



PASTORAL WEEK AT MARADI

09th to 14th May 2022 at Maradi, Republic of Niger

HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK: MARADI (NIGER) AND KATSINA (NIGERIA) FOR THE SECURITY OF TRANSHUMANCE AND CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY OF THE LIVESTOCK

Saturday 14th May 2022

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. At joint initiative of ECOWAS, CILSS, the Government of Niger, the RBM, the Governorate of Maradi, and the Federated State of KATSINA was held on Saturday, May 14, 2022. A high-level consultation on the progress of the Maradi - Katsina Consultation Framework for the security of transhumance and the cross-border mobility of livestock between Niger and Nigeria took a centre stage.
2. The objective of the high-level consultation was to boost cross-border cooperation on pastoralism in the Maradi-Katsina cross-border area. It was placed under the patronage of the Governor of the Maradi region, Mr. Aboubacar Chaibou.
3. The high-level consultation was attended by,
 - a. Mr. Aboubacar Chaibou Governor of Maradi Region,
 - b. Mr. Issa Moussa, Governor of Tahoua Region,
 - c. Mr. Lawali Amadou Madougou, Governor of Zinder Region,
 - d. Mr. Lawel Usman Bagiwa, Representative of Governor Kastina State,
 - e. Mr. Hassan Muhammad Gusau, Vice-Governor, Representing the Governor of the Federated State of Zamfara,
 - f. Prof. AbdulKadir Usman Junai, Representative the Governor of the Federated State of Sokoto,
 - g. Prof. Sanoussi Atta, Representative of CILSS Executive Secretary,
 - h. Dr Bio Goura Soule, Representative of Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of the ECOWAS Commission,

- i. Mr Manzo EL Hadj Kanta, Representative of the Minister of Livestock, Spokerman of the Government, Permanent Secretary of the National Committee for Transhumance in Niger,
 - j. Mr Adamu Adaji, Permanent Secretary, National Commission of cross-border cooperation of Niger,
 - k. Mr Samaila Yakubu, Representative of the General Director Federal Commission of the cross-border cooperation of Nigeria,
 - l. Mr Sani S. Aliyu, Representative of Nigeria Ambassador at Niger,
 - m. Mr Hassan Baka, Coordonnator of the AREN Regional Base in Maradi and Vice-President of the cooperation framework of the Maradi Katsina bilateral agreement,
 - n. Chairman Abdoulaziz Lawal, Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Cooperation Framework of the Maradi-Katsina Agreement,
 - o. Mr Dodo Boureima, Permanent Secretary of the Billital Maroobè Network,
 - p. Mr Amadou Halilou, Chairman of ROPEN,
 - q. Mr Ardo Aliyu, APESS-PAMOBARMA Nigeria.
4. Representatives of the various political institutions and technical services of Niger and Nigeria, including prefects, mayors, heads of security services, POs officials, religious leaders and traditional leaders also took part of this high-level consultation;
 5. Three introductory speeches were delivered, by the Governor of the Maradi Region, President of the Maradi-Katsina bilateral Cadre, the Representative of the Executive Secretary of CILSS and that of the Representative of the Minister of Livestock, Spokesman of the Government of Niger;
 6. Professor Sanoussi Atta, the representative of the Executive Secretary of CILSS in his address, referred to the persistence of multifaceted crises and conflicts whose prevention and management remain a necessary condition for the stability and development of our West African subregion. In this context, cross-border cooperation is nowadays perceived as a very credible strategic alternative to effectively address the problems related to livestock mobility between the countries of the sub-region. He also reiterated the availability and commitment of his institution to support stakeholders in the process of strengthening cross-border cooperation for peaceful transhumance;
 7. Mr. Kanta EL Hadj Manzo, representing the Minister of Livestock, Spokesman of the Government of the Republic of Niger, first conveyed the greetings of His Excellency, Mr. Idrissa Abdoukadi Tidjani, to all the participants at the high-level consultation. He stressed the importance of pastoralism in the economy of the region and the difficulties currently facing this production system. He congratulated the authorities of the Maradi Region and the Federated State of Katsina for their efforts to give content to the bilateral Maradi-Katsina cooperation framework for securing cross-border mobility. The Maradi-Katsina Bilateral Consultation Framework is a unique initiative that reinforces the actions of the Governments of Niger and Nigeria to secure pastoralism and strengthen the resilience of pastoralist and pastoralists

populations. He indicated that the Government of the Republic of Niger will spare no effort to effectively address all the problems facing pastoralism

