MEETING OF CAMEROON AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA MINISTERS OF DEFENCE ON COLLABORATION AND JOINT ACTIONS MODALITIES ON CROSS BORDER SECURITY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON AND THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Malabo, the 21st of July 2020.
FINAL COMMUNIQUE

On Very High Instructions of their Excellencies Mr. OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Mr. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon, Delegations from Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon met in Malabo in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, from 20 to 21 July 2020, to consolidate and conclude the proceedings undertaken in Yaounde from 29 to 30 June 2020, aimed at strengthening cross-border defence and security between both countries.

The Delegation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea was led by Mr. Leandro BAKALE NCOGO, Minister of National Defence, accompanied by Mr. Baltasar ENGONGA EDJO'O, Minister of State in Charge of Regional Integration, H.E. Simeon OYONO ESONO ANGUE, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Faustino ESONO NDONG EYANG, Minister of Interior and Municipalities, in charge of Political Sector and Democracy, Mr. Heriberto MEKO MBENGONO, Minister Delegate in Charge of National Security, Mr. Victoriano NSUE OKOMO, Vice-Minister in charge of National Defence, Mr. Alfredo ABESO NVONO ONGUENE, Secretary of State to the National Defence, Mr. Eduardo MINANG EZEMA, Secretary of State to National Security; H.E. Armando KOTE ECHUACA, Ambassador of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in Cameroon, and Major General Lamberto NGUEMA MICHA, General Chief of Staff.

The Cameroonian Delegation, for its part, was led by Mr. BETI ASSOMO Joseph, Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic, in Charge of Defence, accompanied by H.E. MBELLA MBELLA, Minister of External Relations, H.E. MPOUEL BALA Lazare, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon in Equatorial Guinea and Lieutenant-General René Claude MEKA, Chief of Defence Staff.

(The list of both Delegations is appended to this final Communiqué)
The solemn opening of the Meeting was co-chaired by the two Heads of Delegation who, in their respective speeches delivered on that occasion, hailed the meeting as an opportunity to reaffirm once again the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries, as well as the mutual fraternal esteem between the two Heads of State.

They also stressed the willingness of the two governments to strengthen collaboration between the cross-border Authorities so that, within the framework of mechanisms put in place, concrete and effective solutions could be found to any security problems that may arise at their common border.

They also stressed the important role that Defence Forces are called upon to play in preserving the safety of the Gulf of Guinea, particularly in border areas where pursuit actions are hindered by constraints of State sovereignty.

Against this backdrop, they reiterated that the Agreement was a significant expression of the high level of political dialogue and cooperation in security and defence issues between both countries. They also discussed implement mechanisms of this legal instrument.

At the Yaounde meeting, the two delegations had held an in-depth exchange of views on the development of cooperation between both countries and on the importance of a Defence and Cross-Border Security Cooperation Agreement.

They expressed their willingness to strengthen defence and security cooperation, based on the principles of national sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, prohibition of threat or use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes.

The two delegations lauded the efforts of both countries to strengthen the defence and security strategy at the common border, as well as the adoption of policies to address various security threats, such as drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, and the implementation of policies to curb violence, theft and cross-border crime.
At the end of the proceedings, the two Plenipotentiaries signed the Cooperation Agreement on the modalities of coordination and joint action on cross-border defence and security between the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Cameroon.

Both delegations thanked the people and Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for their support and constant attention, which had ensured the full success of the proceedings.

Malabo, 21 July 2020.

FOR THE REPUBLIC
OF CAMEROON

BETI ASSOMO Joseph
MINISTER DELEGATE AT THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
IN CHARGE OF DEFENCE

FOR THE REPUBLIC
OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Leandro BAKALE NCOGO
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE