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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

1086<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

31 MAY 2022

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

**STATEMENTS DELIVERED DURING THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSION  
ON THE LAKE CHAD BASIN**



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## I. LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION

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*Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission  
and Head of Mission of the Multinational Joint task Force*

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- The Chairperson of the AU PSC for the Month of May 2022, H.E. **Churchill EWUMBUE-MONONO**;
- The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, **H.E. Bankole ADEOYE**;
- Distinguished AU PSC Council members;
- Executive Governors of the Eight affected Regions of the Lake Chad Basin;
- Invited guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

1. It is always, my pleasure to have the opportunity to brief the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC). My briefing today is on the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin and the progress made by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) of Boko Haram affected areas of the Lake Chad.

2. Let me first of all thank the PSC for giving me this opportunity and for its continued support to the LCBC and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) towards ensuring sustainable peace and development in the region.

**Your Excellencies,**

3. Since my last presentation to this Council on 14 January 2022 when the PSC graciously approved the renewal of the mandate of the MNJTF, the Force has not spared any efforts towards delivering a safe and secure Lake Chad region free of threats of Boko Haram. Kinetic and non-kinetic efforts have been sustained by the LCBC towards enhancing the living conditions of the people of the region.

4. The general security situation in the Region remains calm but fluid. The Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah (JAS) and the Bakura faction of Boko Haram, who are operating in the area, continue to launch attacks against troops, through ambushes and use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). They also attack civilian populations and mount propaganda campaigns to further their course. There is also increasing presence of foreign terrorist fighters from Libya in the region.

5. To effectively bring these activities to an end, the MNJTF, in March 2022, launched **Ops LAKE SANITY**, a major operation involving all troops contributing countries (TCCs) to eradicate the remnants of the terrorists hibernating on the islands (Tumbus) of the Lake. This

military offensive has led to the terrorists being pushed out of the islands and to the recapture of territories.

**Your Excellencies,**

6. Following the launch of the operation, terrorist attacks against communities and military targets have significantly reduced from a monthly average of about 15 attacks in 2021 to about 7 per month in the first and second quarters of 2022. This is the evidence of the increasing decimation of the capabilities of the terrorists by troops. As of 12 May 2022, twenty (20) insurgent camps had been captured and destroyed, while one hundred and one (101) assorted weapons and 1,147 ammunitions of different calibres were recovered by troops.

7. The new offensive continues to make the Lake Chad region unliveable for the terrorists, forcing many of them to surrender as they have been denied freedom of action by troops. It is believed that the MNJTF's sustained pressure on the terrorists would lead to more surrenders and possible arrest of their leaders for prosecution.

**Your Excellencies,**

8. With respect to humanitarian activities in the region, I am glad to inform you that we have operationalised the MNJTF Civil Military cooperation (CIMIC) cell to enhance close liaison, information sharing, and cooperation between the MNJTF, civilian authorities and humanitarian actors. The Force has facilitated the re-opening of Damasak and other markets across the sectors, the creation of an enabling environment for the conduct of humanitarian activities by both local and international non-governmental organisations, and the restoration of civil authorities in towns like Kolofata and Amchide in Cameroon, and Banki and Baga in Nigeria.

9. Twelve (12) boreholes were drilled and commissioned in three communities of Kukawa LGA of Borno State; medical and pharmaceutical equipment were distributed in Garin Wanzam, while clothes and educational materials were also distributed to Primary Schools in Niger Republic. The Force equally provided medical support to members of the civilian joint task force (CJTF) and the civilian population in Monguno town while one borehole was repaired and a bye pass road constructed in Wulgo.

10. MNJTF operations have also facilitated the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to their ancestral homes. In April 2022, about 500 households from Mallam Fatori were resettled in their communities after 10 years in IDP camps in Maiduguri. Over 200,000 IDPs/Refugees were assisted to return to their ancestral homes in places like Baroua in Diffa, Cross Kauwa, Baga and Doron Baga in Kukawa Local Government Area of Borno State, Kolofata and Fotokol in Cameroon, and Madai in Chad.

