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**REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR NORTHERN AFRICA
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
BORDER PROGRAMME
ALGIERS, ALGERIA
16-17 OCTOBER 2008**

CONCLUSIONS

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ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER
PROGRAMME
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1. As part of the follow-up to the Declaration on the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) and its Implementation Modalities as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7 June 2007, and subsequently endorsed by the AU Executive Council at its 11th Ordinary Session held in Accra, Ghana, from 27 to 29 June 2007, a regional workshop for Northern Africa on the implementation of the AUBP was organized by the AU Commission in Algiers (at the headquarters of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism – ACSRT), Algeria, from 16 to 17 October 2008. The workshop was opened by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Director-General for Legal and Consular Affairs in the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the host country, Algeria.
2. The workshop was attended by the following Member States of the Northern Africa Region: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Tunisia.
3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: CENSAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS and ECOWAS.
4. In addition, the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), the Nigerian National Boundary Commission (NBC), GTZ and other organizations and NGOs were also represented at the workshop, as observers.
5. The workshop provided an opportunity to review the progress made in the overall implementation of the AUBP. In particular, the workshop focused its deliberations on the concrete steps being taken at the level of the North African region to follow-up on the specific aspects of the AUBP as they relate to delimitation and demarcation, cross-border cooperation and capacity building, as well as other aspects of the Programme pertaining to popularization, partnership and resource mobilization.
6. At the end of its deliberations, the workshop reached the following conclusions:
 - (a) **Delimitation and demarcation**
7. The workshop welcomed the significant progress made by the countries of the region in the delimitation and demarcation of their borders, which, as stressed by the Declaration on the AUBP and its Implementation Modalities, depends primarily on the sovereign decision of the States, and commended all

the States concerned for their efforts and commitment. In order to consolidate the progress achieved thus far, the workshop recommends that:

- (i) the delimitation and demarcation of borders, where such an exercise has not yet taken place, be expedited, keeping in mind the deadline set by the African Heads of State and Government in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) adopted at the OAU Summit held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, and which provides for the completion of the exercise throughout the continent by 2012. The countries concerned are encouraged to regularly update the AU of the steps taken towards the realization of this objective;
- (ii) concrete steps be taken to densify boundary beacons where required and, to this end, that detailed plans, including the related financial costs, be worked out to facilitate the mobilization of the necessary resources;
- (iii) the Member States of the region which have not yet done so be encouraged to speed up the transmission to the AU Commission of the duly filled questionnaire on the status of African borders which was sent in April 2008. The Commission will re-send the questionnaire to facilitate the completion of this exercise by the end of 2008;
- (iv) the contact details of the border agencies and other relevant institutions and experts of the countries of the region be communicated to the AU Commission, as part of the response to the above-mentioned questionnaire, to facilitate inter-African cooperation in the area of delimitation and demarcation, through exchange of experiences and availability of experts;
- (v) a technical meeting, bringing together relevant national boundary/cartographic/mapping/surveying bodies in Africa, be convened by 2009 to exchange experiences.

(b) Cross-border cooperation

8. The workshop noted with satisfaction the establishment by the countries of the region of mechanisms aimed at furthering cross-border cooperation in the region and between it and neighboring countries in other regions. In this respect, the workshop highlighted both the on-going projects involving some of the countries of the region and other neighboring States, including those relating to infrastructure, such as the Trans-Saharan Highway Project and the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline Project, as well as others dealing with health, trade, free movement of people, environment, civil defense, combating of illegal immigration, and security.