8. Mr. Aboubacar Chaibou, Governor of the Maradi Region, President of the Maradi-Katsina framework said he was honored by the choice of his Region and specifically the city of Maradi to host this important high-level consultation. He then focused on the issues and challenges of pastoralism in his administrative jurisdiction, before recalling the excellent relationship between Niger and Nigeria. He appreciated the efforts of the Framework improving securing pastoralism and cross-border mobility between the two countries.
9. After these introductory speeches, two papers were presented at this plenary session, they are namely:
 - a. The first paper, focused on the conclusions and recommendations of the training session of thirty journalists from ORTN and community radios from the Maradi region and the Federated State of Katsina, joined by those from the Federated State of Zamfara. The purpose of this five-day training was to equip media actors with skills in conflict-sensitive communication to make them vectors of peaceful mobility and strengthening peaceful coexistence between communities;
 - b. The second paper focused on the conclusions and recommendations of the plenary session devoted to the evaluation of the cooperation agreement between the Maradi Region and the Federated State of Katsina on securing pastoralism in this cross-border area. This communication focused on: (i) the challenges and issues of pastoralism, (ii) the relevance of the agreement and the challenges facing the initiative, (iii) the scope of the monitoring and census of livestock monitoring systems deployed by RBM, (iv) the main issues and lessons learnt from the study conducted by the RBM on insecurity, (v) the actions and results of efforts made by local authorities to secure lives and property in general, livestock and livestock farmers in particular.
10. The authorities present at the consultation appreciated the conclusions and recommendations submitted for analysis by the Experts. They thank at the ECOWAS Commission, CILSS, development partners for the technical and financial support they provided to facilitate the holding of the meeting;
11. They were concerned about the resurgence of insecurity marked by attacks on people and property, cattle rustling, kidnapping followed by ransom demands. To this end, they commended the efforts made by the Governors of the States of Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Zinder, Maradi and Tahoua and the results achieved in recent months in securing lives and property, especially pastoralists populations. They have undertaken to ensure better coordination of the actions of the Defence

and Security Forces, including intelligence exchanges to effectively combat banditry in their cross-border area;

12. The authorities note with bitterness the growing difficulties faced by pastoralism in our sub-region related with the deterioration of climatic and environmental conditions and also the divergent policies implemented by the states. To this end, they comit themselves to deploy efforts aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change on pastoralism;
13. In view of the issues and challenges related to the governance of cross-border areas, the governors of the regions of Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder and the federated states of Kastina, Sokoto and Zamfara have decided to establish an Advisory Council to effectively address the problems they encounter. They will inform their peers of Dosso, Kebbi and Gigawa about this initiative;
14. They have undertaken to ensure better coordination of the actions of the Defence and Security Forces, including intelligence exchanges to effectively combat banditry in their cross-border area. The inadequacy, the poor functioning of pastoral water infrastructure and the non-compliance with the regulations enforced regarding access to and use of resources are the main causes of these conflicts. To this end, the authorities of the regions of Maradi and Katsina, and their counterparts in Tahoua, Zinder, Sokoto, Zamfara have undertaken to: (i) work for the discussion of pastoral water infrastructure, (ii) ensure the application of the texts regulating the management of grazing areas including animal passage corridors and pastoral hydraulic infrastructure and (iii) strengthen the security system to fight against banditry that have taken over our common spaces;
15. They commended and congratulated the heads of the Bilateral Framework, the POs for the gains made despite the limited means at their disposal to carry out the activities planned in the Three-Year Action Plan. They urged the Governors of Zinder and Tahoua, to promote such initiatives with the States of Zamfara and Sokoto for a better management of the problems that the mobility of livestock faces between Niger and Nigeria. They have undertaken to support these initiatives by providing them with the necessary political, technical and financial support;
16. They appreciated the initiative for including in this 2nd edition of the pastoral week, a training session for journalists from community radios, the ORTN as well as those from private radios. The authorities of the various regions of Niger and the Federated States of Nigeria are convinced that the media used judiciously can be a powerful instrument for pacifying relations between communities. They undertake to efficiently involve journalists trained in awareness-raising and multi-stakeholder dialogue campaigns to better secure pastoralism and promote peaceful coexistence within and between communities;