11. In general, the ongoing kinetic and non-kinetic operations in the region continue to yield dividends through the surrender of numerous terrorists and their families to own troops. By 5 May 2022, a total of 52,059 persons associated with the terrorists had surrendered from August 2021. They were received, processed, and handed over to their respective national governments in line with international humanitarian laws.

**Your Excellencies,**

12. The successes recorded by the Force in bringing about sustainable peace and security in the region have not been without their attendant challenges. Despite the existing support from TCCs and partners like the European Union (EU), MNJTF is nevertheless constrained by several factors, including:

- i. **Inadequate Counter-IED Capabilities:** IEDs pose one of the biggest threats which result in high number of preventable casualties on civilians as well as troops during offensive operations. It will therefore be appreciated if the AU could kindly consider sourcing additional counter-IED equipment to MNJTF.
- ii. **Inadequate flight time of the Air Support:** The MNJTF Air Mobility Service (AMS) provided by Kampala Executive Aviation (KEA) has been critical to the operations of the Force. The service has been effective for both medical and casualty evacuations and has served as a Force multiplier in the conduct of the ongoing Operation LAKE SANITY. MNJTF has therefore requested an additional 60-hours monthly flight time to complement the 120 hours currently allocated to meet the additional requirements of the ongoing operation.
- iii. **Inadequate Surveillance Equipment:** The acquisition of modern surveillance equipment, including military grade drones, capable of detecting adversary fighters from considerable distances is urgently needed to provide early warning and enhance situational awareness of own troops.
- iv. **Inadequate Communications Equipment:** The communications equipment currently used by the MNJTF is inadequate, and is hindering the effective utilisation of air support. Adequate communications equipment is therefore needed to enhance operational efficiency.
- v. **Inadequate Amphibious Capabilities:** The MNJTF has been constrained in carrying out combined major land and riverine operations due to the rise in water levels occasioned by heavy rainfalls and lack of sufficient amphibious assets to clear the remnants of ISWAP/BHT from the islands.
- vi. **Delayed Payment of mission subsistence allowances:** Mission staff officers are yet to receive their monthly mission subsistence allowance (MSA) from January 2022 to date, which is affecting their morale. It will be appreciated if payment could resume as soon as possible.

**Regional Stabilisation Strategy****Your Excellencies,**

13. Following my briefing to this Council in July 2021 and the update of January 2022, on the Progress of the RSS, the PSC requested the LCBC to, among others, finalize and roll out the Territorial Action Plans; strengthen coordination with key strategic and political actors in

the region; and to deepen its engagement with the Civil Society organizations. I am glad to report that the implementation of the strategy has gained more traction with progress recorded at both the strategic and community levels resulting in real impacts on the lives of the most affected persons in the region.

14. The Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) by the eight (8) governors of the affected states, which represent the recovery priorities of each of the affected states for the next five years, have been finalized and launched at the meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum held from 4-5 October 2021 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The next step is resource mobilization among the donor community to raise part of the \$1.8 billion needed for the implementation of the TAPs in the eight affected territories. The LCBC is confident that the AU-PSC will be favourably disposed to accompany it in the planned resource mobilization drive.

15. With regard to engagement with key political actors in the region, both the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) are members of the RSS Steering Committee. They are also on the guest list of LCB Governors Forum. In addition, the Head of RSS Secretariat was part of the ECOWAS scoping mission to Mali to explore the possibility of replicating RSS in the region.

16. Meanwhile, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting of the RSS, which is co-chaired by the LCBC and the AUC, is scheduled to hold on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, in Douala, Cameroon. The focus of the meeting will be on mobilizing political and financial support for the implementation of the TAPs.

17. May I also use this opportunity to inform Council that the 4<sup>th</sup> Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum (LCBGF) is scheduled to hold later this year in N'Djamena, Chad, on a date to be decided by the host country. As indicated earlier, the third edition took place in Yaoundé from 4-5 October 2021.

