



Security Council

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Letter dated 9 December 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter dated 3 January 2014 (S/2014/6) informing the President of the Security Council of the progress made by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, and to his reply dated 8 January 2014 (S/2014/7), in which he took note of my intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Mixed Commission, with funding from the regular budget. In the same spirit, by the present letter, I would like to inform you of the latest achievements and activities undertaken by the Mixed Commission.

As you know, the United Nations established the Mixed Commission to facilitate the implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 on the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary and territorial dispute. Through my good offices, and with the support of the United Nations Secretariat, I have continued to facilitate the implementation of the judgment of the Court.

The mandate of the Mixed Commission includes supporting the demarcation of the land boundary and delineation of the maritime boundary, facilitating the withdrawal and transfer of authority, addressing the situation of affected populations, and making recommendations on confidence-building measures. Achievements to date in the implementation of the judgment of the Court include the withdrawal of Nigeria and transfer of authority to Cameroon in the Lake Chad area (December 2003), along the land boundary (July 2004) and in the Bakassi Peninsula (a process which began in June 2006 and was completed in August 2008); the delineation of the maritime boundary (May 2007); and the end of the special transitional regime of five years, established under the Greentree Agreement in June 2006, and the exercise by Cameroon of its rights of sovereignty over the Bakassi zone (August 2013).

The Mixed Commission also approved all of the recommendations of the Working Group on the Maritime Boundary, including the provisions for cross-border cooperation on hydrocarbon deposits straddling the maritime boundary (March 2011).

In the course of 2014, the Mixed Commission continued to facilitate the process, including by helping to maintain dialogue and communication between the two countries. However, the deteriorating security situation in north-eastern Nigeria impeded the conduct of the envisaged field visits, especially since the declaration of a state of emergency in the three border States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, owing to the terrorist activities of Boko Haram. To date, the parties have agreed on the



delineation of 1,947 kilometres of an estimated total of 2,100 kilometres of land boundary.

At a meeting held on 11 October 2014 in Yaoundé, the heads of delegation of Cameroon and Nigeria expressed confidence that the remaining tasks of demarcation could be completed without the dispatching of new field missions to the boundary, because the technical teams had acquired consistent and reliable knowledge of geographical and demographic data deemed sufficient to finalize their work. Consequently, the Mixed Commission has adopted new measures aimed at completing the implementation of the judgment of the Court, including in-office cartographic methodologies to assess the remaining disputed areas of the land boundary.

Meanwhile, the emplacement of pillars along the boundary has continued, with 289 pillars built between January and June 2014, bringing the total number of pillars to 667; another 767 pillars remain to be emplaced. During the meeting of heads of delegation held in Yaoundé, in October 2014, the parties officially expressed their willingness to contribute to the pillar emplacement project through the trust fund, and also agreed to call upon international donors to increase their assistance. Other fundraising initiatives, through my Special Representative for West Africa and Chairman of the Mixed Commission, may be required.

Throughout 2014, the Mixed Commission also undertook confidence-building initiatives for the affected populations. However, additional resources are required to implement joint cross-border programmes between the United Nations country teams in Cameroon and Nigeria, particularly those in support of the populations affected by the demarcation process. These additional resources would be used, inter alia, to fund quick-impact projects for confidence-building among the communities, in particular among women and youth in boundary areas. In Cameroon, four projects in the areas of food security and micro-credit, water, green energy, and capacity-building for women and youth, with an estimated value of \$6,352,625, have been finalized and submitted for approval to United Nations agencies in Cameroon. In Nigeria, the programme has been approved by the Government and the cost estimates for the selected projects are being finalized. The Chairman of the Mixed Commission will seek extrabudgetary resources to implement confidence-building projects consistent with the revised United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks of both countries.

The committee which was established in February 2014 to prepare the land and maritime boundary statement held two meetings, with the active support of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat. The United Nations Cartographic Section is also working to produce maps of the boundary statement, which will pave the way for the production of large-scale maps.

Overall, it is expected that the field assessment of the areas of the boundary not yet assessed would be completed by the end of 2015 or early 2016, depending on the availability of the parties. Regarding the outstanding issues, most, if not all, could be settled during the same period if the parties demonstrate flexibility and adhere to compromise solutions. This, in turn, would allow for the finalization of the demarcation activities, the final maps and the pillar emplacement work by the end of 2016. However, completion of the bulk of the demarcation work will depend on the ability of the two parties to reach an agreement on all the remaining areas of disagreement in a timely manner.

After 31 December 2014, the following activities are required, in view of the conclusion of the work of the Mixed Commission, as indicated above:

- (a) Finalization, using remote-sensing methodology, of demarcation activities, final maps and the boundary statement;
- (b) Facilitation of boundary pillar emplacement financed by the trust fund for the demarcation activities;
- (c) Promotion of cross-border cooperation, including maritime cooperation, and coordinated security monitoring along the land boundary;
- (d) Finalization of confidence-building initiatives for local communities affected by the demarcation;
- (e) Implementation of the exit strategy by handing over the activities of the Mixed Commission to the Joint Bilateral Commission and other subregional structures.

I would like to recall that, until 2003, the Mixed Commission was funded entirely from extrabudgetary funds. During the period from 2004 to 2014, the activities of the Mixed Commission were funded through the United Nations regular budget. The Governments of Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay have provided in-kind contributions for the substantive and technical work of the Commission (military and legal experts), in addition to the logistical support provided by the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, and the voluntary contributions of both countries, as well as those of Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, to the trust fund for the demarcation activities.

As has been the case in recent years, and given the cost-effectiveness of the operation and the important tasks remaining at this juncture to help advance the peaceful implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice, it is my intention to ask for resources from the regular budget for the Mixed Commission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon
