



Security Council

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Letter dated 28 September 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to my letter of 1 August 2005 (S/2005/528) informing the President of the Security Council of the progress made by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, and his reply of 12 August 2005 (S/2005/529), which took note of my intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria 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. Through my good offices, and with the support of the United Nations Secretariat, I have been facilitating the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 on the land and maritime boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria.

With the final appropriation of \$5.6 million from the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2004-2005, and the initial appropriation of \$7.5 million for 2006, the Mixed Commission has been able to move the process smoothly and peacefully and to keep an open dialogue and communication between the two countries. The following are some of the activities for which the United Nations team of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission has provided substantive, technical and logistical support.

As I informed you (S/2006/419), on 12 June 2006, I invited the President of the Cameroon, Paul Biya, and the President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, to Greentree, New York, where they signed the Greentree Agreement between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning the modalities of withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula. It was also signed by four witness States (Germany, the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The Agreement established a Follow-up Committee to monitor the implementation of the Agreement. The Follow-up Committee, which is supported by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, already met twice, on 10 July and on 31 August 2006, and is expected to meet on a monthly basis as needed thereon.

The United Nations team of civilian observers of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission is working with the Follow-up Committee as well. It is expected that following the withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula (August 2006), the Mixed Commission will recruit observers up to full authorized strength,



and will deploy them in the Peninsula to consolidate this achievement, as was the case earlier in the Lake Chad area and along the land boundary.

The United Nations observer team, which has also been tasked to accompany the demarcation exercise, and which operates accompanied by representatives of Cameroon and Nigeria, has reported that the situation remains calm along the boundary. In view of the rights and well-being of the affected populations, the Mixed Commission has also continued discussion with Cameroon, Nigeria and development partners on projects to promote cross-border cooperation, which would benefit the local population on both sides.

The activities related to the demarcation exercise have progressed steadily, although with some delays. So far, about 462 km have been demarcated. The demarcation exercise will be followed by the emplacement of pillars, a final survey and final mapping to be financed by voluntary contributions. In this regard, the financial resources needed to publish the demarcation contracts on the procurement website in order to invite bids are most likely to be met shortly. The Mixed Commission has signed an agreement with the European Commission for a voluntary contribution of €4 million, which, once received, will help meet the initial estimated cost of \$12 million for the whole demarcation exercise. Previous contributions received are from Cameroon and Nigeria, \$3 million each, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, £1 million, the European Commission, €320,000, and Canada, Can\$ 273,508.

Concerning the maritime boundary, it is expected that the delineation of the maritime boundary will be finalized in 2006. This will allow the Mixed Commission to address as necessary the tri-point between Cameroon, Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea.

Further to the completion of the withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Lake Chad area (December 2003), along the land boundary (July 2004), and in the Bakassi Peninsula (August 2006), in 2007 the Mixed Commission will be able to focus further on the demarcation exercise, on the promotion of cross-border cooperation and on the rights of the affected populations. Taking into account the progress so far in the demarcation exercise and the calendar of the activities related to the Greentree Agreement, it is already expected that the Mixed Commission will not be able to fully complete its mandate by the end of 2007.

I would like to underscore that up to 2003, the Mixed Commission was funded entirely from extrabudgetary funds. During the period 2004-2006, the activities of the Mixed Commission were funded through the United Nations regular budget. The Governments of Austria, Canada, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay have provided in kind support for the work of substantive and technical support of the Mixed Commission (military and legal experts), in addition to the logistical support provided by the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria.

Given the cost-effectiveness of this mission and the important tasks remaining at this juncture in the work of the Mixed Commission, and taking into account that the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria recently renewed once again their commitment to pursue the peaceful implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice and to work together to move the process forward until its completion, it is my intention to ask for additional resources from the regular budget

for the Mixed Commission for 2007 to help advance the peaceful implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice.

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

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**
