



Le temps des Réalisations

Bulletin mensuel bilingue d'informations

Cabinet Civil de la Présidence de la République du Cameroun

Récépissé de déclaration N° 00000038 / RDDJ / J06 / BASC du 9 juillet 2012

Directeur de Publication : Martin Belinga Eboutou



2nd REGIONAL SUMMIT ON SECURITY IN NIGERIA AND THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



Abuja, 14 May 2016

Special Publication N°1



Time for Security

(Editorial published in « *Le Temps des Réalisations* »),
n° 18, May-June 2014

At times strange challenges occur in life which must be addressed resolutely in order to move on in a serene manner. This is true for the lives of humans and nations. Regarding the latter, eternal wisdom holds that when the threat posed by the enemy becomes pressing, the nation, like one man, stands united to achieve victory. There should be no more division, quarrels and dissent: this is time to fight for the survival of the community, freedom and peace. Such is the challenge presently posed to the Cameroonian people by the Boko Haram sect.

For a nation, there is no time for achieving security and time where insecurity is acceptable. But, ail is just a matter of degree. In fact, there are moments when, due to its magnitude, nature, duration and consequences, violence becomes a major hindrance to social peace and stability. This therefore calls for the adoption of exceptional measures. Such measures reflect a special moment, a time for security. This is the moment!

The senseless violence perpetuated by the Boko Haram sect, ensuing from a long-forgotten dark age of human evolution, has crossed the Nigerian border to affect her neighbours, notably Cameroon. Three spectacular kidnappings of expatriates, followed by attacks on innocent people and State symbols, inspired by a mixture of fanaticism, ideological obscurantism, insolent investment in organized crime, penchant for havoc, terrorism and killing. Such a destabilizing campaign could no longer be tolerated.

Nigeria and her neighbours initiated discussions some months ago. The Paris Summit of 17 May 2014 confirmed this resolve to deal collectively with Boko Haram. The fact that the President of the Republic, H.E. Paul BIYA, led a powerful delegation to Paris, three days to the 20th May National Day celebration, is testimony of his strong political determination. The fact that the Head of State, who is known for his moderate speech, declared "war against Boko Haram", was an unexpected commitment by the organizers of this summit. The decisions taken at the Paris Summit were clear and pragmatic. There is a clear distinction

between what must be done at the bilateral and multilateral levels and what falls under the ambit of the international community to bar the way to insecurity and stimulate socio-economic development.

President DEBY visited Cameroon on 22 May on the invitation of the Head of State. This was an opportunity to give immediate concrete meaning to the collective resolve to combat Boko Haram. This visit can be considered as the continuation of the Paris Summit. Once the situation was analyzed and decision-to-act taken, the Head of State took action. He deployed additional military units to the northern part of the country with immediate results on the ground, including the first defeat inflicted on the Islamist sect, the liberation of the reverend priests and sister kidnapped last April. The Head of State's resolve deserves the support and admiration of his people through national mobilization. In a situation of full-scale war, each citizen must contribute his quota to the war effort. Mobilization against Boko Haram is not a regional, tribal, social class, and much less a religious issue. Terrorism has no friend; it can strike anybody, anywhere. The entire Nation must organize itself into a vast vigilance committee against this cunning enemy. Security will or will not be guaranteed by ail and for ail. This calls for active and vigilant mobilization rather than mere noise.

The Head of State, Head of the Armed Forces, calm but firm Commander, has already drawn the battle line. His action is hailed by his American peer, Barack Obama, who sees our country as a valuable partner of the United States in preserving peace and stability in our region. How can one forget to also mention this Pan African Lawyers Union prize for "The peaceful resolution of conflicts" awarded to President Paul BIYA, in recognition for the exemplary settlement of the Bakassi dispute? As usual, people who are aggrieved, secretly jealous and without elementary elegance, see nothing good.

By and large, when a courageous, determined and meticulous General is commanding, the troops behind can only be sure of victory in the end.



WHAT PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA SAID... ON BOKO HARAM

1. Toast By H.E. Paul BIYA, President Of The Republic Of Cameroon, In Response To That Of President Buhari Abuja, 3 May 2016

But above all, we have noted that we have a common enemy. Of course, I am referring to Boko Haram, whose obscurantist goals and barbaric methods run counter to the aspirations of our peoples. (...).

