LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION AND THE AFRICAN UNION CONVENE A REGIONAL STABILIZATION CONFERENCE FOR AREAS IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN REGION AFFECTED BY BOKO HARAM ACTIVITIES

N’Djamena, 2 November 2017. The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the African Union (AU) organize a three-day Regional Stabilization Conference in N’Djamena, Republic of Chad. The Conference is themed “Supporting the development of a framework for a Regional Stabilization Strategy for areas affected by Boko Haram”. The Framework for a Regional Stabilization Strategy is the first step towards the development of a comprehensive Regional Stabilization Strategy which will drive and rationalize various initiatives aimed at stabilizing the areas affected by Boko Haram.

H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, and Mr. Sidick Abdelkeria Haggar, Minister of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of Chad, jointly presided over the official opening ceremony of the Conference, together with Engineer Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, LCBC Executive Secretary.

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram, established by Member States of the region with the technical and operational support of the African Union Commission, was authorized by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, on 3 March 2015. The MNJTF has carried out military operations against the group and succeeded in significantly degrading its capabilities and creating the conducive environment for medium to long-term recovery and stabilization efforts in the region.

Conference participants include representatives of victims and civil society organizations from areas affected by Boko Haram, Governors and traditional leaders, officials from the LCBC Member States, Benin and the AU, representatives of the United Nations and their agencies on the ground, and other international Development partners.

The Regional Stabilization Conference will provide a platform for critical reflection and the development of practical recommendations on the best possible ways to address key issues namely; Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, Repatriation and Resettlement (DDRRR) of disengaged Boko Haram fighters, resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, enhancement of local capacities, rehabilitation and enhancement of Rule of Law institutions, Reconciliation, psychosocial counselling and deradicalisation taking into account the specific needs of gender and youth.