabitation between a vast territory governed by a federal structure and another with a smaller dimension with a decentralised unitary system, and a more effective central government. To better situate the issue of border uncertainties, it is interesting to trace the situation from the agreements made between colonial powers.

Indeed, the demarcation of the borders between Cameroon and Nigeria is the subject of legal instruments covering the period from the Berlin Congress of 1884 to the end of colonisation in 1960 on one hand, and the independence of both countries too.

#### April-June 1885: Anglo-German Agreement.

Germany and Great Britain shared spheres of influence in the coast of the Gulf of Guinea following the partition of Africa. Through this agreement the separation of powers of the two spheres at the coast was on the right bank of the Rio del Rey, which flows into the sea between 8 ° 45 'East to 8 ° 46' East of the Greenwich Meridian.

#### MARCH 11, 1913: Anglo-German Agreement.

It concerns the boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria from Yola to the Sea, and the regulation of navigation on the Cross River. This agreement resolves all probable ambiguities and serves as a reference document with clarity on the boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria.

#### JUNE 1, 1975: Maroua Declaration.

The Heads of State of Cameroon and Nigeria agreed to extend the delimitation of the maritime boundary of Point 12 to Point G.

### **AUGUST 10, 1991: Meeting in Abuja.**

The Head of State of Cameroon H.E. Paul Biya travelled to Abuja to restart negotiations on border issues following threats of occupation in Cameroon's lake areas by Nigerian security forces, claiming to protect Nigerian fishermen in Lake Chad.

### **DECEMBER 21, 1993: Nigerian Invasion of Bakassi.**

In defiance of the OAU Charter, in particular the principles of respect of borders inherited from colonisation and the peaceful settlement of disputes and in violation of all agreements between both countries since 1961, the Nigerian armed forces crossed the border and settled in the Bakassi Peninsula, specifically in the towns of Jabane and Diamond.

**MARCH 29, 1994:** Referral to the International Court of Justice.

Cameroon introduced a motion against Nigeria at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), demanding the recognition of Cameroon's sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula.

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon filed in the Registry of the Court an application instituting proceedings against the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning a dispute focused "essentially on the question of sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula ". Cameroon further states in its application that the "delimitation of the maritime boundary between the two States remains partial and [that] the two parties cannot, despite numerous attempts, agree to complete it." Cameroon asked the Court accordingly, "to avoid further incidents between the two countries ... and to determine the course of the maritime boundary between the two States beyond that set out in 1975".

The application evoked the Court; declarations of both parties accepting the jurisdiction of the Court under paragraph 2 of Article 36 of its Statute.

The application was immediately communicated to the Government of Nigeria by the Registrar pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 40 of its Statute.

### **JUNE 6, 1994:**

Cameroon filed in the Registry an additional application "for the purpose of extending the subject of the dispute" to a further dispute described in this additional request

as "focusing on the question of sovereignty over a part of Cameroon's territory in the Lake Chad area". Cameroon also requested the Court, in its additional application "to specify definitively" the frontier between the two States from Lake Chad to the Sea, and requests to join the two Applications and "to examine every item in a single case." The additional request evoked the jurisdiction of the Court, "under the bases of.... competence ... already ... indicated" in the original application of March 29, 1994.

### **JUNE 7, 1994:**

The ICJ forwarded the additional application to the Government of Nigeria.

### **FEBRUARY 1996:**

Cameroon asked the International Court of Justice to adopt precautionary measures after a new attack by Nigeria.

**MARCH 15, 1996:** Provisional Measures of the ICJ.

The International Court of Justice recommended both parties to avoid any action perpetuated by their armed forces in respect of whatever judgment the ICJ may render in the case, or which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court.

**JUNE 11, 1998:** Competence of the International Court of Justice.

The International Court of Justice rejected 7 of the 8 objections raised by Nigeria. It asserted its competence to deal with the dispute, and judged Cameroon's introductory and additional requests as admissible.

