COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE OAU MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 29 JANUARY 2001

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its seventy-third ordinary session at the level of Ambassadors on 29 January 2001, in Addis Ababa. The session was chaired by Ambassador Kati Ohara Korga, Permanent Representative of Togo to the OAU.

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the situation in that country, the Central Organ:

1. strongly condemns the assassination of President Laurent Désiré Kabila, which is a flagrant violation of the principles of the OAU, and Decision 142 on unconstitutional changes adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Algiers in July 1999;

2. further condemns the use of force as a means of settling political differences;

3. conveys its condolence to his family, the Congolese Government and people, and congratulates the leaders and the people of the DRC on the calm and serenity they had shown during this tragic event;
4. **expresses** the hope that this painful event would not further complicate the efforts made to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in the DRC through the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and **welcomes** the encouraging steps being taken to give new momentum to the peace process;

5. **reiterates** its commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC;

6. **commends the pledge** of the new President of the DRC, Major General Joseph Kabila, to work towards a peaceful solution to the conflict through dialogue;

7. **reaffirms** its support for the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement as the sole basis accepted by all the Parties for the resolution of the conflict in DRC;

8. **expresses satisfaction** at the efforts made by the President of the Togolese Republic, current Chairman of the OAU, and **commends** his initiative to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution at Summit level, to consider the situation in the DRC;

9. **reiterates** its support to 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, in conformity with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement;

10. **calls on** the International Community to extend assistance to address the humanitarian situation in the DRC and the problems of the Congolese refugees in neighbouring countries;
11. appeals to the Parties signatory to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement to re-commit themselves to implement the said Agreement in all its aspects and to comply with all its provisions, particularly in implementing the Plan and sub-Plans for the disengagement and redeployment of forces in the DRC and the deployment of the UN Mission in Congo (MONUC);

12. reiterates its appeal to the UN to take all the necessary measures for the speedy deployment of Phase II of MONUC;

13. appeals once again urgently to the Member States and the International Community to give political support to the Peace Process in the DRC and financial support for the activities of the JMC.