



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, communication and humanitarian actions, to be submitted to the Member States of ECCAS;

- 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

**For the Republic of Angola,
The Minister of External Relations, Mr Laurent KAVAKURE,
Representative of His Excellency José Eduardo DOS SANTOS**

**For the Republic of Cameroon,
His Excellency PAUL BIYA**

**For the Central African Republic,
Her Excellency Catherine SAMBA-PANZA**

**For the Republic of Congo,
His Excellency Denis SASSOU-N'GUESSO**

**For the Democratic Republic of Congo,
The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
Mr Raymond TSHIBANDA, Representative of His Excellency Joseph
KABILA KABANGE**

**For the Republic of Gabon,
His Excellency ALI BONGO ONDIMBA**

**For the Republic of Equatorial Guinea,
His Excellency Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO**

**For the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, the Prime
Minister, Head of Government, Mr Patrice Emery TROVOADA,
Representative of His Excellency Manuel PINTO DA COSTA**

**For the Republic of Chad,
His Excellency IDRIS DEBY ITNO**