### **February 18- March 21, 2002:**

Arguments are made before the International Court of Justice.

### **September 5, 2002:**

Presidents Obasanjo and Biya met in Paris under the auspices of Kofi Annan, then Secretary General of the United Nations. The two parties agreed to respect the decision of the International Court of Justice.

### **October 10, 2002:**

Verdict of the International Court of Justice in favour of Cameroon is pronounced.

**November 15-16, 2002:** Meeting in Geneva.

Both Presidents renewed their commitment to renounce

the use of force and to seek peaceful means to resolve their border disputes. This led to the creation of a mixed commission headed by a UN representative, and composed of 12 members, six Cameroonians and six Nigerians. Its meetings were to be held alternately in Yaounde and Abuja. The special representative of Kofi Annan for West Africa based in Dakar, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah was designated as a UN representative.

The second tripartite went into effect a month after the October verdict 10 of the ICJ.

**Goal:**

To pave the way for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Court's verdict.

**GENEVA, January 31, 2004:**

**Results:**

The two Heads of State and the Secretary General of the UN noted with satisfaction the significant progress made:

- Adoption of a detailed working programme till 2005;
- The smooth removal of civil administration, army and police forces from the Lake Chad region.
- Transfer of authority to Cameroon.

**Perspective:**

The two Heads of State agreed to:

- Strengthen confidence building measures, through the exchange of ambassadors and the opening of consulates along the border;
- Establish joint security forces patrols;
- Examine the conclusion of a treaty of friendship and non-aggression.

**GENEVA, MAY 11, 2005:**

**Results:**

The two Heads of State and the UN Secretary General noted with satisfaction that:

- The field visits aimed at preparing the demarcation should continue;
- Withdrawals and transfers of authority have been made peacefully along the land border in July 2004;
- The staff to observe the Mixed Commission continues

to work in excellent conditions.

**Perspective:**

- A new program for the withdrawal of Nigerian troops will be developed;
- The two leaders expressed determination to take all necessary steps to ensure the welfare and safeguard the interests of the affected population.

**GREEN TREE, JUNE 12, 2006:**

An agreement is signed between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning the modalities of withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula.

Nigeria recognises that sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula lies with Cameroon in accordance with October 10, 2002 judgment of the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria. Cameroon and Nigeria recognise the land and maritime boundary between the two countries as defined by the decision and commit to continue the implementation process.

Nigeria agrees to withdraw all its troops from the Bakassi Peninsula within 60 days from the date of signature of this Agreement. The Secretary General of the United Nations may extend this period, under exceptional circumstances, but for a total period not exceeding 30 days.

**AKWA (Bakassi), August 14, 2006**

Effective withdrawal of the Nigerian armed forces from the Bakassi Peninsula and transfer of authority to the Republic of Cameroon. That was done, pursuant to the October 10, 2002 judgment of the International Court of Justice and in accordance with the Green Tree Agreement of June 12, 2006.

**CALABAR (Nigeria), August 14, 2008**

Official ceremony of the permanent transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon by Nigeria in accordance with the Green Tree Agreement in the presence of representatives of the four witnesses (US, France, Germany and Great Britain) and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria mixed commission, Said Djinnit.

Following this historic event, President Paul BIYA notably declared in his message to the Nation that:

- « It stands to reason that Cameroon and Nigeria must henceforth do everything possible to consolidate the settlement reached and seize the opportunities afforded them to develop their relations in all fields ».
- « In this regard, I want to reaffirm that Cameroon will honour all the commitments made concerning our Nigerian brothers and sisters who have chosen to reside in Cameroon, that is, those living in Bakassi as well as those who, in large numbers, have been living on Cameroonian territory for many years. I want to reassure them that their security and their rights will always be guaranteed; they will, as in the past, be able to go about their business undisturbed, as long, of course, as they abide by Cameroonian laws and regulations ».
- « For my part, I believe that the future of relations between our two countries is bright. Bound by History and Geography to live together, and by numerous links rooted in a common culture, the Nigerian and Cameroonian peoples have every possible reason to promote mutually beneficial ties of friendship and cooperation. As far as I am concerned, I intend to lend my full support to such relations ».



