

AFRICAN UNION

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SOLEMN LAUNCHING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
9TH MEETING
25 MAY 2004,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/AHG/Comm.(IX)

COMMUNIQUÉ
ON CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN AFRICA

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), meeting in its ninth Session, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 2004, under the chairpersonship of H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, having considered the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on conflict situations on the continent, have adopted the following communiqué:

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1. In Angola, we note that the war has effectively come to an end, and we are now faced with the challenges of the post-conflict reconstruction in that country. We remain confident that, despite the enormity of the challenge, peace will be consolidated, and Angola will rebuild its social, political and economic institutions destroyed by the war.

2. Sierra Leone too is making strides towards social, economic and political recovery. Success in that country represents an exemplary case of the fruits of multilateral cooperation, the type that we seek to forge with our partners in the wider international community. The time has come to consolidate the post-conflict socio-economic reconstruction and development of that country.

3. We express satisfaction at the significant progress made in the reconciliation process in the Comoros. At the same time, we wish to stress the need for compliance, by all the Comorian parties, with the fundamental laws governing the functioning of the Union of the Comoros and the need for the said parties to refrain from any act likely to compromise the progress made this far.

4. The continued lack of progress in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the resulting tension between the two countries are a cause for serious concern. In this respect, we are resolved to assist the two parties to overcome the current impasse in the border demarcation process and the normalization of their relations, in conformity with the Algiers Agreements.

5. The peace process between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) is slowly, but steadily, moving towards an encouraging final settlement. We express our determination to facilitate the faithful and effective implementation of the comprehensive agreement that is expected to be signed and to assist in the post-conflict reconstruction.

6. In Burundi, substantial progress has been made in the peace process. We encourage the Parties to pursue their efforts until the conclusion of the peace process, particularly by agreeing on the modalities for the organization and the holding of democratic elections and by facilitating the disarmament and reintegration process of the combatants. We urge the PALIPEHUTU/FNL of Agathon Rwasa to cease its attacks and join the peace process, in accordance with the decision of the 20th Summit of the Regional Peace Initiative, held on 16 November 2004.

7. We commend the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), which, in spite of the very limited financial resources placed at its disposal, has managed to carry out its mission with competence and devotion. We sincerely thank the troop contributing countries, namely South Africa, Ethiopia and Mozambique, for having responded positively to the appeal of the African Union as well as for the sacrifices made by them. We welcome the adoption by the UN Security Council, on 21 May 2004, of a resolution authorizing the deployment of a peacekeeping operation in Burundi. We request the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure that the AU maintains an observer Mission in Burundi, to continue to support the implementation of the peace process and facilitate cooperation with the UN peacekeeping operation.

8. Remarkable progress has been made in the implementation of the transition in the DRC. In this regard, we should mention the recent appointment of Governors and Vice – Governors of Provinces, which constitutes an important step towards the restoration of the authority of the State over its entire territory. We also welcome the commitments made by the armed groups in the Ituri region during their consultative meeting with the Government, on 8 – 9 May 2004. At the same time, we wish to express our deep concern with regard to the delays in the implementation process of the different agreements concluded.

9. We commend the efforts made by the international community in general and of CIAT in particular, aimed at sustaining the peace process, including the preparation of the elections in the country. We request the Governments of the countries of the region to establish the conducive conditions for the resumption of relations of cooperation and good neighbourliness between them.

10. The Central African Republic continues to face serious political and socio-economic difficulties. We stress the need for all the actors concerned, including General François Bozizé, in light of the statement he made in Libreville, on 25 April 2003, to create the necessary conditions for the genuine restoration of

constitutional order, through the organization of free and fair elections, in conformity with the principles of the African Union.

11. We welcome the progress being made in the peace process in Liberia, in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed at Accra, Ghana, in August 2003. We note, however, that there is still much to be done to ensure that peace is truly consolidated in that country. In that regard, we call on the parties to fully re-commit themselves to that agreement and to vigorously pursue the completion of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration programme. We also call for the creation of conducive conditions for the holding of Presidential and Parliamentary elections in October 2005, as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

12. We are gravely concerned by the conflicts in Darfur, the Sudan, in Somalia and in Côte d'Ivoire, which are the subject of the deliberations during the 10th Meeting of our Council.

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13. With the tenth anniversary of the commemoration of the Rwandan Genocide of 1994, still fresh in our minds, we insist that the findings and recommendations of the International Panel of Eminent Personalities, as contained in their Report, "Rwanda: The Preventable Genocide", must serve as the basis for ensuring that the ultimate crime of genocide shall never again deface this continent.

14. We request the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to follow-up on all these conflict situations and to keep the Council seized on future developments, how best we can effectively address each of them.

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