

DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our 7th Ordinary Session, in Banjul, The Gambia, deliberated extensively on the situation in Somalia and adopted the following Declaration:

The Assembly,

- **Conscious** of the unfolding situation in Somalia, which threatens to unleash fresh confrontations with far reaching consequences on the ongoing efforts at dialogue and the entire peace and reconciliation process in the country, as well as for security and stability of the region as a whole;
 - **Convinced** that the time has come to turn over the page of the conflict in Somalia and to put in place effective institutions of State in that country;
 - **Recalling** its previous decisions on the situation in Somalia, as well as those of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on Somalia.
1. **REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT** to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), in particular, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), as the legitimate Government of Somalia and pledges its commitment to do everything possible to enable the TFIs fulfill their national obligations and responsibilities in bringing about peace and security in Somalia and in ensuring the reconstruction of the country;
 2. **STRONGLY APPEALS** to all concerned within Somalia to refrain from any action likely to aggravate the situation and to maintain the cessation of hostilities. The Assembly **FURTHER APPEALS** to all the stakeholders to seek the path of dialogue as the only way to resolve differences and to extend the necessary cooperation to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), in order to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in the country. In this respect, the Assembly **WELCOMES** the preliminary agreement reached between the TFG and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), following the meeting held in Khartoum, the Sudan, on 22 June 2006, under the auspices of the League of Arab States and **URGES** the parties to uphold their commitments, bearing in mind the need for full compliance with the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) of Somalia;
 3. **URGES** the international community to provide the necessary assistance to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to enable them fully assume their responsibilities, with a view to achieving reconciliation and restoring

lasting peace and stability, as well as undertaking the reconstruction of Somalia. The Assembly **STRESSES** that any initiative on Somalia should fully involve the AU and the IGAD, given their active implication in the Somalia peace and reconciliation process;

4. **FULLY SUPPORTS** the initiatives taken by IGAD, including the communiqué issued by the Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi on 13 June 2006, as well as the central role of IGAD in the efforts aimed at consolidating the outcomes of the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission, working closely with the IGAD, to take all necessary steps for the early deployment of IGASOM in Somalia, to be subsequently taken over the AU, as provided for in decision PSC/PR/Comm.(XXIX) adopted by the 29th meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 12 May 2005. In this regard, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Security Council to provide an exemption to the arms embargo imposed on Somalia by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, to pave way for the deployment of IGASOM and facilitate the re-establishment of the national security forces of Somalia. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the adoption by the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), on 14 June 2006, of the National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP) providing a framework for the overall pacification of the country;
6. **ENDORSES** the conclusions of the consultative meeting between the African Union (AU), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Partners on the Somalia Reconciliation and Peace Process, convened by the Commission and IGAD, in Addis Ababa, on 19 June 2006;
7. **INVITES** AU partners to provide the requisite political, financial and logistical support to facilitate the successful conclusion of the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, including the deployment of a peace support mission in the country. In this regard, the Assembly **STRESSES** the important role of the Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC) and **WELCOMES** the ongoing efforts to convene a Donors' Conference on Somalia;
8. **APPEALS** to the international community to provide the required humanitarian assistance to the populations in Somalia, and **CALLS ON** all parties in the country to respect international humanitarian law and to facilitate access to the populations in need, as well as the protection of humanitarian workers.

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