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**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
EFFORTS OF THE OAU UNDER THE LEADERSHIP
OF THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN ON THE
CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA
AND ERITREA**

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1. The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea was discussed during the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Algiers (Algeria) from 10 to 12 July, 1999. On that occasion, the two Parties reaffirmed their acceptance of the Framework Agreement for a peaceful settlement of the dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia that had been submitted to them in November 1998 by the OAU High Level Delegation (Annex I). They also expressed their acceptance of the Modalities for the implementation of the Framework Agreement, which were submitted to them on the eve of the Algiers Summit (Annex II). The Summit endorsed the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, and mandated the Current Chairman, President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA working closely with the Secretary-General, to pursue the efforts aimed at a peaceful solution to the conflict through the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities.

2. Immediately after the Summit, the Current Chairman appointed Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, former Prime Minister and currently Senior Minister, Minister of Justice, as his Personal Envoy. An OAU delegation led by Mr. Ouyahia visited Ethiopia and Eritrea from 22 to 25 July 1999, and held extensive discussions with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and President Isaias Afwerki and other high ranking officials of both countries in their respective capitals. During the meetings, the Envoy requested the two Parties to sign the Framework Agreement and the Modalities in order to pave the way for their implementation. Ethiopia indicated that the signing could take place only after the details of the implementation process had been finalized. Eritrea, expressed the wish to proceed immediately with the signing of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities. However, it accepted the proposal of working out the technical details prior to the signing of the two documents.

3. In early August 1999, in Algiers, the OAU Team, working with representatives of the United Nations and the United States of America whose involvement in the process was welcomed by the two Parties, drafted a document entitled "Technical Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities" (Annex III). The document includes the following provisions:

- a) cessation of hostilities, including the cessation of all armed air and land attack and of any other action that may impede the implementation of the Framework Agreement, the Modalities and the Technical Arrangements;
- b) establishment of a Neutral Commission that will determine the positions held by the two Parties prior to 6 May, 1998;
- c) establishment under the authority of the United Nations Security Council, of a peacekeeping mission that will monitor the implementation of the Framework Agreement, the Modalities and the Technical Arrangements;
- d) establishment by, and under the authority of the UN Secretary-General, of a Follow-up Commission and a Military Coordination Commission to facilitate the implementation of the Framework Agreement, the Modalities and the Technical Arrangements;
- e) sequential redeployment of the troops of the two Parties and subsequent restoration of civilian administration with Eritrea starting first, then followed by Ethiopia;
- f) commitment of the two Parties to enhance the security of local populations in and returning the areas where civilian administration is restored and, to that effect, to comply with certain specific provisions;
- g) investigation of the incidents of 6 May 1998 and of any other incident prior to that date in order to determine the origins of the conflict;
- h) delimitation and demarcation of the border by the UN Cartographic Unit on the basis of pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law, it being understood that, in case of controversy over delimitation, the two Parties will resort to binding arbitration;
- i) commitment of the two Parties to addressing all humanitarian concerns resulting from the conflict; and

- j) guarantee by the OAU and the UN of the scrupulous implementation of the Framework Agreement, the Modalities and the Technical Arrangements.

4. The Technical Arrangements were submitted to the Parties by the Personal Envoy of the Current Chairman during the visit he paid to the two countries from 5 to 11 August, 1999. Eritrea accepted the Technical Arrangements. Ethiopia, on its part, raised objections on certain points of the Technical Arrangements, which, it felt, were not consistent with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, and requested clarifications on those points. In a Communique released on 11 August 1999, the Current Chairman and the Secretary-General welcomed the Eritrean acceptance of the Technical Arrangements. They also recalled that, "taking into account that any interpretation of the Framework Agreement, the Modalities and the Technical Arrangements falls within the exclusive competence of the OAU and considering that the request for clarification was made in a constructive spirit, the Personal Envoy assured the Ethiopian party that the clarifications sought on the Technical Arrangements, once formally submitted, will be given a speedy reply in line with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities for its implementation".

