



Lake Chad Basin Commission



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## Second Meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum

for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization,  
Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development

17 - 18 July 2019  
Niamey, Niger

### FINAL REPORT



In collaboration with:







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## Acknowledgements

The second meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum was a success thanks to the assistance and support of a large number of institutions and individuals. The Lake Chad Basin Commission expresses its sincere thanks to the people and the Government of the Republic of Niger for hosting the Forum and for the participation of the government at the meeting. The Commission is grateful to the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme for their ongoing technical support. The Commission expresses special thanks to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the World Bank, and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) for their support and contributions to the meeting. The Commission is deeply grateful for the financial support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. The Commission highly appreciates the participation and active engagement of all meeting participants, including the LCB governments, donor governments, UN agencies, continental and sub-regional bodies, civil society organizations, private sector groups, traditional and religious leaders, the academia and the media. Lastly, the Commission warmly thanks its internal staff for all their efforts and guidance during the preparation and delivery of the meeting.



## Table of contents

Acknowledgements	2
Forward by Executive Secretary of LCBC	4
Statement of Support from Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Africa, UNDP	5
Support Memo from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger	6
Executive Summary	8
Background	10
The Governors' Forum in the context of the RSS	12
Strategic priorities for 2019/2020	14
Summary of thematic deliberations and recommendations	16
Conclusion	24
Annex A: Governors' Forum final joint communiqué	25
Annex B: Concept note & meeting agenda	27
Annex C: Attendance list	33
Annex D: Regional Consultative Forum final communiqué	41

## Forward by Executive Secretary of LCBC

The crisis in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) is severe, with 9.9 millions of people in urgent need of life-saving assistance, security and protection. The situation is attributable to a combination of structural, environmental and development deficits that have disproportionately affected communities in the region, in addition to spates of violent attacks by the terrorist group Boko Haram and the Islamic State for West Africa Province.

In November 2017, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), with the support of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), started the process of development of the *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery & Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* (the RSS). The RSS was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission on 30 August 2018 and subsequently endorsed by the AU Peace and Security Council on 5 December 2018.

The development cycle of the RSS provided an inclusive and participatory platform indicative of the whole-of-society approach that seeks to leverage the roles of governments, civil society, and the private sector, among others, in the conceptualization and deployment of interventions for stabilization and sustainable development.

In order to sustain a robust engagement process, the RSS provides for the formation of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum as the core mechanism for the cross-border cooperation necessary to advance the implementation of the RSS and ensure local and sub-regional ownership. Building on its inaugural meeting in May 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria, and the political endorsement of the RSS, the Governors' Forum convened for a second time from 16-18 July 2019 in Niamey, the Republic of Niger.

The meeting attracted over 300 participants from state/regional governments, the LCBC, the MNJTF, the AU, UN agencies, the Regional Economic Communities, multilateral and bilateral institutions, donor governments, the armed forces, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, and the media. During the meeting, the governors' made a strong and clear commitment to the full realization of the Governors' Forum's critical role in the successful implementation of the RSS. This commitment was further supported by the launch of a multimillion-dollar fund, the Regional Stabilization Facility, which will enable the scaling up of stabilization interventions across the Lake Chad Basin region.

I am therefore delighted to present to you the outcome of the second Governors' Forum meeting. I am convinced the report will help in reminding us of the commitments and actions to be taken at different levels and institutions across the Lake Chad Basin region.



Mamman Nuhu  
Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission &  
Head of Mission of the Multinational Joint Task Force

## Statement of Support from Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Africa, UNDP

The Lake Chad Basin countries are home to 246 million people, many of which are facing challenges of poverty, deprivation and inequality. Crises in this region, including the Boko Haram insurgency, has resulted in displacement, destruction and environmental degradation in communities already facing persistent development deficits and increased vulnerability. Conflicts have eroded bonds and relationships within groups, increasing violent extremist insurgency and displacing 4.2 million people across the four countries of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to working with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in finding the right platforms and sustainable solutions, and in spearheading interventions aimed towards long-term stabilization. The Governors' Forum is one initiative that we believe provides space and opportunity for strategic dialogue and policy initiatives that are linked directly to the communities through the governors.

The first meeting of the *Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development* was held in Maiduguri, Nigeria in May 2018. The second Governors' Forum meeting was held in Niamey, Republic of Niger from 16-18th July 2019, convened by the LCBC and the Government of the Republic of Niger. Both meetings received the full support of UNDP. Our support to the LCBC Governors' Forum is premised on the cross-border nature of the dialogue, its inclusiveness and the participation of critical stakeholders from and beyond the region to shape and articulate relevant policy offers and strategic direction for stabilizing the region. The birth of the *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery & Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* (the RSS) was underpinned by the need for a political and civil approach to balance the military affront on Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the region.

Therefore, the Governors' Forum provides an opportunity for the strategic and nuanced input from the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to be considered within a civilian discourse and dialogue for informed programme direction and interventions. UNDP's support of the Governors' Forum is also anchored in the nature of the space it provides for legitimate civil society groups to liaise with and share their community-informed perspectives directly with policy makers. The regional and cross-border nature of the Governors' Forum is unique in contextualizing yet allowing for shared learning, cross pollination and in enabling the joint cross-border and bilateral initiatives and partnership between affected territories.

As UNDP, we have demonstrated our overarching support to the RSS through the Regional Stabilization Facility which was also launched at the margins of the second Governors' Forum meeting. UNDP will continue to partner with and support the LCBC to regularly convene the Governors' Forum in order to foster cross-border cooperation, while recognizing contextual differences, and in enabling affected territories to respond more rapidly, and scale their efficiency in combatting insurgencies while protecting civilian lives and security.



Ahunna Eziakonwa  
Regional Director and Assistant Secretary General  
UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa

## Support Memo from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger

The unique security context that Niger, and the countries of the Sahel in general, are currently experiencing is characterized by the rise of terrorism and its devastating effects on the people and development of Niger. It is more important than ever to remain mobilized and to pool our efforts to address the challenges facing the Lake Chad Basin region, among others.

In this regard, the Government of Niger reaffirms its commitment to the fight against terrorism and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This strong will and firm commitment of Niger was reaffirmed during the second "Governors' Forum of the Lake Chad Basin for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development" held in Niamey from 16 to 18 July 2019, which opens the way to strengthening sub-regional cooperation, particularly cooperation between the Governors of the Lake Chad Basin regions with regard to the multifaceted challenges facing these regions.

The Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Recovery and Resilience of the Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Affected by the Boko Haram Crisis is aligned with the national security and peace building priorities of Niger with a view to the sustainable implementation of national development strategies, programmes and projects, in particular through the National Strategy for Internal Security and the Strategy for Development and Security in the Sahelo-Saharan Zones of Niger.

The aim is to ensure full regional, national and local ownership in order to ensure the security of our citizens and resolve the security crisis through dialogue and cross-border exchanges by supporting ongoing initiatives for the socio-economic stabilization and development of the regions of the Lake Chad Basin.

The Republic of Niger, in its commitment to peace and development, will continue to support the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy and the Governors' Forum, which provides a framework for exchanges and advocacy for the implementation of that strategy.



H.E Brigi Rafini  
Prime Minister, Head of Government of the Republic of Niger





## Executive Summary

The second meeting of the *Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development* was held from the 16th to 18th of July 2019, in Niamey, the Republic of Niger. The meeting was convened by the Lake Chad Basin Commission with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union Commission, with financial support from the government of Germany. Hosted by the government of Niger, the meeting was attended by the governors of the Far North and North regions of Cameroon, Hadjer-Lamis and Lac provinces of Chad, and Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of Nigeria. The governor of Zinder (Niger) was granted observer status. Also in attendance were over 300 representatives of state/regional governments, the AU, the UN, the Regional Economic Communities, multilateral and bilateral institutions, donor governments, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, and the media.

The meeting built upon the inaugural Governors' Forum meeting held in May 2018 and the political endorsement of the *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* (the RSS) by the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union Peace and Security Council. It advanced the deliberations and outcomes of the first meeting, and consolidated the Governors' Forum position as a genuine regional initiative with an indispensable role in guiding and monitoring the implementation of the RSS to achieve stabilization, peace and sustainable development in the LCB region.

During the meeting, the Governors' Forum identified strategic priorities for the eight affected states/regions and agreed on joint regional priorities, which are articulated in the resulting communiqué. According to the governors, addressing strategic priorities requires an inclusive approach based on the cooperation and collaboration of multiple actors. The joint reflection and sharing of information and good practices across borders and stakeholders is also critical to the achievement of these priorities. Therefore, the meeting provided a key opportunity for government and nongovernment stakeholders from across the LCB region and beyond to collectively debate and discuss some of the most pressing issues and challenges related to achieving the RSS goals, specifically: The critical role of civil society, including women and youth; cross-border trade; reintegration and rehabilitation; and the role of regional mechanisms. Through the open exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned, participants were able to identify new opportunities and potential actions for further advancing security, stability and development in the region.

The meeting modelled the inclusive and participatory approach needed to resolve the complex and urgent challenges in the Lake Chad Basin region. It concretely advanced the building of linkages between civil society and government actors necessary for designing and implementing stabilization efforts. Through the presentation of the final communiqué of the June 2019 *Regional Consultative Forum with representatives of civil society, including women's and youth organizations, as well as traditional and religious leaders and academics of the LCB*, civil society representatives directly engaged with the governors and proffered concrete suggestions regarding stabilization efforts, as well as providing input into important discussions around how best to leverage the potential of youth in achieving peace and stability. The Governor's Forum acknowledged the important role of civil society in stabilization efforts and committed to further increasing this engagement moving forward.

The importance of a revitalized economy for stability and sustainable development is indisputable. During the meeting, the governors and other experts shared good practices and identified a range of context-specific actions that could be taken to enhance community security and safety, strengthen local economic interventions, and catalyze cross-border trade. These actions require a multi-stakeholder approach and the active engagement of security actors, the private sector and others to succeed.

The reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of the Boko Haram insurgency is a challenging priority for the LCB governments. The Governors' Forum recognized the importance of learning lessons from both the experiences of LCB countries and others in this regard. It also recognized that reintegration efforts must be community-driven, context-specific, and responsive to the needs of different stakeholder groups, including women and children. They must also be holistic and accompanied by support to reconciliation initiatives at the community level. Traditional, religious and community leaders have vital roles to play in these efforts.

The Governors' Forum is a key mechanism for enabling dialogue, cooperation and coordination across borders, institutions, and stakeholder groups, to advance the goals of the RSS. As such, the governors committed to prioritizing the development of national-level Territorial Action Plans (TAP) to ensure the contextualization and operationalization of the RSS. Existing and new partnerships, including with regional and international organizations, donors and security forces, will be emphasized to support the transition from stabilization to early recovery to sustainable development. The establishment of the US\$100 million, multi-donor Regional Stabilization Facility, which was launched at the meeting, is a welcomed and significant advancement of these

efforts. In addition to the financial commitments made so far by the European Union, the governments of Germany, Sweden, and the UK, the United Nations Development Programme, and the African Development Bank, it is hoped that more donors will contribute to this mechanism in the near future.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Governors' Forum approved a final joint communiqué that detailed their agreed regional priorities and various commitments, including the continued joint reflection and information-sharing of good practices; trust building between the member countries; identification of funding sources; and ensuring the conditions needed to enable humanitarian operations in accordance with established international humanitarian principles and rights.

Finally, it was agreed that the next Governor's Forum will be hosted by the Government of Cameroon in 2020, where the governors will report on progress made on the agreed strategic priorities. In the interim period, and with the support of the Secretariat, the Governor's Forum will maintain frequent communication to ensure the effective cooperation and sustainable impact of their actions.



## Background

The Lake Chad Basin (LCB) Region has been severely impacted by a crisis triggered by the Boko Haram insurgency and the interplay of other root causes resulting in massive internal and cross-border displacement, destruction of social fabric and property, human rights abuses, and disruption of government institutions and services.