Having to face a common threat has undoubtedly been a driving force behind the rapprochement and understanding between Nigeria and Cameroon, such as the brotherly co-operation between our armies.

In the meantime, the offensives launched by the Nigerian Army against Boko Haram positions have, as you said, "technically" neutralized the terrorist organization, while the forces of the other countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (including Cameroon) have been harassing the terrorist groups that have retreated to the border areas. I wish at this point to congratulate the defence and security forces of all our countries and the Multinational Joint Task Force on their vigilance and efficiency.

There is now reason to hope that very soon, Boko Haram which has been severely weakened, will no longer have its disruptive capacity.

2. Toast during friendly and working visit to Cameroon of H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Yaounde, 29 July 2015

A dark cloud is looming over our countries even as we welcome you. We are facing the same threat which may rock the very foundations of our two Nations. This danger bears the name Boko Haram.

Its atrocities and crimes are jeopardizing social peace

around Lake Chad and, especially, in our two countries. The number of deaths and victims is rising. Economic activities have been crippled in affected areas. The number of refugees and displaced persons is ever-increasing.

We cannot allow this canker to spread. We must pool our resources and forces, and share our experiences. (...).

Rest assured of Cameroon's total, constant and unfailing commitment in this just and noble struggle. Our intransigence is matched only by the determination to ensure that our peoples continue to live in the peace and tranquility they have always known until recently.

As soon as the terrorist threat was felt at our border, I took important measures to step up the operational capacity of our defence and security forces.

These measures added to an exemplary and dynamic international cooperation that we hail today.

Friendly and brotherly countries like Chad, Niger, responded with great solidarity to the measures which enjoyed and still enjoy the support of our close-knit and unanimous peoples.

As I have already stated in other occasions, and we all agree, terrorism is today a global threat and only a global response can stamp it out.

The future of our States, the prosperity and wellbeing of our peoples, as well as world peace depend on it.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6.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.

7. 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.

8. 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.



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 24th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) held on the 30th and 31st 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 5th to the 7th of February 2015 in Yaoundé to elaborate the concept of operations and engagement rules of the Multi-national 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 5th meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Defence of the LCBC of the 20th 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 31st of January 2015 in Addis Ababa, on the sidelines of the 24th 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).



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 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.
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. IDRISSE 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.
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 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.
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.
6. At the end of their deliberations, the Heads of State and Government of LCBC and Benin Republic took the following decisions:
7. Approved the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) Strategic and Operational and related documents of the MNJTF for the fight against Boko Haram terrorist group.
8. Approved the immediate deployment of the MNJTF HQ at N'Djamena (Chad) by implementing its human, logistic and financial requirements;
9. 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.
10. Approved the funding of the sum of Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000.000) USD for the installation and equipping of the MNJTF HQ.
11. 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



**The Joint Communiqué issued at the end of President BIYA's
State visit to Nigeria,
Abuja, 4th May, 2016
(Extracts)**

7. On security issues, the two Presidents noted with satisfaction the successes achieved so far on the fight against the Boko Haram insurgency and condemned the murderous activities perpetrated by the group in the two countries and the other countries in the Lake Chad Basin.

8. The two Presidents commended the efforts of both the Cameroonian and Nigerian military under the Multi-National Joint Task Force, especially the two recent successful joint operations conducted in Ngoshe and Kumshe, both within Nigerian territory and the ongoing clearance operations being carried out by militaries of both countries to bring the activities of the terrorists to an end.

9. The two Presidents also reaffirmed their commitment to continue to support the Multi-National Joint Task Force until the Boko Haram Terrorist Group is eliminated. They also welcomed ongoing discussions on the fate of suspected Boko Haram members arrested in each other's

country and expressed the need to set up a judicial framework that will ensure their fair trial and if needed their transfer to their countries of origin, in accordance with international best practices.

10. The two Presidents expressed commitment to the upcoming 2nd Session of the Regional Security Summit in Abuja on 14 May, 2016 and pledged to fully participate in the processes and to implement the outcome of the meeting in order to ensure peace and security in the affected areas in the Lake Chad Basin.

