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CONTINENT-WIDE SOLIDARITY AGAINST BOKO HARAM
(Item Proposed by the Republic of Niger)

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Concept Note

Context

In its decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa (Assembly/AU/Dec.536 (XXIII) the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 26 and 27 June 2014, expressed its concern over the continued threat of terrorism in Africa, particularly in the Sahelo-Saharan region, the Horn of Africa as well as in the Central Africa region, and also requested the Peace and Security Council to devote a meeting, at summit level, to the issue of terrorism.

Given the gravity of the threat posed by terrorism in the Continent, the Peace and Security Council in its 455th meeting held on 2 September 2014, in Nairobi, at Heads of State and Government level, adopted a Decision on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa. By that decision, particularly in paragraph 19 thereof, the Council urges the countries concerned to take the necessary steps towards operationalizing the mechanism agreed upon to address more effectively the threat posed by Boko Haram, through support to existing regional structures. Council requests the Commission to contribute effectively to greater international engagement for the rehabilitation and development of Lake Chad Basin, as part of efforts to address comprehensively the threat posed by Boko Haram terrorist group.

It is in this context that the Heads of State and Government of member countries of Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Republic of Benin convened an extraordinary summit in Niamey on 7 October 2014, following which they decided to finalize the deployment of national contingents and the establishment of a Multinational Joint Task Force Staff Headquarters by 20 November 2014. In the same vein, the Foreign and Defense Ministers of Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Republic of Benin, meeting in Abuja on 13 October 2014, and recalling UN Security Council resolution 1556 (2004) which considers terrorism as the greatest threat to peace and security, agreed on the need to create an appropriate legal framework to govern the military operations conducted against Boko Haram in the sub region.

Goals

In its capacity as the current Chair of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of Lake Chad Basin Commission, Niger invites Member States of the African Union to examine in-depth the situation in the sub region and to mobilize to effectively combat terrorism as part of a global strategy. In this regard, it underscores

the need to adopt an approach based on the normative instruments of the African Union, especially the mechanisms implemented by the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Nouakchott Process as well as the practical measures to enhance implementation of the African Union Counter Terrorism Framework at the national, sub-regional and continental levels.

Expected Outcomes

It is expected that the Executive Council would commend Member States of Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin for their engagement and determination to improve the effectiveness of the fight against Boko Haram and agree on specific measures to boost their efforts at addressing the current security situation and at systematically destroying Boko Haram, including identification of concrete measures to be taken by African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities/Regional mechanisms in the spirit of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Also expected is the adoption of a statement of solidarity with the concerned countries and governments and with the populations affected by the scourge of terrorism, together with an appeal for international mobilization in support of full operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force to ensure the sub region's resounding victory against Boko Haram.

It is similarly expected that the Commission would take the necessary steps for adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing Member States of Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Republic of Benin to deploy the Multinational Joint Task Force for an initial period of 12 months, as well as for establishment by the Secretary General of the United Nations of a special Trust Fund for provision of financial and logistics support to ensure continuity of the Joint Multinational Force operations.

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