National governments, regional institutions, and multilateral and bilateral partners have made important strides in responding to the Lake Chad crisis. The governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria have led the response, primarily through increased military and security efforts to address the crisis. Yet despite their many successes, these governments recognize that military and security forces alone cannot resolve the region's crisis. A holistic approach involving multiple actors is required.

In May 2018, the governors of the eight worst-affected areas in the region –Borno and Adamawa (Nigeria); Diffa and Zinder (Niger); Lac and Hajder Lamis (Chad); and North and Far North (Cameroon) –met in Maiduguri, Nigeria, to discuss common challenges and potential steps to resolve them.<sup>1</sup> The meeting, chaired by the governor of Borno State, was attended by representatives of civil society from the four LCB countries, donor and other supporting countries, international and regional organizations, the military, and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNTJF).

During the meeting, the governors formally established the *Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development* (the Governors' Forum) –an important mechanism for realizing their unique leadership role in promoting regional dialogue on cross-cutting transnational challenges and coordinating joint actions and solutions. The governors reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing collective efforts towards stabilizing, building peace and fostering sustainable development across the LCB, and emphasized the importance of a community-based approach for sustainable and locally-owned solutions to the crisis.<sup>2</sup> It was agreed that the Governor's Forum will convene at least annually, and that the hosting responsibility will rotate between the eight governors.<sup>3</sup>

On 30 August 2018, the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) validated the *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* (the RSS), which was endorsed by the African Union (AU) on 8 December 2018. The RSS is an essential step in both creating sub-regional ownership of the response to the LCB region crisis, and for realizing the visions outlined by the AU's Agenda 2063, the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030<sup>4</sup> and the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.<sup>5</sup>

The RSS identifies the Governors' Forum as the "primary vehicle for the cross-border cooperation necessary for fulfilment of the Strategy on a regional basis."<sup>6</sup> At the same time, it emphasizes the important role of civil society and envisages the establishment of a Regional Civil Society Platform (the Platform) to support enhanced linkages between governments and civil society for the successful implementation of the strategy. The LCBC Stabilization Secretariat (the Secretariat) will provide the necessary technical and liaison support and will assist to build the necessary linkages between these two bodies.

In May 2019, the Secretariat was established with the support of the African Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Since its formation, the Secretariat, has undertaken a range of activities including:

- Dissemination of the RSS across a range of stakeholders, including the LCB governments, civil society, the private sector and international partners;
- Development of a template and guidance note for the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs);
- Drafting of a terms of reference for three working group clusters (namely governance, development and security) to support the achievement of the RSS;

1 For further information on the first LCB Governors' Forum meeting and consultations with regional key stakeholders prior to the Forum see: [http://www.ng.undp.org/content/nigeria/en/home/library/democratic\\_governance/lake-chad-basin-governors-forum-documents-.html](http://www.ng.undp.org/content/nigeria/en/home/library/democratic_governance/lake-chad-basin-governors-forum-documents-.html).

2 *Joint Communiqué of the First Governors' Forum Meeting*, 9 May 2018.

3 Ibid.

4 *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* (the RSS), 18.

5 Included in the 14 June 2013 Report of the UN Secretary-General on the situation in the Sahel region (S/2013/354).

6 Supra note 4, 50.

- Completion of the first phase of the mapping of stabilization interventions across the four affected countries; and
- Development of a concept note for the establishment of Regional Knowledge Management Platform.

In June 2019, the LCBC convened the *Regional Consultative Forum with representatives of civil society, including women's and youth organizations, as well as traditional and religious leaders and academics of the LCB* (the Regional Consultative Forum). Hosted in Niamey by the Government of Niger, the Regional Consultative Forum elaborated a communiqué containing specific recommendations for the LCB governments and governors, and the LCBC. The communiqué highlights the promising potential of existing civil society initiatives and underlines the willingness of civil society to actively engage with the Governors' Forum and other government actors to advance stabilization and peacebuilding efforts.

There is a clear need for comprehensive, multi-sectoral and coordinated national and cross-border efforts towards long-term stabilization, recovery and resilience in the LCB. Military and security forces require additional technical equipment (such as air assets and mine clearance), but also require other support such as the development of infrastructure to carry out operations, and training for civilian police. Greater coordination is needed between military and humanitarian actors to ensure necessary humanitarian assistance is provided in areas that are unstable and where humanitarian actors are vulnerable to attack. The second Governor's Forum provided a unique opportunity for government, security, humanitarian, and development actors to come together and explore how best to address these and other cooperation issues to better advance their collective goals of stability, peace and development.

## The second Governors' Forum meeting

The second Governors' Forum meeting was held from the 16th to 18th of July 2019, in Niamey, the Republic of Niger. The meeting was convened by the LCBC with the support of the UNDP and the AUC, with financial support from the government of Germany (see Annex B: Concept Note and Meeting Agenda).

Opened by H.E. Mr. Brigi Rafini, Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger and chaired by the governor of the Diffa region of Niger, the meeting was attended by the governors of the Far North and North regions of Cameroon, Hadjer-Lamis and Lac provinces of Chad, and Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of Nigeria. The governor of Zinder (Niger) was granted observer status. Also in attendance were representatives of state/regional governments, the AU, the UN, the Regional Economic Communities, multilateral and bilateral institutions, donor governments, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, and the media (see Annex C: Attendance List).

The meeting built upon the inaugural Governors' Forum meeting and the political endorsement of the RSS by the LCBC Council of Ministers and the AU Peace and Security Council. It provided an opportunity to review developments; to institutionalize the Governors' Forum as a credible and effective mechanism for regional cooperation and coordination; and to give the necessary political endorsement to the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs), which are the guiding framework documents for the localization of the RSS in the eight affected states/regions.<sup>7</sup>

During the meeting, the governors identified strategic priorities for the eight affected states/regions and agreed on joint regional priorities, which are articulated in the resulting communiqué (see Annex A: Governors' Forum final joint communiqué). They also hosted the launch of the Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad (the Stabilization Facility), a US\$100 million fund established by UNDP to support stabilization interventions in the LCB region (see Text Box 2).

<sup>7</sup> Supra note 4, 22.

## The Governors' Forum in the context of the RSS

In recognizing the unique position and interest of the governors of the sub-region to facilitate and help lead the stabilization efforts, the [governors] ... will become the principal custodians of the Strategy's implementation.<sup>8</sup>

There is unanimous agreement among the governors' that achieving peace and stability in the LCB region requires addressing the many complex root causes of the Boko Haram insurgency and various factors that enable instability. This includes, for example, environmental factors such as the need to restore the Lake Chad waters; and lack of education.<sup>9</sup> The RSS provides a vital framework within which to address these many complex and urgent challenges.

The RSS is articulated around nine pillars of intervention, with forty strategic objectives, and will be operationalized through eight TAPs that ensure the regional objectives are tailored to local contextual needs (see Text Box 1: Overview of the RSS). The governors are responsible for the preparation of the TAPs and for ensuring that they are harmonized with local and national development plans.<sup>10</sup> The governors will also oversee implementation of the TAPs, including chairing coordination meetings of implementing humanitarian and development actors, liaising with relevant national authorities, and advocating for the resources required to fulfill the TAPs.<sup>11</sup>

The Governors' Forum is the main forum for cross-border cooperation and exchanges on the implementation, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation of the RSS.<sup>12</sup> Its role is to ensure that synergies across the sub-region are leveraged, and that cross-border and transboundary solutions to the crisis are effectively explored.<sup>13</sup> It is also an important platform for the sharing of information, knowledge, and experiences to promote context-specific best practices for stabilization.<sup>14</sup> The establishment of the Regional Civil Society Platform will further enable regular and constructive engagement between the Governors' Forum and civil society, including traditional and religious institutions, women and young people, to ensure the needs of communities are heard and responded to throughout the implementation of the RSS.<sup>15</sup>

The Governors' Forum reports to the Steering Committee, and receives technical support from the Secretariat.<sup>16</sup>

8 Supra note 4, 26

9 Supra note 2.

10 Governors' Forum final joint communiqué, para. 9(iv).

11 Supra note 4, 50.

12 Supra note 10, para. 4 and 9.

13 Supra note 4, 25.

14 Supra note 4, 26.

15 Supra note 10, para. 6.

16 Supra note 4, 53.

### **Text Box 1: Overview of the RSS**

“The Lake Chad crisis is a complex and urgent challenge, and only a regional approach, based on continental and international frameworks, and inclusive of the efforts of all stakeholders, can provide the necessary means for its resolution.”

RSS, 14.

The five-year RSS provides a framework for regional cooperation and the harmonization of stabilization, recovery and resilience efforts in the LCB region. It is anchored in nine strategic objectives or ‘pillars’:

Pillar 1: Political Cooperation

Pillar 2: Security and Human Rights

Pillar 3: Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion and Reintegration of Persons associated with Boko Haram

Pillar 4: Humanitarian Assistance

Pillar 5: Governance and the Social Contract

Pillar 6: Socio-Economic Recovery and Environmental Sustainability

Pillar 7: Education, Learning and Skills

Pillar 8: Prevention of Violent Extremism and Building Peace

Pillar 9: Empowerment and Inclusion of Women and Youth

The RSS is predicated upon a whole-of-society approach that involves government actors, as well as all sections of civil society, including local communities, traditional leaders, NGOs and CBOs, the media, academic institutions and the private sector. It is grounded in and directly contributes to the achievement of the AU’s Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and the UN integrated strategy for the Sahel.

The RSS is underpinned by nine guiding principles:

- National and Regional ownership
- Leadership: National, Regional and Continental
- Mutual accountability
- Cooperation and complementarity
- Mutually reinforcing partnerships
- Transformative Approaches to stabilization/development
- Respect for Regional, Continental & International Human Rights Instruments
- Capacity building for effective service delivery
- Gender mainstreaming

## Strategic priorities for 2019/2020

The RSS is anchored in the historical, cultural, economic, social and environmental commonalities of the LCB countries, while simultaneously recognizing their differences and the need for stabilization interventions to be tailored to “the specific dynamics on the ground.”<sup>17</sup>

The Governors' Forum identified strategic priorities in each of the eight territories and agreed on a common set of regional-level priorities, which they articulated in the joint communiqué (see Annex A: Governors' Forum final joint communiqué). Diagram 1 provides a summary of these priorities and shows their alignment to the relevant pillars of the RSS.

According to the governors, addressing strategic priorities requires an inclusive approach based on the cooperation and collaboration of multiple actors. Traditional and religious leaders and civil society, for example, have crucial roles in managing local conflicts, reviving economic activities, and preventing violent extremism. Security forces, including the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), can support the reconstruction and security of inter-regional corridors that are essential for boosting trade between the eight affected territories and strengthening economic development. International and regional partners and donors, including UNDP, the European Union (EU), the governments of Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom provide technical and financial support that is critical for advancing stabilization efforts in the region.

The joint reflection and sharing of information and good practices across borders and stakeholders is critical to the achievement of the identified priorities.<sup>18</sup> The Governors' Forum meeting provided an important opportunity for the governors to share specific examples of positive stabilization-related actions taken to date, including: the significant progress in demilitarization across the region; the critical support provided by the Government of Niger and successive governors of the Diffa Region to the estimated 2.5 million Nigerian displaced persons; and community-focused initiatives taken by the Chadian government such as the creation of vigilance committees, the establishment of toll-free numbers for refugees and internally displaced persons, the preparation of a provincial-level security and development document, increased civil-military cooperation, and enhanced security of cross-border trade routes.



<sup>17</sup> Supra note 4, 25.

<sup>18</sup> Supra note 10, para. 9(v).



