



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

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

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 27 NOVEMBER 2001

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 78th Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level, on Tuesday, 27 November 2001, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The session was chaired by Ambassador S. Akapelwa, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the OAU.

The Central Organ considered the Report of the Secretary General on the deployment of a Military Observer Mission for Arms Collection in Anjouan as part of the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros [**Central Organ/MEC/AMB/2/ (LXVIII)**].

The Central Organ also considered the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), in the light of the recent developments in that country.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ decided on the following:

a) On the situation in the Comoros:

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros, particularly the preparations being made for holding the Constitutional referendum, scheduled on 23 December 2001;
2. **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to deploy, as a matter of urgency, an OAU Military Observer Mission to the Comoros, composed of 16 Military Observers to oversee the operation of arms collection on the Comorian island of Anjouan, from 1 December 2001, in conformity with the operation plan described in Report **Central Organ/MEC/AMB/2/ (LXVIII)**;
3. **URGES** the Member States concerned to provide Military Observers for the OAU Mission, as soon as possible;

4. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to all the Comorian Parties to continue to implement the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros and **ENCOURAGES** them to create conditions conducive to the holding of the constitutional referendum on the set date;
5. **FURTHER APPEALS** to the international community, in particular the OAU partners in the Comoros, to provide the OAU with the necessary financial and logistical support for the deployment of the OAU Observer Military Mission and to assist the Comorian parties in their efforts to promote a climate of confidence and serenity before the holding of the constitutional referendum of 23 December 2001.

b) On the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR):

The Central Organ:

1. **EXPRESSES** its concern over the situation prevailing in the Central African Republic;
2. **REITERATES** its commitment to the OAU Decisions and Declarations on the rejection of unconstitutional changes and on the strengthening of the democratisation process and observance of human rights;
3. **URGES** the Central African parties to solve their differences through dialogue and consultation and **ENCOURAGES** them to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and accommodation, and to work together to seek solutions acceptable to all on the basis of democratic principles, observance of human rights and good governance;
4. **ENCOURAGES** the leaders of the Region as well as other African leaders to continue their efforts to assist the Central African Parties to overcome their differences through dialogue and to promote lasting peace and security in the Central African Republic. In this regard, the Central Organ commends the initiative of President Omar Hassan El Beshir of the Sudan, in his capacity as Current Chairman of CEN-SAD, to convene in Khartoum, on 3 December 2001, a Summit to consider the situation in the CAR;
5. **APPEALS** to the International Community and International Financial Institutions to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction and the socio – economic development of the Central African Republic;
6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to continue to follow closely the developments in the CAR in coordination with the United Nations, in particular, the UN Office in the CAR, and to take all appropriate steps to that end, including the appointment of a Special Envoy.