

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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**NINETY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION AT
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL OF THE CENTRAL
ORGAN OF THE MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT
PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2003
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

Central Organ/MEC/AMB/COMM.(XCV)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION
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THE MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION,
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18 SEPTEMBER 2003, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

The Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 95th ordinary session at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 18 September 2003. The session was chaired by Ambassador Ana Nemba Uaiene, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the African Union (AU).

The Chairperson of the Commission, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, addressed the Session.

The Session was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Saïd Djinnit, on the situation obtaining in Guinea Bissau, the deployment of the African Mission in Burundi and the Indicative Work Programme on Peace and Security matters for the Central Organ and the Commission for 2003 – 2004.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ decided as follows:

A. On the Situation in Guinea Bissau

The Central Organ:

1. **CONDEMNS** the coup d'Etat that took place in Guinea Bissau on 14 September 2003, in violation of the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Lome Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government;
2. **ENDORSES** the Communiqués issued by the Chairman of the African Union, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique; the Current Chairperson of ECOWAS, President John Kufuor of Ghana; and the then Interim Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mr. Amara Essy;
3. **APPEALS** for a speedy return to constitutional order in line with the Lome Declaration;
4. **APPEALS** to all the parties to engage in constructive dialogue in order to resolve the current problems and to protect the lives and property of the people of Guinea Bissau;

5. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** to the efforts of the leaders of ECOWAS and **WELCOMES** the dispatch of a delegation to initiate discussions with the current authorities of the country;

6. **WELCOMES** the decision of the Chairperson of the Commission to dispatch a delegation led by Honorable Francisco Madeira to Guinea Bissau and to other countries of the region to assess the situation and consider, together with ECOWAS, ways and means of ensuring a speedy return to constitutional order;

7. **CALLS UPON** Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council, whose entry into force will enable the AU to deal more effectively with unconstitutional changes of government.

B. On the deployment of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB)

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the deployment of the African Mission;

2. **REITERATES** its concern over the financial and logistical difficulties that continue to face the Mission. In this respect, **REITERATES** its urgent appeal to Member States and the AU partners to provide the requisite assistance for the deployment and effective functioning of the African Mission;

3. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to pursue the preparations already initiated for the convening, in South Africa, in October 2003, of the Pledging Conference decided upon by the Executive Council during its Maputo Session, to mobilize resources for the African Mission.

C. On the Indicative Work Programme on Peace and Security Matters for the Central Organ and the Commission for the period 2003 - 2004

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the preparation of the Indicative Work Programme;

2. **INVITES** Member States to communicate their observations on the Programme to the Commission, in order to further enrich the document;

3. **DECIDES** to convene a session, as soon as possible, to undertake an in-depth exchange of views on the Indicative Work Programme.