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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
FIFTH SESSION
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ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm. (V)

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE PEACE
AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council, meeting in its fifth session, on 13 April 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted the following communiqué:

A. ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION:

The Peace and Security Council,

1. **Welcomes** the remarkable progress made in the preparatory process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and, in this regard, **expresses** satisfaction at the active and fruitful partnership between the African Union and the United Nations;
2. **Supports** the initiative of the Chairperson of the Commission to open an AU Liaison Office in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Great Lakes Region, until the 1st Summit, scheduled to be held in November 2004, in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, it being understood that the establishment of the Office will be reviewed following that Summit;
3. **Welcomes** the commitment of the international community, in particular through the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region, to provide the necessary political, diplomatic, technical and financial support to contribute to the success of the Conference.

B. ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AU LIAISON OFFICE IN LIBERIA:

The Peace and Security Council,

1. **Commends** the initiatives taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure an AU presence in Monrovia, to enable the AU play its role in the implementation of the Accra Comprehensive Agreement;
2. **Supports** the proposal by the Chairperson of the Commission to formalize the presence of the AU in Liberia, through the opening of a Liaison Office, to support more effectively the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on Liberia and the ongoing reconciliation process, it being understood that the establishment of the Office will be reviewed after the elections scheduled to be held in October 2005;

3. **Commends** the efforts being deployed by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in support of the peace process and **encourages** the parties to the Peace Agreement to continue to abide by their obligations and to fully cooperate with UNMIL and other members of the international community;
4. **Appeals** to the Member States and the wider international community to render the requisite humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons;
5. **Urges** the countries and institutions which made pledges during the International Conference for Reconstruction in Liberia, held in New York, on 5 - 6 February 2004, to honour the commitments made, as soon as possible.

C. ON THE CRISIS IN THE DARFUR REGION OF THE SUDAN:

The Peace and Security Council,

1. **Expresses** its concern and preoccupation over the grave humanitarian situation in Darfur;
2. **Welcomes** the signing, on 8 April 2004, in N'djamena, Chad, of a Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Sudan (GoS), on the one hand, the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M), and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), on the other;
3. **Congratulates** the Government of Chad for the tireless efforts deployed to secure that Agreement and **commends** the Mediation Team for the successful conclusion of the first phase of the negotiations;
4. **Urges** the Parties to fully and scrupulously implement the Agreement, so as to pave the way for the immediate and unhindered delivery of the urgently needed relief to avert further aggravation of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. The Peace and Security Council **also urges** the Parties to commit themselves to the respect for international humanitarian law and human rights;
5. **Takes note** of the statement by the Government of Sudan on the establishment of a Ministerial Committee invested with the following tasks: control and disarmament of militia and non-regular forces; opening of all relief corridors to secure unimpeded access to the area, for humanitarian assistance; provision of basic needs for the affected population in the area, in order to

create a conducive atmosphere for the stabilization and normalization of the situation in Darfur. The Peace and Security Council **requests** the Government to follow through with these commitments and to bring to justice those responsible for violations of human rights, in line with AU's expressed commitment to fight impunity;

6. **Urges** the international community to provide, as a matter of top priority, humanitarian assistance to the population of Darfur, particularly the internally displaced persons and the refugees in neighboring Chad. In this regard, the Peace and Security Council **urges** the Parties, particularly the Government, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to cooperate fully with humanitarian agencies;

7. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take urgent steps, including the dispatch of a reconnaissance mission to Darfur, to ensure the early setting up and deployment of the Ceasefire Monitoring Commission in consultation with the Mediator, the Parties and other relevant stakeholders. In this regard, the Peace and Security Council **urges** the Member States that have been approached by the Commission (i.e. Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria and Senegal) to urgently provide military observers;

8. **Appeals** to the United Nations and the international community to assist and support the deployment of the Ceasefire Monitoring Commission, to ensure the scrupulous compliance by the Parties with the provisions of the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement;

9. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to consider ways and means of ensuring AU's continued involvement in the search of a global and definitive settlement of the problem of Darfur. The Peace and Security Council **urges** the Parties to fully cooperate with the Mediator and engage in dialogue in good faith;

10. **Decides** to remain actively seized with the problem in Darfur.

D. ON THE SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

The Peace and Security Council,

1. **Remains concerned** by the impasse in the national reconciliation process, following the events which unfolded in Abidjan on 25, 26 and 27 March 2004 and the suspension by the Ministers from the Coordination of Political

Forces signatory to the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra II Agreements of their participation in the Government;

2. **Underscores** that the existence of militias and parallel forces is a serious obstacle to the peace process in Cote d'Ivoire. In this respect, the Peace and Security Council **strongly urges** the authorities and all the Ivorian political forces to do their level best to put an end to this situation;

3. **Urges** all Ivorian parties to exercise restraint and display a sense of responsibility and refrain from any action likely to exacerbate the tension, and **calls upon them** to resume dialogue and to create conducive conditions for the return to the Government of National Reconciliation of the parties and opposition movements which had suspended their participation. The Peace and Security Council **also urges** all the Ivorian parties to commit themselves to ensure unconditionally the full implementation of Linas-Marcoussis Agreement;

4. **Encourages** the Chairperson of the African Union to consider, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS and the Secretary-General of the OIF, any initiative likely to assist all the stakeholders in the on-going reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire, to regain the serenity, the confidence and the political will necessary for the continued implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the organization, in 2005, of free, fair and transparent legislative and presidential elections, in conducive conditions;

5. **Expresses** gratitude to the United Nations for the deployment of ONUCI, and to ECOWAS for the sustained efforts deployed in Cote d'Ivoire in a very difficult environment;

6. **Welcomes** the establishment by the United Nations of a Commission to inquire into the events of 25, 26 and 27 March 2004;

7. **Commends** the AU Commission, including the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, for its contribution to the efforts to ensure the successful conclusion of the reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire.

E. ON THE SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) :

The Peace and Security Council,

1. **Expresses grave concern** at the tension which has recently prevailed at the top of the State between the actors of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and which has adverse effects on the implementation of the Comprehensive and Inclusive Agreement and on the transition process in particular, and **regrets** the many delays in the implementation of the programmes as planned within the framework of the transition process. The Peace and Security Council **urges** the Congolese Parties to place the interest of the DRC above any other consideration and to implement in good faith the commitments entered into;
2. **Calls upon** the Transitional Institutions, each within its area of competence, to speed up the elaboration of fundamental laws, the reunification of the country through the appointment of the Provincial Governors and Vice-Governors, the restoration of the State authority all over the country and the restructuring and integration of armies and security services, as well as the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme (DDR);
3. **Requests** the neighbouring countries of Congo to continue to support the efforts of the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC), in order to ensure compliance with the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1493, dated 28 July 2003 of the UN Security Council. It **further urges** them to fully cooperate with the Committee set up by the Security Council in its resolution 1533, dated 12 March 2004, to monitor strict compliance with the embargo.
4. **Commends** the AU Commission, including the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, for the efforts being deployed to contribute to the peace process. In this respect, the Peace and Security Council **encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission to dispatch, as soon as possible, an inter-departmental team to the DRC to assess the evolution of the peace process and determine how best the AU could provide enhanced support to the ongoing efforts, including the electoral process.