



**The Lake Chad Basin Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience
3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee
Douala, Cameroon (Hybrid)
10th June 2022**

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Adopted by the Steering Committee of the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (RS-SRR) at its third meeting, held on 10th June 2022, on the progress made in the implementation of the RS-SRR for 2021.

The RS-SRR Steering Committee

Recalling its decisions and pronouncements of 29th June 2021 on the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience of Boko Haram-Affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin with emphasis on strengthening local coordination for the implementation of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) and the need to ensure sustained engagement and cooperation between the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and affected communities through enhanced civil-military relations.

Noting the opening statements of the Members of the Steering Committee including the Member States, the African Union the United Nations, the International Support Group (ISG), and ECCAS which reinforced the Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience as the overarching framework for stabilisation, recovery, and resilience and for reversing the situations in the eight affected territories of the Lake Chad Basin Region.

Further Noting the progress made in implementing the Strategy through vertical and horizontal partnerships with different partners which have led to the rebuilding of the social contract, restoration of state authority and the improvement in security and livelihood options for affected communities in the Lake Chad Basin Region.

Acting under section three (3) of its Terms of Reference, the Steering Committee

On Political Partnership

Welcomes the commitment of the Members to mobilising and sustaining political and financial support for the implementation of the Strategy and in particular African Union's commitment to lead resource mobilization efforts, and to explore the possibility to use the Peace Fund as a catalytic resource to scale up efforts and results that have been achieved on the ground.

Acknowledges the critical role of the Governor's Forum as a regional platform for exchange, consultations and for implementation of cross-border interventions, and in that regard encourages all partners to dedicate their effort to support the Governors' Offices and

the Governors Forum as a means to strengthen ownership and leadership at the territorial level.

Recognizes the importance of national ownership and the need to ensure political support from the centre and therefore **urges** the Member States to strengthen national-level coordination among relevant line ministries and other actors that support the implementation of the Strategy.

Underscores the regional nature of the challenges in the Lake Chad Basin region and the role of Regional Economic Communities as the building blocks in Africa's political, economic, and social integration and therefore **call** for greater cooperation and coordination between the LCBC, ECOWAS and ECCAS in the implementation of the Strategy particularly on security cooperation

On Security in the Region

Appreciates the security briefing made by the Force Commander of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), **pays tribute** to the MNJTF Troops and the national sectors especially those that have paid the ultimate price in the promotion of peace and security in the region while **expressing** heartfelt condolences to communities and families that have lost lives because of Boko Haram terrorist attacks.

Welcomes efforts by the MNJTF to sustain its engagement and cooperation with communities through community dialogue and other civil military-related activities while **urging** the military to accelerate efforts to win the hearts and minds of the affected communities.

Underscores the necessity for concerted efforts to strengthen security cooperation through intelligence-sharing and coordinated military operations, and emphasises the need for dedicated financial support to the MNJTF and the Sectors in the fight against violent extremist groups

Takes note of the emerging partnerships between MNJTF and specialized entities such as UN-DPPO and UN-REC on weapon and ammunition management and **urges** more support and closer collaboration from other international partners in support of the MNJTF operations.

On Coordination and Emerging Partnerships on TAPs:

Welcomes the increase in response from implementing partners through their contribution to the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience and **urges** more partners to align and report the progress of their programmes in the region through the Lake Chad Basin Secretariat for Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience.

Further welcomes the finalization and launching of the TAPs at the third Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum held in Yaoundé Cameroon on 5th October 2021 and **reminds** humanitarian, development, and peace actors to align their programmes and projects in the eight affected territories to the TAPs as well as ensure coordination with the Governors'

Offices and **takes note** of the emerging partnerships to support TAPs implementation and encourages all actors in the region to do the same.

Endorses the priorities outlined for regional intervention in the Regional Action Plan for 2022-2024 as the guidance action plan for regional interventions in the region including the proposed cross-border interventions. The Steering Committee **notes** that cross-border interventions constitute a reliable path to improving cross-border human mobility and trade in the region.

Welcomes the proposed collaboration between the United Nations Peacebuilding funds and the Lake Chad Basin Commission aimed at supporting locally-led civil society organisations to engage in cross-border peacebuilding initiatives and **endorsed** the request by the Lake Chad Basin to apply, in collaboration with the Member States, for an allocation from the United Nations Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

On Information, and Knowledge Management

Welcomes the development of the Knowledge and Information Management Platform for the Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience as an important step towards effective and efficient management and sharing of information in the Lake Chad Basin region and the linkage between the platform and the existing Lake Chad Basin Information Management Systems (LIS).

Requests the RS-SRR Secretariat to urgently finalise and roll out the knowledge and information management platform which will help strengthen information sharing amongst the cluster working groups and urge all partners to collaborate with the RS-SRR Secretariat to strengthen communication and information sharing between the regional and territorial level through improved information and data management system.

Requests the Executive Secretariat of the LCBC to continue the reflection on the root causes of the crisis, exploring issues related to the difficult access to water resources amplified recently by climate change, and propose appropriate solutions that can guarantee the resilience of the populations of the Lake Chad area face of the Boko Haram proposals.

On Managing Exit from Boko Haram and Return of IDPs

Notes the increasing level of surrenders in the region and the urgency for a coordinated approach to managing the exits of former Boko Haram associates and their reintegration and reinsertion back into their communities.

Further notes the return of IDPs back to their ancestral homelands and calls for a comprehensive approach to ensure the return, resettlement, and reintegration of IDPs in line with international best practices while urging implementing partners to support and work closely with national and territorial authorities in this regard.

Welcomes the readiness of the International Support Group (ISG) to work closely with the affected Member States, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and other members of the Steering Committee toward a contextually relevant and comprehensive approach that respects international best practices and human rights standards.

Recognises the need to expand the scope and approach for the reintegration of ex-Boko Haram associates to include transitional justice and requests the Lake Chad Basin Commission to collaborate with partners.

Requests all implementing partners especially members of the Cluster Working Group (3) on Security and Protection to coordinate interventions among themselves, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Member States for efficient and effective use of resources.

On Civil Society

Takes note of the progress made towards enhancing Civil Society participation in the development of the TAPs and the implementation of the Strategy, including the role played by the Lake Chad Basin Civil Society Platform.

Further notes the Civil Society request for the expansion of membership of the Civil Society into the Steering Committee to one civil society group from each of the four affected countries and request the Secretariat to review the request and advise the Committee through the Executive Secretary.

Encourages all international partners working in the region to collaborate with the Lake Chad Basin civil society platform in the implementation of their interventions including opportunities for capacity strengthening.

The Steering Committee also **decides** to remain actively seized of the matter

Communiqué of the 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Lake Chad Basin Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience held on 10 June 2022, Douala, Cameroon

For additional information, please contact the RS-SRR Coordinator Chika Charles Aniekwe at cc.aniekwe@cblt.org and the Communication Specialist Laetitia Pougdiba Ouoba at laetitia.ouoba@cblt.org

* * *