

Country/entity	Niger
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Diffa Declaration of Commitment (Accord de Diffa)
Date	12 Sep 2019
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/local conflict

Niger: local conflicts (1980s -)

The conflict between the Fulani community and Mahamid Arab community were instigated by disputes over access to natural resources in the region of Diffa, in south-eastern Niger. The Mahamid Arabs had settled in Diffa from Chad in the 1970s to flee from draught and in the 1980s following an armed conflict. Disputes with the Fulani pastoralists included access to water points, land use, and animal grazing rights. Tensions over resources have become more urgent given the emergence of Boko Haram across the borders of Diffa, resulting in vast forced displacements of its neighbouring populations from Libya, Mali and Nigeria into the region. This has aggravated existing intercommunal tensions and has proved to be fertile soil for the organisation of militias. In 2017 the government declared a state of emergency in Diffa.

Close

Niger: local conflicts (1980s -)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Niger local agreements
Parties	Traditional Chiefs of the Diffa region
Third parties	National and regional authorities Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)
Description	Local agreement aiming to reduce tensions between breeders and farmers along the Komadougou river, around the Lake Chad Basin, and oasis basins.

Agreement document [NE_190912_Diffa Declaration of Commitment_tr.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [NE_190912_Diffa Declaration of Commitment.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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 No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Article 5: The Traditional Chiefs, signatories of this Agreement, ask the State to support their efforts of pacification along the Komadougou river, around the basin of Lake Chad and the oasis basins in the Diffa region. More specifically, the signatory Traditional Chiefs ask the State to:

....

f) Ensure that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development associations (DAs) respect their statutory missions and the protocols for their activities, without undermining the State.

**Traditional/
religious leaders**

Entire agreement relates to commitments by traditional leaders.

Page 1: Commitment of traditional leaders to prevent community conflicts along the river

Komadougou, around the Lake Chad basin and the oasis basins of the Diffa region in Niger

Preamble

We, the Traditional Chiefs of the Diffa region, signatories to this Agreement;

Aware that tensions between farmers and breeders have always existed during harvesting season along the Komadougou river, around the Lake Chad Basin, and oasis basins;

Aware that the series of disparate confrontations between farmers and breeders between December 2016 and May 2019 in several of the region's municipalities, resulting in the death of several people, is likely to turn into conflicts;

Aware that the sharing of natural resources around Komadougou, the Lake Chad Basin, and the oasis basins is a source of tension between farmers and breeders in our respective communities and that it risks turning into conflicts during the annual transhumance of animals ;

Convinced that the knowledge and respect by the Traditional Chiefs and communities of the rules regarding access to shared natural resources are essential for the prevention and concerted management of disputes;

Remembering that for several decades the relationships between the communities we represent were based on the principles of solidarity, brotherhood, and mutual understanding;

Determined to work to pacify coexistence between our communities;

Meeting in Diffa as part of the mediation undertaken since June 2019 by the national and regional authorities, and supported by the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD);

Agree as follows and undertake to implement the provisions of this Agreement in full and in good faith, recognizing our primary responsibility in this regard

Chapter I: General

Article 1: With this agreement, the Traditional Chiefs agree to do everything possible to ease tensions between the communities they represent and thus help prevent the emergence of conflicts.

Chapter II: Causes and consequences of tensions

Article 2: The signatory Traditional Chiefs agree that the tensions between their respective communities along the Komadougou river, in the Lake Chad basin and around the oasis basins in the Diffa region are the result of the following elements:

a) The reduction of cultivation and grazing areas due to terrorist attacks and measures limiting access to certain production areas, and in a context of increased livestock population and demographic pressure;

b) Lack of knowledge and / or non-compliance with the rules and rights governing rural land.

Public administration

Page 3: Chapter IV: Recommendations addressed to the State

Article 5: The Traditional Chiefs, signatories of this Agreement, ask the State to support their efforts of pacification along the Komadougou river, around the basin of Lake Chad and the oasis basins in the Diffa region. More specifically, the signatory Traditional Chiefs ask the State to:

...

e) Instruct its representatives, in particular those of the justice, defense and security forces, as well as the prefects and the mayors, to adopt an irreproachable behavior in the treatment of land files;

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

No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar

No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation

No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources Page 1: Preamble

...

Aware that the series of disparate confrontations between farmers and breeders between December 2016 and May 2019 in several of the region's municipalities, resulting in the death of several people, is likely to turn into conflicts;

Aware that the sharing of natural resources around Komadougou, the Lake Chad Basin, and the oasis basins is a source of tension between farmers and breeders in our respective communities and that it risks turning into conflicts during the annual transhumance of animals ;

Convinced that the knowledge and respect by the Traditional Chiefs and communities of the rules regarding access to shared natural resources are essential for the prevention and concerted management of disputes;

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 3: Chapter IV: Recommendations addressed to the State
Article 5: The Traditional Chiefs, signatories of this Agreement, ask the State to support their efforts of pacification along the Komadougou river, around the basin of Lake Chad and the oasis basins in the Diffa region. More specifically, the signatory Traditional Chiefs ask the State to:

...

d) Accelerate the establishment of a special security unit in the commune of Chétimari and increase permanent patrols along the Komadougou;

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** No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	Page 2: Chapter II: Causes and consequences of tensions Article 2: The signatory Traditional Chiefs agree that the tensions between their respective communities along the Komadougou river, in the Lake Chad basin and around the oasis basins in the Diffa region are the result of the following elements: a) The reduction of cultivation and grazing areas due to terrorist attacks and measures limiting access to certain production areas, and in a context of increased livestock population and demographic pressure

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	Page 4: Article 7: A Monitoring Committee will be set up, whose mission is to: ... c) Identify, if necessary, additional measures necessary for the process of inter-community reconciliation.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 4: Chapter V: Implementation monitoring
Article 6: The Traditional Chiefs, signatories of this Agreement, agree to meet three times during the first year following the signing of this Agreement, in order to take stock of its implementation and, if necessary, to renew and adjust its content.

Page 4: Article 8: The composition of the Monitoring Committee will be formalized by the order of the Governor. Eleven (11) members will be appointed to the Monitoring Committee. They will be the Governor or his representative, the president of the regional council or his representative, a prefect, two Traditional Chiefs, a mayor, a key member of the secretariat of the Rural Code, two representatives of civil society organizations (a woman and a young person) and two Chiefs who acted as mediators in this process.

Chapter VI: Dispute management

Article 9: The traditional chiefs, signatories of this Undertaking will do their utmost to settle amicably and through negotiation any dispute arising between them, in the spirit of cooperation, friendship, and brotherhood which underlies this Agreement.

Article 10: In the event of a breach of the application of this Agreement or the event of a dispute relating to its interpretation, the Parties will refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee so that a consensual solution is identified and applied

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Available from <https://www.hdcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/accord-de-Diffa-septembre-2019.pdf> (Accessed on 1/4/2020).