11. The two leaders also agreed that the a Tripartite Meeting of the two countries and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) should be convened by July 2016 in Abuja, with a view to agreeing on a framework for the safe return of Nigerian refugees, currently hosted by Cameroon, back to Nigeria.



**Friendly and Working Visit to the Republic of Cameroon of His Excellency
President Muhammadu Buhari of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

29-30 July 2015.

**Joint Communiqué
(Extracts)**

5. On security issues, the two Heads of State noted with satisfaction the ongoing weakening of the operational capacities of Boko Haram. They condemned the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram within the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin and expressed their condolences and compassion to the civilian and military victims of Boko Haram. Their Excellences also reaffirmed their commitment and renewed support for the Multinational Joint Task Force in the war against Boko Haram. They expressed their common resolve to eliminate Boko Haram and, in this connection, agreed amongst other things, to intensify the exchange of intelligence between the security services of the two countries.

6. President Muhammadu Buhari reaffirmed the determination of his country to strengthen its cooperation with Cameroon and other neighbouring countries, for the rapid elimination of this phenomenon.

7. Both Heads of State pledged to strengthen security collaboration along their common border under the auspices of the Cameroon-Nigeria Trans-Border Security

Committee and within the framework of the implementation of the concept of strategic operations approved at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin, held in Abuja on 11 June 2015.

8. Both Heads of State welcomed the improvement of the surveillance of the maritime spaces of the two countries, resulting from their combined efforts within inter regional institutions. In the face of persistent attacks at sea, they decided to enhance their security cooperation, so as to make the coastal areas, in-land and sea water ways of Cameroon and Nigeria safer.

17. The two Heads of State welcomed the holding of an ECCAS-ECOWAS Summit to pool together efforts in combating the terrorist sect, Boko Haram. They also endorsed the commitments made at the Extraordinary Summit of the LCBC and Benin held on 11 June 2015 in Abuja. They thanked the UN, the African Union, ECOWAS, ECCAS and several bilateral and multilateral partners for their active solidarity in the war against Boko Haram.



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 under-privileged 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 reaf-

firms 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.



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 km² 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 km²;

- 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



THE MULTINATIONAL JOINT TASK FORCE (MNJTF) AND THE FIGHT AGAINST BOKO HARAM

The idea of creating a regional military force to fight against the Islamist group Boko Haram was launched by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, at the 24th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held on January 30-31, 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

At an extraordinary summit held on June 11, 2015 in Abuja, Heads of State and Government of member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin approved the concept of a strategic and operational guide, documents related to the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), and the deployment of national contingents of the MNJTF under the operational command of the Commander of MNJTF supported by joint staffs before July 30, 2015.

The MNJTF is composed of 8,700 soldiers, police and civilians from Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Benin. Its mandate is to create a safe and secure environment in the areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. It will also facilitate the implementation (through Member States of the LCBC and Benin) stabilisation programmes in affected areas, restore state authority and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. On the humanitarian side, it is called to assist, within its capabilities, humanitarian operations and the delivery of aid to the affected population. This is the first mission of this magnitude created in Africa to fight against a new phenomenon, terrorism.

The headquarters of the MNJTF is at N'Djamena in Chad. The MNJTF is based in three divisions in Cameroon; Logone and Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga.

The current Commander of the LCBC and Benin MNJTF is a Nigerian; Major General Lamidi Adeosun. The deputy is a Cameroonian; Brigadier General Nka Valere.

A Cameroonian, Brigadier General Bouba Dobekréo is the first Commander of the MNJTF base in Mora (Mayo-Sava). He took office on September 11, 2015. He controls a contingent (2,450 Cameroonian and 3,000 Chadian soldiers) operating along the border with Nigeria to Lake Chad.

The MNJTF began its operational phase in November 2015. Since then, it has inflicted several defeats on the terrorist group Boko Haram, which has abandoned some areas it captured. According to the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the LCBC, the enemy is not far from being suppressed. The trend is towards the final battles. A reduction of suicide bombings and the swift handling of other Boko Haram attacks by defence forces confirm this trend. The response of coalition forces, supported by the collaboration of local vigilante committees, is fruitful. People greet this development, strongly hoping the end of the war is near.