## Diagram 1: National and Regional Strategic Priorities for 2019/2020

### Regional and cross-border priorities

- Strengthen cross-border trade, regional economic development and employment opportunities, especially for the youth (Pillars 6 & 7)
- Undertake rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of the Boko Haram insurgency (Pillar 3)
- Support regional peacebuilding efforts & measures to enhance social cohesion (Pillars 5 & 8)
- Ensure inclusive and participatory governance (Pillar 5)
- Empower women and youth (Pillar 9)
- Increase engagement of civil society, including traditional and religious leaders, in stabilization initiatives (Pillar 1)



### Borno State (Nigeria)

- Address the root causes of the insurgency (poverty, lack of education, climate change etc.) through a community-led approach & cross-border cooperation (Pillars 6 & 7)
- Enable the use of new communication and military technologies (Pillar 2)
- Strengthen agricultural production (Pillar 6)
- Reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement of returnees (Pillar 3)

### Adamawa State (Nigeria)

- Reintegrate ex-combatants with civil society support (Pillar 3)
- Address gender, youth and good governance issues (Pillars 5 & 9)
- Support the agricultural production sector (Pillar 6)
- Rehabilitate education and health infrastructures (Pillar 5)

### Yobe State (Nigeria)

- Promote initiatives for peace and sustainable development & address root causes of the insurgency (Pillars 5, 6, 7 & 8)
- Rehabilitate critical infrastructure for development (Pillar 6)
- Increase access to education for all children (Pillar 7)

### Diffa Region (Niger)

- Address security, emergency & humanitarian issues (Pillars 2 & 4)
- Develop a plan for the return of IDPs (Pillar 4)
- Peacebuilding and social cohesion (Pillars 5 and 8)
- Reconstruction and economic revival of agriculture and fisheries industries (Pillar 6)

### Far North Region (Cameroon)

- Increase civil-military cooperation (Pillar 2)
- Prepare Cameroon's Far North Territorial Action Plan (Pillar 1)
- Strengthen the capacities of vigilance committees & operationalize the Mora Regional Centre (Pillar 3)
- Improve civil documentation system; strengthen capacities of traditional courts for social cohesion (Pillar 5)
- Build infrastructure & support quick-impact revenue-generating projects in priority municipalities (Pillars 6 & 7).

### North Region (Cameroon)

- Eliminate Boko Haram's presence & strengthen border security structures (Pillar 1).
- Support hydro-agricultural development, construction of cross-border markets & related road infrastructure (Pillar 6)
- Support cross-border consultations regarding transhumance & security (Pillars 3 & 6)
- Strengthen primary, secondary and vocational training institutions (Pillar 7)

### Hadjer-Lamis Province (Chad)

- Strengthen livelihoods opportunities & access to basic social services (Pillars 5, 6 & 7)
- Improve synergies between all RSS partners (Pillars 1, 2 & 9)
- Provide access to basic services and infrastructure development (Pillars 4 & 6)
- Equip vigilance committees (Pillar 3)
- Support cross-border trade & strengthen the agricultural production sector (Pillar 6)
- Involve traditional leaders in solving the security crisis (Pillar 2)

### Lac Province (Chad)

- Strengthen the capacity of the MNJTF, including equipment (Pillar 2)
- Develop compensation schemes for victims & economic actors affected by the insurgency (Pillars 3 & 6).
- Harmonize cross-border coordination measures (Pillar 1).
- Strengthen the provincial economy and cross-border trade (Pillar 6)
- Improve access to basic social services (Pillars 4 & 6)
- Empower youth and women (Pillar 9)
- Implement DDRRR (Pillar 3)

## Summary of thematic deliberations and recommendations

The second Governors' Forum meeting addressed four thematic issues: The critical role of civil society, including women and youth; cross-border trade; reintegration and rehabilitation; and the role of regional mechanisms. This section provides an overview of the key issues discussed and resulting recommendations and commitments made by the Governors' Forum under each thematic issue

### Thematic Session 1: The critical role of civil society, including women, youth, traditional & religious leaders

The importance of properly articulating civil society to the implementation of this Strategy cannot be overstated ....<sup>19</sup>



Successful implementation of the RSS cannot be achieved by government actors alone. It requires an inclusive approach involving all sections of society, including local communities, traditional leaders, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), the media, academic institutions and the private sector.

In June 2019, civil society representatives from across the LCB region convened for the Regional Consultative Forum. The meeting resulted in a final communiqué that aimed to assist the LCB governors in the planning and delivery of stabilization interventions in the region (see Annex D: Regional Consultative Forum final communiqué). A delegation of civil society representatives presented the final communiqué to the Governors' Forum during the second meeting.

The communiqué articulates the desire and commitment of regional CSOs to play an active and constructive role in the realization of the goals of the RSS. It emphasizes the critical role civil society actors can play in ensuring stabilization efforts are contextual and responsive to community needs. Further, it highlights how

<sup>19</sup> Supra note 4, 51.

civil society actors are important for ensuring accountability and enhancing trust within affected communities and between civil society and government institutions, including security forces. They also have the potential to make positive contributions in specific intervention areas such as Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR); combatting the proliferation of light arms and small weapons; preventing violent extremism (PVE); and others. In order to fully realize their role, civil society representatives noted the need for strong technical partnerships and greater synergies between government actors and civil society.<sup>20</sup>

The Governors' Forum acknowledged and welcomed the important role of civil society, and committed to empowering women and youth and increasing engagement with civil society actors in stabilization initiatives.<sup>21</sup>

During the meeting, specific attention was also given to discussing how to ensure greater inclusion and participation of youth in stabilization efforts.

Roughly two-thirds of the population of the LCB countries is under the age of 25 years. Ongoing conflict, limited livelihood opportunities and other disadvantages of the region disproportionately affect youth. The RSS requires that youth engagement be mainstreamed at all stages of policy and strategy development for peace, security and stabilization.<sup>22</sup> However 'youth' are not a homogenous group – backgrounds and experiences vary widely across age groups, gender, and location, among other factors. Further, only a very small percentage of youth directly contribute to insecurity in the region through membership of violent extremist groups. The vast majority of young people are not involved in violence and many are actively engaged in efforts to ensure more peaceful societies for themselves and their communities.

There is a need for greater recognition of and support for youth-led initiatives that can contribute to peacebuilding and development efforts. Involving youth in decision-making processes regarding the design and implementation of stabilization interventions will help to build trust between government actors, including security forces, and youth; and ensure that interventions are more targeted and needs-driven. For example, reintegration efforts should acknowledge and respond to the diverse experiences of male and female ex-members of extremist groups and the physical, psycho-social and economic impacts of these experiences. Support should be holistic and targeted at multiple levels: for individual youth, for youth-led organizations, for youth networks, and for inter-generational and institutional dialogue mechanisms. To this end, the RSS provides a framework within which governments can better harness the potential of youth to ensure the successful realization of the strategy's goals.

## Thematic Session 2: Security, cross-border trade and economic interventions

An essential element of stabilizing the sub-region involves revitalizing the local economy and boosting trade. This will in turn lay the foundation for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.<sup>23</sup>

The Boko Haram insurrection has caused significant economic damage to the region, including: a decrease in state revenue; increased costs of living; rising inflation; and impediments to import/export activities. The ability to produce goods (in particular agricultural) has been significantly hampered, as has the ability to get those goods to market. Major roads have been closed or are restricted due to insecurity. The use of alternative lower-risk routes has greatly increased travel distances and transportation costs. These and other factors have resulted in a loss of livelihoods, decline in food security, and increased hardship for millions of people in the LCB. The governor of Lac Province, for example, noted that prior to the insurgency the government collected up to \$2 billion CFA in revenue per month however the subsequent closure of borders and markets has led to the "total dysfunction" of the province's economy.

At the same time, the border regions of the four LCB countries also present many opportunities for socio-economic growth and contribution to national development targets. The Governors' Forum identified a number of specific actions that could be taken to enhance community security and safety, revitalize local economic interventions, and catalyze cross-border trade (in line with the objectives of Pillars 2 and 6 of the RSS). The governor of Hadjer-Lamis Province, for example, advocated for the return of tractors to vulnerable groups and the creation of local product processing units.

<sup>20</sup> Regional Consultative Forum final communiqué (June 2019), Observations.

<sup>21</sup> Supra note. 10, para. 6 and 9(vii).

<sup>22</sup> Supra note 4, 46.

<sup>23</sup> Supra note 4, 37.

The actions identified by the Governors' Forum, and summarized below, can be classified into four main areas: Infrastructure development; rule of law; increased business opportunities and sustainable livelihoods; and enhanced security.

**i. Infrastructure development** (Pillar 6, Strategic Objective 23: Improving Infrastructure for Regional Economic Integration)

*Recommended actions:*

- Investment in infrastructure that promotes regional integration, better connects borderlands to regional capitals and beyond, and enables the movement of people and goods across the region.
- Creation of a policy framework and infrastructure investment program to strengthen cross-border infrastructure and reduce the formal and informal costs of cross-border trade.
- Address climate change challenges by identifying and supporting the development of future crop types and other activities that could flourish in the current environment, including prioritizing infrastructure needs (such as transport, logistics and telecoms) that will render these activities more competitive and attractive.
- Priorities support to borderland communities and engagement with farmers and traders' cooperatives, including through the development of market infrastructure.

**ii. Rule of law** (Pillar 6, Strategic Objective 24: Creating Conducive Business Environment)

*Recommended actions:*

- Work with appropriate national and international bodies to ease the incompatibilities among the financial systems in the LCB region.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing crossing points and tariff systems that impede cross-border trade.
- Harmonize customs texts and create common customs arrangements.

**iii. Business opportunities and sustainable livelihoods** (Pillar 6: Strategic Objective 22: Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods)

*Recommended actions:*

- Enable existing and potential small-business owners to access finance, skills, inputs and markets.
- Provide training and mentoring to support the growth of small and micro- enterprises, especially those run by youth and women. Complement these efforts with additional support mechanisms such as micro-financing, and the provision of equipment, tools and secure work space.
- Support the emergence of micro- and medium-scale processors through, for example, equipment leasing or provision, cash-flow financing, and increased availability of small 'plug-and-play' factory units.
- Support early recovery actions such as civil society interventions to develop small livelihoods systems for women and youth.
- Support job creation and youth empowerment through revitalizing the capability of processing facilities to process local goods. For example, the creation of safe areas for livestock farmers could help generate local economic activities—through increased livestock production and the establishment of meat processing facilities.
- Actively engage the private sector in the implementation of the RSS, including through workshops and consultations.

#### iv. Enhanced security (Pillar 2: Security and Human Rights)

##### *Recommended actions:*

- Secure border areas in order to generate more opportunities for growth, market access, and job creation.
- Address security, cross-border trade and economic challenges through multi-stakeholder engagement<sup>24</sup> involving the private sector, security forces, governments, civil society, local communities, women and youth.
- Ensure security in locations where development, humanitarian, and private sector actors seek to provide support to the most vulnerable communities.
- Establish secure corridors, such as Secure Economic and Trade Zones (SETZs), especially along cross-border routes where there have been security successes and the ingenuity of private sector operators has ensured that a level of cross-border transactions is maintained.



<sup>24</sup> Supra note 10, para. 5.

