

**TOAST BY H.E. MR PAUL BIYA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

**On the Occasion of the Luncheon Offered
in Honour of the President of the Republic
of Chad, H.E. Mr Idriss DEBY ITNO**

Yaounde, 22 May 2014

Mr President, Dear Brother,

As always, it is a great pleasure to welcome you here in Yaounde. You are welcome in our midst.

We have so many things in common that the term “fraternity” does not adequately describe our relations. Another term needs to be coined!

In fact, everything unites us: our history, our customs, our cultures, our economies and even our policies.

Need I give examples?

The commissioning of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline a few years ago demonstrated the advantage of getting on together for the implementation of mutually beneficiary projects. In future, the other resources of the Chadian subsoil could be exported through the development of our roads and the extension of our railway network.

Such complementarity of our economies may also result in more fruitful trade in the agricultural and energy sectors.

This is what can be said concerning our bilateral relations.

However, it goes without saying that within CEMAC, our common Organization, significant progress can also be made in terms of rapprochement between our economies and regional integration. And I am aware that we share similar views on these issues.

At present, our major concern is the security of our two countries.

The events that have destabilized the Central African Republic and the terrorist activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria, two countries with which Chad and Cameroon share a common border, pose a serious threat to the security of our countries.

Concerning the Central African Republic, a pacification process in which we participated from the outset is ongoing. Given the present commitment of the international community, we have great hope that this process will be successfully implemented.

The terrorist activities of Boko Haram, which unfortunately occur everyday, remain a permanent threat to peace and security in Chad and Cameroon.

The Paris Summit which was initiated by France provided a number of solutions to the problems posed by this threat. The measures that were adopted by participants should be implemented immediately at the regional and bilateral levels.

Cameroon, for its part, is willing to discuss with Chad, in the most minute detail, the conditions under which these measures, be they coordinated patrols, intelligence sharing, exchange of information or border surveillance mechanism, could be implemented by both countries.

Mr President, Dear Brother,

For countries like ours, security is a categorical imperative. It conditions not only our political stability, but also our development efforts. This is an issue over which we cannot make concessions.

I know that President DEBY and I are in full agreement on these issues. This is why I heartily thank him for visiting us at a time when our consultation was necessary.

Long live the friendship between Chad and Cameroon!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now invite you to raise your glasses to the health of our brother and friend, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Chad.

Thank you for your attention.