

Annex I

Seventh report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission

1. This is the seventh report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, covering the period from 1 September to 30 November 2002.
2. During this period the Commission, the Special Consultant, the Office of the Secretary and the field offices in Eritrea and Ethiopia (“the area”) have been engaged in preparing the 1:25,000 scale maps in order to be in a position to proceed with the determination of the location of the boundary markers and to begin the work of erecting them. With the cooperation of the parties, significant progress has been made, and all the field work necessary for the production of these maps has been completed.
3. At the beginning of the period, the Special Consultant prepared a statement of operations already performed and a statement and schedule of operations to be performed, upon which the parties were given the opportunity to comment. Since September, the Special Consultant has provided the parties with monthly progress reports on the schedule of operations.
4. As required by the demarcation directions promulgated on 8 July 2002, the parties have designated their liaison representatives and field liaison officers. The Special Consultant, together with the Chief Surveyor and the Deputy Secretary, started regular liaison meetings with the parties’ liaison representatives in each capital. Regular contact is maintained between the field office staff and the liaison representatives and field liaison officers for the purposes of providing the parties with information about planned operations and of making necessary arrangements in connection therewith. The field liaison officers of both parties accompanied the field office staff as observers in their field work.
5. The Secretary and his deputy visited the area between 26 October and 2 November 2002. In preparation for a review of the orthophoto maps, they conducted a familiarization flight along the boundary, including a stopover at Adigrat, to inspect the new field office located there.
6. The Special Consultant, Secretary and Chief Surveyor held meetings in Addis Ababa on 28 October and in Asmara on 31 October with representatives of each party to discuss the schedule of operations and other technical matters. Minutes of each meeting were provided to both parties and to the Commission.
7. On 6 and 7 November, the Commission met in London with representatives of the parties to discuss the timeline for, and certain technical details of, the demarcation. The Secretary, Registrar and Special Consultant also attended, as did representatives of the African Union, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as observers.
8. In response to certain questions that had arisen concerning the scope of the Commission’s jurisdiction and powers and compliance with the Commission’s order of 17 July 2002, the Commission issued, on 7 November, a document entitled “Determinations”, which was transmitted to the United Nations and the African Union for publication (see S/2002/1245).

9. Following consultation with the parties in accordance with article 30 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Commission issued, on 13 November, an amendment to the demarcation directions of 8 July, replacing paragraph 8D with new text requiring each party to ensure, within the area under its control, the safety of all field office staff and other demarcation personnel, and to inform the local government officers and population in advance of the activities of such persons.

10. On 25 November, the Secretary transmitted to the parties the 1:25,000 scale orthophoto maps of the Western Sector. The remaining maps are expected to be provided to the parties before the end of the year, and the parties will have an opportunity to make technical comments thereon no later than 17 January 2003. Taking such comments into consideration, the Commission plans to conduct a detailed field assessment of the boundary pillar locations and to start the actual placement of the boundary pillars in mid-May. Pillar emplacement and as-built survey work is scheduled to be completed in 2003 on a sector-by-sector basis, as follows: Western Sector (end of June), Central Sector (end of July) and Eastern Sector (end of August). Within approximately one month after the completion of each sector, the Commission will issue to the parties the final map of that sector, together with a copy of the relevant pages of the register recording the final location of each pillar. Receipt of final documentation from the survey contractor and the preparation of a small-scale index map is scheduled for completion by mid-October 2003.

11. UNMEE continues to provide logistical and transport services, including accommodation for the demarcation contractors. Preparatory work has already been undertaken with respect to the demining of pillar sites. In this connection, and in view of Security Council resolutions, there is frequent consultation between the field office staff and UNMEE personnel, as well as between the President of the Commission and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Commission expresses its continued appreciation for the help that it receives from UNMEE.

12. The Secretary is presently preparing a budget for demarcation operations in the first half of 2003. Even now, it appears that additional contributions to the Trust Fund need to be made very soon if interruption of these operations is to be avoided. This is because the estimated cost of finishing the demarcation in 2003 is approximately \$7.6 million, whereas the current balance of the Trust Fund is only \$3 million, and this will be exhausted early in 2003. An additional \$4.6 million is urgently needed during the first quarter of next year to ensure the progress of the demarcation. The Commission therefore requests the Secretary-General to draw the attention of all United Nations Member States to the pressing need for further contributions as soon as possible.

(Signed) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Commission
10 December 2002