### Thematic Session 3: Rehabilitation, reintegration and social cohesion efforts at local and regional level

National efforts for demobilization and disarmament of Boko Haram must be accompanied by a harmonized, regional approach to screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of combatants and persons associated with Boko Haram, in line with international standards.<sup>25</sup>

For the Governors' Forum, the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of the Boko Haram insurgency is a regional priority that requires a harmonized approach.<sup>26</sup> Rehabilitation and reintegration efforts must account for the particular needs of the target individuals, be community-driven, context-specific, and respond to the needs of different stakeholder groups such as women and children.<sup>27</sup> Efforts must be grounded in the principle of 'do no harm' and be holistic, addressing psychosocial, health, and nutrition needs as well as vocational training and income-generating activities, among others.<sup>28</sup> For example, in many communities where Boko Haram is or has been present, an absence of formal education opportunities makes recognition of and engagement with informal education mechanisms necessary

Reintegration efforts must also be accompanied by support to reconciliation initiatives.<sup>29</sup> A holistic approach focused on addressing the needs of both returning ex-fighters and the receiving communities is required. Communities must be sensitized to the RSS and other government strategies for promoting rehabilitation, reintegration and social cohesion. Traditional leaders can play an influential role in community sensitization and support for the reintegration of persons formerly associated with Boko Haram.<sup>30</sup> Their role as conflict mediators, as well as mechanisms such as vigilance committees and dialogue committees, should be recognized and engaged in government-supported peacebuilding, rehabilitation, reintegration and social cohesion efforts. Community leaders should also receive capacity development support to further strengthen their roles in stabilization efforts. Improved security and civil-military relations, the provision of humanitarian assistance, improved infrastructure, and strengthened economic development at the community-level are all critical needs that require strong partnerships between governments, the military, development partners and CSOs, communities, and traditional and religious leaders.

The Governors' Forum emphasized that many lessons can be learned from the positive and negative experiences of LCB countries, such as Nigeria and Niger, and countries outside the region. In Niger, for example, a growing number of Boko Haram fighters are seeking to surrender their weapons and reintegrate into civilian life. In response, the government has developed a national reintegration programme, established a reception center in Goudoumaria for the profiling and reintegration of ex-fighters, and provides certified vocational training to ex-fighters. Repeat offenders are prosecuted. The penal code has been amended to address the cases of voluntary returnees and a judicial unit to combat terrorism has been established. The governors further noted that they can benefit from the expertise and support of international organizations such as the World Bank, which has provided minimum return kits in Borno State, for example.

Ultimately, the Governors Forum emphasized the importance of, and its commitment to, providing strong national and local leadership for rehabilitation and reintegration through greater coordination and strengthened joint actions.<sup>31</sup>

25 Supra note 4, 12.

26 Supra note 10, para. 9(vii); supra note 4, 29.

27 Supra note 4, 29 and 30.

28 Supra note 4, 31.

29 Supra note 4, 32.

30 Supra note 4, 31

31 Supra note 10, para. 9.

## Thematic Session 4: Collaborative efforts for stabilization and role of regional mechanisms

A regional response is required because neither causes nor effects of the crisis respect national borders.<sup>32</sup>

The successful implementation and achievement of the RSS is contingent on strong and effective cooperation and collaboration across borders. Pillar 1 of the RSS emphasizes the importance of political cooperation at all levels—local, national and sub-regional—to address the cross-border nature of the Boko Haram threat. It also places the governors' in a central coordination role, as the principal custodians of the strategy's implementation.

To better enable cooperation and achievement of the RSS' goals, the governors are committed to ensuring the design and implementation of actions plans for each of the eight territories.<sup>33</sup> These plans will be organized to a common format, approach and methodology, with support from the Secretariat. The governors will also facilitate the cooperation and coordination of humanitarian and development actors; liaise with relevant national authorities; and advocate for the required financial and technical resources from both national and international sources to ensure the strategy's implementation.<sup>34</sup> Existing partnerships will be strengthened and new partnerships created, involving a range of stakeholders such as regional and international organizations (for example the UN, the EU, the G5 Sahel, and the AU), local and international NGOs, the private sector, civil society actors (such as CBOs, traditional chieftaincy and religious leaders), and government agencies.<sup>35</sup> These partnerships, based on transparency and trust, are key for ensuring all the LCB countries benefit from initiatives aimed at ensuring security, sustainable peace and development in the region.

The Governors' Forum will also seek to strengthen collaboration between the armed forces of the LCB countries. Cooperation to ensure security in the region is a core element of the RSS (Pillar 2). The capacities of ministries in charge of security must be strengthened to ensure their presence in areas affected by the conflict. Military actions must be coordinated and armed forces, such as Operation Barkhane and the MNJTF, should be actively engaged in the implementation of the RSS. The support of international partners such as the UN and AU must also be leveraged to identify and jointly address the region's security challenges. Borderlands and communities where governance and development are weak or absent require particular attention. In these areas, civil-military planning and cooperation must be strengthened to ensure an integrated, targeted and sequenced transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development.



32 Supra note 4, 11.

33 Supra note 10, para. 9(vi); supra note 4, 50.

34 Supra note 4, 50.

35 Supra note 4, 22.

## The Regional Stabilization Facility

The LCB countries and key partners –notably the EU, the AU, the UN, and the governments of Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom—are deeply committed to the successful implementation of national, regional, and multilateral efforts towards stabilization of the LCB region through the RSS framework. The UN and EU, for example, have long provided both multilateral and bilateral support to regional governance, peace and security issues. Between 2017 and 2019, the EU mobilized €700 million in support. However, stabilization is a lengthy process and more is required to achieve the long-term goals of peace and sustainable development.

To this end, the Governors' Forum welcomed the official launch of the Regional Stabilization Facility, an innovative multi-donor financing mechanism established to support the implementation of the RSS (see Text Box 2: The Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad). The facility is an important initiative for ensuring the coordinated, transparent and accountable implementation of stabilization efforts under the RSS. It aims to enhance coordination amongst donors and reduce duplicative efforts.

To date, the EU and the governments of Germany, Sweden, and the UK have contributed a combined total amount of US\$60 million to the facility. In addition, UNDP has pledged an annual contribution of US\$1.5 million and the African Development Bank has committed a further US\$2.7 million. Other donor partners are encouraged to join the facility.

The facility is a positive step towards the ultimate realization of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) envisioned under the RSS.<sup>36</sup> This mechanism is intended to have a specific focus on addressing strategic priorities for which responsiveness, rapid disbursement, and pooling of risk is essential. The MPTF will also help enable new and innovative programs; enhance delivery capacities; and catalyze funding for public-private sector partnerships. It is also critical for institution and agency-wide coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/148643736@N07/48421434497/in/album-72157709720516987/>

<sup>36</sup> Supra note 4, 56.



### **Text Box 2: The Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad**

#### *The Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad*

“With the Regional Stabilization Facility, we have a unique and time-bound opportunity and a collective obligation to restore hope to affected populations, especially women and youth who have been most affected by this scourge. If we respond appropriately to grievances and end the spiral of insecurity, forced displacements and conflict, the situation in the Lake Chad Basin can be stabilized, and the foundations of recovery and development established.”

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa

#### UNDP Regional Director for Africa

The Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad is a multimillion-dollar fund for the scaling up of stabilization interventions in the Lake Chad Basin.

The facility will commence operations on 1 September 2019 for 2 years in the eight affected regions of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. It will serve as a rapid response mechanism to assist local authorities to tackle the Boko Haram insurgency by restoring and extending effective civilian security, and improving the delivery of basic services and livelihoods to affected communities.

The integrated civil-military approach to the multi-donor facility, including a strong focus on livelihoods and resilience, aims to fill a strategic gap in existing stabilization efforts.

The facility is anchored in the RSS and will be implemented with a planned budget of US\$100 million in its first phase across the four LCB countries. The European Union and the governments of Germany, Sweden and the UK, have lent their full support to the implementation of the facility, and will provide the funding for its first phase.



## Conclusion



The second meeting of the Governors' Forum enabled government and nongovernment stakeholders from across the LCB region and beyond to collectively debate and discuss some of the most pressing issues and challenges related to achieving the RSS goals. Through the open exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned, meeting participants were able to identify new opportunities and potential actions for further advancing security, stability and development in the region.

The meeting applied the inclusive and participatory approach advocated within the RSS and concretely advanced the building of linkages between civil society and government actors. Civil society representatives directly engaged with the governors, proffered concrete suggestions regarding stabilization efforts, and input into important discussions around how to leverage the potential of youth in achieving peace and stability. The Governor's Forum acknowledged the important role of civil society and committed to further increasing engagement with civil society actors moving forward.

The importance of a revitalized economy for stability and sustainable development is indisputable. The Governors' Forum and other experts identified a range of context-specific actions for enhancing community security and safety, strengthening local economic interventions, and catalyzing cross-border trade. These actions require a multi-stakeholder approach, including the active engagement of security actors, the private sector and others, to succeed.

The reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of the Boko Haram insurgency is a critical priority and lessons can be taken from the experiences of LCB countries and others in this regard. Reintegration efforts must be community-driven, context-specific, and responsive to the needs of different groups, including women and children. They must also be holistic and accompanied by support to reconciliation initiatives. Traditional leaders have vital roles to play in these efforts.

The Governors' Forum will prioritize the development of national-level TAPs to contextualize and operationalize the RSS. Existing and new partnerships will be emphasized to support RSS goals. The establishment of the multi-donor Regional Stabilization Facility is a welcomed advancement of these efforts, and it is hoped that more donors will contribute to this mechanism in the near future.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Governors' Forum approved a final joint communiqué, detailing the agreed regional priorities for the coming year (see Diagram 1) and the various commitments made by the Governors' Forum, including the continued joint reflection and information-sharing of good practices; trust building between the member countries; identification of funding sources; and ensuring the conditions needed to enable humanitarian operations in accordance with established international humanitarian principles and rights.

Finally, it was agreed that the next Governor's Forum will be hosted by the Government of Cameroon in 2020, where the governors will report on progress made on the agreed strategic priorities. In the interim period, and with the support of the Secretariat, the Governor's Forum will maintain frequent communication to ensure the effective cooperation and sustainable impact of their actions.

## Annex A: Governors' Forum final joint communiqué

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

### Final Joint Communiqué of the Second Meeting

The second meeting of the *Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development* (hereafter the LCB Governors' Forum) was held on the 17th and 18th of July 2019, in Niamey, Republic of Niger. The LCB Governors' Forum meeting was convened by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Germany. The Forum was hosted by the Governor of the Diffa region of Niger.

The meeting of the LCB Governors' Forum was attended by the governors from the Far North and North regions of Cameroon, Hadjer-Lamis and Lac provinces of Chad, Diffa region of Niger, and Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of Nigeria. Also in attendance, was the Governor of Zinder, representatives of the African Union (AU), the United Nations institutions (UN), the Regional Economic Communities, multilateral and bilateral institutions, donor governments, the regional private sector, civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders, and the media. The meeting was opened by H.E. Mr. Brigi Rafini, Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger

1. The LCB Governors' Forum recognizes the achievements realized since the inaugural meeting of the LCB Governors' Forum in May 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria, under the chairmanship of the Governor of Borno State, Nigeria. The LCB Governors' Forum appreciates the leadership and commitment of the Governor of Borno. The LCB Governors' Forum appreciates the acceptance of the chairpersonship of the LCB Governors' Forum by the Governor of Diffa region, Niger.
2. Recalling 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"; the LCB Governors' Forum acknowledges the development and adoption of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram Affected Areas of the Lake Chad Region (RSS) by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and its endorsement by the member states and the Peace and Security Council of the AU (2018).
3. The LCB Governors' Forum commends the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) for conducting an inclusive consultative process with governors, Lake Chad Basin (LCB) states, regional and international institutions and civil society actors in elaborating the RSS, aimed at promoting cross-border dialogue, cooperation and exchange, and to support ongoing national, regional and multilateral efforts towards stabilisation in the LCB.
4. The LCB Governors' Forum notes with appreciation the primary role assigned to it with respect to the implementation of the RSS.
5. The LCB Governors' Forum recognizes the objective of the RSS to address the root causes of the crisis in the LCB, through immediate, medium and long-term efforts, as well as the need for well-coordinated multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary action towards this end, and therefore encourages the effective implementation of the Strategy.
6. The LCB Governors' Forum acknowledges the important role of civil society, notably women and youth as well as religious, traditional and community leaders, in stabilization measures. It welcomes the organization of the Regional Consultative Forum with Civil Society Organisations, including Women and Youth, Traditional and Religious Leaders, and Academics of the Lake Chad Basin, on the 18th to 20th of June 2019 in Niamey, Niger, and takes note of the recommendations addressed to it by civil society as outlined in the Communiqué of that event.
7. The LCB Governors' Forum welcomes the launch of Regional Stabilization Facility, an innovative financing mechanism in support of the implementation of the RSS. The LCB Governors' Forum expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union, for their commitment to cooperation towards the realization of the objectives of the RSS and especially in financing through the Regional Stabilization Facility. The LCB Governors' Forum further welcomes the reaffirmation of support by the African Union.