5. On 13 August 1999, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia addressed a letter to the Current Chairman, in which Ethiopia formally requested a series of clarifications regarding the "Technical Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities". The OAU Team met in Algiers in mid-August and, with the assistance of experts from the United Nations and the USA, considered the request for clarification submitted by Ethiopia. The clarifications sought addressed various issues, namely those related to colonial treaties and international applicable law, the cessation of hostilities and redeployment; the restoration of civilian administration; the humanitarian issues and arbitration; the peacekeeping mission; the delimitation/demarcation; the demilitarization; the consultations with the Parties; and the investigation into the origins of the conflict. The OAU clarifications were formally presented to Ethiopia during a visit of the Personal Envoy to the region from 22 to 26 August 1999, and communicated to Eritrea which welcomed them. Ethiopia considered that the clarifications were not entirely satisfactory.

6. The OAU Delegation led by the Personal Envoy made a further visit to the region from 24 to 30 October 1999. During the visit the Personal Envoy held extensive discussions with the Ethiopian side. He requested

Ethiopia to put its views on the Technical Arrangements in writing so that the OAU could consider them comprehensively. Eritrea was informed of this position. In view of the situation, the OAU expressed the hope that both sides would exercise maximum restraint and that the efforts then ongoing would lead in the shortest time possible, to the effective commencement of the implementation of the Peace Plan.

7. On 24 November 1999, the Ethiopian Prime Minister communicated to the OAU Current Chairman, a "Memorandum on Ethiopia's concerns with regard to the Technical Arrangements", following the clarifications earlier provided by the OAU.

8. The Memorandum dealt, on the one hand, with issues relating to the return to the status quo ante and sovereignty (militia, deportations, local liaison and grievance resolution mechanisms, verification, observer mission vs peacekeeping missions, including its composition and mandate); and on the other hand, to issues pertaining to the demarcation and delimitation of the border, investigation of the origins of the conflict, socio-economic consequences of the conflict, the principles for resolving the conflict, and the demilitarisation.

9. From 10 to 15 December 2000, the OAU Team again met in Algiers and prepared a response to the Ethiopian Memorandum, which was transmitted to Ethiopia on 21 December 1999.

10. The OAU Team met again in Algiers from 3 to 6 February 2000 to consider additional concerns raised by Ethiopia. The OAU response, which was contained in a document referred to as a "non paper", was communicated to Ethiopia immediately after the meeting (Annex IV)

11. From 24 February to 4 March 2000, the Personal Envoy again visited the region. Following his discussions with the Ethiopian side, he noted that the content of the "non paper" reflected accurately the views acceptable to Ethiopia. He informed the Ethiopian side that he will request Eritrea to agree to take part in further talks leading to mutually acceptable "Consolidated Technical Arrangements". The Eritrean side expressed its concern over the process which led to the preparation of the "non paper". After lengthy discussions, Eritrea agreed in principle to take part in Proximity Talks. Ethiopia also agreed in principle to participate in those talks.

12. The Proximity Talks were initially scheduled to start on 25 March 2000. Eventually, and following further consultations with the Parties carried out by the Current Chairman and his Personal Envoy, the Proximity Talks took place in Algiers from 29 April to 5 May 2000. The purpose of the Proximity Talks was to help the two Parties agree on Consolidated Technical Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, starting from positions acceptable to each of them. For Eritrea, such positions were those set forth in the Technical Arrangements, while, for Ethiopia, they were those set forth in the non paper – or for the OAU to be given an opportunity to help them identify acceptable compromise which are consistent with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, that remain the basic elements of the OAU Peace Plan.

13. However, the discussions on the substantive issues could not take place, as Eritrea called for the prior signing of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, as well as a cease-fire Agreement, while Ethiopia maintained its July position which insisted that these two documents could not be signed until the Technical Arrangements had been finalised. All the efforts made by the Personal Envoy, with the support of the representatives of the USA and the European Union to make progress failed to soften the positions of either Ethiopia or Eritrea. As a result, the Proximity Talks had to be adjourned, after a week of unsuccessful efforts.

14. At the meetings held with each of the two delegations on 5 May 2000, the Personal Envoy conveyed to both Parties the profound concern of the OAU at the deadlock reached in the discussions. He requested both delegations to transmit to their highest authorities the urgent appeal of the OAU Current Chairman, on behalf of the entire continent, to show restraint; re-evaluate their positions in the light of the impasse; and, lastly, to agree to send their delegations, at a later date, for the Proximity Talks which would tackle the substantive and outstanding problems, with a view to finalizing the Consolidated Technical Arrangements that are consistent with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities.

