

Note to Mr. Nambiar

**MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE GREENTREE AGREEMENT
NEW YORK, 16 JUNE 2009**

- (29-06076)
1. Further to my note of 10 June 2009, please find attached an updated set of materials for tomorrow's meeting between the Secretary-General and members of the Follow-Up Committee of the Greentree Agreement. These include: a final list of participants and revised seating plan, "If-Asked" talking points, a revised background note and 'Note to Correspondents'.

Confirmed list of participants (26)

United Nations	The Secretary-General Mr. Nambiar Mr. Djinnit, Chairman of the Follow-up Committee Mr. Kim Mr. Menkerios Mr. Haysom Mr. Ibok, Deputy Director, Africa II Division Mr. Vogels, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission Mr. Pierre Diouf, Coordinator, UN Observers Ms. Sylvie Daouda, Political Affairs Officer, Secretary of the Follow-Up Committee Ms. Celia Mannaert, DPA Note Taker
Cameroon	Mr. Maurice Kamto, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Justice Mr. Joseph Dion-Ngute, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of External Affairs in charge of the Commonwealth Mr. Martin Belinga Eboutou, Special Advisor Mr. Tommo Monthe, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations
Nigeria	Mr. Michael Aondoakaa, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Mr. Michael Okiro, Inspector General of Police Ms. U. Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations Alh. Saddiq M. Diggi, Director, National Boundary Commission

Witness States:

France	Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Deputy Permanent Representative Mr. Gaël Vesseyre, First Secretary
Germany	Mr. Frank Jarasch, First Secretary Ms. Susan Eckhardt, Assistant
United Kingdom	Mr. David Whineray, First Secretary, Political Affairs

Mr. Michael Watson, Adviser

Unites States

Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Alternate Representative for Special
Political Affairs
Mr. Scott Turner, Advisor

Seating

2. The meeting is scheduled to take place from 3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in Conference Room S-3570E. **Revised** seating arrangements for the meeting are included as an annex to this note.

Background information and “if-asked” talking points

3. The background note on the Follow-Up Committee has been revised to take into account the latest discussions that took place at the 24th meeting of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, in Abuja, Nigeria, on 11-12 June 2009. “If-asked” talking points are also attached to provide the Secretary-General with an indication of issues that may be raised by the parties during the meeting.

Note to Correspondents

4. The ‘Note to Correspondents’ was revised to highlight more explicitly the need to make sure that the needs of affected populations are met and that their rights **continue** to be respected.

5. I would be grateful if you could seek the Secretary-General’s approval on the above-mentioned proposals, at his earliest convenience.


B. Lynn Pascoe
16 June 2009

cc. Mr. Djinnit

Note to correspondents

Secretary-General hosts meeting with Cameroonian and Nigerian delegations on progress in historic resolution of territorial dispute

The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, met today with high-level Nigerian and Cameroonian delegations to the Follow-Up Committee of Greentree Agreement of 12 June 2006. The Secretary-General congratulated both countries for the successful and peaceful completion, on 14 August 2008, of the transfer of authority over the formerly disputed Bakassi Peninsula, in accordance with the 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice and the 2006 Greentree Agreement. In the presence of the Secretary-General, representatives of the two Governments agreed to continue working together to build on the historic progress achieved to date.

As Facilitator of the Greentree Agreement, the Secretary-General commended the two leaders for their determination and courage in bringing to a peaceful conclusion the transfer process in Bakassi. As well as marking a critical milestone in the implementation of the ICJ ruling, Cameroon and Nigeria have provided the world with a powerful illustration of respect for the rule of law as an effective tool for the peaceful settlement of disputes and a prime example of good neighbourliness. The United Nations is proud to have contributed to the efforts of the two countries, in the service of peace, the Secretary-General said.

The delegations from Nigeria and Cameroon expressed appreciation for the role played by the United Nations in this process. They exchanged views with the Secretary-General on the current situation in the Bakassi Peninsula, and remaining challenges in the process, particularly in fostering cross-border cooperation at various levels. The Secretary-General encouraged the parties to ensure that the rights of local populations affected by the transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula continue to be protected and that their needs are met, and reaffirmed the readiness of the United Nations to support the efforts of the Parties to that end.