8. The LCB Governors' Forum finally salutes the efforts by national armed forces as well as the Multinational Joint Task Force to improve security conditions in the region and the steps taken towards enhanced civil-military cooperation and coordination.
9. In light of these developments and achievements, the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development agrees on the following:
  - i. that the ownership of the Regional Stabilization Facility for the national window shall primarily rest with the States.
  - ii. to remain committed to joint efforts towards stabilizing, building peace and fostering sustainable development across the Lake Chad Basin through promoting dialogue and cross-border cooperation;
  - iii. to remain firmly committed to enhance cross-border security cooperation in order to facilitate cross border trade, enhance economic recovery and boost livelihoods;
  - iv. to assume its role as a primary mechanism for cross-border cooperation in the context of the implementation of the RSS and work closely with key stakeholders of the Lake Chad Basin for stabilization efforts;
  - v. to continue joint reflection and information-sharing, to enhance cross-border collaboration and mutually benefit from existing good practices in the region;
  - vi. to commit to the design and implementation of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) and their harmonization with local and national development plans, and to periodically monitor the progress achieved;
  - vii. to commit to a set of common regional priorities for stabilization, namely:
    - cross-border trade, regional economic development and employment opportunities, especially for the youth;
    - rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of the Boko Haram insurgency;
    - regional peacebuilding efforts and measures to enhance social cohesion;
    - inclusive and participatory governance;
    - empowerment of women and youth;
    - increasing engagement of civil society, including traditional and religious leaders, in stabilization initiatives with the support of the LCBC Stabilization Secretariat, to convene the LCB Governors' Forum at least once a year and maintain frequent communication in view of effective cooperation and sustainable impact.
  - viii. to report on corresponding progress made on the above regional priorities during the next meeting of the LCB Governors' Forum.
10. The LCB Governors' Forum expresses its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, Head of State and President of the Republic of Niger and the host Governor Mr. Mohamed Mouddour, Governor of Diffa, and the people of Niger Republic for their hospitality.
11. The LCB Governors' Forum and the Lake Chad Basin Commission acknowledges the immense technical support provided by the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme. The Forum and LCBC further wishes to acknowledge the support of the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), World Bank and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI).
12. The Forum also wishes to extend its appreciation to all participants, including representatives of civil society, traditional and religious leaders, academia, media and partner organisations, for their participation and engagement during the meeting.
13. The Forum agrees to hold the next conference in Cameroon.

**Done on this 18th day of July 2019, in Niamey, Republic of Niger.**

## Annex B: Concept note & meeting agenda

### Concept Note

#### Second Meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development

16–18 July 2019, Radisson Blu, Niamey, Niger

- i. Introduction
- ii. Objectives
- iii. Process Towards the Implementation of the RSS
- iv. Methodology
- v. Agenda and Annexes

#### I. Introduction

Since 2009, the Lake Chad Region has been severely impacted by the crisis triggered by the Boko Haram insurgency and the interplay of other root causes, causing massive internal and cross border displacement, destruction of social fabric and property, human rights abuses, and disruption of government institutions and services. In light of these challenges and recognising the need for enhanced cooperation and harmonization of measures to respond to its impact and to effectively address its root causes, the Governors of the eight most-affected areas in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria met in May 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria, to establish the Governors' Forum for Regional

Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development ("the Governors' Forum").

The aim of the Governors' Forum is to enhance joint efforts, coordination and regional ownership to resolve the crisis by promoting cross-border dialogue, cooperation and exchange, and to support ongoing national, regional and multilateral efforts towards stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB). The first Governors' Forum meeting constituted a milestone in regional stabilization efforts in the sense that, for the first time, governors from the LCB region jointly discussed common challenges, and potential measures and policies to resolve them. The meeting was attended by governors from Borno and Adamawa (Nigeria); governors of Diffa and Zinder (Niger); governors of Lac and Hajder Lamis (Chad); and governors of the North and Far North (Cameroon). It was also attended by civil society representatives from the four LCB countries, donor countries of the Forum and other supporting countries, international and regional organisations, the Nigerian military and the MNTJF.

The inaugural meeting concluded with a stated commitment, in the form of a joint communiqué by which the governors expressed their wish to play a central role in regional stabilization and recognised their unique leadership position to advance regional stabilization, recovery and resilience in the LCB region. Key points of consensus that emerged at the Forum included that (1) the response has been militarised thus far, and that a solely military solution cannot resolve the crisis; (2) there is a need and urgency to move from emergency humanitarian response towards more long-term development and environmentally sustainable programmes and interventions; (3) stabilization efforts, reintegration of former Boko Haram fighters and community reconciliation must be inclusive and recognise the critical role of traditional leaders, women and youth; and (4) there is a pressing need for synergy, coordination and consolidation of efforts on the regional level.

The need for comprehensive, multi-sectoral and coordinated national and cross-border efforts and humanitarian and development-peace collaboration towards long-term stabilization, recovery and resilience has been elaborated in the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS). The RSS was formally validated by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Council of Ministers in August 2018 and endorsed by the African Union (AU) in December 2018. The RSS is articulated around nine pillars of intervention and will be operationalized through a set of eight Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) for the key Boko Haram affected areas of the LCB, tailoring the Strategy's peacebuilding objectives to local contextual needs. Recognising the need for local ownership and involvement of local communities to ensure the definition and implementation of sustainable solutions, the RSS envisions critical roles for the governors as well as for civil society organisations. It highlights the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum as the "primary vehicle for the cross-border cooperation necessary for fulfilment of the Strategy on a regional basis." Therefore, to advance the implementation of the RSS and ensure local and sub-regional ownership, there is an evident need to consolidate the newly established Governors' Forum and thereby enable effective contribution to peacebuilding and stabilization efforts, especially via the TAPs, in a coordinated manner.

## II. Objectives

The proximity of the governors to the constituencies affected by the crisis affords them an indispensable role in guiding and monitoring the implementation of the RSS and other regional initiatives for stabilization, peacebuilding and sustainable development in a way that can translate into positive change on the ground. Therefore, the Governors' Forum stands out as a genuine regional initiative amongst countries in the Lake Chad Basin region sharing common historical, cultural, economic, social and environmental characteristics, in order to promote regional dialogue on cross-cutting transnational challenges and the coordination of joint actions and solutions.

The second meeting of the Governors' Forum in 2019 aims to advance the deliberations made by the first Governors' Forum meeting in 2018 and to continue the Governors' Forum process as a credible and effective mechanism for regional cooperation and coordination of efforts to implement of the RSS. The Governors' Forum therefore builds on the inaugural meeting in Maiduguri and the political endorsement of the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy.

The overall objective of the second meeting of the Governors' Forum is to further institutionalize the Governors' Forum and give the necessary political endorsement to the TAPs as the guiding framework documents for the localisation of the RSS in the eight (8) affected regions – thereby contributing to the development of durable responses to the short, medium and long-term stabilization needs at the state and regional levels.

The meeting agenda has the following specific objectives:

1. To reflect on the progress and challenges since the last Governors' Forum;
2. To formulate key strategic priorities for each of the eight (8) affected states/regions in the Lake Chad Basin region and agree on critical and joint regional priorities; and
3. To launch the Stabilization Facility as the mechanism for the financing regional cooperation on stabilization, recovery and resilience.

The expected outputs are as follows:

- Comprehensive update on the progress made since the last governors' Forum provided;
- Key territorial and regional priority areas to be advanced by the Governors' Forum in the forthcoming year identified;
- Regional Stabilization Facility presented and launched; and
- Joint Communiqué of the Governors

## III. Process Towards the Implementation of the RSS

The second meeting of the Governors' Forum has been preceded by efforts led by the LCBC with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC) and partners to disseminate the RSS among stakeholders from the governments, civil society, the private sector and international partners on the RSS.

Furthermore, a Regional Consultative Forum with civil society organisations, including women and youth-led organisations, traditional and religious leaders, and academics of the Lake Chad Basin has taken place in June 2019 in Niamey with the overall objective to enhance the full and effective inclusion and participation of civil society in the stabilization process, with an emphasis on the meaningful participation of women and youth.

## IV. Methodology

The second meeting of the Governors' Forum will be co-chaired by the eight Governors of areas most affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin. It will take place in the Capital of Niger, Niamey, hosted by the Government of Niger from July 16 – 18 2019.

The Governors Forum will be a 3-day meeting split into:

- The first day of the Forum (16 July) will be mainly for registrations, bilateral meetings, expert meetings, preparatory meeting for CSOs and to receive any feedback from Governors' representatives.
- The 17 and 18 will be a 2-day event with national, regional and international high-level participants, and delegates from national institutions and government, UN agencies, continental and sub-regional bodies such as the African Union, ECOWAS, ECCAS, civil society groups, think tanks, academia, private sector from the Lake Chad Basin region. This event will entail plenary sessions and thematic panel discussions.
- The Governor's Forum will close with the presentation and adoption of a communiqué, which will also contain key conclusions and decisions.

### Proposed participants

An estimated total of 300 participants, drawn from state/regional government officials UN Agencies, international organizations, the armed forces, MNJTF, diplomatic missions, and civil society are expected to participate in the meeting.

### Languages

The meeting will be conducted in English and French. There shall be provision for simultaneous interpretation services to participants. Meeting documents will also be circulated in both languages.

### Dates & Venue

The Conference will be held in Niamey, Niger from 16 – 18 July 2019 at Radisson Blu, Niamey, Niger

The second Governor's Forum is convened by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and hosted by the Government of Niger, with technical support from the African Union (AU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI). Financial support is provided by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## PROGRAMME AGENDA

### Tuesday July 16, 2019

- Bilateral Meetings
- Expert Preparatory Meetings
- CSO Preparatory Meeting

### Wednesday July 17, 2019

08:00 – 09:00 Registration of all participants

#### **Session 1: Opening Ceremony**

09:00 – 09:10 Remarks by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Mouddour, Governor of the Diffa Region

09:10 – 09:20 Remarks by H.E. Amb. Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary of Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) & Head Of Mission, Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)

09:20 – 09:25 Remarks by Mr. Walter von den Driesch, Representative of the Oslo Consultative Group on Prevention and Stabilisation in the Lake Chad Region

09:25 – 09:30 Remarks by Amb. Hadiza Mustapha, Representative of Chairperson of the African Union Commission

09:30 – 09:35 Remarks by Mrs. Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Africa

09:35 – 09:40 Remarks by H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel

*Official Opening Address of the Governors' Forum by H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, Head of State and President of the Republic of Niger*

09:40 – 10:00 Official Address and Opening of the Forum by H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, Head of State and President the Republic of Niger

10:00 – 10:20 VIP Photo Session

10:20 – 10:50 Coffee Break

#### *Governors Welcome Remarks*

10:50 – 10:55 Remarks and Handover of Chairmanship by H.E. Mr. Babagana Umura Zulum, Executive Governor of Borno State, Nigeria

10:55 – 11:00 Acceptance Remarks by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Mouddour, Governor of the Diffa Region, Niger

11:00 – 11:05 Remarks by H.E. Mr. Midjiyawa Bakari, Governor of the Far North Region, Cameroon

- 11:05 – 11:10 Remarks by H.E. Mr. Jean Abaté Edi'i, Governor of the North Region, Cameroon
- 11:10 – 11:15 Remarks by H.E. Mr. Crowther Seth, Deputy Executive Governor of Adamawa State, Nigeria
- 11:15 – 11:20 Remarks by H.E. Alhaji Mai Mala Buni, Executive Governor of Yobe State Nigeria
- 11:20 – 11:25 Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ali Haroun, Governor of Hadjer Lamis Region, Chad
- 11:25 – 11:30 Remarks by H.E. Prof. Adam Nouky Charfadhine, Governor of the Lake Region, Chad

*Goodwill Messages*

- 11:30 – 11:33 Remarks by H.E. Mr. Issoufou Katambé, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation (Niger)
- 11:33 – 11:36 Remarks by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Representative
- 11:36 – 11:39 Remarks by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Representative
- 11:39 – 11:42 Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ángel Losada, the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel
- 11:42 – 11:45 Remarks by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) Representative

**Session 2: Update on Developments and Progress since the May 2018 Governors' Forum**

11:50 – 13:15

Moderator: Ambassador Nicolas Bwakira, Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)

Update on Developments and Progress since the May 2018 Governors Forum:

- Update on Security Situation by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)
- Update on Humanitarian Situation by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- Presentation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
- Questions and deliberations

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch Break

**Session 3: Formulation of key Priorities and Understanding of Stabilization Process**

14:45 – 17:00

Moderator: Dr Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, African Union Commission

- Presentation on Lessons Learnt from Somalia: 10 Years of AMISOM Stabilization Effort by AU-Special Representative to the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia
- Introduction to the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs); process and methodology
- Presentation of Governors' Key Priority Areas per State/Region/Province and Questions.

