

**Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the impact of COVID-19 in the Lake Chad Basin**  
**9 September 2020**  
**Ej k t a U w o o c t {**

1. On 9 September, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held a virtual Ambassadorial-level meeting on the impact of COVID-19 in the Lake Chad Basin. The meeting was convened by

interventions in the Lake Chad Basin. For instance, the Forum of Governors from the respective affected regions (a key coordination and consultative platform) has been delayed. Likewise, some key joint activities of UNOCA and UNOWAS aimed at enhancing engagement with the LCBC Secretariat, were also delayed. He also informed that, despite these challenges, UNOCA and UNOWAS have been leveraging their political mandates to support peacebuilding initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin, including in partnership with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). The SRSG expressed recognition for the support provided by the PBF and the Trust Fund for Human Security to an inter-agency initiative led by UNCT Nigeria,

Chad Basin.

4. The Executive Secretary of LCBC, Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, informed that the Commission's operational budget had decreased by 50%

response with 8 million euros, which are to be added to the 87 million euros destined to respond to the macro-economic impact of the pandemic, mainly through budget support.

6. Dr. Fatima Akilu, the Executive Director of Neem Foundation, a non-governmental Organization that is committed to improving the lives of those affected by violent extremism in Nigeria, informed that violence in the Lake Chad Basin has had a disproportionate effect on women and girls, who are victims of gender-based violence, discrimination and various forms of abuses. A large majority of girls in conflict affected regions, she explained, are no longer able to access education services, while an increasing number of single mother households do not have access to livelihood opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on Neem's programming, including on the provision of psychosocial support as well as support for women's earlc

people across borders. He highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts by Member States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector for the effective implementation of the AU/LCBC strategy for the stabilization, recovery and resilience of the Boko Haram affected areas. He added that the PBC serves a unique role with its ability to convene a wide array of actors and partners, to help sustain the political

strengthening governance, particularly in border areas, and increasing the capacity of local authorities to enhance peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

It is important for the European Union and