In the presence of the Secretary-General, representatives of the two Governments also agreed to expedite remaining tasks in implementing other aspects of the Court's ruling, in particular delimitation and demarcation of their common land boundary.

New York, 16 June 2009

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**On the occasion of the meeting with members of the
Follow-Up Committee to the Greentree Agreement,
New York, 16 June 2009**

Excellencies, let me first congratulate you for the peaceful completion of the transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula on 14 August last year. This historic event marked a critical milestone in the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice of October 2002, and the Greentree Agreement of June 2006, which was signed under the auspices of my predecessor, Kofi Annan.

With this momentous event, Cameroon and Nigeria have, once again, shown to the world their common vision and determination to uphold the rule of law to ensure the peaceful settlement of their border dispute. It is a vision that we share and that lies at the very core of the mission and work of the United Nations. The United Nations is proud to have contributed to this remarkable experience, in the service of peace. I would like to take this opportunity also to thank the Witness States, who are present here today, for their continued support of this important process.

The new chapter opening in Bakassi comes with both opportunities and challenges. The United Nations stands ready to support you as you build on progress achieved so far to further consolidate peace and strengthen your overall cooperation in the region. I know that your two countries will continue to work together to ensure that the rights of the people of Bakassi, whether they are Cameroonian or Nigerian, continue to be protected. You shall enjoy the full support of the United Nations in this endeavor. We stand

by you as you work to build a stable and prosperous future for these communities, and for your two countries as a whole, for generations to come.

In addition to Bakassi, progress continues to be made in demarcating your common land boundary, in accordance with the ruling of the Court. I trust that the same cooperation and forward-looking approach will be employed to see that real progress is made in completing this exercise, with the support of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission.

Exchange of views

- What, in your view, are the remaining challenges following the final handover of the Bakassi Peninsula?
- And what are the opportunities for strengthened cooperation and confidence-building between your countries in Bakassi? How best can the United Nations support your continued efforts?

Closing remarks

Once again, I warmly congratulate you for bringing closure to the transfer process in Bakassi in a spirit of mutual respect and good neighbourliness. I wish to assure you that the United Nations stands by you on the road ahead.

Background information for the Secretary-General

MEETING WITH THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE GREENTREE AGREEMENT, NEW YORK, 16 JUNE 2009

Objectives of the high-level meeting:

- Congratulate Cameroon and Nigeria for the successful final transfer of authority in Bakassi on 14 August 2008;
- Take stock of remaining challenges, including addressing the needs of affected populations, and opportunities for strengthened cooperation in Bakassi;
- Encourage the parties to expedite completion of all other aspects of their boundary dispute resolution, in particular boundary demarcation.

The Follow-Up Committee

The Follow-Up Committee was established by the Greentree Agreement of 12 June 2006 to monitor implementation of its provisions concerning withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula. The Committee is composed of Government Ministers from Nigeria and Cameroon, with representatives of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States participating as witness states. Under the chairmanship of Sir Kieran Prendergast, the Committee held ten meetings between July 2006 and December 2008. The 11th meeting of the Committee on 16 June 2009 will be chaired by the SRSG for West Africa, Said Djinnit, who replaced Sir Kieran as Chairman of the Committee on 29 February 2009, and who is also Chairman of the **Cameroon**-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC).

Implementation of the Greentree Agreement and remaining challenges

As provided for in the Greentree Agreement, transfer of authority in Bakassi from Nigeria to Cameroon was successfully completed on 14 August 2008. Held on schedule despite mounting opposition from within Nigeria and security incidents, this event marked a critical milestone in the peaceful resolution of the boundary dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria and in the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 10 October 2002. While bringing closure to a process begun in 2006, the final transfer of authority in Bakassi brought with it new challenges in consolidating peace and cooperation between the two countries.