**Session 4: Presentation of the Mechanism for Financing of the Stabilization Effort in the Lake Chad Basin Region**

17:00 – 17:30

Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Yahya, UNDP-Nigeria Resident Representative

Presentation on Stabilisation Facility for the Lake Chad Basin Region by Mrs. Carole Flore Smereczniak, UNDP-Chad Resident Representative

Official Launching of the Facility by:

- LCBC
- UNDP
- African Union

Development Partners

17:30 – 17:40 Day 1 Closing Statement by the Programme Director/Moderator

17:40 – 18:00 Coffee Break and End of Day 1



**Thursday July 18, 2019**

08:30 – 08:35 Recap of Day 1 by the Programme Director and Facilitator: Ibrahima Cheikh Diong

**Session 5: Thematic Panel Discussion: Critical Role of Civil Society, Including Women, Youth, Traditional and Religious Leaders in Stabilization Effort**

08:35 – 09:35

Presentation of CSO Communique by a Representative from the Civil Society Forum

Panel Discussion on Role of CS, Religious and Traditional Leaders in Stabilization

Moderator: Ambassador Satti, CMI

Panellists:

- Governor of Diffa
- Governor of North Region of Cameroon
- Salif Nimaga (Consultant, World Bank)
- 2 Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Representatives

**Session 6: Thematic Panel Discussion: Security, Cross-border trade and Economic interventions**

09:35 – 10:35

Moderator: Mr. Jean Luc-Stalon; UNDP-Cameroon Resident Representative

Panellists:

- Governor of Hajder Lamis
- Governor of Lac Region
- UNDP-Nigeria Resident Representative
- Prof. Sagagi, Dangote Business School, Nigeria
- Representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Private Sector Representative

10:35 – 11:05 Coffee Break

**Session 7: Thematic Panel Session: Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Social Cohesion efforts on the local and regional level**

11:05 – 12:05 Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Social Cohesion efforts on the local and regional level

Moderator: High Authority for Peacebuilding (HACP) Representative, Niger

Panellists:

- Governor of Borno
- Governor of Yobe
- Counterterrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) Representative
- Ministry of Interior Representative, Niger

**Session 8 Thematic Panel Discussion: Collaborative Efforts for Stabilization and Role of Regional Mechanisms**

12:05 – 13:05 Collaborative Efforts for Stabilization and Role of Regional Mechanisms

Moderator: Ministry of Water Resources Representative, Niger

Panellists:

- Governor of Far North Cameroon
- Governor of Adamawa
- ECOWAS

- UNOWAS
- UNOCA
- African Union
- CEMAC
- European Union

13:05 – 14:30 Lunch Break and Communique Drafting

14:30 – 15:30

Moderator: Dr. Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, African Union Commission

- Update on the Regional Stabilization Strategy by LCBC
- Endorsement of ToR of the Governors' Forum
- Deliberations and Decision on the Host and Date
- Presentation and adoption of the Communiqué of the 2nd Governors' Forum of 16-18 July 2019 held in Niamey, Republic of Niger

### ***Session 9 Closing Ceremony***

15:30 – 15:35 Remarks by Germany's Representative: Funding partner for the Governors' Forum

15:35 – 15:45 Acceptance of Hosting Right by the Governor from 2020 host of the Governors' Forum

15:45 – 16:55 Remarks by H.E Amb. Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission

15:55 – 16:30 Official Closing of the Governors' Forum

16:30 – 17:00 Press Conference:

- All Governors
- Government of Niger
- LCBC
- Development Partners
- UNOWAS
- UNOCA
- ECOWAS
- ECCAS
- CEMAC
- EU
- 4 CSO Representatives
- 4 Religious Leaders

17:00 The End

## Annex C: Attendance list

NAME	POSITION	REGION/ORGANIZATION
1. Mohamed Mouddour	Governor	Diffa
2. Mairou Malam Ligari	President of Regional Council	Diffa
3. Colonel Almajir Mamane	Directeur Regional	Diffa
4. Almad Jir Manane	Regional Director of Environment	Diffa
5. Monsieur Abatcha Elhadj Ari	President du Conseil Regional des Jeunes	Diffa
6. Issaka Hassane Karanta	Governor	Niamey
7. Issa Moussa,	Governor	Zinder
8. H.E. Mr. Brigi Rafini.	Prime Minister	Government of Niger
9. H.E Issoufou Katambé	Minister of Hydraulic and First Commissioner to Lake Chad Basin Commission	Government of Niger
10. H.E Bazoum Mohamed	Minister of State, Interior, Public Security, Decentralization, Customary and Religious Affairs	Government of Niger
11. H.E Kalla Ankouraou	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of African Intergration and Nigériens Abroad	Government of Niger
12. H.E Kané Aïchatou Boulama	Minister of Plan	Government of Niger
13. H.E Elback Zeinabou Tari Bako	Minister of the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children	Government of Niger
14. H.E Marou Amadou	Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seal	Government of Niger
15. General Youssoufa M. Maiga	President of the National Commission of Collection of Illicit arms and Demining	Government of Niger
16. General Mahamdou Abdou Tarka	President of the High Authority of Peacebuilding	Government of Niger
17. Mr. Cheibou Samna	Procureur of the Antiterrorists Pole	Government of Niger
18. Baraka Dan Ladi	Honourable Member of Parliament	National Assembly
19. Nana Fassouma Oumarou	Honourable Member of Parliament	National Assembly
20. Aïchatou Mai Nassara	Honourable Member of Parliament	National Assembly
21. Colonel Almajir Mamane	Regional Director and 2nd Secretary of LCBC	Ministry of Environment and Urban Sanitation
22. Issa Lamine		Presidency, Niger
23. Hama Ali	Technical Adviser	National Assembly
24. Issoufou Oumarou	MISP/D/ACR	
25. Hama Goumeye	DGECM/R	
26. Iyder Adamou	SG	MF/SP/D/DCEN
27. Haidara Abdoulaye		DGAT/D/MISP/D/ACR
28. Rékiatou Sidia	Substitut du Procureur	Government of Niger
29. Mme Rachidou Djamilia	Magistrate	Government of Niger
30. Honorable Hamadou Moumouni N'gaya	Leader of the N'Guel and Representative of Trad	
31. Haidara Abdoulaye	DA/CNEESS	Presidency of Niger
32. Habou Mahaman	Inspecteur Géné IGAT	Government of Diffa
33. Issa Lamine	Adviser	Presidency of Niger
34. Pr Mahamane Ali	Rector	Niamey
35. Djibirlla Malam Kalla	Mayor	Chetimai, Niger

36. Dr Gréma Moustapha	Vice Rector	Université Diffa
37. Mounkaila Djibo		DGAT/D/MISPDACR
38. Moctar Ari Kimé		DGTCP
39. Abdoulaye Abdourahamane Ahamadou		RJ-SPC
40. Laoual Aissata	Ingenier	
41. Mme Souleymane Gambo	Inspectrice P. du Trésor	gambom33@gmail.com
42. Seydou Abdou		MISPD/ACR
43. Ibrah Abdou		DGR/MISPD/ACR
44. Mariama Laouli	DP	TAWARUWAR
45. Dagoul Malam Gado		DGAP/MI
46. Kiari Moustapha	Political Adviser	HD
47. Samaila Issoufou Naroua		DLP/MISPD/ACR
48. Souley M. Abasse		DL/MISPD/ACR
49. Abdoulaye Barmous		MISP/D/ACR
50. Langa Abdourahamane		MH/A
51. Boukar Issoufou M. Goni		ONG WARAKA Diffa
52. Amina I Oumarou		Plan International
53. Hofs Maample		SFCG
54. Haken Caka		Summa
55. Alzouma Adamou Boubé		CIPEL
56. Mme Madou Bintou		CONGAFEN/Diffa
57. Tahirou Gouro		Com/CEA
58. Mamane Adamou		Administrateur/ActuNiger
59. J. Ignacio Gallerdo		AECID
60. Sebe Mahamadou		CEA
61. Souleymane Abdouramane	Représentant President	CNJ
62. Sidien Ousman		AGDAL
63. Djibril Mallam Kalla		Chétimari/Diffa
64. Mahamadou Habou		Diffa Chawa
65. Abacha Elhadji Ari		CRJ
66. Mme Soulemmane Gambo		ACCT
67. K. Moustapha		Centre HD
68. Hermant Lucile		Action Against Famine
69. Koche Mawa		
70. Mohamed Nanzoul	Representative	BMPI
71. Habibou Garba	Religious Leader	Religious Leader
72. Bachir Adji Lawan	Religious Leader	Religious Leader
73. Elhaji Z. Bachir	Religious Leader	Religious Leader
74. Alawdji Abba		OUSpd/AC
75. L. Aissala		UY/Niger
76. Abdouramane Roukaya		Studio Kalangou
77. Aboukar Issa		MOJEDEC
78. Rémi Hocquemiller		EUDEL Niamey
79. Mohamed Yasmina		CCNEJ/Niger
80. Aichatou Jariri		ONG AGIR PLUS/Diffa
81. Souleymane M. Umar		LARASSA
82. M. Aisha		LARASSA
83. Kwanli Kaldstrop		Cornworldwilde
84. Hamadou Mounkaila		SP/CNF