15. In a Communique issued on 5 May 2000, at the end of the discussions, the evolution in the peace efforts was reflected. (Annex V).

16. It was against this background that the hostilities between the two Parties resumed on 12 May 2000. In a Communique issued on the same day, the Office of the Current Chairman expressed its profound concern at the resumption of fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

17. The Office of the Current Chairman of the OAU, on behalf of Africa, its people and its leaders, addressed a pressing, urgent appeal to the Ethiopian and Eritrean Governments to end the hostilities immediately and unconditionally, so as to spare the fraternal Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples suffering and destruction and allow the peace efforts to continue with a view to reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities. It also appealed to the international community to add its voice and efforts to those of Africa to bring about an immediate cessation of the fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea, so that the OAU can pursue its efforts to secure the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities.

18. The Security Council, meeting on 12 May 2000, adopted Resolution 1297 (2000). In that resolution, the Security Council strongly condemned the renewed fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia; demanded that both countries immediately cease all military action and refrain from the further use of force; and demanded the earliest possible reconvening, without preconditions, of substantive peace talks, under OAU auspices, on the basis of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities and of the work conducted by the OAU as recorded in its Communique issued by its Current Chairman of 5 May 2000. The Security Council also reaffirmed its full support for the continuing efforts of the OAU, of Algeria, its Current Chairman, and other interested parties to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict; endorsed the Framework Agreement and the Modalities as the basis for the peaceful resolution of the dispute between the two Parties; endorsed also the 5 May 2000 Communique issued by the Current Chairman of the OAU, which recorded the achievements of the OAU-led negotiations up to that point, including the areas of convergence already established between the two Parties; and called on both Parties to ensure the safety of civilian populations and to respect human rights and international humanitarian law.

19. On his part, the Secretary-General issued, on 13 May 2000, a Press Release in which he expressed his deep concern at the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the grave consequences of the war to the peoples of both countries in terms of loss of life, destruction and suffering, as well as to the security and stability of the region. He further stated that the deplorable resumption of hostilities constituted a setback to the sustained efforts that have been deployed by the OAU, with the support of the international community, to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. He appealed to the two Parties to put an immediate end to

the fighting and to commit themselves to a peaceful solution based on the Framework Agreement and the Modalities.

20. On 13 May 2000, the Current Chairman requested the Secretary-General to convene an emergency meeting of the Central Organ at Ambassadorial Level to consider the situation.

21. The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met on 14 May 2000 at Ambassadorial level to consider the situation. The Central Organ expressed its grave concern at the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea and their consequences for both countries, as well as for the security and stability of the region. It appealed to both Parties to put an immediate end to the hostilities and to commit themselves to a peaceful solution based on the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, and to resume the Proximity Talks, under the auspices of the Current Chairman, aimed at enabling them to reach an agreement on Consolidated Technical Arrangements. The Central Organ took note of the statement by the representative of Ethiopia which recalled the statement issued, on 13 May 2000, by the Office of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia in which the latter stated that "Ethiopia remains ready, if invited by the OAU, to pursue peace and commence the Proximity Talks from where we left off in Algiers". It also took note of the statement by the representative of Eritrea to the effect that both Parties are expected to respond to the appeal of the OAU Current Chairman at the highest level.

22. The Central Organ endorsed the Communique of 5 May 2000 issued by the Office of the Current Chairman, following the Proximity Talks between Ethiopia and Eritrea held in Algiers from 29 April to 5 May 2000. It further endorsed the Communique issued by the Office of the Current Chairman of the OAU on 12 May 2000, following the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the Communique issued by the Secretary-General of the OAU on 13 May 2000.

