



Concept Note for the 3rd Meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum

Regional Cooperation on Stabilization,
Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development



4TH - 5TH
OCT 2021

Yaoundé,
Cameroon



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INTRODUCTION

The Lake Chad Region has been severely impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency and other related conflicts. The impacts range from massive internal and cross-border displacement, the destruction of social fabric and property, human rights abuses and disrupted public services, and limited capacities of government institutions. The Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS) provides a robust framework for addressing these complex and urgent challenges. It recognises the need for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral and coordinated set of national and

cross-border efforts. The Strategy notes that humanitarian-development-peace collaboration is also vital for long-term Stabilization, recovery and resilience. The RSS was formally validated by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Council of Ministers in August 2018 and endorsed by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) in December 2018.

The Strategy has nine (9) pillars of intervention and forty (40) strategic objectives.



The RSS is operationalised through eight (8) Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) for the eight states/regions/provinces most affected by Boko Haram in the LCB region.

Although regional in scope, this Strategy through the TAPs is predicated upon the principle of national and local ownership. Through the Governors of the affected territories, national governments will engender robust and inclusive participation of the local communities in the Stabilization, recovery, and resilience efforts across the region.

In May 2018, The Governors of the eight worst-affected areas of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria met in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria to establish the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development ("the LCB Governors' Forum"). The success of the first LCB Governors' Forum contributed to the development of the RSS, which recognised the LCB Governors Forum as an integral part and important vehicle for implementing the RSS.

The second Governors' Forum was organised in Niamey, Niger from 16-18 July 2019, this time within the RSS framework. The meeting was attended by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger. The Governors of the Diffa and Zinder (as an observer) in Niger; of the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon; of Hadjer-Lamis and Lac Provinces in Chad; as well as the Executive Governors of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States in Nigeria, attended the Forum. In attendance were representatives of State/Regional Governments, the African Union, the United Nations, Regional Economic Communities, bilateral and multilateral institutions, donor governments, the private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), and traditional and religious leaders, as well as the media.



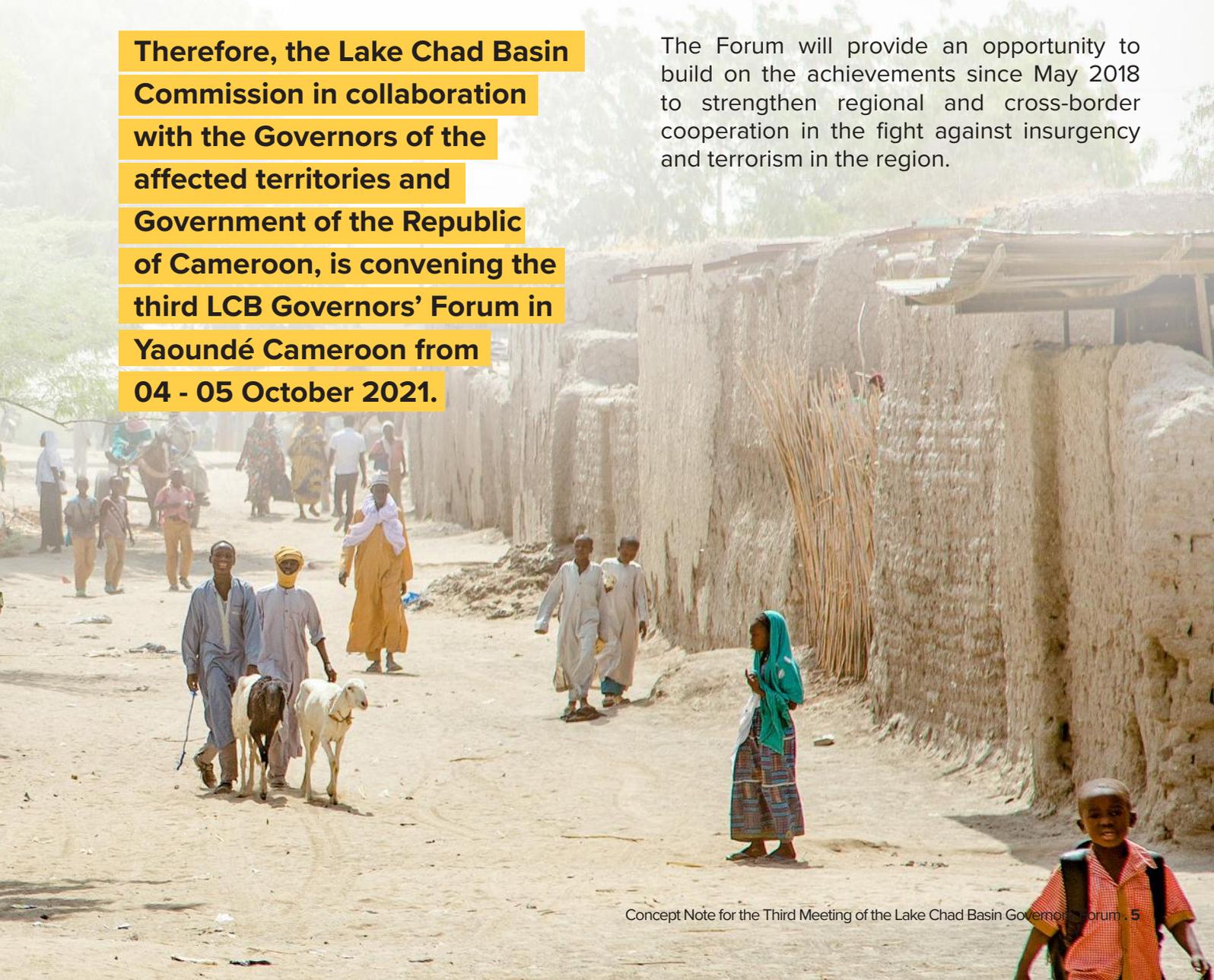
The second meeting of the Forum reiterated the necessity to serve as a platform for cross-border dialogue, cooperation, and exchange, and to support ongoing national, regional and multilateral efforts towards Stabilization in the LCB region. Amongst other key issues, the Governors emphasised the need for: a) well-coordinated, multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary action for effective implementation of the Strategy; b) a role for civil society, notably women and youth as well as religious, traditional and community leaders, in Stabilization measures; and c) security forces to foster overall Stabilization of the region. The Forum also welcomed the launch of the Regional Stabilization Facility to support the implementation of the RSS. It was agreed that local ownership of the Regional Stabilization Facility for the national window should rest with the States/regions/provinces.

