

**Central Organ/MEC/AMB/Comm. (LXXIX)****COMMUNIQUE OF THE 79TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL
ORGAN OF THE OAU MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION,
MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL****ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 11 JANUARY 2002**

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 79th Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial Level, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11 January 2002, to discuss the situation in Madagascar following the Presidential elections of 16 December 2001. The session was convened at the request of the Ambassador of the Republic of Madagascar to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the OAU, H.E. Mr. Christian Rémi Richard, and was chaired by H.E. Mr. Simataa Akapelwa, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the OAU.

Ambassador Christian Rémi Richard briefed the session on the current situation in his country particularly as it relates to the conduct of the recently concluded Presidential elections and the developments that followed the publication of the provisional results.

Following its deliberations, the Central Organ:

1. **Welcomes** the initiative taken by the Ambassador of Madagascar to Ethiopia and **takes note** of his briefing on the prevailing situation in his country;

2. **Expresses** concern at the prevailing situation in Madagascar and the potential for undermining peace and stability in that country in particular and the region as a whole. In this respect, the Central Organ **stresses** the need for all those involved in the electoral process to respect the provisions and rules governing the process and to demonstrate a spirit of tolerance and dialogue so as to contribute to the observation of rule of law and the consolidation of the democratic culture in the country;
3. **Urges** all the concerned parties and the people of Madagascar in general, to exercise maximum restraint and to remain calm, so as to enable the relevant Institutions in the country to carry out their mandates in a serene atmosphere and as provided for by the country's Constitution;
4. **Decides** to remain seized with the matter, considering its preventive mandate and the relevant Decisions and Declarations adopted by the OAU on unconstitutional changes of Government namely, the Algiers' Decision on unconstitutional changes [AHG/Dec.141 and 142 (XXXV)], and the Lomé Declaration on the Framework for an OAU response to unconstitutional changes of Government [AHG/Decl.5 (XXXVI)];
5. **Requests** the Secretary General to maintain contacts with all the Parties in Madagascar and to take the most appropriate steps to help defuse the tension in the country.