

**WORKING VISIT TO NIGER
BY
HER EXCELLENCY MS LIESJE SCHREINEMACHER
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
AND
HIS EXCELLENCY MR ERIC VAN DER BURG
MINISTER FOR MIGRATION
OF THE NETHERLANDS**

30 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY 2023

JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

Niamey, 1 February 2023

1. On 1 February 2023, His Excellency Mr Hassoumi Massoudou, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Niger met with Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Her Excellency Ms Liesje Schreinemacher, and Minister for Migration, His Excellency Mr Eric van der Burg, during their working visit to Niger.
2. During their talks, the three ministers praised the excellent ties of friendship and cooperation which exist between their two countries, as illustrated by the multifaceted support provided by the Netherlands to Niger, and agreed to explore ways to raise these ties to a higher level. The three ministers discussed issues of common interest to Niger and the Netherlands, such as the current situation in the Sahel and the multidimensional challenges currently facing Niger. They also looked more broadly at regional and international issues confronting the international community.
3. The two parties recalled that, in recent years, Niger and the Netherlands, as trusted partners, have worked together in the Sahel region to respond to challenges in the areas of development cooperation, security and irregular migration. A close partnership has been established in the areas of economic development, food security and water management, healthcare, governance and access to justice, with a particular focus on the situation of women and prospects for young people.
4. The three ministers agreed to consolidate the partnership between Niger and the Netherlands, strengthening bilateral cooperation according to the principles of cordial diplomatic relations, solidarity, equality and shared responsibilities. Their joint efforts will focus on social progress, economic development, security and stability, as well as migration.
5. The two Dutch ministers were then received by His Excellency Mr Hamadou Adamou Souley, Minister of Interior and Decentralisation of Niger, and His Excellency Mr Mohamed Ikta Abdoulaye, Minister of Justice of Niger. During their working meetings the ministers talked in depth about questions relating to internal security, justice and migration.
6. They recognised that Niger and the Netherlands have joined forces to address the root causes of instability and irregular migration, reinforcing their border management capacity and combating cross-border organised crime. The Netherlands recognises the challenges facing Niger with regard to people smuggling, ranging from supporting the evacuation of persons in Libya to guaranteeing a dignified return for irregular migrants and securing its borders.

7. The ministers discussed migration-related questions and their impact on regional and international stability. They reaffirmed the importance of enhanced cooperation and international solidarity, and that of a productive dialogue between countries of origin, transit and destination, recalling the conclusions of the Valletta Summit on Migration.
8. The ministers made a firm commitment to step up their joint efforts to resolve these problems in accordance with the Global Compact for Migration. This enhanced cooperation comes on top of the excellent collaborative partnership between Niger and the Netherlands within international frameworks such as the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) and efforts at European Union level such as the Team Europe Initiatives on the Central and Western Mediterranean migration routes.
9. The ministers also decided to enter into a cooperative partnership on migration covering themes of common interest such as human trafficking and smuggling, border security and management, the protection of migrants, and the voluntary return of migrants who are in Niger to their countries of origin. With this in mind, they agreed to set out a joint roadmap as soon as possible.
10. In order to guarantee a comprehensive approach, taking account of the full spectrum of bilateral relations, and ensure its implementation, regular high-level bilateral consultations are envisaged, alternately in Niger and the Netherlands, to address development cooperation, security and migration.