



Joint Communiqué of Heads of State of the Great Lakes Region on the Situation in the DRC

NAIROBI, November 7, 2008

At the occasion of the joint meeting of the Great Lakes Region, the African Union, and the United Nations on the situation unfolding in North Kivu, the Heads of State and government as well as the following leaders were present:

1. His Excellence Mr. President Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya and President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes;
2. His Excellence Mr. President Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and President of the African Union;
3. His Excellence Mr. President Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi;
4. His Excellence Mr. President Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo;
5. His Excellence Mr. President Joseph Kabila, President of the Democratic republic of Congo;
6. His Excellence Mr. President Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda;
7. His Excellence Mr. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda;
8. His Excellence Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations;
9. His Excellence Mr. Jean Ping, President of the Commission of the African Union;
10. Honorable Charles Nqaqula, Defense Minister, representing the Head of State of the Republic of South Africa;
11. Honorable Kabinga Pande, Foreign Minister representing the Head of State of the Republic of Zambia;
12. His Excellence Ambassador Majok Guandong, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan representing the Head of the State of the Republic of Sudan;
13. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

The Group of the Friends was also represented by:

- Her Excellence Ms. Jendayi Fraser, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs of the United States of America
- His Excellence Lord Malloch-Brown, Minister for the African Affairs of the United Kingdom
- His Excellence Alain Joyandet, Secretary of State to the Cooperation and Francophone of the Republic of France,
- His Excellence Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister for the Cooperation and the Development of the Netherlands
- His Excellence Louis Michel, Commissioner for development and humanitarian aid of the European Union;
- The Special Correspondents of the United Nations, the African Union, the representatives of the Group of Friends coming from Canada, the Netherlands, the United States, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Japan, France and the United Kingdom

As a result of the deliberation, the following decisions were made;

- A. The immediate establishment of a ceasefire agreement and consequently, all armed groups and militia operating in North Kivu must stop their engagements;
- B. The establishment of a humanitarian corridor in the area to allow for a response to the crisis and the human tragedy;
- C. Immediate implementation of the Joint Communiqué of Nairobi and the Goma Act of Engagement and all the other agreements and protocols relevant to ensure peace and lasting political stability;
- D. It is requested from the United Nations to reinforce the mandate of the peacekeeping forces in DRC and to provide to them adequate resources so that they may be able to address this very fragile situation;
- E. The Great Lakes Region cannot continue to be the witness of endless acts of violence and destruction by armed groups against the Congolese innocent population. The Great Lakes Region will send, if it is necessary and at the fitting moment, peacekeeping forces in the North Kivu Province in the DRC;
- F. The meeting calls on the United Nations and all humanitarian agencies to continue to maintain and reinforce their support to the victims of military violence until the end of this human tragedy;
- G. The meeting decided to put in place a mechanism and a process which will involve leaders of the Region. The mechanism will be chaired by President Mwai Kibaki and a team of facilitators which will include the former President of the Republic of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo as a Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations, and the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, his Excellence Benjamin Mkapa. The team of facilitators will be based in Nairobi, Kenya from which they will report to the President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to the President of the African Union and to the General Secretary of the United Nations.

Completed in Nairobi on November 7, 2008