

Country/entity	Cameroon Nigeria
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Joint Communiqué Establishing the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC)
Date	15 Nov 2002
Agreement status	Unilateral document
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/interstate conflict

Bakassi Territorial Dispute (1993 - 2006)

This conflict relates to the disputed Bakassi Peninsula territory in the Gulf of Guinea. After colonisation, borders between Nigeria and Cameroon were arbitrarily drawn and Bakassi was granted to Cameroon even though many of the inhabitants feel an affinity to Nigeria. Nigeria claims the territory historically belongs to Nigerian tribes which inhabited the area pre-colonisation and administered the peninsula from independence in 1960. Cameroon disputed this on the basis of maps dating back to colonial times. Troops either side of the border have occasionally escalated the dispute with incursions into respective territories and the subsequent retaliations have resulted in a number of military deaths. This came to a head in the early 1990s where troop blockades were built up on either side and relations were tense. In order to resolve this and avoid a war, Cameroon appealed to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to rule on the border dispute. Sporadic clashes continued into the mid 1990s. In 2002, the ICJ ruled that Nigeria pull out its troops, officials and police confirming Cameroon sovereignty. Nigeria was slow to accept the ruling but eventually submitted to a Mixed Commission made up of representatives of both nations to consider the implications of the ICJ ruling. Transitional arrangements for Bakassi were to be completed by 2008 and in 2013, Cameroon took over full sovereignty.

Close
Bakassi Territorial Dispute (1993 - 2006)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Territory
Peace process	Cameroon-Nigeria border peace process
Parties	The agreement is unsigned, however, the parties are listed as: President Paul Biya of Cameroon President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria

Third parties	The agreement is unsigned, however, the third parties are listed as: Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations
Description	This agreement establishes the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission to consider ways to implement the decision of the ICJ on the delimitation of the Cameroon-Nigeria Maritime border.

Agreement document [CM_NG_021115_JointCommunique.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation Page 1, ..."The Secretary-General welcomed President Biya's and President Obasanjo's renewed commitment, as Heads of State of law-abiding countries, to renounce the use of force in their bilateral relations and pursue peaceful ways for the settlement of their boundary differences, as well as the constructive spirit which prevailed throughout the various meetings held during the day.

Page 1: ..."The mixed commission will consider all the implications of the decision, including the need to protect the rights of the affected populations in both countries. The commission shall, inter alia, be entrusted with the task of demarcating the land boundary between the two countries. It will also make recommendations on additional confidence-building measures such as the holding, on a regular basis, of meetings between local authorities, Government officials and Heads of State; developing projects to promote joint economic ventures and cross-border cooperation; the avoidance of inflammatory statements or declarations on Bakassi by either side; troop withdrawal from relevant areas along the land boundary; eventual demilitarization of the Bakassi Peninsula with the possibility of international personnel to observe withdrawal; and reactivation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

Cross-border provision

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Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)

No specific mention.

Elections

No specific mention.

Electoral commission

No specific mention.

Political parties reform

No specific mention.

Civil society

No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders

No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 1: ..."The mixed commission will consider all the implications of the decision, including the need to protect the rights of the affected populations in both countries. The commission shall, inter alia, be entrusted with the task of demarcating the land boundary between the two countries. It will also make recommendations on additional confidence-building measures such as the holding, on a regular basis, of meetings between local authorities, Government officials and Heads of State; developing projects to promote joint economic ventures and cross-border cooperation; the avoidance of inflammatory statements or declarations on Bakassi by either side; troop withdrawal from relevant areas along the land boundary; eventual demilitarization of the Bakassi Peninsula with the possibility of international personnel to observe withdrawal; and reactivation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 1: ..."At the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, President Paul Biya of Cameroon and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria met today in Geneva in the Secretary-General's presence, to follow up on the ruling of 10 October of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In this connection, the two Presidents acknowledged the importance for their countries of respecting their obligations under the United Nations Charter.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
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National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

Page 1: ..."In addition, the two Presidents agreed on the need for a meeting between the two sides at Summit level at the earliest possible opportunity, to discuss defence and security issues of common concern.

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Ceasefire

No specific mention.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

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Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory [Summary: The agreement is in the form of a Statement by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan following his meeting with the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria in Geneva.]

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 1: ..."The two Presidents further agreed to ask me to establish a mixed commission of the two sides, to be chaired by my Special Envoy, Ahmedou Ould-Adballah, to consider ways of following up the ICJ ruling and moving the process forward. The mixed commission will meet in Abuja and Yaoundé on an alternating basis. The first meeting will be held in Yaoundé on 1 December 2002.

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Enforcement mechanism

No specific mention.
