



High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region

Federal Foreign Office, Berlin - Germany, 3 - 4 September 2018

#LakeChadBerlin

Panel on Crisis Prevention and Stabilization

Background

In the Lake Chad Region, multiple efforts have been undertaken to strengthen regional cooperation in order to address factors driving the crisis, including and particularly through the Consultative Group on Prevention and Stabilization in the Lake Chad Region, which grew out of the Oslo Conference in February 2017 and provides a strategic platform for discussion on crisis prevention and stabilization in the region. The Consultative Group met for its first time on the level of Senior Officials in Berlin in September 2017.

It has also been agreed by the Ministerial Roundtable on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region on 21st September 2017 that there is a need to invest in more durable solutions to address the underlying causes of the crisis in the region, while sustaining humanitarian efforts. It particularly called on the governments in the Lake Chad Region to build a foundation for longer-term development, recovery, and urged the international community to provide continued political and financial support.

This was followed by the Conference on the Development of a Framework for a Regional Stabilization Strategy for Areas in the Lake Chad Basin Region affected by Boko Haram. The Conference was jointly facilitated by the African Union (AU) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and held from 2nd to 4th November 2017 and from 30th to 31st August 2018. The participants of the Conference deliberated on the pressing stabilization needs in the region, particularly urgent action to tackle poverty, lack of basic social infrastructure, illiteracy, and the destruction of the economic fabrics of the Lake Chad. Key themes for regional stabilization agreed on include: strategic political cooperation; building sustainable resilience; enhancing human security; DDRRR of disengaged Boko Haram combatants; voluntary resettlement of IDPs and refugees (in accordance with the Kampala Convention); enhancement of local capacities and consolidating resilience; addressing sexual and gender-based violence and broader protection issues; restoring livelihoods and socio-economic revitalization; education, information and communication strategy; and partnerships.

As a result of the first meeting of the Consultative Group in Berlin in September 2017, regional actors at the sub-national level met in the framework of the “Lake Chad Governors’ Forum” in Maiduguri in May 2018 in order to strengthen regional cross-border cooperation among decision-makers. The instigated political process is aimed at contributing to the ongoing efforts of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the African Union and Lake Chad riparian states to develop a full-fledged stabilization strategy for the region.

Objectives

The overall objective of the High Level Panel is to discuss opportunities for crisis prevention and stabilization in the Region, the added value of cross-border cooperation as well as the state of play and the contributions of the different ongoing political processes.

The discussion will focus on a comprehensive and inclusive stabilization strategy in full ownership of the region, and the state of play of international partners’ support to this end. Possible areas to be stressed are:

- A pathway to re-establishing rule of law, local governance and civil administration in the conflict affected areas;
- Approaches to mediation, reconciliation and dialogue;

- Approaches to de-radicalization and prevention of violent extremism;
- Sustainable solutions for local security and the demobilization and reintegration of former fighters and vigilantes;
- Leverage the humanitarian-peace-development nexus for recovery, peace and resilience, while safeguarding principled humanitarian action.

By this, the High Level Panel intends inter alia to contribute ideas for a regional response to the challenges, as called for in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2349 (2017).

Gender will be a cross cutting issue of the panel. The specific importance of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) will be highlighted.

Expected Outcomes

- The discussions will aim at giving input to the ongoing efforts in the framework of the conferences of the AU and the LCBC on prevention and stabilization.
- The discussions will aim at giving a strong political signal of support to the efforts of the Governors of the Region in the framework of the Governors' Forum to enhance synergy and coordination and to contribute to the AU/LCBC strategy.
- Encouragement to maintain and further strengthen the ongoing political process of cross-border cooperation.
- Contribution to implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2349 (2017) and 1325 (2000).