



Secretariat General

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND SECURITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA, ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TERRORIST GROUP BOKO HARAM

(Yaounde, 16 February 2015)

1. At the invitation of His Excellency IDRIS DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad, current Chairperson of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and current President of the Conference of Heads of State of the Council for Peace and Security of Central Africa (COPAX), an Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State of COPAX was held in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, on 16 February 2015, in view of adopting a Sub-regional strategy to fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram in Central Africa.
2. This Extraordinary Session followed on the heels of the Discussion of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, that held in Addis Ababa, on 31 January 2015, on the sidelines of the 24th Ordinary Session of the Government of the African Union.
3. The following Heads of State and Senior Officials of International Organizations took part in the deliberations:
 - **His Excellency IDRIS DEBY ITNO**, President of the Republic of Chad, current Chairperson of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS and current President of the Conference of Heads of States of COPAX ;
 - **His Excellency Paul BIYA**, President of the Republic of Cameroon;
 - **His Excellency Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO**, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;
 - **His Excellency Denis SASSOU-N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo;
 - **His Excellency ALI BONGO ONDIMBA**, President of the Republic of Gabon;
 - **Her Excellency Catherine SAMBA-PANZA**, Head of State of the Transition of the Central African Republic;

- **His Excellency Patrice Emery TROVOADA**, Prime Minister, Head of Government, Representative of His Excellency **Manuel Pinto DA COSTA**, President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe;
 - **His Excellency Raymond TSHIBANDA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Representative of His Excellency **Joseph KABILA KABANGE**, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
 - **His Excellency Laurent KAVAKURE**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Representative of **His Excellency Pierre NKURUNZIZA**, President of the Republic of Burundi;
 - **His Excellency Emmanuel DOMINGO Agost**, Secretary of State in the Ministry of External Relations, Representative of **His Excellency José Eduardo DOS SANTOS**, President of the Republic of Angola;
 - Ambassador **Ahmad ALLAM-MI**, Secretary-General of ECCAS;
 - Mr. **Abdoulaye BATHILY**, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Representative of Mr. **Ban KI-MOON**, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
 - **General Jean-Marie Michel MOKOKO**, Special Representative and Head of the African Union Mission in the Central African Republic and Central Africa (MISAC), Representative Madam **Nkosazana DLAMINI-ZUMA**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission;
4. The official opening Ceremony of this Extraordinary Session, that took place at the Yaounde Conference Centre, was punctuated by the welcome address of the Government Delegate to the Yaounde City Council, the speech of the event by the Secretary-General of ECCAS, the speech by the President of the Republic of Cameroon, and the opening speech by the President of the Republic of Chad, current Chairperson of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS.
 5. The various speakers unanimously noted the seriousness of the threat posed by the terrorist group Boko Haram on the stability of Cameroon and Chad, and on that of the entire Central African Sub-region.
 6. They strongly condemned the repeated and unjustifiable attacks of the terrorist group Boko Haram against Cameroon and Chad, as well as abuses perpetrated against civilian populations. They deplored the many losses in human lives, gang looting, destruction of property as well as the degradation of the humanitarian situation.
 7. After the opening ceremony, the Heads of States and delegations of ECCAS Member States met under closed doors to develop a Sub-regional strategy to support Cameroon and Chad in combating the terrorist group Boko Haram.
 8. During the closed door Meeting; the Heads of States and Heads of Delegations were edified by the presentations of their Excellencies Paul BIYA and IDRIS DEBI ITNO on the Boko Haram threat and the resources made available to combat this terrorist group.

9. The two speakers underscored the seriousness of the situation given that the terrorist group is expanding both at the level of troops and at the level of the quality of military equipment. They highlighted the serious socio-cultural, economic and humanitarian consequences of the aggression of the terrorist group Boko Haram.
10. The two Heads of State declared that their States are at war and have mobilized more than six thousand men each to combat the terrorist group Boko Haram. They concluded their presentations by requesting their counterparts to mobilize and assist them to wipe out the terrorist group Boko Haram which; if it is not neutralized; could destabilize the entire sub-region.
11. After the presentations of the two Heads of State, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of COPAX, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration of the Republic of Chad, His Excellency Moussa FAKI MAHAMAT, presented the Report of the Extraordinary Session of the Council that was held on 14 February 2015.
12. The Heads of States and Heads of Delegations took note of the different actions undertaken and they proceeded to analyse deeply the issue.
13. From the analysis; it was clear that the terrorist group Boko Haram is not only a threat to Cameroon and Chad, but also to the entire Central African Sub-region.
14. In order to combat the terrorist group Boko Haram, the Heads of State of COPAX agreed to pool their efforts to provide a joint and coordinated response.
15. The Heads of State reaffirmed their strong determination to support Cameroon and Chad, under the mechanisms provided for by the Protocol relating to COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact between ECCAS Member States, by providing an emergency aid in financial resources, troops; human support, engineering, health, various military equipment and air support.
16. The Heads of State and Government also decided to set up a Multidimensional Support Fund in the area of logistics, humanitarian assistance, communication and political-diplomatic actions. They instructed the Secretary General of ECCAS to draw up, as soon as possible, a plan of action for the various domains to be submitted to COPAX bodies for its adoption and implementation.
17. The Heads of State also decided to strengthen the surveillance of their respective territories and carry out awareness and communication campaigns among their populations in a bid to reduce the risks of infiltration by Boko Haram members into the borders of their sub-region and cut off their resupply networks.
18. Just like for the inter-regional strategy to combat maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, the Heads of State and Government expressed their willingness to develop active cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in order to wipe out the terrorist group Boko Haram.
19. In this regard, the Heads of State mandated the current Chairperson of ECCAS to get closer to his ECOWAS counterpart in order to explore the possibilities of holding a bipartisan extraordinary session between both organizations in view of adopting a joint strategy to fight against Boko Haram.

20. Convinced of the crucial role that should be played by the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the fight against Boko Haram, the Heads of State decided to carry out political-diplomatic actions geared towards this country, in a bid to foster cooperation between this country and the two States members of ECCAS with whom they have share borders.
21. The Heads of State also adopted the Yaounde Declaration of 16 February 2015 on the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram. This Declaration states, unequivocally, their commitment to fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram in the Central African Sub-region.
22. The Heads of State expressed gratitude to the African Union for authorizing the deployment of the Multinational Joint Force (MJF) and requested it to speed up its authorization process by the United Nations Security Council.
23. The Heads of State congratulated the Secretariat-General of ECCAS for all the initiatives taken in view of mobilizing the Community to address this security challenge posed by the terrorist group Boko Haram in the sub-region.
24. Finally, the Heads of State expressed their sincere gratitude to His Excellency **Paul BIYA**, President of the Republic of Cameroon, his Government and to the entire Cameroonian population, for the welcome, hospitality and all the attention given to them during their stay in Yaounde./-

Done in Yaoundé, on 16 February 2015

The Secretary-General of ECCAS

Ambassador Ahmad ALLAM-MI