23. The Central Organ paid tribute to the Current Chairman and the Secretary-General of the OAU, and to all those supporting OAU's efforts, for the sustained efforts they have been deploying in order to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea on the basis of the principles enshrined in the OAU Charter, including the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and Resolution 16 (1) adopted by the 1st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (1964) on the respect of borders existing on achievement of

national independence by Member States. It encouraged the Current Chairman to pursue his peace efforts on the basis of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities for its implementation, which were accepted by both Parties and endorsed by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

24. On 17 May 2000, the UN Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, adopted resolution 1298 (2000). In that resolution, the Security Council strongly condemned the continued fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia; demanded that both Parties immediately cease all military action and refrain from the further use of force; demanded further that both Parties withdraw their forces from military engagement and take no action that would aggravate tensions; demanded the earliest possible reconvening, without preconditions, of substantive peace talks, under OAU auspices, on the basis of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities and of the work conducted by the OAU which would conclude a peaceful definitive settlement of the conflict; and requested the Current Chairman of the OAU to consider dispatching urgently his Personal Envoy to the region to seek immediate cessation of hostilities and resumption of the peace talks. The Security Council also decided that all States shall prevent:

- a) the sale or supply to Eritrea and Ethiopia, by their nationals or from their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related material of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned, whether or not originating in their territory;
- b) any provision to Eritrea and Ethiopia by their nationals or from their territories of technical assistance or training related to the provision, manufacture, maintenance or use of the items in (a) above.

25. The Security Council decided that the measures imposed are established for twelve months and that, at end of this period, the Council will decide whether the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia have complied with the demand to cease all military action and withdraw their forces from military engagement and take no action that would aggravate tensions. It also decided that the measures that have been imposed shall terminate immediately if the Secretary-General reports that a peaceful definitive settlement of the conflict has been concluded.

26. On 18 May 2000, the Central Organ met again at Ambassadorial level to consider the situation. The Central Organ reiterated its grave concern at the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea and their consequences for both countries, as well as for security and stability in the region; expressed its grave concern at the humanitarian consequences of the conflict and requested the OAU Commission on Refugees to consider the unfolding humanitarian crisis created by the displacement of persons in both countries and the influx of refugees to the Sudan; and further reiterated its urgent appeal to both Parties to put an immediate end to the hostilities and to commit themselves to a peaceful solution based on the OAU Framework Agreement and the Modalities, and to resume the Proximity Talks, under the auspices of the OAU Current Chairman, on the basis of the Communique of 5 May 2000 issued by the Office of the OAU Current Chairman.

27. On 19 May, the UN Secretary-General issued a statement in which he stated that he was deeply alarmed by the impact of renewed fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea on the already critical humanitarian situation of hundred of thousands of innocent people. He endorsed the appeal of the OAU for an immediate and mutual halt to the fighting, and a resumption of talks leading to a complete restoration of peace.

28. The OAU delegation led by the Personal Envoy of the Current Chairman visited Addis Ababa and Asmara from 21 to 24 May 2000. In Addis Ababa, the OAU Delegation was received by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. In Asmara, and in the absence of the Head of State from the Capital, the delegation held talks with a delegation of Senior Officials led by Mr. Haile Woldensae, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

29. The Personal envoy held extensive discussions with both Parties. To each of the two Parties, he reiterated the appeal of the Current Chairman for an immediate cessation of the fighting and the speedy resumption of the Proximity Talks. Furthermore, and with the aim of initiating the de-escalation of the conflict and arrive at its cessation, the OAU requested:

- Ethiopia and Eritrea to immediately implement the redeployment of their respective forces to the positions they controlled prior to 6 May 1998 in conformity with paragraph 1 and 2 of the Modalities;

- Eritrea to announce immediately its decision to carry out this redeployment and to implement it immediately;
- Ethiopia to announce, immediately after Eritrea, its decision to redeploy its forces according to paragraph 2 of the Modalities.

30. During the visit, the OAU delegation took note of the statement made by Ethiopia that it has no claim on the territory of Eritrea. It also took note of the commitment of the two countries to implement the Framework Agreement and the Modalities and of their readiness to quickly finalize consolidated Technical Arrangements. On behalf of the OAU Current Chairman, the Personal Envoy invited the two Parties to send their delegations to Algiers for the resumption of the Proximity Talks (See OAU Communique of 24 May 2000 in Annex VI).

31. On 24 May 2000, Eritrea issued a statement in which it welcomed the appeal by the Current Chairman. In this regard, Eritrea announced that it had decided to redeploy its forces to positions held before 6 May 1998 – it was indicated that Eritrea would begin that redeployment at mid-night on 25 May 2000 in the Zalambessa area; reiterated its commitment to implement the Framework Agreement and the Modalities; expressed its readiness to finalize Consolidated Technical Arrangements; and expressed its readiness to send its delegation to the Algiers Proximity Talks.

