

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1086TH MEETING

31 MAY 2022
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/CN.1086 (2022)

CONCEPT NOTE
UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION



CONCEPT NOTE
UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

I. BACKGROUND

1. In response to the security, development and humanitarian challenges in the Lake Chad Basin region, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) in March 2015 authorized the deployment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) as an expression of its support for the efforts by the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin to “create a safe and secure environment and contribute to stabilizing the situation in the areas affected” by Boko Haram activities. Despite the progress made by the MNJTF, overall success was determined to be contingent on the implementation of overall stabilization programmes by the LCBC Member States and Benin in the affected areas, including the complete restoration of state authority and the return of Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees.

2. Consequently, On August 30 2018, the LCBC Council of Ministers adopted the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) for Boko Haram-affected countries in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB). Developed with the support of the African Union Commission, the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) seeks to leverage the gains made by the MNJTF to facilitate the implementation of overall stabilization programmes. At its 816th meeting held on 5 December 2018, the AU PSC endorsed the Strategy and called on the Commission to support its implementation.

3. Since then, the Council has continuously engaged with the LCBC and the MNJTF on the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin and the implementation of the RSS. The most recent engagement was at its 1057th meeting held virtually on 14 January 2022 during which the Council considered the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the activities of the MNJTF and renewed its mandate for another 12 Months beginning from 1 February 2022. The situation in the Lake Chad Basin has since recorded modest improvements but remains fluid and unpredictable. The Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) and the Jamaat Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) factions are the two main Boko Haram (BH) insurgent groups operating in the region. The ISWAP-BH faction, which is in allegiance with Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and receives financial aid, technical assistance and other forms of support from ISIS, is largely restricted to Lake Chad Islands (Tumbuns) from where they carry out attacks on military targets and uncooperative communities, while also depending on some support from the populace. The JAS-BH faction operates mainly in the Diffa Region of the Niger Republic, carrying out kidnappings, attacks and other criminal activities.

4. The MNJTF kinetic operations against BH have been largely successful as they have led to the neutralization of several BH fighters, destruction of their camps and logistics bases, recovery/seizure of various quantities of arms and equipment, and liberation of the towns and communities. These successes 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 June 2021, about 6,000 IDPs who fled the violence in 2015 were returned to their hometown of Baroda in Diffa region of Niger Republic. In August 2021 over 6,000 citizens of Cross Kauwa, Baga and Doron Baga in Kukawa Local Government Area of Borno State, were successfully returned to their ancestral homes from

IDP Camps in Monguno. Earlier in March 2021, about 5,000 refugees who had spent 6 years in Minawao Refugee Camp in Cameroon were returned to Banki town in Nigeria.

5. Recent reports from the region suggest an upward trend in the return of IDPs to their ancestral homelands in the region. The resettlement push has been supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Stabilization Facility, which has provided functioning essential infrastructure and basic services and improved community safety and security as part of its immediate stabilization activities to support communities in the region. To drive the transition from stabilization to recovery and resilience, there is a need to sustain trends in the rejuvenation of communities after their liberation by the MNJTF. In addition to providing support for the psychosocial needs of returnees, environmentally sustainable livelihood options that are also conflict-sensitive, among others, must be promoted to facilitate a return to normalcy in the region.

6. Since the last update to the Council, the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) that serve as the building blocks for the implementation of the RSS have been developed and launched by the eight worst-affected areas in the Lake Chad Basin namely Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States of Nigeria, North and Far North Regions in Cameroon, Lake Region and Hadjer Lamis in Chad and Diffa region in Niger. The implementation of the TAPs holds the potential to drive the overall stabilization of the region while jump-starting and sustaining the recovery process. The LCBC Executive Secretariat has emphasized the need for agencies, entities and institutions to collaborate and coordinate in support of RSS implementation and avoid duplication; implementation requires substantial resources from countries in the region as well as the partners within the international community.

II. OBJECTIVE

7. Essentially, the PSC session aims to assess the security, humanitarian and development situation in the Lake Chad Basin and review developments regarding the implementation of the RSS, particularly mobilization of funds for implementing the TAPs. Through this session, it is expected that the Council will determine and articulate future direction and further support needed for stabilizing and driving the recovery process in the region.

III. PARTICIPANTS AND FORMAT

8. The PSC session will be held at the Ambassadorial level. H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon and the Chairperson of the PSC for May 2022, will preside over the meeting and give opening remarks. H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, will make a statement and apprise the Council on AU's ongoing support towards the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the stabilisation, recovery and resilience of the Boo Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region.

9. It is envisaged that H.E. Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of Mission of the MNJTF will brief the Council and provide an update on the security, humanitarian and development situation in the Region

and the implementation of stabilization activities under the RSS. H.E Ambassador Basile Ikuegbe, Special Representative of the AU Chairperson and Head of AU Liaison Office in Chad, will brief the Council on the political climate in Chad and its implications on stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin.

10. Furthermore, the Governors of the Lake Chad Basin, namely; Governor of the Far North Region of Cameroon and Current Chair of the Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum, Executive Governor of Borno State, Governor of Diffa Region in Niger, and Governor of Hadjer Lamis in Chad will provide key highlights of the Territorial Action Plans.

11. After the briefings, the PSC members will continue with discussions during the closed segment of the session and adopt a communique.

IV. TIME AND DATE

12. The AU PSC meeting will be held virtually on 31 May 2022, starting at 10h00 a.m., Addis Ababa local time. There will be English and French interpretation.

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

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/handle/123456789/1660>

Downloaded from PAPS Digital Repository, Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS)