



## **Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum For Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development in the region affected by Boko Haram**

### **Joint Communiqué of the Inaugural Meeting**

**(final version of 9 May 2018)**

1. The Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development was formally declared launched by H.E. Senator Mohammed Umar Jibrilla, the Governor of Adamawa State, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, on behalf of Governors of the Lake Chad Basin. The Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development in the region affected by Boko Haram, hereafter referred to as the Forum, held its inaugural meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, in Maiduguri, Borno State, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The inaugural meeting of the Forum was hosted by the Governor of Borno State, H.E. Kashim Shettima, and supported by the United Nations through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the Governments of Germany, Sweden and Norway. The inaugural meeting was formally addressed by H.E. Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, ably represented by the Governor of Borno State, H.E. Kashim Shettima, in the presence of Governors from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria as well as officials from the United Nations, African Union, multilateral and bilateral partners, representatives of civil society and the media.
2. The Forum recognizes the extensive efforts that have already gone into addressing the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin by the respective national governments, multilateral institutions, and local communities. The Forum also specifically acknowledges the UN Security Council Resolution 2349 (2017) on Boko Haram and Lake Chad, and the call to "take further measures to address social, political, economic and gender inequalities, and environmental challenges, and to develop strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, and address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism....".
3. The Forum recognizes and appreciates the extensive regional consultations with local communities across the four countries around Lake Chad, and will continue to engage with communities to hear their voices and consider their recommendations.

4. In light of these processes, the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development met on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2018 and agrees on the following:
  - i. To formally constitute the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum, which will act as a platform for fostering regional cooperation on stabilization, peacebuilding and sustainable development for the region affected by the Boko Haram crisis;
  - ii. That the Forum will serve to enhance joint efforts towards stabilizing, building peace and fostering sustainable development across the Lake Chad Basin through promoting dialogue and cross-border design and exchange of information and crisis response solutions;
  - iii. That the preparation of each Forum be supported by a designated team led by UNDP that would act in close collaboration with the Hosting Governor, the Lake Chad Basin Commission as well as international partners, to assist with logistical and substantive support;
  - iv. To regularly convene the Forum, at least annually, and that the hosting of the Forum should rotate between governors in the four countries in the spirit of equal and shared ownership;
  - v. That the Forum will serve as a veritable contribution to the Lake Chad Basin's path towards stabilization, peace and sustainable development;
  - vi. That a community-based approach is essential to ensuring sustainability and ownership of solutions to the Boko Haram crisis in the Lake Chad Basin;
  - vii. To use the Forum to promote a bottom-up approach to stabilization and peacebuilding of the Lake Chad Basin. It was further recognized that communities have identified traditional and religious institutions, women and young people as essential to charting a path towards stabilization and peace, and the Forum therefore resolves to include such groups in its regular consultations and meetings;
  - viii. To leverage the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum as a means to specifically address sub-national cross-border challenges and opportunities to provide a better life for all those who live in the Lake Chad Basin and depend on it for survival;
  - ix. To support ongoing national, regional and multilateral efforts towards stabilization of the Lake Chad Basin, notably the ongoing efforts by the African Union Commission and the Lake Chad Basin Commission to develop a Regional Stabilization Strategy, as well as supporting the efforts of restoring the Lake Chad waters as part of a long-term solution to ensure sustainable development of the region.
5. The Forum expresses its appreciation to H.E. President Buhari and the people of Nigeria; and the host Governor, H.E. Kashim Shettima, for the hospitality; his counterparts and co-chair Governors of the States/Regions around the Lake Chad Basin; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Office to West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), UN Office to Central Africa (UNOCA), for the technical and secretarial support for planning, facilitation and organizing of the Forum, in close collaboration with the African Union (AU), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The Forum also wishes to extend its appreciation to the Governments of Germany, Sweden and Norway

for their support, as well as to other multilateral, regional and bilateral partners here present during the inaugural meeting.

6. In addition, the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum agreed that the next meeting would hold by the end of the first quarter of 2019 in Niger.

Done on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018, in Maiduguri, Borno State, Federal Republic of Nigeria.