

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION

Established by a Convention and Statute signed on 22 May 1964 by Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, and later by the Central African Republic, to regulate and control utilization of the water and other natural resources in the Basin; to initiate, promote and co-ordinate natural resources development projects and research within the Basin area; and to examine complaints and promote settlement of disputes, with a view to promoting regional co-operation.

In Dec. 1977, at Enugu in Nigeria, the 3rd summit of heads of state of the commission signed the protocol for the Harmonization of the Regulations Relating to Fauna and Flora in member countries, and adopted plans for the multidonor approach towards major integrated development for the conventional basin. An international campaign to save Lake Chad following a report on the environmental degradation of the conventional basin was launched by heads of state at the 8th summit of the Commission in Abuja in March 1994.

The Commission operates an annual budget of CFA 400m., and receives assistance from various international and donor agencies including the FAO, and UN Development and Environment Programmes.

Headquarters: BP 727, N'Djaména, Chad.

Executive Secretary: Bobboi Jauro.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The East African Community was formally established on 30 Nov. 1999 in Arusha, Tanzania. The treaty which was signed sets the course for the establishment in the future of a common market and political federation. Its predecessor had lasted from 1967 to 1977 but had collapsed for a number of reasons. The member countries are aiming to negotiate the framework of a customs union by 2003.

Members. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda.

Headquarters: PO Box 1096, Arusha, Tanzania.

Chief Executive: Francis Muthaura (Kenya).

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The World Council of Churches was formally constituted on 23 Aug. 1948 in Amsterdam. Today, member churches number over 330 from more than 100 countries.

Origin. The World Council was founded by the coming together of diverse Christian movements, including the overseas mission groups gathered from 1921 in the International Missionary Council, the Faith and Order Movement founded by American Episcopal Bishop Charles Brent, and the Life and Work Movement led by Swedish Lutheran Archbishop Nathan Söderblom. On 13 May 1938, at Utrecht, a provisional committee was appointed to prepare for the formation of a World Council of Churches, under the chairmanship of William Temple, then Archbishop of York.

Membership. The basis of membership (1975) states: 'The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of Churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.'