Despite the fact that the Greentree Agreement provided for a transitional regime of five years in the 'Zone' of the Peninsula recently transferred to Cameroon, during

which special legal protection shall be granted to Nigerian residents, in the months leading up to the final handover, thousands fled to the Nigerian mainland for fear of discrimination and reprisal by Cameroonian security forces. In the past year, the humanitarian, economic and security fallout of this large exodus has been severely felt by receiving communities in Nigeria. Living conditions for those who chose to remain in the 'Zone' are also particularly difficult. Although the Greentree Agreement provides for civilian observers of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission to assess the impact of the withdrawal on the livelihoods of affected populations and monitor respect for their rights by Cameroon, in practice this has been largely hampered by political as well as practical factors. As the transitional regime begins in the 'Zone', Cameroon remains reticent for greater access and freedom of movement to be granted for civilian observers to conduct their assessments in Bakassi.

At the 24th meeting of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC), which was held on 11-12 June 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria, the parties underscored the importance of a continued role for United Nations Civilian Observers in confidence-building activities in border areas and in Bakassi. They also reiterated their commitment to implementing community development projects in those areas, with the support of the United Nations.

The 11th meeting of the Follow-Up Committee will focus in large part on defining activities to be undertaken during the transitional period (2008-2013) in the 'Zone' in Bakassi. Its members will discuss how best to meet the humanitarian and development needs of affected populations on either side of the border. With the help of the United Nations, they will seek to clarify and agree upon, in particular, the expected role and contribution of civilian Observers during the transitional period. The Committee will also address the need for integrated cross-border approaches to economic development, environmental preservation and security in the area.

Other aspects of the boundary dispute resolution process

Since the final handover of Bakassi, Nigeria's dedication in pushing through remaining tasks in the boundary resolution processes – in particular delimitation of the remaining and most contentious segments of the land boundary – appears to be waning, resulting in important delays in the demarcation process. This is undoubtedly a symptom of the wider leadership and structural difficulties affecting the Nigerian political establishment, but also of the fact that the boundary dispute resolution has played largely in favor of Cameroon and, as such, rallies little popular support in Nigeria. Continued engagement of both parties in months to come will be essential for the CNMC to expedite implementation of key tasks in the boundary demarcation process, which it hopes to complete by 2012. Voluntary contributions for the demarcation, which amount to 12 million US dollars paid by Cameroon, Nigeria, the United Kingdom and the European Union, are unlikely to cover all remaining requirements and will, therefore, need to be supplemented.

**Meeting of the Secretary-General with the
Follow-Up Committee to the Greentree Agreement**
16 June 2009

“IF ASKED” TALKING POINTS

Contents:

- Needs of affected populations and role of UN Civilian Observers
- United Nations support to the boundary-demarcation process

1. Needs of affected populations and role of UN observers

Nigeria may ask what assistance it can expect from the United Nations in facilitating the resettlement of thousands of displaced persons from Bakassi and in addressing their humanitarian needs.

Nigeria and Cameroon may ask for continued United Nations support in addressing the needs of residents of the “Zone” during the five-year transitional regime provided for in the Greentree Agreement. Priority areas include socio-economic and humanitarian needs, human rights and human security.

- Addressing the needs of Bakassi populations – whether they have chosen to remain in Bakassi or to resettle in Nigeria – is very important for the United Nations.
- The Greentree Agreement provides for the mandate of the Follow-Up Committee to continue for the duration of the special transitional regime in the “Zone”. During this time, both the Committee and UN Civilian Observers will remain ready to support you in addressing the needs of Bakassi populations and recommending confidence-building measures.
- The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission is also collaborating closely with United Nations agencies and programmes based in Nigeria and Cameroon. They also stand ready to assist you in coming months in designing community-development projects and mobilizing necessary funding.

2. United Nations support to the boundary-demarcation process

Nigeria and Cameroon may ask for assistance ~~from~~ the United Nations in mobilizing additional funding for the land boundary demarcation exercise.

- Should voluntary contributions for demarcation activities prove to be insufficient, the United Nations will consider how best to assist the parties in mobilizing additional funds.