## **CALL OF THE HEAD OF STATE FOR A GLOBAL RESPONSE AGAINST BOKO HARAM AND THE RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

On 8 January 2015, in his speech responding to the wishes of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Cameroon, President Paul BIYA called for mobilization at the international level against the barbaric acts perpetrated by the Boko Haram terrorist group against Nigeria and Cameroon.

The Head of State indicated that the response of the international community, especially that of the African Union and of regional organizations facing the threat posed by Boko Haram on peace, security and stability of the continent must be collective, for, he emphasized, "A global response to a global threat."

President Paul BIYA's call was heard because, at the 24<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) held on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Heads of State and Government condemned the horrific terrorist attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram.

For the Chairperson of the AU Commission, NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA, the activities of the Boko Haram terrorist group are a serious threat to the security and development not only of Nigeria and the region but also of the entire continent.

Consequently, Africa as a whole has the duty and the obligation to provide all the necessary support to Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and to Benin, in accordance with the principles of African solidarity and indivisibility of peace and security on the continent.

Madam Dlamini-Zuma called for a "collective response" against Boko Haram.

For his part, the Secretary General of the UN, BAN KI-

MOON welcomed the willingness of the AU to create a regional force to fight against the Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram.

Denouncing "the unnamed brutality" of Boko Haram militia, BAN KI-MOON estimated that a "regional and international cooperation" was required to fight against the group.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU called for the creation of a regional military force of 7,500 men to counteract the Islamist group.

A meeting of African military experts was held from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 in Yaoundé to elaborate the concept of operations and engagement rules of the Multinational Mixed Force (MMF) of 7 500 military and other workforce in charge to fight against Boko Haram.

After this meeting, member countries of the LCBC and Benin agreed on a principle of a force of 8 700 men (additional 1,200 men compared to what was initially planned). Experts agreed to establish the Headquarters of the Force in N'Djamena, in accordance with the conclusions of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Defence of the LCBC of the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2015 in Niamey, Niger. The funding equation Remains to be solved.

During the consultation between Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, that held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 in Addis Ababa, on the sidelines of the 24<sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union, Heads of State and Government condemned with the greatest firmness, the barbarian and unacceptable acts perpetrated by the Boko Haram terrorist group against States of the Lake Chad Basin. They congratulated the decision of the AU to authorize the deployment of the MMF.

The Heads of State and Government of ECCAS expressed their full solidarity with President Paul BIYA, for the fight that Cameroon leads against the aggression it faces. They congratulated the Cameroon Defence and Security Forces for their bravery and their patriotism and encouraged them to continue their efforts relentlessly until the eradication of the Boko Haram terrorist group.

The Heads of State and Government expressed their sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic of Chad, H.E. IDRIS DEBY ITNO, for the fraternal support that he and his people bring to the Republic of Cameroon by sending a large contingent for the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

The Heads of State and Government have decided to activate the appropriate mechanisms of the Community,

especially the Pact of Mutual Assistance between Member States of ECCAS and the relevant provisions of the Protocol relative to the Peace and Security Council in Central Africa (COPAX) in order to set up a sub-regional strategy to support Cameroon and Chad in the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group, which threatens to destabilize the sub-region.

The Heads of State and Government of ECCAS decided to hold an urgent extraordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of COPAX, on 16 February 2015 in Yaounde. The Summit was preceded by a COPAX Cabinet meeting (14 February) and a Defence and Security Commission meeting (11 and 12 February).



## BIOGRAPHY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MUHAMMADU BUHARI

His Excellency Muhammadu BUHARI was born on 17 December 1942 in Daura, Katsina State, which is situated in the northern part of Nigeria and shares borders with Chad. He is the last child in a family of 23. Mr Buhari is a Sunni Muslim faithful. He has been married twice and has ten children.

