

Country/entity	Niger
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Diffa Declaration of Commitment (Accord de Diffa)
Date	12 Sep 2019
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/local conflict

Niger: local conflicts (1980s -)

The conflict between the Fulani community and Mahamid Arab community were instigated by disputes over access to natural resources in the region of Diffa, in south-eastern Niger. The Mahamid Arabs had settled in Diffa from Chad in the 1970s to flee from draught and in the 1980s following an armed conflict. Disputes with the Fulani pastoralists included access to water points, land use, and animal grazing rights. Tensions over resources have become more urgent given the emergence of Boko Haram across the borders of Diffa, resulting in vast forced displacements of its neighbouring populations from Libya, Mali and Nigeria into the region. This has aggravated existing intercommunal tensions and has proved to be fertile soil for the organisation of militias. In 2017 the government declared a state of emergency in Diffa.

Close

Niger: local conflicts (1980s -)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Niger local agreements
Parties	Traditional Chiefs of the Diffa region
Third parties	National and regional authorities Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)
Description	Local agreement aiming to reduce tensions between breeders and farmers along the Komadougou river, around the Lake Chad Basin, and oasis basins.

**Agreement
document**

[NE_190912_Diffa Declaration of Commitment_tr.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement
document (original
language)**

[NE_190912_Diffa Declaration of Commitment.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Local agreement properties

Process type Formal structured process

Rationale The agreement appears to be part of an ongoing local process supported by both national and regional authorities and by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre). There are also arrangements for a monitoring committee to be supported by the Governor and to be composed of representatives of all societal groupings. Further research suggests that as part of a wider inter-communal mediation process in the Diffa region, the HD Centre are providing support and training to peace committees. Further research also highlights the role of the EU in supporting the processes since January 2018. Finally, another local peace agreement was signed in the Diffa region on 23 December 2018 between the Fulani and Mahamid Arab communities from the municipalities of Foulatari, N'guelbeli, Goudoumaria and Mainé Soroa (see reference Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2019), suggesting that this is not an isolated example of a written peace agreement.

Is there a documented link to a national peace process? No

Link to national process: articulated rationale No clear reference in the text to the national process or any other suggestion from further research that a link can be ascertained.

Name of Locale Diffa region

Nature of Locale Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 13.313278, 12.591045

Participant type Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder
Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations

Mediator, facilitator or similar Mediator or similar referred to

Mediator (references) In the original document in French, the chief mediators are listed in the signatories as: Mabrouk Ben Adam and Eli Kedellah Hagard. They are also referred to in the text as being two chiefs responsible for mediation.

Type of mediator/facilitator/similar Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)

No specific mention.

Grievance List

Page 2, Chapter II: Causes and consequences of tensions, Article 2: The signatory Traditional Chiefs agree that the tensions between their respective communities along the Komadougou river, in the Lake Chad basin and around the oasis basins in the Diffa region are the result of the following elements:

- a) The reduction of cultivation and grazing areas due to terrorist attacks and measures limiting access to certain production areas, and in a context of increased livestock population and demographic pressure
- b) Lack of knowledge and / or non-compliance with the rules and rights governing rural land;
- c) The lack of coherence and communication between those in charge of land management and the overlap of their skills in a context of increasing pressure;
- d) Damage to rural areas;
- e) Theft of animals;
- f) The slowness of justice in processing the cases submitted to it;
- g) The feeling of injustice and the use of violence to resolve disputes.

Page 2, Chapter II: Causes and consequences of tensions, Article 3: The signatory Traditional Chiefs agree that the tensions between their respective communities along the Komadougou River, around the Lake Chad basin and the oasis basins in the Diffa region have had the following consequences since 2016:

- a) Dozens of dead and a hundred injured;
- b) The deterioration of social cohesion between farmers and breeders but also the decline in the identity of these;
- c) An increase in illegal possession of firearms;
- d) The arrest and detention of several people.

Cattle rustling/ banditry

Page 2, Chapter II: Causes and consequences of tensions, Article 2: The signatory Traditional Chiefs agree that the tensions between their respective communities along the Komadougou river, in the Lake Chad basin and around the oasis basins in the Diffa region are the result of the following elements:

- ...
- e) Theft of animals;

Social cover

No specific mention.