

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, SECURITY, AND
PROTECTED AREAS ON THE FIGHT AGAINST POACHING AND OTHER CROSS-
BORDER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES**
N'DJAMENA, HILTON HOTEL, 25 JANUARY 2019

CLOSED-DOOR MINISTERS' MEETING

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

1. Under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr. Idriss DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad, Head of State, the high-level session of the International Conference of Ministers of Defense, Security and Protected areas on the fight against poaching and other cross-border criminal activities was held in Ndjamenana, Republic of Chad, on January 25, 2019.
2. The conference was jointly organized by the Government of Chad, the Facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC).
3. This conference received financial and technical support from the German Cooperation (GIZ) and the European Union.
4. The high-level session was preceded by the expert technical segment held from 23 to 24 January 2019.
5. The following countries attended the conference: Cameroon, Niger, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan and Chad.
6. Other delegates included ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions, governors of cross-border provinces/regions and military authorities of the seven countries concerned, the following sub-regional institutions, (ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMIFAC, CILSS and OCFA), United Nations Agencies, technical and financial partners and international financial institutions, international organizations and civil society organizations.
7. The official opening ceremony was punctuated by seven speeches : the welcome address by Mr. OUMAR ABDALLAH LEBINE, 1st Deputy Mayor of the city of Ndjamenana, remarks by H. E. Mr. Sidick Abdelkerim HAGGAR, Minister of Environment, Water and Fisheries of Chad, a speech delivered by H. E. Mr. François-Xavier DE DONNEA, Minister of State of the Kingdom of Belgium, Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), a statement by Dr Vincent BIRUTA, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Rwanda, read by Mr Prime NGABONZIZA, Director General of Forestry, on behalf of the COMIFAC Chairperson, a speech by His Excellency

Ambassador Ahmad ALLAM-MI, Secretary General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the opening statement by Mr. KALZEBE PAYIMI DEBEU, Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, representing His Excellency Mr. Idriss DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad, Head of State, Head of Government.

8. Following the opening ceremony, the following Technical and Financial Partners made statements

- H.E. Mr. Rol Welberts, Ambassador of Germany to Chad
- H.E. Mr. Stéphane Doppagne, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium
- H.E. Mr. Yann Wehring, Ambassador Delegate for the Environment, France
- H.E.Mr. Angel Losada, Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel
- H.E.Mr. Ousmane Dore, Central Africa Regional Director of the African Development Bank
- Mr. François Nankobogo, Resident Representative for the World Bank in Chad
- Mr. Hélder Mutela, FAO sub-regional Coordinator for Central Africa
- Mr. Salah Khaled, Director of UNESCO's Regional Office for Central Africa
- H.E. General Francis AWAGBE BEHANZIN, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security

9. The Bureau elected to conduct the conference proceedings comprised the following:

- Chairperson: His Excellency Mr. Sidick Abdelkerim HAGGAR, Minister of Environment, Water and Fisheries, Republic of Chad;
 - Vice-Chair: Paul ATANGA NJI, Minister of Territorial Administration, Republic of Cameroon;
 - 1st Rapporteur: Mr. YERIMA-MANDJO YOUSOUFA, Minister of Livestock and Animal Health, Central African Republic.
 - 2nd Rapporteur: Jemma Nunu KUMBA, Minister of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism, Republic of South Sudan
 - Secretariat: COMIFAC and PFBC

10. After the Bureau had been established, the Expert session report was read by Dr. DOLMIA MALACHIE, who had chaired this session.

11. the Ministers met behind closed doors and reviewed the following items on the agenda:
 - Review and adoption of the Experts' Report
 - Review and adoption of the N'Djamena Declaration.
12. The review of the above-mentioned items was followed by fruitful discussions which led to findings and recommendations.
13. Regarding the Experts' Report, the Ministers expressed satisfaction with the quality of the document. They adopted it with amendments.
14. Regarding the draft N'Djamena Declaration, the Ministers also adopted it following review and amendments.
15. At the close of the meeting, the Ministers thanked the brotherly people of Chad, their President and Government for the warm welcome extended to them.
16. The Ministers also commended all who helped with the technical and logistical organization of the conference, notably the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), the German Cooperation (GIZ), the European Union, the team of interpreters and the Conference secretariat.

Done in N'Djamena, 25 January 2019

The Ministers