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

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 22 OCTOBER 2001
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The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 77th Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level, on Monday 22 October 2001, to consider the outcome of the meeting on the Inter-Congoles Dialogue held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 21 October 2001. The Session was chaired by Ambassador S. Akapelwa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the OAU.

The OAU Secretary-General attended the meeting. He recalled the role played by the OAU in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He also reiterated the willingness of the OAU to continue to support the Facilitator in his efforts to ensure the success of the Inter-Congoles Dialogue.

The Session was briefed by the Facilitator of the Inter-Congoles Dialogue, Sir Ketumile Masire, on the proceedings of the Addis Ababa meeting.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ took the following decision.

The Central Organ:

1. TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION of the briefing by the Facilitator of the Inter-Congoles Dialogue (ICD), Sir Ketumile Masire;

2. REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT to the Facilitator and COMMENDS him for his relentless efforts;

3. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the fact that the long awaited Inter-Congoles Dialogue was launched by the Facilitator in Addis Ababa, on 15 October 2001, in the presence H.E. Frederick Chiluba, President of the Republic of Zambia, Chairman of the Regional Initiative for Peace in the DRC and Current Chairman of the OAU, H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Amara Essy, Secretary-General of the OAU, and Mr. Amos Namanga Ngongi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the DRC;
4. **REGRETS** the difficulties encountered during the Addis Ababa discussions, which led to the adjournment of the meeting;

5. **UNDERSCORES** that the responsibility for the success of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue lies in the hands of the Congolese parties themselves. In this respect, the Central Organ **STRONGLY APPEALS** to all the parties to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and mutual accommodation and to extend full cooperation to the Facilitator in order to resolve all the outstanding issues before the resumption of the next round of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue;

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps, including the setting up of an appropriate liaison mechanism with the Facilitator, to provide him with strong political and other necessary support;

7. **APPEALS** to all OAU Member States and the international community at large to provide financial and material assistance to the Facilitator, so as to enable him sustain the Inter-Congolese Dialogue;

8. **STRESSES** the importance of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue as one of the key components of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement aimed at promoting a lasting reconciliation among all the Congolese and establishing a new political dispensation in the DRC;

9. **FURTHER STRESSES** the need to expedite the Inter-Congolese Dialogue so as to consolidate the progress made in the implementation of the military aspects of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement;

10. **CALLS UPON** all the parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement to continue to abide by all the provisions of the Agreement and all other subsequent agreements reached, and to refrain from any action which could jeopardize its implementation and impede the successful conclusion of the Dialogue.