The Forum is committed to promoting dialogue and cross-border cooperation; enhance cross-border security cooperation, and facilitating cross-border trade and economic recovery to boost livelihoods. Finally, the Governors also committed to the design and implementation of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) as the foundation for long terms Stabilization, recovery and resilience in the region.

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 initiatives for Stabilization, peacebuilding and sustainable development in a way that can translate into positive change on the ground. Therefore, the LCB Governors' Forum stands out as a genuine regional initiative amongst affected territories in the Lake Chad Basin region to promote regional dialogue and draw lessons on cross-cutting transnational challenges and coordinating joint actions and solutions.

Therefore, the Lake Chad Basin Commission in collaboration with the Governors of the affected territories and Government of the Republic of Cameroon, is convening the third LCB Governors' Forum in Yaoundé Cameroon from 04 - 05 October 2021.

The Forum will provide an opportunity to build on the achievements since May 2018 to strengthen regional and cross-border cooperation in the fight against insurgency and terrorism in the region.



OBJECTIVES

The third Governors' Forum's overall strategic objective is to strengthen and consolidate the Forum as a critical platform for cross-border cooperation and engagement. The Forum will assess and analyse the political, civil, security and humanitarian situation in the LCB region. It will identify areas where cooperation and support should be reinforced and will provide opportunities to share best practices between international experts, and national and local actors engaged in the implementation of the RSS.

Specifically, the third Governors' Forum will:

Assess humanitarian and security development in the region, progress in the implementation of Stabilization interventions, and the contribution of Civil Society to Stabilization in the region.

Examine, the state of play of civil-military and humanitarian cooperation, assess opportunities and challenges for cross border cooperation and review policy options and alternatives for rehabilitation and reintegration of persons formerly associated with Boko Haram.

The expected outputs are as follows:

1. The state of humanitarian and security situation thoroughly assessed with concrete recommendations.
2. The progress made in the implementation of Stabilization interventions across the territories reviewed.
3. Lessons for strengthening civil-military and humanitarian cooperation and coordination are advanced.
4. Opportunities and practical actions for strengthening cross-border Stabilization are advanced and agreed.
5. Political alternatives for community-based Rehabilitation and Reintegration revised and endorsed.
6. Good practices for engaging with civil society are shared and discussed.

METHODOLOGY

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The third Governors’ Forum will be co-convened by the eight Governors of areas most affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with only a limited number of participants, including Governors and partners, attending in person. Other participants will be invited to participate via teleconference. It will be chaired by the Governor of the Far North region of Cameroon. It will be a two-day event split into various general plenary and thematic sessions. Dedicated expert moderators and panellists will be selected for each session (see forum agenda for details). The Governors will serve as main panellists for the various Forum sessions, which will also feature national, regional and international participants.

DATES & VENUE

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The third Governors Forum
will take place from the
4th – 5th
October, 2021

at the Palais
des Congrès,
Yaoundé,
Cameroon.

Proposed Participants

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A total of 100 participants will be attending face-to-face in Cameroon (excluding the RSS Secretariat), while other participants will participate virtually. These will be drawn from state/regional government officials UN Agencies, international organisations, MNJTF, diplomatic missions, and civil society (organisations) are expected to participate in the meeting. The Africa Union, Regional Economic Communities (Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community of Central African States-(ECCAS) and the private sector are also expected to participate.





LANGUAGES



The meeting will be conducted in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation services shall be provided. Meeting documents will be circulated in both English and French languages.

FUNDING



The third LCB Governor’s Forum is convened by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and hosted by the Government of Cameroon, with technical support from the African Union (AU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Government of Cameroon. The Third Governors Forum is organised with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the European Union and the African Development Bank (AfDB).





EXPERT & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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The UNDP, the AU and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), will provide technical and expert support to the third LCB Governors' Forum.

ANNEXES

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- Governors' Forum Programme Agenda (attached)
 - Joint Communiqué of the second Governors' Forum meeting 2019 (attached)
 - Participants List



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In Partnership with

