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## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAKE CHAD**

# **ABUJA DECLARATION**

We, the Heads of State and Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Countries (LCBC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), gathered at the International Conference on Lake Chad from 26-28 February, 2018, in Abuja, Nigeria.

**NOTING** that the purpose of the Meeting is to create global awareness on saving the Lake Chad from shrinkage and to revitalize the Basin's Ecosystem for Sustainable Livelihood, Security and Development.

**CONSIDERING** the fact that it is the desire of the Governments of the Lake Chad Region through regional cooperation to safeguard the Lake and given the effect of Climate Change on the Sahel Region witnessed over the past 50 Years.

**MINDFUL** of the socio-economic impact of the changing weather condition which is increasingly leading to the degradation of the Lake Chad and its associated ecosystem.

**UNDERLINING** also the adverse effect of climate and ecological changes through draught, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity which negates the stability of the Sahel, West Africa and the Lake Chad.

**NOTING** further that the Southward migration within the African Continent is driven largely by loss of sources of livelihoods, insecurity of lives and property in the Sahel, Lake Chad region and

West Africa in general as well as negating the stability of Central Africa in the long term.

**RECALLING** that Decision No. 3 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State and Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Commission held in Abuja, 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1994 launched the International Campaign to save the Lake Chad.

**CONVINCED** that the endorsement of the conclusion of the International Conference on the Lake Chad, the concern and solidarity of the Heads of State and Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, UNESCO, International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS), the African Union, the East Africa Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African State is highly appreciated by their participation in the International Conference.

**DO HEREBY**

1. **AGREE** that the Heads of States and Governments of LCBC gathered in Abuja from 26-28 February, 2018 at the International Conference and reaffirmed their resolve to cooperate to save the Lake Chad as well as revitalize the Basin's Ecosystem for sustainable livelihood, Security and Development.
2. The Heads of State and Governments of the Congo Basin countries endorsed the Inter Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) as a win-win project for the Congo Basin and the Lake Chad Basin.
3. Acknowledged that the Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Commission countries and the Heads of State and Governments of the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin expressed commitment to the realization of the IBWT project to provide energy, road infrastructure, navigation infrastructure, irrigation schemes

for development, economic integration, peace and security in the Sahel, Central Africa, West Africa Sub-region and also Africa in general.

4. Further agree that the Heads of State and Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Commission countries and Heads of State and Governments of the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin are committed to participating in joint advocacy missions for donor conferences towards the realization of the projects.
5. The Heads of State and Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Commission countries and those of the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin are further committed to allowing access for studies and implementation of the project.
6. Reaffirms that the African Union agrees to consider the Lake Chad issue not only as regional but also as an African concern and as part of its agenda.
7. Further noting that the African Union endorses the Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) as a Pan-African project to restore the Lake Chad for peace, security and development in the Lake Chad region.
8. The International Technical and Financial Partners and Donors agree to support the Lake Chad Basin initiative through the financing of LCBC Development programmes.
9. The African Development Bank to facilitate the creation of the Lake Chad Fund of about \$50 billion into which contributions by African States and donations by Africa's Development Partners will be paid to fund Lake Chad and other Pan-African engineering infrastructure projects.

Done in Abuja, Nigeria on .....2018

<b>H.E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU</b>  For the Republic of Niger <b>H.E. IDRIS DEBY ITNO</b>  For the Republic of Chad	<b>H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI</b>  For the Federal Republic of Nigeria <b>H.E. FAUSTIN ARCHANG TOUADERA</b>  For the Central African Republic
<b>H.E. ALI BONGO ONDIMBA</b>  For the Republic of Gabon	<b>H.E. PHILEMON YANG</b>  For the Republic of Cameroon
<b>H.E. JOAO LOURENCO</b>  For the Republic of Angola	<b>H.E. SALAH ALI ABOURGIGHA</b>  For the State of Libya
<b>H.E. Mrs JOSEFA LEONEL CORREIA SACKO</b>  For the African Union Commission	