#### **Your Excellencies,**

18. While preparations are on to implement the RSS, I am glad to inform you that immediate Stabilization activities are ongoing in the region through the Regional Stabilization Facility being implemented by the UNDP in partnership with the LCBC and the AU. The RSF, which is implementing some aspects of four of the nine pillars of the RSS, is positively impacting the communities. It is restoring social contract, revitalizing economic activities, and rebuilding some of the infrastructure and social services destroyed by Boko Haram.

19. Under the RSF, 108 classrooms have been constructed and equipped, 7 health centres rehabilitated, 1,096 solar-powered street lighting units installed, while 1800 permanent housing units and 1,302 Lock-up shops and market stalls have also been constructed in the region. Similarly, 28,080 persons have benefitted from direct livelihood opportunities including business grants, cash for work, and market and farming opportunities, while 2,674 persons benefitted from livelihood training opportunities.

20. In conclusion, let me state that the stabilisation, recovery, and development needs of the region require a considerable outlay of resources to succeed. With an estimated

investment cost of over \$1.8b for the implementation of the TAPs and the cost of sustaining the operations of the MNJTF, the need for the AUC to continue its ongoing efforts to mobilise the needed resources to consolidate the gains already made in the region, cannot be overstated.

21. Finally, I want to express our sincere gratitude to our partners and donors, including the African Union Commission, the UNDP, the Governments of Germany, the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, the EU, the African Development Bank, and the World Bank for their support to the various projects going on in the Lake Chad Basin.

22. I thank you for your kind attention!

***Lake Chad Basin Commission, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022***

## II. RÉPUBLIQUE DE DJIBOUTI

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### *Déclaration*

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Merci Monsieur le Président de m'accorder la parole.

Tout d'abord permettez-moi de vous féliciter pour la présidence réussie de votre pays la République sœur du Cameroun tout au long de ce mois de mai 2022.

Aussi, permettez-moi de remercier les différents présentateurs pour leurs exposés exhaustifs.

**Monsieur le Président,**

La situation que nous examinons ce jour et qui prévaut dans la Région du bassin du Lac Tchad nécessite une attention particulière tant sur le plan sécuritaire qu'humanitaire.

Nous constatons que bien qu'affaiblis les groupes terroristes accentuent leur influence et leur présence dans cette région convoitée.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Malgré quelques avancées positives enregistrées, la région du bassin du Lac Tchad est toujours confrontée à des attaques ciblées et meurtrières par les groupes terroristes.

Les incidents de sécurité dans la région visent de plus en plus les civils plus particulièrement les femmes et les enfants et porte préjudice à la réponse humanitaire.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Mon pays la République de Djibouti attache une attention particulière à l'éradication du terrorisme et de l'extrémisme violent sur notre continent et reste attentive concernant l'évolution de la situation dans la région du bassin du lac Tchad et apporte son soutien sans faille aux pays touchés par le terrorisme dans cette région.

C'est dans cette optique **Monsieur le Président** et afin d'aboutir à un environnement propice ma délégation recommande à notre Conseil que les efforts doivent être pragmatiques et innovants.

Les acteurs dont la FMM qui œuvrent à la stabilisation de la région doivent collaborer, suivre l'évolution des conflits pour garder une longueur d'avance sur les extrémistes violents et adapter leurs réponses en fonction de l'évolution des tendances et faciliter l'accès à l'aide humanitaire pour les populations les plus vulnérables notamment les réfugiées et personnes déplacées.

**Je vous remercie de votre attention**



### III. REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

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*Statement delivered by Ambassador Jainaba Jagne, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Gambia to the African Union*

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H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of May 2022, Colleagues Members of Peace and Security Council.

Please allow me to profusely thank the briefers for their insightful briefing on the situation in Lake Chad Basin. I equally commend you for considering such a very important and timely topic considering the worrying humanitarian as well as the security situation of the region. As you conclude your chairmanship today, I commend you for the excellent manner you have conducted the business of the PSC for the month of May.

Chair, the situation in Lake Chad Basin presents another dire security challenge and a concerning humanitarian crises on the continent. Due to the operation of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, countries of the Lake Chad basin continue to experience security and humanitarian challenges.