85. Clément Kocou	National Coordinator	WANEP
86. Salla Alhassane		HACP
87. Mahaman Kanta		DW Hausa
88. Abdou Lawan		GURI Foundation
89. Moustapha Chetima		GURI Foundation
90. Ilsa E, Ari		GURI Foundation
91. Iliassou Algabide		Chargé SAP WANER-Niger
92. Vanessa Willems		ICR
93. Dr Naino Abdoul-Kader	Consultant	
94. Djibo Moussa	Interpreter	Independent Consultant
95. Moussa M. Hassan	Reporter/Consultant	
96. Zakari Oumarou	Reporter/Consultant	
97. Lawali Ada		SE- SPS.Sahel CAB PM
98. Arouna Yacouba	Journalist	
99. Abdoul Aziz Moussa	Director General	Niger Inter
100. Azahi Souleymane	Journalist	Niger Inter
101. Saidou Alfarouk		Actu/Niger
102. Farida Mamane		
103. Tahirou I. Garka		NIYYA INFOS
104. Sani Aboubacar	Journalist	L'Evènement
105. Zachari Ousmarou	Reporter	
106. Midjiyawa Bakari	GOVERNOR	Far North
107. Nchotu Abraham	Inspector in charge of Decentralized Territoriale Collectivities	Far North
108. Manga Titus	Inspector in charge of Prefectoral administration	Far North
109. Abate Edi Jean -	Governor	North
110. Sombe Simon	General Inspector of Service	North
111. Ndoumbé Dika Jean Pierre	Chief of Division of Administrative Services	North Region
112. Messomi Amoa Cyr Marie		Ministry of State Audi
113. Endah Mariana		CCID Cameroon
114. Ibrahim Djagra	President for Far North	Youth National Council
115. Sadia Epouse Hamoa, Binta	Coordinator	RECAMEF/RAFAGA
116. Amadou Adji	Member	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
117. Vincent Kouete	Deputy Executive Secretary	GICAM
118. Mahamat Abba	Sultan	Kousseri Traditional Community
119. Mohamadou Alhadji Oumar	Senior Imam	Mora Muslim Community
120. Boubou Nicolas	Coordinator (Priest)	CODAS/Carista
121. Djakaya Pascal	Chief of Community Radio	Community Radio,
122. Abdoukarim Hamadou	Journalist	Oiel du Sahel
123. Marandata Epouse Moussa	Chief of Station	CRTV, Far North
124. Adam Nouky Charfadine	Governor	Lac Province
125. Ali, Haroun	Governor	Governor of Hajar Lamins
126. Dimouya/Souapebe	SG	Government of Chad
127. Adoum Ahmat Issa	Director of Governors Cabinet	Hadjer-Lamis
128. Moussa Nadji Brahim Moussa	Security Adviser to the Governor	Hadjer-Lamis
129. Mahassine Mahamat		Hadjer-Lamis
130. Brahim Moussa Boukar	Economic Advisor	Government of Chad
131. Mahassine Mahamat Abdoulaye	Social Action	Government of Chad

132. Abakar Mahamat Kaila	Focal Person	Government of Chad
133. Deguemnaial, Renaud		CNPT
134. Amiradoudou/Artine		
135. Mahamat Mostapha Ahadjo Maina		CSAI/BOL
136. Mahamat Adam Moustapha		CADELAC
137. Abicho Abani	Religious Leader and Traditional Ruler	
138. Baba Sultan		
139. Mme Bevia Respa	Women Leader	CELIAF
140. M Mahamat Moustapha	Religious and Traditional Leader	Civil Society
141. Youssof Mamadou Affono	Religious and Traditional Leader	Civil Society
142. Abbali Ibrahim Mahamat	Youth Representative	
143. Alhadj Abbali Ibrahim	Member	CSO
144. Mme Baba Sultan Brahim	Member	CSO
145. Harounmahamat, Bahrbrahim		
146. Ali Adji Mohammed Seid		
147. Seth Crowther	Deputy Governor	Adamawa State
148. Bunu MONGUNO	Secretary to the State Government	Adamawa State
149. Sani A. RIBADU	Deputy Chief of Staff	Adamawa State
150. Yabawa Kolo Hamza		
151. Amb. Adamu ABBAS	Governor's Office	Borno
152. Bashiru AHMAD		SSG Adamawa State
153. Muhammad Aminu Suleiman	Exec Sec ADSEMA	Adamawa State
154. Aishatu Yakubu Saidu		Adamawa State/CSO
155. Mustapha Sanusi	Community Leader	Adamawa State
156. Dr. Agoso H. BAMAIYI	Religious Leader /ASAPRR	Adamawa State/ CSO
157. Rev. Joshua Kurmi Pyeng	Religious Leaders	Adamawa State
158. M.N Ashafa		Interfaith Mediation Centre
159. Elhadji Mai Mala Buni	Secretary General	Yobe
160. Abubakar Garba Iliya	Technical adviser to the Governor	Yobe
161. Suleiman A. BAKURA	PS in Office of SSG	Yobe State
162. Dauda M. GOMBE	Civil Society Leader	Yobe State
163. Hudu M. Yusuf	Community Leader (NEYIF/E.D)	Yobe State
164. Mme Joy Eyema	Civil Society Leader	Yobe State
165. Dr Muhammad N. Ashafa	Religious Leader	Yobe State
166. Babagana Umara	Executive Governor	Borno State
167. Rt Hon. Usman Lawan M	Speaker, House of Assembly	Bornu
168. Dr. Mohammed Goje	Exec Sec BOSEMA	Borno State SEMA
169. Yabawa Kolo Hamza		
170. Alhaji Bukar Gana Kareto	Hon. Member House of Assembly	Borno State
171. Hon. Haruna KUKAWA	Kukawa LGA	Borno State
172. Alhaji Maina Mustapha Garbu	Hon. Member (Monguno) House of Assembly	Borno State
173. Alhaji Abdulkareem Lawan	Hon. Member (Guzamala) House of Assembly	Borno State
174. Alhaji Mustapha Dalatu	Hon. Member (Ngala) House of Assembly	Borno State
175. Zanna Abatcha Umar	House of Assembly	Borno State
176. Alhaji Dige Mohammed	Hon. Member (Kala Balge) House of Assembly	Borno State

177. Engr. Gambomi MOHAMMED	Hon. Member (Marte) House of Assembly	Borno State
178. Hon. A. Jamna Bong		BOSHA
179. Amb. Adamu ABBAS	Special Adviser, External Affairs	Borno State
180. Amb Ahmed Shehu	Civil Society Member	Borno State
181. Ballama MUSTAFA	Civil Society Member	Borno State
182. Hassan ZANNA BOGUMA	Community Leader	Borno State
183. Oyema Joy	Hope Interactive	
184. Lucy D. YUNANA	Religious Leader	Borno State
185. Ayobola M. KAYODE	Assistant Chief PO	FMBNP
186. Margaret N. DIBIGBO	Chief Planning Officer	FMBNP
187. Mohammed G. ALKALI	MD-CEO	NEDC
188. Mohammed G. ALKALI	NEDC	MD-CEO
189. Margaret N. DIBIGBO	Ministry of Planning and National Budget	Chief Planning Officer
190. Ayobola M. KAYODE	Ministry of Planning and National Budget	Asst Chief PO
191. Shehu Barde		Federal Government of Nigeria
192. Ashraf K. USMAN	Programme Manager	NEEM Foundation
193. Oluwatosin O. OMONIYI	Assistant Editor	Premium Times
194. Mansur O. IBRAHIM	Assistant Editor	The Cable
195. Humwashi WONOSIKOU	Reporter	GOTEL FM
196. Sakina Ahmed	Reporter	Fombina FM
197. Dauda ILIYA	Reporter	Peace FM
198. Faruk M. DALHATU	MD-CEO	Dandalkura Radio
199. Alhaji MODU	Reporter	Yobe Radio-TV
200. Pamela Uche Bibilari	Reporter	News Agency of Nigeria
201. Abass Jimoh	Reporter	Daily Trust
202. Abdulsalam MOHAMMED	Reporter	Borno State Radio and TV
203. Babakura MUSTAPHA	Reporter	Borno State Radio and TV
204. Abdulrahman BUNDI	Reporter	Borno State Radio and TV
205. Amb. Mamman Nuhu	Executive Secretary	LCBC
206. Boubakari, Mana – Technical Director	Technical Director	LCBC
207. Mohamed Mohamed Kachallah -	Protocol	LCBC
208. Col. Amadou Djibo M Abdourahamane		
209. Emmanuel Stanley	P.A to the Executive Secretary	LCBC
210. Chika Charles Aniekwe	Regional Stabilization Strategy Coordinator	LCBC
211. Albert Samah	Consultant	LCBC
212. Umar Abubakar	ICT Specialist	LCBC
213. Abdouramane Mohamed Moctar	Translator-French/English	LCBC
214. Obia Randy	Translator-English French	LCBC
215. Ibbo Daddy	Director of f Communication	LCBC
216. Ali Fofana	Consultant	LCBC
217. Allassan Fousseini	Consultant	LCBC
218. Fatime Aniyere,	Gender Expert	LCBC
219. Chango Jean Claude		LCBC/FMM
220. Maj Gen Chikezie Onyeka Ude	Force Commander	MNJTF
221. Maj Gen Ude		MNJTF

222. Col Salissou Mahaman Salissou	Staff	MNJTF
223. Kabir Mohammed Auwal	Staff	MNJTF
224. Mr. Imbanda Lokenga Lotshitshimbi	Reporter	GF Radio/MNJTF
225. Amb Mustapha Hadiza	Advisor of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Peace, Security and Governance	AU
226. Amb Zaina Nyirammatama		
227. Dr Sarjoh Bah	Head Crisis Management and Post Conflict and Reconstruction Division	AU
228. Dr Philip Attuquayefio	Coordinator, Regional Stabilisation Strategy for Countries Affected by Boko Haram	AU
229. Ayodeji S. Badru	Assistant to the Advisor on Peace, Security and Governance	AU
230. Jean Luc Stalon	Resident Representative	UNDP, Cameroon
231. Mohammed Yahya	Resident Representative	UNDP, Nigeria
232. Mme Carol Flore-Smreczniaik	Resident Representative	UNDP, Chad
233. Diana Louise Ofwona	Resident Representative	UNDP, Chad,
234. Jose Wabo	Deputy Resident Coordinator	UNDP, Niger
235. Simon Ridley	Regional Advisor	UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa
236. Mizuho Yokoi	Head Sub-Office	UNDP Nigeria
237. Matthew ALAO	Team Lead GPS	UNDP, Nigeria
238. David Maina		UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa
239. Roy TOR-BEM	Admin Associate	UNDP, Nigeria
240. Pierre Celestin Bengono		UNDP, Niger
241. Bernardo Jorge		UNDP Niger
242. Aminatou Mamane Yabilan		UNDP Niger
243. Abdoulaye Balde	SGBV Programme Coordinator	UNDP, Niger
244. Aime Robeye Rirangar	Unit Head, Good Governance	UNDP, Chad
245. Lacina Barro	Project Manager	UNDP, Chad
246. Mc Anthony Kornah Keah	M/E Stabilization	UNDP, Chad
247. Elie Yanyara Djimadoumadji	Programme Analysts	UNDP, Chad
248. Mamtsai Yagai	National Expert, Social Cohesion	UNDP, Cameroon
249. Joseph Lereh	National Communication Expert	UNDP, Cameroon
250. Abdou Mariama		UNDP, Niger
251. Mounkaila Aisha		UNDP, Niger
252. Marie Claudette Umuhoza N.		UNDP/CCSP, Niger
253. Moctar Seydou		UNDP, Niger
254. Harouna Abdou Ibrahim		UNDP, Niger
255. Hassane Idé Hawidabou	VNU/PNUD	UNV/UNDP, Niger
256. Moctar Adamou Mohamed		UNDP, Niger
257. Moustapha Sahirou	Assitant Project Manager	UNDP, Niger
258. Linda Diatta		UNDP, Niger
259. Yacine Fall	Regional Advisor/PNUD	UNDP, Niger
260. Jules KABANGU		UNDP, Niger
261. Lamine Bal		UNDP, Nigeria
262. Linda Diatta		UNDP, Niger
263. Rabiou Salissou		UNDP, Niger
264. El Hadj Mahamane Lawali		UNDP, Niger