Muhammadu BUHARI won 53.9% of the votes in the 28 March 2015 presidential election in Nigeria against incumbent Goodluck Jonathan. He was the candidate of the opposition coalition, All Progressive Party (APC). He was installed on 29 May 2015 as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### Military career:

Muhammadu BUHARI joined the Nigerian Army in 1961 after studying at the military school in Kaduna. From 1962 to 1963 he attended a cadet training course in England before being appointed in January 1963 as sub-lieutenant and platoon commander of the second infantry battalion in Abeokuta, Nigeria. From November 1963 to January 1964, he took a new military training in the United Kingdom. He eventually served in the following capacities:

- Commander of the second infantry battalion (1965-1967);
- Major Brigadier second sector, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (April 1967 - July 1967);
- Major Brigadier, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division (July 1967 - October 1968);
- Commander, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (1970 - 1971);
- Deputy Adjutant, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (1971 - 1972);
- Director of Transportation and supply in the Nigerian Army (1974 - 1975);
- Military Secretary, army headquarters, and

member of the Supreme Military Council (1978 - 1979);

- Colonel (1979 - 1980);
- General Commanding Officer, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (August 1980 - January 1981);
- General Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mechanised Infantry Division (January 1981 - October 1981);
- General Commanding Officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Division (October 1981 - December 1983).

### Political career:

In July 1966, Muhammadu BUHARI took part in a coup d'état led by lieutenant-colonel Murtala Muhammed who overthrew and executed Prime Minister Aguiyi Ironsi.

In August 1975, General Murtala Mohammed appointed Mr BUHARI as Governor of the North East State.

In March 1976, the new leader of Nigeria, General Olusegun Obasanjo appointed Muhammadu BUHARI as Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources. He also headed the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) until 1978.

In December 1983, the commanding officer Muhammadu BUHARI led a coup that overthrew the democratically elected President, Shehu Shagari. Muhammadu BUHARI justified the coup by castigating the civilian government of being "corrupt". His first measure was the suspension of the 1979 Constitution, and with it, the Second Republic of Nigeria.

He equally took other radical measures, such as those that accompanied his "war against indiscipline". The culprits were whipped by soldiers, latecomer officials underwent humiliating punishment, and cheating students were punishable by prison sentences of up to

twenty years. He sent 500 people behind bars, including the famous Nigerian musician Fela Kuti Ramson for money laundering. BUHARI also put an end to the country's relations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which asked him to devalue the Naira by 60%. He refused and engaged more stringent reforms.

In August 1985 Muhammadu BUHARI in turn was overthrown in a coup led by General Ibrahim Babangida, and other members of the Supreme Military Council. After the coup, BUHARI was locked up in a prison based in Benin City until 1988. After his release, he chaired the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), an organisation created by the government of General Sani Abacha and financed by revenues of the oil market. He has a reputation for safeguarding PTF funds.

Muhammadu BUHARI lost the Nigerian presidential election to Olusegun Obasanjo on 19 April 2003. He contested again, unsuccessfully, in 2007 and 2011.

On 28 March 2015, Muhammadu BUHARI won the presidential election with 53.9% of votes, against the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan was sworn in as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on 29 May 2015.

A Muslim faithful, Muhammadu BUHARI is not known to be a radical, although in 2011 he supported the

extension of Sharia law in the northern states of Nigeria. On 4 January 2015, he nevertheless expressed his stance for religious freedom. He pledged to effectively suppress Boko Haram during the 2015 campaigns. He also focused his campaign on the fight against corruption, while building an image of an honest man.

### **Distinctions:**

Muhammadu BUHARI has received several awards and medals. For example:

- Congo Medal (CM);
- Defence Service Medal (DSM);
- Forces Service Star (FSS);
- General Commander of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (GCFR);
- Loyal Service and Good Conduct Medal (LS-GCM);
- National Service Medal (NSM).