The protracted insecurity in the region owing to persistent attacks by nonstate actors, kidnapping of school children with its debilitating impact on their development and violation of their rights is a course for concern.

Armed conflict and political violence remain the main source of the worsening humanitarian crises on the continent. The dire humanitarian situation due to conflicts forced 'millions of people, including women and children, into a drifting life as refugees and internally displaced persons, depriving them of their means of livelihood, dignity and hope'.

Chair, challenges to humanitarian action are increasingly becoming more complex as insecurity not only aggravate humanitarian needs but also impedes effective humanitarian interventions. These challenges are not simply the worsening of the humanitarian situation in Africa but equal concern is the declining capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance to people in need.

In the midst of these challenges, Chair, I commend the governments and people of the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), as well as the unwavering commitment of the African Union to continue to support the implementation of the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS);

I appreciate the progress made on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS), despite the continued attacks by the Boko Haram and the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) terrorist groups;

I also welcome the progress made on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS), despite the continued attacks by the Boko Haram and the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) terrorist groups, and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic;

Allow me to also commend the political cooperation and mutual trust between and among the affected countries of the region and in this regard pays tribute to the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, H.E. Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, for his role in providing leadership for regional led initiatives and interventions and confidence-building measures between the countries of the region and the operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF);

I equally applaud the Governors of the worst-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin for their efforts in the development of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) and the creation of the Governors Forum aimed at developing context-specific plans and national ownership of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs);. I commend them for the collective efforts being deployed in addressing the various security threats facing the region; and encourages them to remain resolute in their efforts and to continue to further strengthen their cooperation;

I further express my appreciation to the International Community through the International Support Group (ISG) for the unwavering support to stabilization efforts for the LCB region through the RSF.

This delegation express solidarity with the governments and people of the countries of the LCBC, as well as the unwavering commitment of the AU to continue to support them in the implementation of the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS);

Chair, though the situation in the Lake Chad Basin has recorded modest improvements it however, remains fluid and unpredictable. The situation requires immediate and coordinated action to contain the growing humanitarian need. Chair, to address the complex security and humanitarian situation,

I proffer the following consideration:

- 1) There is need to strengthen the role of the RECs/RMs as primary responders of crisis/conflict in their respective jurisdictions, in line with the cardinal principles of subsidiarity, complementarity and comparative advantage;
- 2) To enhance policy coordination amongst various actors and a harmonized response mechanism is critical for the timely and efficient delivery of assistance;
- 3) The AU should fast track the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency. This is critical to the extent that it will enable the AU with a dedicated agency that assumes full responsibility for leading AU's efforts in mobilizing responses to humanitarian crisis in Africa and facilitate coordination with humanitarian actors. It also remains important to ensure operationalization as well as harnessing in a coordinated manner the role of relevant structures such as the Special Emergency Assistance Fund (SEAF), Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) and the PRC Subcommittee on the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine Relief in Africa;
- 4) Encourages the AU Commission, in collaboration with the LCBC, to undertake an institutional capacity needs assessment of the countries of the region for the implementation of TAPs to inform the capacity building support where required;

- 5) To address the root causes and socio-economic conditions in the region, and in this respect, urges the AU Commission, through its Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Centre in Cairo, Egypt, work in close cooperation with the LCBC and affected countries, to identify and initiate quick impact projects (QIPS) and peace strengthening projects (PSPs) in the short term, as well as medium and long-term development initiatives geared towards building resilience, recovery and sustainable peace in the region;
- 6) To strengthen greater collaboration between the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the implementation of the RSS; sharing information and intelligence, and joint investigations along shared borders;
- 7) to strengthen interventions in the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with Boko Haram, promotion of good governance, the rule of law, human rights and provision of rehabilitation support for the victims;

In conclusion, my delegation is hopeful for a sustainable peace in the region with support and collaboration of all stakeholders. I also endorsed the Communique from this session and recommendations in the concept note.