32. On 25 May 2000, the Security Council issued a statement in which it strongly supported the OAU Communique of 24 May 2000 and the steps outlined therein. It endorsed in particular the de-escalation proposals of the Communique and urged both sides to implement them. The Security Council welcomed, as an important step in the process toward peace, Eritrea's announcement of its intention to redeploy its troops to areas occupied after 6 May 1998. It looked forward to the completion of Eritrea's redeployment from all such territories along the length of the Eritrea/Ethiopia border as outlined in the first and second points of the OAU Communique of 24 May 2000. The Security Council expected a positive response by Ethiopia to the requests contained in the Communique, including to an announcement of its decision to redeploy its forces to all territories occupied since 6 February 1999, as outlined in the third point of the Communique's proposal to de-escalate the conflict.

33. The Security Council urged the Parties to send delegations to Algiers for the resumption of Proximity Talks to finalize consolidated Technical Arrangements as also called for in the 24 May 2000 Communique. It urged the talks to reconvene as soon as possible and joined the OAU in hoping that this appeal heeded and that wisdom will prevail.

34. In view of the then unfolding situation, the Current Chairman, President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA, visited the region from 24 to 26 May 2000. During his stay, the Current Chairman held talks with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea. He took note of the commitment of Ethiopia and Eritrea to deploy their respective forces to positions held prior to 6 May 1998, in conformity with the Modalities; to resolve their border dispute in conformity with the Framework Agreement and Modalities; and to pursue negotiations under the aegis of the OAU with the view to finalizing consolidated Technical Arrangements.

35. The Current Chairman invited the two Parties to resume in Algiers, on Monday 29th May 2000, the Proximity Talks. He welcomed the decision taken by Eritrea to withdraw from the Zalambessa area on 25 May 2000 at 00.00 hour as well as the commitment given to him by President Isaias Afwerki following his own urgent appeal that Eritrean Forces would withdraw from Bada and Burrie. (see Communique of the Office of the OAU Current Chairman of 26 May 2000, Annex VII). This last point was formalized in a written commitment signed by President Isaias Afwerki.

36. The second round of the Proximity Talks took place in Algiers from 29 May to 10 June, under the chairmanship of the Personal Envoy, with the participation of the Foreign Ministers of Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the representatives of the United States of America and the European Union.

37. The Personal Envoy submitted to the Parties a working document, elaborated on the basis of the previous discussions with them and including all the issues covered in the Framework Agreement and the Modalities. At the request of Ethiopia and with the acceptance of Eritrea, it was agreed to discuss the issues related to the cessation of hostilities first and that the discussions on the second set of issues should commence immediately after an Agreement is reached on the cessation of hostilities.

38. After lengthy discussions, during which the Personal Envoy endeavoured to bridge the gap between the two Parties, a proposal for an Agreement of cessation of hostilities was finally submitted to the two Parties by the OAU on 9 June 2000. The Parties were requested to react to the proposal by the next day. On 10 June 2000, Eritrea conveyed its formal acceptance of the OAU proposal and its readiness to sign it. The Ethiopian side indicated that it was satisfied with the proposal and that it would formally convey its response to the OAU after having accomplished the necessary institutional procedures. On 14 June 2000, Ethiopia formally conveyed to the OAU its acceptance of the proposal and its readiness to sign it. The Agreement (see Annex VIII) provides in particular for the following:

- a) immediate cessation of hostilities;
- b) deployment by the UN, under the auspices of the OAU, of a peacekeeping mission;
- c) redeployment of Ethiopian troops from positions taken after 6 February 1999 and which were not under Ethiopian administration before 6 May 1998;
- d) establishment of a temporary security zone in order to contribute to the reduction of tension and to the establishment of a climate of calm and confidence, as well as to create conditions conducive to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict through the delimitation and demarcation of the border. In this regard, the Eritrean forces shall remain at a distance of 25km (artillery range) from positions to which Ethiopian forces shall redeploy;
- e) commitment by Ethiopia and Eritrea not to move their respective troops beyond certain positions specified in the Agreement. The OAU and the UN commit themselves to guarantee the respect for this commitment until the determination of the common border, through some specific measures.