17. Authorities for border areas from Niger and Nigeria commit to promoting economic activities that generate jobs and decent incomes for decapitalized herders and young people in order to remove them from the temptation to join criminal groups;
18. At the end of the exchanges and discussions, the high-level meeting adopted the following recommendations.

To ECOWAS and CILSS:

- ☞ Support the establishment of cross-border cooperation agreements;
- ☞ Support the mobilization of resources for the construction of pastoral water infrastructure in cross-border areas;
- ☞ Expand and strengthen training for journalists and FDS agents on the issues and challenges of livestock farming, conflict prevention and management.

To the STATES of:

- ☞ Support the development of development plans for cross-border areas;
- ☞ Establish the permanent water point to enhance fodder production;
- ☞ Harmonize transhumance calendars and specifically the release of agricultural fields.

For the local Authorities of the Cross-Border regions:

- ☞ Strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fight against cross-border crimes.

For bilateral framework and the POs:

- ☞ Strengthen the mobility monitoring systems set up by the RBM;
- ☞ Develop a strategic alliance between the bilateral framework, the public and the private media out fits;
- ☞ Strengthen the social mobilization of pastoralists organizations and their partners for the protection and implementation of pastoralists' human rights, as well as the full recognition of their citizenship;
- ☞ Set up a system for collecting, processing and analysing data on the economic and financial potentials of mobile farming;
- ☞ Include cultural and economic dimensions to future editions of the pastoral week;

☞ Reflect on the sustainable financing strategy for the core functions of the framework.

For Financial and Technical Partners:

☞ Continue to provide their multiform support to peace initiatives, conflict prevention and management.

19. The meeting invites actors at all levels to spare no effort to secure pastoralism in the Niger-Nigeria- sub-area;

20. The meeting selected at the request of the delegation of Kastina, the city of Kastina as the venue for the next meeting, the date of which will be agreed between the stakeholders;

21. The meeting took note to welcome the political commitment at the highest level of the authorities of the two countries, through their Excellencies, Muhammadu BUHARI President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Mohammed BAZOUM, President of the Republic of Niger on security issues to promote an environment conducive to the mobility of livestock and people and ensure sustainable development;

22. At the end of their meeting, the participants express their deep gratitude to the authorities of the Maradi region and through them, those of the Republic of Niger for the facilities they have made available to them for the success of the 2nd edition of pastoral week and this meeting.

Done at Maradi, 14th May 2022

Signed by:

For Maradi Region

Mr Aboubacar Chaibou

Gouverneur

For Tahoua Region

Mr Issa Moussa

Gouverneur

For Zinder Region

Mr Lawali Amadou Madougou

Governor

For Zamfara Region

Mr Hassan Muhammad Gusau

Vice-Governor


For Sokota Federated States
Mr Abdulkadir Usman Junaidu

Representative of Governor

For CILSS

Prof. Sanoussi Atta Phd



Representative of the Executive
Secretary

For Pastoral's Organisations

Mr Boureima Dodo



Permanent Secretary of the Billital
Maroobè Network

For Kastina Federated States

Dr Lawel Usman Bagiwa



Representative of Governor
For ECOWAS

Dr Bio Goura Soule



Representative of Commissioner for
Agriculture, Environment and Water
Resources of the ECOWAS

For the Minister of Livestock,
Spokerman of the Government of
Niger

Mr Manzo EL Hadj Kanta



Permanent Secretary of the National
Committee for Transhumance in
Niger

ANNEX: DETAILED REPORT OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