**I thank you all for your kind attention.**

#### IV. REPUBLIC OF GHANA

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*Draft Statement*

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Thank you Chair for giving the delegation of Ghana the floor and we commend you for the able manner in which you're presiding over this very important session.

We are also appreciative of the guest speakers and other presenters for their briefings, comments, and recommendations on the subject before us today and we duly commend them for their detailed presentations.

**Excellencies, Distinguished members of Council,**

The Delegation of Ghana welcomes the reasonable progress made in the humanitarian, security and development situation in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) and commends key stakeholders, especially the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), for their unrelenting efforts in dealing with the multi-faceted problems confronting the basin, as well as through programmes and policies such as the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience and the Territorial Action Plans, which are having positive impacts on the ground.

It is hoped that lessons from the LCB will inform the African Union's engagements in other hotspots, in line with the communique of the PSC's 1010<sup>th</sup> Meeting, which among other things, called for the Commission to accelerate the development of standard operating procedures to inform the design and development of similar mechanisms for stabilization operations on the continent.

**Excellencies, Distinguished members of Council,**

We are also pleased with reports indicating the upward trend in the return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their original abodes. This is indicative of the progress being made in the fight against terrorist insurgents in the region. We therefore encourage all to continue to consolidate these successes with renewed commitment, especially vis-à-vis resource allocation.

However, to ensure that the return of IDPs does not constitute a secondary or tertiary displacement, we call for the provision of support for the restoration of state presence, access to services, social cohesion, and livelihoods opportunities as echoed by the UNDP Rep and other briefers.

**Chair,**

The need for humanitarian support has become more essential in the face of the adverse impact climate change has had on food production and water security and the resultant adverse effect it has had in igniting inter-communal violence. This delegation, therefore, calls on all AU Member States and international partners, to continue to provide the requisite humanitarian support to people in this region, particularly women and children, as they are the most vulnerable in this regard.

To this end, we condemn all acts of kidnapping and killing, especially those targeting humanitarian workers and aid facilities. These acts create an extremely volatile environment for civilians and humanitarian agents alike.

**Excellencies, Distinguished members of Council,**

Finally, years after the implementation of the RSS, the need for review and recalibration cannot be overemphasized, especially to explore new ways of dealing with the drivers of conflict in the basin, tactically evolving and financially thriving terrorist groups and the needs of the affected communities. This, among other things, will require renewed determination and political will on the part of all stakeholders.

**Thank you Chair.**

## V. THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

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### *Statement*

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- The delegation of Morocco would like to recognize the progress made on the implementation of the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS), although difficulties and challenges posed by the threat of terrorism and extremism in the Lake Chad basin region.
- Also commends the political cooperation and mutual trust between and among the affected countries of the region. These collective efforts being deployed are essential for addressing the various security threats facing the region.
- Further recognize that the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) operations against BOKO Haram have created an enabling environment for the conduct of humanitarian activities in local communities by government, and non-governmental organizations and resettlement of IDPs.
- In Addition, it should be noted, according to recent reports, that there is an upward trend in the return of IDPs to their ancestral homelands in the region which should be encouraged and supported by the AU.

Thus, while expressing its deep concern over the growing threat posed by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin, particularly its direct involvement in instability, displacement of populations and insecurity in the region, this delegation would like to:

1. Reaffirm its Solidarity with the governments and people of the countries of the Lake Chad basin ;
2. Underline the importance of AU, UN and Partners' continued support to those brotherly countries in the implementation of the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS);
3. Note with concern the increasing impacts of climate change on the Lake Chad basin countries and the challenges posed to socio-economic development in the region ;
4. Stress the need for a multidimensional approach focused on peace, security and development, and reinforcing their resilience against the negative impact of terrorism and extremism on their living conditions ;
5. Underline the necessity to tackle the threat of Boko Haram through a common commitment by member states and strengthening the means of control over official borders between states ;

6. Stress the need to explore the best ways and means to accompany these brotherly countries in their efforts to combat terrorism and extremism in their region while providing them with the necessary assistance likely to guarantee them peace, security and sustainable development.

