

AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME

BORDER DAY 2018

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND EARLY WARNING DIVISION

OF THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT



AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME (AUBP)

When it comes to peace and security, focusing on borders is a priority. The African Union Border Programme overall goal is the structural prevention of conflicts and the promotion of regional and continental integration.

More specifically,

- the facilitation of and support to, delimitation and demarcation of African boundaries where such exercises have not taken place;
- the reinforcement of the integration process, within the framework of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other large-scale cooperation initiatives;
- the development, within the framework of the RECs and other regional integration initiatives, of local initiative cross-border cooperation and, capacity building in the area of border management, including the development of special education and research programmes.



THE AFRICAN UNION CELEBRATES AFRICAN BORDER DAY

The Commemoration of African Border Day was decided by the African Ministers in charge of Border Issues in 2010. The aim of African Border day is to sensitize all relevant stakeholders about the role and the importance of borders in promoting peace, security and stability. African Border Day also showcases AUBPs efforts towards the achievement of greater African unity and integration at continental, regional and national levels through border management and cross-border cooperation.

The AU Highly encourages all Member States to take the initiative in celebrating African Border day. The African Border Day celebration, 6th June- June 7th 2018 will be held in *DRC-Rwanda (Goma-Rubavu)* border under the theme: **Fighting Corruption through Cross-border Cooperation**. This day will bring attention to the roles borderlands play in free movement of people and goods and will highlight the importance of border communities and the importance they hold in promoting good neighborly relations. Finally, the Border Day will demonstrate the importance of the convention on cross-border cooperation and how it can benefit Member States.

PREVIOUS AFRICAN BORDER DAY CELEBRATIONS

Benin hosted national week of borders under the theme "Borders Far Generated, the source of patriotic pride".

Burkina Faso-Mali celebrated a joint Border Day at cross-border health center under the theme " Cross-border cooperation, a means for integration, socio-economic and cultural development of border communities".

Cameroon hosted Border Day with a workshop on capacity development under the theme "Borders, the integrated development area".

Gabon National Border Commission met in Libreville in celebration of border day.

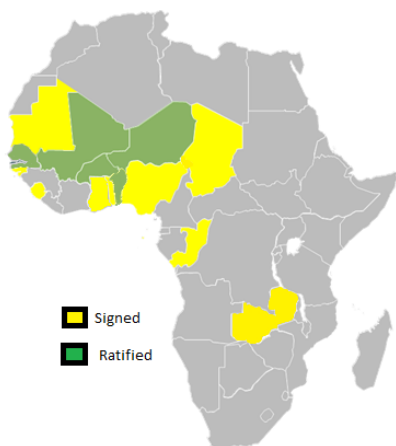
Ghana Immigration Services (GIS) marked Border Day with ceremony at Aflao eastern border.

THE AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION (THE NIAMEY CONVENTION)

The Niamey Convention, adopted in June 2014 by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, aims to promote cross-border cooperation and to ensure peaceful resolutions of border disputes. Based on joint activities between neighboring countries, it is to facilitate the development of borderlands and to ease free movement of persons and goods.

To date, the Convention has been signed by 14 States and ratified by 5 States. In doing so, the countries have benefited from the Convention through the following:

- The contribution to the development of marginalized zones;
- Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability;
- Finding agreements on sharing resources found at the borders;
- Contributions to economic development of regions, in terms of trade and cross-border cooperation;
- Development of good neighborly behavior ; and,
- Complying with Agenda 2063 aspiration of a continent of seamless borders and management of cross-border resources through dialogue.



MESSAGE OF H.E. SMAIL CHERGUI, COMMISSIONER FOR AU PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE OCCASION OF "AFRICAN BORDER DAY" CELEBRATION.

07 JUNE 2018

On 7 June 2018, Africa will celebrate the African Border Day. For me, this is an opportunity to welcome the results achieved by Member States in the implementation of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP). Over the years, this programme has yielded encouraging results in terms of delimitation and demarcation of borders; achievements in cross-border cooperation initiatives and strengthening the border management capacities of border professionals and practitioners.

This year, African Border Day is commemorated under the theme: "**Fighting Corruption through Cross-Border Cooperation**", and "**Promoting the Niamey Convention**". The choice of the theme were motivated by the will of the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission to make a strong contribution to raising awareness on cross-border cooperation and on the African Union theme 2018: "**Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation**".

As we all know, corruption is a gangrenous phenomenon that, alongside other illegal and reprehensible practices, is taking worrying proportions at our checkpoints and border crossings points. This is why I urge Member States to promote a cross-border approach when defining and implementing anti-corruption strategies at their common borders.

On June 7 2018, we will celebrate at the border between DRC-Rwanda (Goma-Rubavu).The choice of these locations permit us to showcase not only the free movement of people but also continental free trade and enforces the work being done through cross-border cooperation. Each day 90,000 civilians register at the DRC-Rwanda Border, permitting trade, opportunity and employment. I hope to see by 2022, all African Borders facilitating **free-movement** and the implementation of the **AfCFTA** through the enhancement cross-border cooperation.

My wish is to witness the celebration of the June 2018 African Border Day throughout the continent through various events such as debates on the theme, television and radio broadcasts, cultural and sporting activities, inauguration of infrastructure at borders, school extracurricular activities on the theme of borders and corruption, etc.

I remain convinced that it is only together that we will overcome the scourge of corruption.

I wish you a successful celebration of the African Border Day.



**Smail Chergui ,
Commissioner for Peace and Security**

AUBP ENCOURAGES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

Corruption is a scourge that weakens the capacities of African States in the production and redistribution of resources to the people. Public services, which are responsible for populations' security, are sometimes also perpetrators of the practices, which have led to a growing mistrust between citizens and relevant authorities at continental, regional, national and local levels. Radical groups use this situation to undertake acts of destabilization and terror.

Corruption at borders crossing points causes insecurity of travellers, setting fertile grounds for smuggling and crossing of migrants without carrying required documents. In this context, the AUBP should take advantage of the opportunity that the theme: "Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation" was chosen as the theme for 2018, to take decisive action to fight against border corruption. In this respect, the AUBP could, in collaboration with the African Union Advisory Council on Corruption (AUCAC) and other actors such as, the Forum on African Tax Administration (FAFA), the Network of African Parliamentarians against Corruption (PRPP), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), support the Member States in the implementation of the [African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption](#), which has been in force since 2006.

AUBP 2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Lake Tanganyika Riparian States Continue Re-affirmation
of Boundary (November 2017)

Benin Ratifies Niamey Convention (January 2018)

Comoros Signs Niamey Convention (January 2018)

Botswana- Namibia Boundary Treaty Signed (February 2018)

Niger begins delimitation and demarcation of neighboring boundaries, continues fight
on border corruption and improves cross-border cooperation (February 2018)

South Sudan-Sudan continue Border Demarcation (March 2018)

IGAD hosts sensitization event on the Niamey Convention (March 2018)

CONTACT US



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#AfricanBorderDay



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Contact us via
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Find information on the Niamey Convention and other AUBP documents Via
aubis.peaceau.org/en/page/73-guidebooks-1