265. Sory Ouane		World Food Program
266. Abdou Soumaila		UNDP, Niger
267. Aissa Riba		UNDP, Niger
268. J.J Hoeven		UNDP
269. Fah El Hadj	DP UN/AIDS	UNDP
270. H.E. Mohammed Ibn Chambas	Special Representative of the SG	UNOWAS
271. Ahunna Eziakonwa	Deputy SG and Director of RBA	UNDP
272. Edward Kallon	Resident Coordinator	UN System Nigeria
273. Madame Bintou Djibo	Resident Coordinator	UN System, Niger
274. Stephen Tull,	Resident Coordinator	UN System Chad
275. Dominiques Do Amaral Coutinho Sancho		UNOCA
276. Mme; Famata Liman	Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the SG to West Africa	
277. Elizabeth Sancery	Senior Political Affairs Officers	UNOWAS
278. Serena Cavicchy		UNHCR
279. Nurudeen Azeez,		UNOAU
280. Smith Bradford Charles		
281. Edem Wosornu		OCHA
282. Manoudou Sebeogo		UNECA
283. Habsatou Souley	Coordinator of the Secretariat of the PB	UN
284. Benoit Moreno,	External Relations Officer	UNHCR
285. Achille Sommo	Programme Specialist	UN Women, Niger
286. Farhad Abdollahran	Head of UNOPS Office	Head of UNOPS Office, Niger
287. El Khalef		WHO
288. Maurice Azonnankpo		UNHCR
289. Dr Manenga	Incident Manager	WHO
290. Sidiki Traore		WFP
291. Ms Janna Greve	Project Manager	CMI
292. Lisa Bostrom	Project Officer	CMI
293. Ambassador Nureldin Satti	Representative Sudan	CMI
294. Ambassador Nicolas Bwakira	Representative South Sudan	CMI
295. Mr. Sven Schneider	Senior Stabilisation Adviser	Government of Germany
296. Mrs Corrina Fricke	Head of Division West and Central Africa Office	German Special Envoy for the Sahel
297. Angel Losada	EU Special Envoy for the Sahel	European Union
298. Ellen Renman	Desk officer for Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region,	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden.
299. Mr. Nouridine Kane Dia	Resident Representative	African Development Bank
300. Fcorian Morier		IOM
301. Gomez Elena	Political Advisor to the Special Representative	European Union
302. Mary Morrison	Country Representative	World Bank, Nigeria
303. Salif Nimaga	Consultant	World Bank
304. Murtala Sagagi	Consultant	World Bank
305. H.E Eggs Christian	Ambassador	Swedish Embassy, Niger
306. Stenius Otto		Finish Embassy
307. Momamedata Tolumovic		Italian Embassy Niger
308. Basiel Bagaert		Belgian Embassy, Niger
309. Dahiru G. Muhd	Diplomat	Nigerian, Embassy, Niger

310. Au Sambo		Nigerian Embassy, Niger
311. Abigail Slenski	USAID	US Embassy, Niger
312. Basid Bogaertz		Belgian Embassy
313. H.E Curis Vincent	Ambassador	French Embassy, Niger
314. Kiendrebeogo Safiatou		
315. Mukurarinda Felicitas		GIZ, Addis Ababa
316. Dr. Haoua Hamza	Head, Niger/US	GNN
317. Dr. Hawa Moukaila		GNN
318. Oumarou Mamane		GNN
319. Andy Scott	Conflict and Stabilisation Adviser	UK Stabilisation Unit
320. Jide Okeke	International Expert	
321. Anne Sphe Kesselaar		EUCAP Sahel Niger
322. Ulla Andrén		Swedish Development Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa
323. Forteh Akum		Institute for Security Studies, Senegal
324. Hanathy R		Institute for Security Studies, Chad



## Annex D: Regional Consultative Forum final communiqué

### COMMUNIQUÉ

**Adopted at the Regional Consultative Forum of Civil Society Organisations, Including Women and Youth, Traditional and Religious Leaders and Academics of the Lake Chad Basin, from 18-20 June 2019 in Niamey, Republic of Niger**

The *overall objectives* of the Regional Consultative Forum are to strengthen the ownership of civil society of stabilization and peacebuilding efforts in the Lake Chad Basin, under the overarching framework of the RSS; to contribute to the full and effective inclusion and participation of civil society in the stabilisation process, with an emphasis on the empowerment of women and youth; and to lay the ground for a constructive partnership between civil society actors and other relevant implementing actors.

### Preamble

**Recognising** the devastating impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on the lives of people of the Lake Chad Basin region and particularly people from North and Far North regions of Cameroon, Hadjer Lamis and Lac regions of Chad, Diffa region of Niger and Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states of Nigeria.

**Recalling** that the vision for addressing the root causes of the conflict and for long term stabilization, recovery and resilience is put forward in the *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin* (RSS), formally adopted by the Lake Chad Basin Commission Council of Ministers in August 2018 and endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC) in December 2018.

**Recognizing** the invaluable contributions of civil society in the Lake Chad Basin region to fostering stability, recovery and resilience through the framework of the RSS, and **further recognising** the role of civil society to ensure accountability and enhance trust within the communities on the one hand and between civil society and governmental institutions, including the security forces on the other hand, a Regional Consultative Forum with sixty-five (65) representatives of civil society organisations, including women and youth, traditional and religious leaders and academics of the Lake Chad Basin region took place from 18 to 20 June in the capital city Niamey of the Republic of Niger.

### Observations

The sixty-five(65) representatives of civil society, including women and youth, religious and traditional leaders and academics who participated at the Forum **express** deep appreciation for the commitment of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to engage and involve civil society groups in the implementation of the RSS and **further acknowledge** the positive contributions and efforts of the governments in the Lake Chad Basin region for stabilization, development, resilience and recovery.

Participants **further note** existing and ongoing interventions by civil society groups and their invaluable complementary contribution to stabilization in the region and **reiterate** that civil society provides enormous positive potential that should be capitalised to promote peace, development and stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin region through technical partnerships and the fostering of synergies with civil society organizations.

Participants also **express concern** regarding the weak presence of governmental institutions in some areas of the Lake Chad Basin region which has caused, inter alia, limited economic, social, health, education, judicial and climate change infrastructure in the region. This has partially caused a negative impact on the relationship and trust between the constituencies and political authorities.

Participants **note** that host communities in the Lake Chad Basin continue to face challenges due to the high number of IDPs and refugees and corresponding tensions due to scarce resources and underline that current approaches and efforts for the humanitarian support and return of the displaced are sometimes not corresponding to the actual needs.

Participants **state** that despite the good intentions, Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) measures to address former Boko Haram members have not necessarily led to the desired outcomes and the reintegration of former Boko Haram members is posing challenges within the recipient communities. Additionally, while both men and women are engaged in the support to Boko Haram, preventive measures and policies often only focus on the male actors.

Participants also **express concern** regarding the level of proliferation of light arms and small weapons and the seemingly lack of policy and management of Civilian Task Forces or vigilantes that would ensure their transition to civilian life and legal employment. In addition, many young people are exposed to drug abuse, and **note** the lack of dedicated programmes and facilities to treat those affected and to prevent further abuses.

Participants **underline** that despite efforts to mainstream UN resolutions 1325 (S/RES/1325 (2000)), UN resolution 2250 (S/RES/2250 (2015)) as well as *Aspiration 6* of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 on the vital roles of women and youth in peacebuilding and security and on empowerment of women and youth, these groups are often marginalized in the Lake Chad Basin region, and **call** for corresponding protective, preventive, inclusive and participatory measures.

Participants finally **note** that economic activities around the Lake Chad Basin have been weakened by the impact of climate change as well as by restrictions of movement and the presence of the Boko Haram and in the Lake Chad Basin.

### Recommendations

Based on the observations, participants **urge** the Lake Chad Basin Commission to create regional dialogue spaces and platforms for inclusive participation of civil society in the stabilisation, recovery and resilience efforts. Furthermore, participants further made the following specific recommendations:

#### A. On Inclusion and Participation Participants

- i. Urge national governments and governors of the Lake Chad Basin to ensure that stabilisation, recovery and resilience priorities are informed and guided by the needs of communities;
- ii. Request the national governments and governors of the Lake Chad Basin to build trust and strengthen collaboration among CSOs and between national and regional authorities and CSOs, especially youth and women led organisations, to deepen state and non-state action interaction and promote inclusivity;
- iii. Call on national governments and governors of the Lake Chad Basin and the LCBC to empower women and youth and promote inclusion of women and youth in decision-making at all levels including appointing women to administrative and leadership positions in line with UN resolutions 1325 (S/RES/1325 (2000)), UN resolution 2250 (S/RES/2250 (2015)) and *Aspiration 6* of AU Agenda 2063;
- iv. Urge the LCBC to create a regional youth network and build their capacities to contribute meaningfully to stabilisation, recovery and resilience efforts.

#### B. On Governance and Development, Participants

- v. Appeal to national governments and the governors of the Lake Chad Basin to enhance the delivery of public services and set up effective accountability and oversight mechanisms to ensure that public services are delivered in a timely and quality manner;
- vi. Call on national governments and the governors of the Lake Chad Basin to urgently improve access and reduce restrictions of movement to enhance economic activities of the population in the affected areas and to collaborate with MNJTF to ensure protection population within the economic activity zones;
- vii. Strongly call on national governments and governors of the Lake Chad Basin to support the creation of entrepreneurial platforms and initiatives to provide alternative income-generating options for vulnerable groups, such as single-headed households;
- viii. Urge national governments and governors of the Lake Chad Basin and the LCBC to include vulnerable groups such as orphans, single-headed households, persons with disabilities, refugees and IDPs as well as elderly in stabilisation programmes and policies.
- ix. Request national governments of the Lake Chad Basin to promote and implement the 1969 OAU Convention on African Refugees and the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

### C. On Education, Participants

- x. Urge national governments and governors of the Lake Chad Basin to support the formulation of inclusive educational policies to ensure that all children and youth in the region have access to free and compulsory basic education and provide scholarships for orphans and other vulnerable groups with educational needs;
- xi. Call on national governments of the Lake Chad Basin to harmonize, regulate and coordinate Quranic schools and their curricula, to prevent the misuse of Quranic education as a means to promote violence, and to avoid the exposure of children to extremism.

### D. On Social Cohesion and Prevention of Violent Extremism, Participants

- xii. Request the LCBC, national governments and the governors of the Lake Chad Basin to support the establishment of a youth platform for exchange on entrepreneurial best practices to promote youth employment as a key measure for the prevention of violent extremism;
- xiii. Urge the LCBC and governors of the Lake Chad Basin to enhance cooperation between youth and women organizations, state institutions and international partners to strengthen efforts for stabilization, inter alia via inclusive local peace committees and other efforts contributing to social cohesion;
- xiv. Call on national governments of the Lake Chad Basin to institute adequate measures to protect those engaged in the prevention of violent extremism;
- xv. Further call on the LCBC, national governments and the governors of the Lake Chad Basin to engage religious and traditional leaders in promoting reconciliation and in preventing and countering violent extremism, through localised and inclusive dialogue processes;
- xvi. Urge the LCBC and national governments and governors of the Lake Chad Basin to promote effective and constructive dialogue between civil society and the military;
- xvii. Request national governments and the governors of the Lake Chad Basin to explore appropriate ways to regulate the activities of vigilantes and other civilian armed task forces to ensure that their members can transition to legal productive civilian lives.

### E. On Support to Conflict-Affected Communities, Participants

- xviii. Further request national governments and the governors of the Lake Chad Basin to create and invest in programmes and structures to provide access to psycho-social support for conflict-affected populations and communities;
- xix. Call on national governments of the Lake Chad Basin to support the identification of victims and accelerate rehabilitation measures and provide avenue for restorative justice.

### F. On Reintegration, Participants

- xx. Strongly Call on national governments of the Lake Chad Basin to harmonize laws and policies in order to foster consistency in efforts and processes for reintegration of former Boko Haram fighters into the communities, and the governors of the Lake Chad Basin to support such measures.

The Regional Consultative Forum was convened by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and hosted by the Government of Niger, with technical support from the African Union (AU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI). Financial support was provided by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Niamey, 20 June 2019**







Lake Chad  
Basin Commission



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*