



Central Organ/MEC/AMB/Comm. (LXXV)

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

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 22 AUGUST 2001**

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 75th Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Wednesday 22 August 2001. The session was chaired by Ambassador S. Akapelwa, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the OAU.

The Central Organ considered the evolution of the peace process in Burundi and the situation in the Comoros.

The Central Organ was also briefed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Angola on the prevailing situation in his country and, in particular, the continued resort by UNITA to armed attacks against the civilian population, including the recent attack and destruction, on 10 August 2001, of a train carrying civilian passengers, in the vicinity of Zenza do Ihombe, which was claimed by UNITA and left 252 persons dead and 165 others wounded.

At the end of the deliberations, the Central Organ adopted the following decisions:

**a) On the evolution of the peace process in Burundi**

**The Central Organ:**

1. **WELCOMES** the positive outcome of the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, held in Arusha on 23 July 2001, in particular the signing by President Pierre Buyoya and the Vice-President designate, Domitien Ndayizeye, of a document on the conditions for a smooth Transition;
2. **URGES** all the Burundian parties to do their utmost to ensure the speedy and scrupulous implementation of the relevant decisions of the Arusha Regional Summit, in particular the setting up of the Protection Force and the Transitional Government;

3. **ENCOURAGES** the Government and the Implementation Monitoring Committee of the Arusha Agreement to continue with their efforts to create an environment conducive to the return of the political exiles and their participation in the Transitional Government;
4. **APPEALS** to the G10 and the G7 to restore the unity of their respective groups so as to contribute effectively to the Transitional Government and the full implementation of all the provisions of the Peace Agreement;
5. **WELCOMES** the commitment by some African countries to contribute to the training of the elements of the Protection Force, once it is established;
6. **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** to the efforts of the countries of the Regional Initiative on Peace in Burundi and the Facilitator, former President Nelson Mandela, and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue with their efforts until the achievement of a lasting peace in Burundi;
7. **URGENTLY APPEALS**, once again, to the armed groups, namely the FDD and the FNL, to put an immediate end to their attacks, whose principal victims are the civilian population, and to join the peace process. In this regard, the Central Organ **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** to the efforts of President El Hadj Omar Bongo and Vice President Jacob Zuma, within the framework of the peace process, to secure an agreement on the cessation of hostilities and the conclusion of a ceasefire;
8. **APPEALS** to Member States and the international community at large to provide the requisite support to the Transitional Government once it is formed. It also **APPEALS** to the donors who announced contributions during the Paris Conference of December 2000 on Burundi to redeem their pledges as a matter of urgency;
9. **WELCOMES** the ongoing efforts for the repatriation of the Burundian refugees in Tanzania, and **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to continue to follow-up closely this issue, in conformity with Decision CM/Dec.590 (LXXIV) adopted by the 74<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 5 to 8 July 2001;
10. **APPEALS** to Member States and the international community at large to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy populations in Burundi;

11. **REQUESTS** the Security Council to consider favourably the appeal of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Summit for the deployment of a peacekeeping mission in Burundi;
12. **REITERATES** the commitment of the OAU to do its utmost to sustain the current momentum in the peace process and **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Burundian Parties and the Regional Initiative, to work out the modalities for a further contribution by the OAU to the current stage of the peace process and mobilize the required resources to that effect, both from Member States and the international community at large.

**b) On the situation in the Comoros**

**The Central organ:**

1. **REAFFIRMS** the continued determination of the OAU to assist the Comorian parties in their reconciliation efforts, on the basis of the maintenance of the unity and territorial integrity of the Archipelago, the speedy return to constitutional order and the setting up of democratic institutions;
2. **WELCOMES** the progress achieved in the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros of 17 February 2001, in particular the finalization of a preliminary draft constitution for the New Comorian Ensemble, and **ENCOURAGES** the parties to establish the remaining sub-Commissions provided for in the Framework Agreement, particularly the sub-Commission in charge of weapons collection and youth reinsertion, so as to ensure the speedy and successful conclusion of the reconciliation process;
3. **DEPLORES** the incidents which led to the change of leadership in Anjouan and **TAKES NOTE** of the statements by the new leadership of the Island expressing its commitment to the Framework Agreement;
4. **RECOMMENDS** the holding of a Ministerial meeting of the countries of the region and the OAU Troika to review the situation in the Comoros in the light of the recent developments in the country;

5. **REITERATES** its appreciation to the OAU Partners in the Comoros, notably the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the United Nations, for their efforts in sustaining the ongoing reconciliation process and ensuring the maintenance of the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros, the return of the country to constitutional order and the setting up of democratic institutions. In this regard, and in order to enhance coordination, the Central Organ **REQUESTS** the Secretary General, in close consultation with South Africa, as Coordinator of the regional efforts on the Comoros, to speed up the convening of a coordination meeting between the countries of the Region and the OAU Troika, on one hand, and OAU Partners within the international community and other interested actors on the other hand;
6. **FURTHER REITERATES** its appeal to Member States, which have not yet done so, to make voluntary contributions to the OAU Peace Fund to ensure that the reconciliation process does not suffer any set-back as a result of lack of funds;
7. **FURTHER APPEALS** to Member States and other countries and donors who have made pledges during the meeting of the Friends of the Comoros, held in Paris, France, on 5 July 2001, to redeem their pledges as soon as possible;
8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General, working closely with the Government of Mauritius, to accelerate the preparations for the donors conference on the Comoros, scheduled to take place in Mauritius in 2002, which is expected to address the socio-economic problems of the Archipelago.

c) **On the recent developments in Angola**

**The Central Organ:**

1. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** UNITA for the barbaric act committed, on 10 August 2001, against a train carrying civilian passengers and for its intransigence, and **HOLDS** its leadership responsible for these attacks against innocent populations, which run contrary to all international norms and standards;
2. **CALLS UPON** OAU Member States and the wider international community to strengthen the sanctions imposed on UNITA and its leaders, in conformity with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and OAU decisions.