39. The ceremony for the Signing of the Agreement on cessation of hostilities between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the State of Eritrea, took place in Algiers on 18 June 2000, under the auspices of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika,

Current Chairman of the OAU. The ceremony was attended by the OAU Secretary-General. The representative of the President of the USA, Mr. Anthony Lake, and the representative of the European Union, Senator Rino Serri, as well as representative of the United Nations, also attended the ceremony. The Diplomatic Corps in Algiers, including African Heads of Mission, were present.

40. In the statements they made after the signing of the Agreement, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and Eritrea expressed the commitments of their respective Governments to respect the provisions of the Agreement. They also paid tribute to the Current Chairman, the General Secretariat and OAU Member States for their commitment and the sustained efforts they have deployed. In addition, they expressed their appreciation to the International Community, particularly to the UN, USA and EU, for their important contribution and support to OAU's efforts.

41. In his statement, the OAU Secretary-General congratulated the Parties for this great achievement and expressed confidence that they will live up to the commitments they have entered into so as to create conditions for a lasting and durable peace. He underlined the fact that the OAU had exerted very sustained and determined efforts that culminated in the signing of the Agreement. He paid tribute to the Current Chairman and his Personal Envoy for their commitment and tireless efforts, and commended Algeria for the sacrifices made throughout this process. He recalled the close collaboration which had been maintained between the Office of the Current Chairman and the Secretariat and the fact that the OAU Team, led by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, had been working closely with the Personal Envoy in the fulfillment of his mission.

42. In his closing statement, the Current Chairman warmly congratulated the Ethiopian and Eritrean leaders for this great achievement for their respective peoples and for the benefit of Africa as well as for humanity. He also welcomed the fact that this achievement was made possible thanks to the solidarity and cooperation demonstrated by the International Community in support of the OAU's efforts. In that regard, he paid tribute to the UN, the USA and the EU for their contribution. The Current Chairman stated that the signing of the Agreement was a source of hope for Africa as the continent managed to achieve a significant step towards the peaceful settlement of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. He called upon the Parties to assume their responsibilities in fulfilling their respective obligations as spelt out in

the Agreement. He also appealed to the International Community to support the implementation of the Agreement.

43. Following the signature of the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities, the Proximity Talks resumed in Algiers to initiate exploratory discussions on the outstanding issues. The Personal Envoy submitted to the two Parties proposals based on previous discussions with them. Those proposals relate to the remaining issues covered in the Framework Agreement and Modalities, namely the delimitation/demarcation process, the socio-economic consequences of the conflict, and the investigation into the origins of the conflict. The talks were adjourned on Thursday 22 June to enable the Parties examine the proposals. It was further agreed to resume discussions at Experts level in early July in Washington.

44. Soon After the signing, the UN Secretariat dispatched a Team to Algiers to discuss with the OAU and the Parties, the modalities for the deployment of the peacekeeping mission. The UN and OAU Secretariat Teams held separate meetings on 20 June 2000, with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and Eritrea and their respective delegations and exchanged general views on issues related to the implementation of the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities. During these meetings, the UN Team stressed the need for the Parties to formally request the UN and OAU Secretaries General to assist in the implementation of the Agreement on cessation of hostilities as required by Article 15 of the Agreement. While in Algiers, the Eritrean delegation handed over to the OAU a letter formally requesting the Organization to take the necessary measures to assist the Parties in the implementation of the Agreement. Subsequently, Ethiopia addressed its request to the OAU.

45. As this report was being finalized consultations have been engaged between the UN and the OAU Secretariats on the respective roles of the two Organizations with respect to the implementation of the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities.

ANNEXES

- Annex I:** Framework Agreement for a peaceful settlement of the dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia
- Annex II:** Modalities for the implementation of the Framework Agreement
- Annex III:** Technical Arrangements for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities
- Annex IV:** "Non Paper"
- Annex V:** Communique issued by the Office of the Current Chairman of the OAU concerning the indirect talks between Ethiopia and Eritrea held in Algiers (5 May 2000)
- Annex VI:** Communique of the OAU on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea (24 May 2000)
- Annex VII:** Communique issued by the Office of the OAU Current Chairman on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea (26 May 2000)
- Annex VIII:** Agreement on cessation of hostilities

2000

Report of the Secretary-General on the efforts of the OAU under the leadership of the current chairman on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea

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