

AFRICAN UNION

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UNIÃO AFRICANA

B.P.: 3243, Addis Abéba, Ethiopie Tél.: (251-1) 51 38 22 Fax: (251-1) 51 93 21

Email: oau-ews@telecom.net.et

**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING
7 DECEMBER 2004
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/MIN/Comm. (XXI)

COMMUNIQUE OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its twenty-first meeting, held at ministerial level, on 7 December 2004, to deliberate on the situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the relations between the DRC and Rwanda, adopted the following decision:

Council,

1. **Expresses** its great concern at the continued presence of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe in the DRC, which constitutes a security problem for Rwanda, as well as for the DRC and the Region as a whole, and negatively affects the relations amongst the Countries of the Region;
2. **Stresses** the need to seek a peaceful solution to the problem posed by the ex-FAR/Interahamwe and other foreign armed groups in the DRC and **urges** Rwanda to refrain from any unilateral action. Council **further calls** on the DRC and Rwanda to exercise maximum restraint;
3. **Requests**, in view of the gravity of the situation and its far-reaching implications for the ongoing peace process in the DRC and regional peace and stability, the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the current Chairperson of the AU and the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council, to take appropriate steps to convene, as soon as possible, a Summit bringing together the Presidents of Rwanda and the DRC, in the presence of the African Union, the United Nations and other stakeholders, with a view to defusing the current tension and to consider ways and means to effectively address the issue of the disarmament and demobilization of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe;
4. **Appeals** to the UN to vigorously pursue its efforts to strengthen the United Nations Organization Mission in the DRC (MONUC) to enable it effectively support the disarmament and demobilization of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe. Council **urges** Rwanda and the DRC to fully cooperate with the United Nations and the African Union towards the speedy establishment and operationalization of the Joint Verification Mechanism (JVM), the Terms of Reference of which were agreed upon in New York on 22 September 2004. In this regard, Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to work closely with the Parties and the United Nations for the enhancement of the Joint Verification Mechanism, including its mode of operation and strength.

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