## VI. RÉPUBLIQUE DE SENEGAL

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### *Déclaration*

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Merci monsieur le Président d'accorder la Parole à cette délégation,

En ce dernier jour de votre présidence, je m'associe à tous pour vous remercier et vous féliciter pour l'excellente manière avec laquelle vous avez conduit le conseil durant ce mois de mai.

Permettez-moi également de féliciter tous les intervenants de ce jour pour leurs riches communications qui nous ont fourni des mises à jour sur la situation dans le bassin du Lac Tchad.

#### **Monsieur le Président,**

Le Sénégal constate avec une profonde préoccupation la persistance des attaques des groupes armés terroristes contre des cibles militaires et des communautés non coopératives dans la région du Bassin du Lac Tchad.

Malgré les progrès réalisés par la Force multinationale mixte (FMM) et les efforts déployés par les États membres de la Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad (CBLT) et le Bénin, notamment dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie régionale pour la Stabilisation des pays touchés par Boko Haram, force est de constater la volatilité de la situation sécuritaire dans la région.

Cette persistance de l'insécurité dans cette région nous interpelle sur l'urgence d'agir autrement en changeant d'approche et en renforçant les mécanismes existant pour les adapter aux défis actuels que pose le dynamisme des groupes armés opérant dans la zone. Elle nous rappelle également, si besoin en était encore, la nécessité de prendre de nouvelles mesures pertinentes et/ou de donner les orientations claires à mêmes de nettoyer complètement le bassin du lac Tchad et toutes les autres régions de l'Afrique touchées du phénomène du terrorisme et de l'extrémisme violent.

Sous ce rapport, nous saluons les succès notés dans le cadre des opérations cinétiques de la FMM contre Boko Haram et qui ont défait le groupe dans plusieurs aspects de son organisation et créé un environnement favorable à la conduite d'activités humanitaires dans les communautés locales par les gouvernements et les organisations non gouvernementales sur place. Le Sénégal se félicite également du lancement, par les États de la région, des plans d'action territoriaux (PAT) de mise en œuvre de la Stratégie régionale pour la Stabilisation dans huit zones les plus touchées du Bassin du lac Tchad.

#### **Monsieur le Président,**

A la lumière des conclusions des sommets extraordinaires sur le terrorisme et sur la situation humanitaire en Afrique qui viennent de s'achever, cette délégation voudrait réaffirmer l'urgence de rendre pleinement opérationnelle la Force africaine en attente ainsi que l'unité de lutte contre le terrorisme en son sein, afin de soutenir, de manière substantielle, les efforts des États de la région.



Nous pensons également qu'il y a lieu de favoriser la participation des populations, notamment les jeunes et les femmes, dans les efforts de lutte contre les groupes armés, et de développer des mécanismes de sensibilisation à l'égard de ces couches vulnérables pour limiter leur collaboration mentionnée avec les terroristes.

Par ailleurs, la connexion entre les deux principaux groupes d'insurgés de Boko Haram qui opèrent dans la région et d'autres groupes terroristes de l'extérieur du continent, notamment l'État islamique d'Irak et de Syrie (EIS), est une préoccupation majeure qui mérite d'être soulevée. A cet égard, il est impératif de prendre des mesures ardues pour couper le cordon ombilical entre l'EIS et ses affidés locaux qui continuent de recevoir une assistance financière et technique ainsi que d'autres formes de soutien de sa part ; ceci est inacceptable.

Aussi, il est urgent d'agir dans le sens de protéger les populations locales contre les vulgaires actes d'extorsion de leurs biens que leur imposent, au prix du sang et de leur vie, les groupes terroristes pour financer leurs activités.

S'agissant de la mobilisation des fonds pour le soutien des opérations de sécurisation dans la région, cette délégation est d'avis qu'il conviendrait de réfléchir à la mise en place d'un mécanisme de financement alternatif et coordonné impliquant les pays de la région, l'Union africaine, les CER/MR ainsi que les partenaires, en particulier les Nations unies. Il s'y ajoute qu'il faudrait au préalable interroger la nature et les règles d'engagement de ces opérations pour les adapter aux réalités du terrain.