9. The workshop recommends that:

- (i) a comprehensive inventory of existing cross-border cooperation initiatives and agreements in the region be undertaken, in order to popularize them, assess their state of implementation and make recommendations on how they could contribute further to the achievement of the objectives of the AUBP. In this respect, the countries of the region are encouraged to extend the necessary cooperation and support to the consultancy that the AU Commission is planning to undertake in due course, as part of the initial measures for the launching of the AUBP as spelt out in the Declaration adopted in Addis Ababa in June 2007;
- (ii) the links between all on-going cross-border cooperation initiatives and the relevant provisions of the AUBP be highlighted, with the view to placing them under the umbrella of the Programme and sensitizing all the actors involved about its objectives;
- (iii) further steps be taken to deepen local cross-border cooperation initiatives, including the elaboration of appropriate legal instruments and the establishment of regional funds, as called for by the AUBP Declaration. On its part, the AU Commission should facilitate exchange of experiences with other regions of the continent. As an initial step, the AU Commission will sponsor a field trip of North African experts to West Africa by the first half of 2009, to be followed by a visit of experts from other regions to North Africa;
- (iv) where appropriate, joint management of resources, building on relevant experiences in the rest of the continent, be encouraged. The AU Commission should facilitate exchange of experiences in that regard;
- (v) cross-border cooperation in the area of prevention and combating of terrorism, as well as transnational crime, be strengthened. In this respect, the workshop requests the ACSRT to facilitate and support, as appropriate, such initiatives.

(c) Capacity-building

10. The workshop stressed the critical importance of capacity building for the successful implementation of the AUBP, through, among others, training, exchange of experiences and research aimed at deepening the understanding of border-related issues on the continent and building a strong knowledge infrastructure, as well as collaboration with relevant structures outside Africa.

11. The workshop, therefore, recommends that:

- (i) an inventory of all management, research and training institutions dealing with border issues in the Northern African region be

undertaken. In this respect, the countries of the region are encouraged to extend the necessary cooperation and support to the consultancy that the AU Commission is planning to undertake in due course, as part of the initial measures for the launching of the AUBP as spelt out in the Declaration adopted in Addis Ababa in June 2007;

- (ii) the development of networking amongst the relevant institutions in Northern Africa and with other similar institutions in the continent and outside Africa be encouraged. The countries of the region should update the AU Commission regularly on the steps taken in this respect;
- (iii) the inclusion of cross-border cooperation curricula in the educational systems of the countries of the region, with emphasis on regional integration, be encouraged;
- (iv) with the support of the AU Commission and other relevant institutions, training and sensitization workshops on the AUBP, including the environmental impact of cross-border projects, be organized for borderland authorities, to facilitate the implementation of the Programme.

(d) Popularization of the AUBP and follow-up with Member States

12. The workshop stressed the need to effectively popularize the AUBP to ensure ownership at regional, national and local levels, as well as that of continued interaction between the Commission and Member States in the implementation process of the Programme. To this end, and as part of the public relations strategy being carried out by the AU Commission, the workshop recommends the following:

- (i) the organization by the Member States of the Northern African region, where possible by 2009, of national workshops bringing together all stakeholders, in order to sensitize them on the AUBP and its objectives;
- (ii) the submission, where appropriate, of briefings on the AUBP and its implementation during meetings on cross-border projects and programmes;
- (iii) the use of national media and other relevant institutions to popularize the AUBP activities;
- (iv) the encouragement of the appointment/designation by the Member States of the Northern Africa region of focal points for the AUBP;

(v) the submission by the Member States of the Northern African region of regular reports relating to the implementation of the AUBP, in line with the decision adopted by the AU Executive Council in Accra in June 2007.

(e) Partnership and resource mobilization

13. The workshop noted with satisfaction the steps taken by the AU Commission to build the necessary partnerships and mobilize the required resources for the implementation of the AUBP, in accordance with the initial measures identified in the Declaration for the launching of the Programme, and expressed its gratitude to the partners who have so far provided technical and/or financial support (Germany, through GTZ, Italy and the United Nations). The workshop encouraged the Commission to pursue these efforts in order to mobilize further support both from within and outside Africa.

14. The workshop expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of Algeria for having hosted this meeting and for its support, which contributed greatly to the success of this event.