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**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 72ND ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE OAU MECHANISM
FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND
RESOLUTION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL
HELD IN ADDIS ABABA ON 8 DECEMBER, 2000**

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held its 72nd Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level on Friday, 8 December, 2000. The Session was chaired by H.E. CHERGUI, Smail, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and Permanent Representative to the OAU.

The Central Organ received a briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary General to Sierra Leone on his mission to the region as well as a briefing on developments in Cote d'Ivoire and an update on the peace process in the DRC by the Assistant Secretary General.

The Central Organ was also briefed by the Ambassador of Djibouti on the incidents that occurred in his country on 7th December, 2000. The Ambassador informed the meeting that the situation has returned to normalcy.

At the end of its deliberations the Central Organ decided as follows
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(A) On the Situation in Sierra Leone :

The Central Organ:

- i) **WELCOMES** the signing of the Agreement on Cease-fire and Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front at Abuja, Nigeria, on the 10th of November, 2000, and expresses satisfaction that the Cease-fire Agreement has, so far, held;
- ii) **CALLS** on both parties and the RUF in particular, to honour their commitments under the Cease-fire Agreement, including allowing UNAMSIL to deploy its troops and other personnel throughout Sierra Leone, including the diamond-producing areas, in the discharge of its responsibilities; ensuring free movement of persons and goods, and unimpeded movement of humanitarian agencies, refugees and displaced persons, with a view to restoring the authority of the Government of Sierra Leone throughout the entire country; and immediately re-commencing the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programme;
- iii) **URGES** the RUF to immediately return all weapons, ammunition and other equipment seized by it, in accordance with the Cease-fire Agreement;
- iv) **REAFFIRMS** that the Lome Peace Agreement of 7th July, 1999, continues to be the framework for the restoration of genuine and lasting peace in Sierra Leone;

- v) **FURTHER REAFFIRMS** the support of the OAU for the efforts of ECOWAS to bring about a durable solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone.
- vi) **WELCOMES** the decision of the Secretary General to appoint a Special Envoy for Sierra Leone and encourages the Secretary General and his Special Envoy to vigorously pursue their efforts aimed at supporting the role of ECOWAS and ensuring that OAU continues to make its contribution to the restoration of durable peace in Sierra Leone and the region as a whole.
- vii) **CALLS** on the United Nations and the International Community at large to provide ECOWAS with the necessary financial and logistical support to facilitate the deployment of additional troops from the region, within the framework of UNAMSIL.

(B) On Developments in Cote d'Ivoire :

The Central Organ :

- i. **EXPRESSES** its concern about the tension and violence which have occurred in Cote d'Ivoire, following the decision of the Constitutional Court to declare Mr. Alassane Ouattara of the RDR party as ineligible to stand as a candidate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections;
- ii. **RECALLS** that at its meeting of 23rd November, 2000, it encouraged the Government, political leaders and people of Cote d'Ivoire to work together and pursue national reconciliation and peace with vigour, candor and selflessness, so that the root causes of the crisis could be addressed in the national interest of Cote d'Ivoire. The Central Organ thus, endorsed the proposal of the Secretary General to despatch an OAU Observer Team to Cote d'Ivoire to monitor the conduct

of the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on 10 December, 2000, and to assist in ensuring that the people of Cote d'Ivoire were afforded the opportunity to elect their representatives in conditions that were free, fair and transparent;

- iii. **CONSIDERS**, however, that in view of the subsequent developments that followed the ruling of the Constitutional Court in that country, the prevailing conditions are not conducive for the observation of the legislative elections by the OAU;
- iv. **APPEALS** to the Government and all the political leaders of Cote d'Ivoire as well as their followers, to remain calm and exercise restraint and do all they can to prevent a further deterioration in a security and political situation which is already extremely delicate. In this regard, the Central Organ also calls on all concerned to work towards finding a solution to the present crisis, in a spirit of national reconciliation and unity.

C. On the Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo :

The Central Organ :

- 1. **EXPRESSES** concern over the continued violations of the cease fire and urges all the Parties to comply with the cease fire Agreement;
- 2. **WELCOMES** the Sub-Plans for Disengagement and Redeployment of forces approved by the Joint Military Commission on 18 November 2000; adopted by the Political Committee on 29 November 2000 and signed by the Parties' Defence Chiefs in Harare on 6 December 2000 in accordance with the Kampala Disengagement and Redeployment Plan;

3. **CALLS** on the United Nations to take appropriate measures towards a speedy deployment of phase II of MONUC in order to ensure the effective supervision and monitoring of the process of disengagement;
4. **FURTHER** calls on Member States and the wider International Community to extend financial assistance to sustain the activities of the Joint Military Commission .