



PRESS RELEASE

THE SUMMIT OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY, 29 JANUARY 2017

Addis Ababa, 29 January 2017: At the request of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, the Commission of the African Union convened a Summit on the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) on 29 January 2017, on the margins of the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and was attended by the following Heads of State and Government: H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan and H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President of the Central African Republic (CAR), as well as H.E. Leonard She Okitundu, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Also in attendance was H.E. Ibrahim Ahmed Ghandour, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan. The United States of America, the United Nations and the European Union were represented by H.E. Mary Beth Leonard, US Ambassador to the African Union, Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Mr Koen Vervaeke, Managing Director for Africa of the European Union, respectively. The Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, was in attendance and made a presentation on the status of the implementation of the mandate of the RCI-LRA.

The meeting noted, in particular, the progress made by the RCI-LRA in combatting and degrading the Lord's Resistance Army terrorist group. However, it was acknowledged that the LRA still remains a threat to civilians, peace and security in the CAR, the DRC, South Sudan and the region as a whole. The meeting called for a renewed momentum in the fight against the LRA in order to ensure its final elimination and also stressed the urgency of providing immediate and adequate response for the humanitarian crisis triggered by the atrocious activities of the LRA. As a way forward, the meeting mandated the AU Commission to urgently convene a planning meeting of the members of the RCI-LRA to develop a comprehensive roadmap for the full accomplishment of the RCI-LRA mandate.

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Press Release: The Summit of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army, Addis Ababa, 29 January 2017

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