

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 71ST ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE OAU MECHANISM
FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION
AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL
HELD IN ADDIS ABABA ON 23 NOVEMBER, 2000

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held its 71st Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level on Thursday, 23rd November, 2000. The Session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador KATI OHARA KORGA, Permanent Representative of Togo to the OAU.

The Central Organ considered the Reports of the Secretary General on the Evolution of the Peace Process Between Ethiopia and Eritrea and on the Situation in Cote d'Ivoire. It also received briefings on the situations in the Comoros, Burundi and Guinea Bissau.

On the situation in Guinea-Bissau, the Central Organ expressed support for the Communique issued by the Secretary General in which he expressed dismay over the political tension in that country, following the announcement by General Ansumane Mane, leader of the erstwhile junta, proclaiming himself Army Chief of Staff. The Secretary General urged General Mane to show due respect for the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau and work towards a negotiated solution by entering into dialogue with the Government of President Kumba Yalla which has already expressed its readiness to open dialogue with him.

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

(A) On the evolution of the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea:

The Central Organ:

- i. Pays tribute to the two parties, Ethiopia and Eritrea, for their compliance with the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities;
- ii. Encourages both parties to continue to demonstrate political will and the spirit of co-operation in order to hasten the conclusion of a comprehensive and lasting agreement on the conflict;

- iii. Pays tribute to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the Secretary General of the OAU, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the partners of the OAU particularly the USA and the European Union as well as their respective representatives, for the sustained efforts they have continued to deploy to promote a lasting settlement of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea;
- iv. Commends the United Nations Security Council and other members of the wider International Community for their continued support towards the implementation of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities particularly the deployment of the Peace-Keeping Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea;
- v. Commends both parties for their co-operation with the United Nations and the OAU in the implementation of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, particularly the deployment of the Peace-Keeping Mission, and encourages them to persevere in this direction to facilitate the speedy deployment of the Mission;
- vi. Appeals to Member States and to the OAU's partners to provide the necessary financial assistance towards the speedy and effective deployment of the OAU Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea;
- vii. Appeals to the entire International Community to accelerate mobilisation of the human, logistical and material resources necessary for the early deployment of the Peace-Keeping Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

(B) On developments in Cote d'Ivoire:

The Central Organ:

- i. Commends the people and the political leaders of Côte d'Ivoire for the very mature and responsible manner with which they handled the explosive situation in their country, before, during and after the Presidential elections;
- ii. Pays homage to the martyrs of democracy and the victims of the recent violent events in Cote d'Ivoire who paid the supreme sacrifice for their belief and in defense of democratic principles;

- iii. Expresses appreciation to the Current Chairman of the Organization, the Members of the OAU Committee of Ten, the Current Chairman and other leaders of ECOWAS, as well as other leaders on the Continent for their tireless efforts in contributing to the stabilization of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire;
- iv. Encourages the Government, the political leaders and the people of Côte d'Ivoire, to work together and pursue national reconciliation and peace with vigour, candor and selflessness, so that the root causes of the recent problems could be best addressed in the national interest of Côte d'Ivoire;
- v. Endorses the proposal of the Secretary General to dispatch an OAU Observer Team to monitor the conduct of the Parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on 10 December, 2000, and to assist the Ivorian authorities in ensuring that the people of Côte d'Ivoire are afforded the opportunity to elect their representatives in conditions that are free, fair and transparent.