Pour terminer, **Monsieur le Président**, nous invitons les Etats de la région à mutualiser les moyens de lutte là où c'est possible à travers notamment l'échange d'information et d'expérience. Nous les invitons également, en collaboration avec les CER/MR, à renforcer davantage la coordination des actions et des initiatives de lutte contre les groupes armés terroristes.

En fin, nous encourageons les Etats de la région à adopter des approches holistiques pour lutter contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent, à travers notamment la mise en œuvre de programmes et de projets qui assurent l'équilibre des moyens pour la sécurité et le développement.

**Je vous remercie de votre attention.**

## VII. REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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### *Statement*

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#### **I thank you Chair,**

1. We would like to express our appreciation to you for the excellent manner within which you are conducting this meeting and for the excellent Chairship of the Council during the month of May.
2. We take note of the reports, and the statements that have been made.
3. According to the Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa of May 2022; between January 2017 to December 2021; 7,216 terrorist attacks were recorded in Africa which culminated in a loss of 28,848 innocent lives. As a delegation we condemn terrorism in all its manifestations.
4. Boko Haram has caused untold suffering to the Lake Chad Basin Region including a deteriorating humanitarian situation. We take note of the achievements made, and the challenges faced, by the Multinational Joint Task Force against the Boko Haram Terrorist Group.
5. Terrorism has been attributed to many causal factors such as political grievances, deprivation, and actual or perceived injustice, which tend to act as catalysts and are exploited by terrorist groups in creating a narrative leading to radicalization, to justify the need to distrust Government, and to cause a change through violent means.
6. We welcome the development, and launching, of the Territorial Action Plans by the eight worst-affected areas in the Lake Chad Basin as building blocks to the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy.
7. The 16<sup>th</sup> Extra Ordinary Assembly of Heads of States on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government, has provided unequivocal guidance on how to deal with the issue of terrorism and violent extremism. Member States, therefore, need to implement the outcomes of the Assembly.
8. For purpose of this meeting, we wish to emphasize the following points:
  - (i) There is need for Africa to build strong and professional armies which are equipped with the correct ideology of Non-Sectarianism; Pan-Africanism; Nationalism; Socio-economic Transformation and Democracy, in order to defeat terrorism;
  - (ii) There is need to address the underlying root causes and drivers associated with Youth participation in violence including redressing the socio-economic

imbalances that exist, through establishing deliberate socio-economic programs aimed at economically empowering our people, especially the Women and Youth and ushering them, into the money economy;

- (iii) There is need for Governments to invest in community policing and civil military relations in order to mobilize and sensitize the population against terrorism and violent extremism with the view to capturing the hearts and minds of the population, and creating a mindset change. No insurgency can succeed without the support of the people. It is therefore important to scale up efforts in this regard;
- (iv) There is need to emphasize the role of Traditional/Cultural; Religious; and Community Leaders in an effort to de-radicalize the Youth given the fact, that, these Leaders command a lot of respect and influence in the communities that they lead;
- (v) There is need for predictable and sustainable financing of Peace Support Operations in Africa including through:
  - a. Access to UN Assessed contributions;
  - b. Operationalization of the full endowment of the AU Peace Fund. In this regard, it will be necessary to conclude the outstanding consultations between the Northern Region and the Secretariat on their assessed contribution;
  - c. Burden and responsibility sharing by all the Troop Contributing Countries within the framework of the MNJTF; and
  - d. There is need to seriously reflect on the 2016 Assembly decision on the 0.2% levy on eligible imported goods as one of the most sustainable ways of funding Peace Support Operations.
- (vi) We support the call for all Agencies, entities and institutions to collaborate, and coordinate, in support of the Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Boko Haram-affected countries in the Lake Chad Basin; and
- (vii) We also support the call for countries from the region, as well as the Partners within the international community to support its implementation including through the provision of necessary resources.

**I thank you.**

2022-05-31

# Communiqué of the 1086th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, Held on 31 May 2022 on the Update on the Situation in the Lake Chad Basin.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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