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CM/Dec. 573 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Council:

1. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the assassination of President Laurent Desire Kabila, which act was a flagrant violation of the principles of the OAU and **CONVEYS** its condolences to his family, the Government and people of the D.R.C;
2. **COMMENDS** the commitment by the President and the Government of the DRC to proceed with national dialogue under the facilitation of Sir Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana;
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the commitment by the Government of Rwanda to redeploy its forces as indicated in its letter of 18 February 2001 to the President of the United Nations Security Council as well as the commitment by Uganda to immediately reduce by two battalions the strength its forces in the territory of the DRC;
4. **WELCOMES** the outcome of the Third Summit of the Signatories to the Ceasefire Agreement in the DRC held in Lusaka on 15 February 2001 during which the Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Lusaka Cease-Fire Agreement, the Kampala Disengagement Plan and the Harare Disengagement and Redeployment sub-plans and committed themselves to the accelerated implementation of these important instruments;
5. **ALSO WELCOMES** the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001 following the joint meeting of the Security Council and members of the Political Committee in New York from 20 to 22 February 2001;
6. **URGES** the United Nations to take the necessary steps for a full and speedy deployment of military observers and related personnel in the DRC as authorized by UN Security Council Resolution 1291 of 24 February 2000 and paragraph 19 of UN Security Council Resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001;
7. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the appointment by the OAU Secretary General, of Brigadier General Njuki Mwaniki of Kenya as Chairman of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) and **URGES** all the Parties to lend him the necessary support;
8. **CALLS ON** all Member States and on the International Community to provide political support and financial assistance towards the peace process in the DRC particularly to sustain the work of the Joint Military Commission and the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue;
9. **REITERATES** its support for the efforts of President Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Chairman of the Regional Initiative and other Leaders and **ENCOURAGES** them to persevere in their efforts aimed at finding an early and lasting solution to the conflict.

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DECISION ON REFUGEES

Council:

1. **EXPRESSES** its grave concern over the persistent and deteriorating refugee situation in Africa, a catastrophic situation for which Africans themselves should assume primary responsibility;
2. **UNDERScores** the imperative need to put an end to this situation by resolutely addressing its causes;
3. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the fielding of OAU evaluation and solidarity missions

to Zambia, Sierra Leone, Congo and Guinea in January/February 2001;

4. EXPRESSES deserved appreciation for the financial assistance extended to the countries visited.

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DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN AFRICA (CSSDCA)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE with appreciation of the measures taken by the General Secretariat to implement the Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government at their July 2000 Summit on CSSDCA in Lome and URGES the Secretariat to redouble its efforts in that regard;

2. WELCOMES the offer made by South Africa to host the meeting of Experts on the development and cooperation calabashes;

3. EMPHASIZES the urgent need to convene the scheduled meetings on the calabashes of the CSSDCA on development and cooperation and CALLS on Member States to offer to do so;

4. WELCOMES the pledge by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to contribute the sum of US\$500,000 towards the takeoff of the CSSDCA within the Work Programme of the OAU, and CALLS ON other Member States to contribute towards this process;

5. EXPRESSES the hope that other Member States will offer to host the scheduled meetings on security and stability.

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DECISION ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN AFRICA

Council

1. TAKES NOTE of the declarations made by the delegations of Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique on the natural calamities (torrential rains followed by floodings) which recently affected these countries, destroying infrastructure and resulting in mass movement of the people within and outside these countries;

2. EXPRESSES its solidarity with these countries and APPEALS to Member States and the International Community to respond favourably to the appeal for urgent assistance made by the affected countries;

3. REGRETS the periodic devastation caused to some OAU Member States by natural calamities and URGES the OAU Secretary General, in cooperation with relevant UN and other agencies, to consider the establishment of an appropriate mechanism to address the phenomenon.

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DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION

Council:

1. COMMENDS the efforts deployed by all Member States particularly by Egypt, Libya, The Sudan and Algeria to revitalise the Afro-Arab Cooperation;

2. WELCOMES the information provided by the Foreign Minister of the Sudan regarding the intention of Egypt, Libya and The Sudan to submit to the next Council of Arab Ministers, in March 2001 in Cairo, specific proposals aimed at revitalising Afro-Arab Cooperation;