Financial difficulties represent one of the main causes of delay in the execution of the project. The MNJTF has received funds, sent or pledged by the regional countries. The Nigerian President offered 100,000 U.S. dollars. Organisations and partner countries such as the UK offered £ 5 million and the European Union has pledged € 50 million.

In addition, \$ 40 million will be allocated by the United States to help some 7 million people in the countries of the Lake Chad Basin affected by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram. This was announced on April 19 in Yaounde by Samantha Power, the U.S Ambassador to the UN.



GOOD NEWS FROM THE WARFRONT : BOKO HARAM IN DISARRAY

The news from the warfront in recent months is rather reassuring. Boko Haram shows signs of being weakened. Since the beginning of this year, the armies of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin, gathered around the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), have inflicted serious military setbacks on the jihadists who have been driven from many urban areas they had conquered. The perimeter of the Lake Chad basin is less and less the object of terrorist attacks. The few human bombs, often identified by the vigilante committees and captured, have the air of a last-ditch stand. For nearly a month, we hear no more of damage caused by suicide bombers or vehicles hit by explosive devices. This operation, a final push in the war, indicates the end of the terrorist network.

From February 11-14, 2016, the Cameroonian army destroyed a command post of the Islamic sect in the Nigerian town of Goshi, inflicting heavy losses (162 Boko Haram terrorists were neutralised) and seizing many weapons and equipment.

From February 23-24, 2016, the Cameroonian defence forces, supported this time by the Nigerian army, raided the Nigerian city of Koumche, a major logistics base, killing a hundred terrorists. They also freed 850 hostages from the Islamic sect, seized an important military arsenal and destroyed artisanal mine manufacturing centres.

On April 2, 2016, the Nigerian military arrested Khalid al-Barnawi, the leader of the Ansaru group, a dissident

branch of Boko Haram. Before that it had destroyed several Boko Haram hideouts in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, including their alleged spiritual headquarters in the Alagarno forest.

The situation is stabilising on the ground. Even the suicide bombings that had plunged the locals in psychosis have faded for about two months, despite those committed by young girls and boys transformed into human bombs. Military officials of the of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) say: "now, the eradication of Boko Haram is only a matter of time."

The armies of Cameroon and Nigeria are now stepping up to clean the last pockets of resistance of the Islamist sect in the northern part of the border respectively. Their patrols and raids have killed many suspected terrorists. They also made numerous arrests, rescued people and recovered arms and ammunition.

In fact, it has dropped a notch from the victorious assaults of the Cameroonian army and the MNJTF in the Nigerian towns of Goshi and Koumche in the month of February. Two months later, the evolution of events on the ground confirms that the terrorist cult is considerably weakened. Boko Haram is no longer able to fight a conventional war. It now operates in dispersed ranks. Caught in the crossfire, its fighters are struggling to withstand the firepower deployed by the Allied forces. Reducing the number of suicide attacks and clashes with the armed forces are palpable signs of the weakening of the enemy.

The terrorist group seems completely weaned from its supply networks for food, fuel, weapons and ammunition. Logistics seems to be lacking. In Cameroon, as in Nigeria, soldiers have captured, from time to time, tired and emaciated terrorists, overcome by hunger. The last major surrender of this nature dates back to early March. 76 people were delivered to soldiers in Gwoza, a city near the border with Cameroon.

The weakening of Boko Haram is largely due to the synchronised action of soldiers from Nigerian, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin gathered around the MNJTF.

Military operations are coordinated, intelligence is shared and information is exchanged between the Allied armies. Since mid-March 2016, half a dozen suicide attacks have killed fewer civilians and soldiers thanks to a good grid field by the Cameroonian and Nigerian troops, and the collaboration from vigilante committees.

In early April 2016 in Yaounde, the staff of the MNJTF announced a major offensive in the coming weeks in order to permanently eliminate the terrorist group affiliated to the Islamic state because they are convinced that they have dealt a severe blow to the destructive capacity of Boko Haram.