



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 14 December 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 28 December 2020 ([S/2020/1322](#)), in which I informed the President of the Security Council of the progress made by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, and to his reply dated 30 December 2020 ([S/2020/1323](#)), in which he took note of my intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Mixed Commission, with funding from the regular budget. In this regard, I would like to inform you of the latest activities and achievements of the Mixed Commission.

As you may know, the United Nations established the Mixed Commission to facilitate the implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002, on the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary and territorial dispute. Through my good offices, and with the support of the Secretariat, I have continued to facilitate the implementation of the judgment.

The mandate of the Mixed Commission includes supporting the demarcation of the land boundary and the delineation of the maritime boundary; facilitating the withdrawal and transfer of authority; addressing the situation of affected populations; and making recommendations on confidence-building measures. Achievements to date in the implementation of the judgment include the withdrawal of Nigeria and the transfer of authority to Cameroon in the Lake Chad area (December 2003), along the land boundary (July 2004) and on the Bakassi Peninsula (a process that began in June 2006 and was completed in August 2008); the delineation of the maritime boundary (May 2007); and the end of the special transitional regime of five years and the exercise by Cameroon of its full right of sovereignty over the Bakassi zone (August 2013).

The Mixed Commission also approved the recommendations of the Working Group on the Maritime Boundary, including the provisions for cross-border cooperation on hydrocarbon deposits straddling the maritime boundary (March 2011).

Over the course of 2021, the Mixed Commission, chaired by my Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Mr. Annadif Khatir Mahamat Saleh, continued to make progress towards the implementation of the judgment, including by supporting dialogue and communication between the two parties. While the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continued to impede the work of the Mixed Commission, the team complied with the revised protocols governing international and regional travel to resume demarcation activities, including mediation meetings with the two parties to resolve the remaining areas of disagreement; pillar construction, on which considerable progress was made; and the final mapping process, which continued through remote collaboration.



The pillar construction exercise advanced, with 1,673 pillars constructed to date, representing a completion rate of approximately 60 per cent. The emplacement of an additional 327 boundary pillars is expected to commence in January 2022.

In August 2021, my Special Representative met the United Nations country team in Cameroon to update and reactivate socioeconomic projects to support communities living on both sides of the border. A meeting with the United Nations country team in Nigeria is planned for 2022.

The Mixed Commission held its thirty-third session on 19 and 20 November 2021, in Yaoundé, chaired by my Special Representative. During that session, the agreements reached on 14 of the 18 remaining areas of disagreement were endorsed and the parties reiterated their steadfast commitment to expedite the activities under way. The parties also agreed on technical specifications for the resolution of two areas of disagreement and endorsed the terms of reference for three missions to be led by the Sub-Commission on Demarcation. The Mixed Commission recommended the mobilization of funds to complete demarcation activities and implement socioeconomic projects to support local communities affected by the demarcation process.

The following activities are required to conclude the work of the Mixed Commission:

- (a) Agreement by the two parties on outstanding demarcation areas, to be reached by conducting field assessment missions, led by the Sub-Commission on Demarcation, in the areas of concern;
- (b) Facilitation of the construction and emplacement of boundary pillars financed by the trust fund for demarcation activities;
- (c) Production of final maps and a boundary statement;
- (d) Promotion of cross-border cooperation, including maritime cooperation, and coordinated security monitoring along the land boundary;
- (e) Finalization of confidence-building initiatives for local communities affected by the demarcation process;
- (f) Implementation of the completion strategy by progressively handing over the activities of the Mixed Commission to the Joint Bilateral Commission and other subregional structures.

I would like to recall that, until 2003, the Mixed Commission had been funded entirely from extrabudgetary funds. Thereafter, from 2004 to 2021, its activities were funded through the regular budget. The Governments of Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay have provided in-kind contributions for the substantive and technical work of the Commission (military and legal experts). In addition, logistical support has been provided by the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, and voluntary contributions to the trust fund for demarcation activities have been made by both countries, as well as by Germany. Between 2018 and 2020, the parties contributed \$6 million to the demarcation trust fund.

As has been the case in recent years, and given the cost-effectiveness of the operation and the important tasks remaining at this juncture to help to advance the peaceful implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice, it is my intention to ask for resources from the regular budget for the United Nations support team to cover the year 2022.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* António **Guterres**