

**Central Organ/MEC/AMB/Comm.(LXXX)****COMMUNIQUE OF THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE OAU MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL****ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 23 FEBRUARY 2002**

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 80<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Saturday 23 February 2002, under the chairmanship of Ambassador S. Akapelwa, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the OAU, to examine the situation prevailing in Madagascar, in the light of the decision by the candidate Marc Ravalomanana, who came first after the first round of Presidential election organized on 16 December 2001, to proclaim himself President of the Republic. The Session was convened at the initiative of the Secretary General, in accordance with the Lome Declaration on a Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government.

The Central Organ was briefed by the Secretary General, Mr. Amara Essy, on the developments in Madagascar and the efforts deployed by the OAU to find a negotiated solution to the current crisis. The Central Organ was also briefed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Madagascar in Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the OAU, on the measures adopted by the Government of Madagascar in the face of the situation, including the decree proclaiming the state of national emergency.

Furthermore, the Central Organ was briefed by the Ambassador of Angola to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the OAU on the situation in his country.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ:

**ON THE SITUATION IN MADAGASCAR**

1. **expressed** its grave concern about the developments in Madagascar and the risks that they entailed for peace in the country and stability in the region;

2. **affirmed** the statement made by the Secretary General on 22 February 2002, and **strongly condemned** the decision of candidate Marc Ravalomanana to proclaim himself President of the Republic. In that regard, the Central Organ **stressed** that this decision constituted a flagrant violation of constitutional legality and the Decisions and Declarations adopted at the OAU Summits held in Algiers in July 1999 and in Lome in July 2000 on Unconstitutional changes. It also **constituted** a brutal setback to the de-escalation process and the search for a solution undertaken under the auspices of the OAU;
3. **requested** the Secretary General to pursue his consultations with the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Secretary General of the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF) and the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), as well as with other OAU Partners, to continue to provide the broadest support to the OAU efforts and to promote a concerted and appropriate international response to the new developments taking place in Madagascar;
4. **Paid tribute** to the people of Madagascar for the calm and dignity shown since the election of 16 December 2001 and **urgently appealed** to the people and all the political actors of Madagascar to show restraint in order to maintain peace and security in the country;
5. **urged** candidate Marc Ravalomanana and his supporters to return to the negotiation process initiated under the auspices of the OAU and aimed at finding a negotiated solution to the crisis. To that end, the Central Organ **called upon** the Secretary General to take all the necessary steps in order to ensure the resumption, without delay of the negotiation process under the auspices of the OAU and to find a solution to all outstanding issues;
6. **paid tribute** to the Secretary General for his sustained efforts aimed at finding a solution to the crisis in Madagascar;

7. **decided** to remain seized with the situation in Madagascar and **requested** the Secretary General to keep the Central Organ regularly informed of the developments in that country.

ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA

The Central Organ took note of the important statement made by the Ambassador of Angola on the situation in his country. The Ambassador recalled that the Government of Angola has always been disposed to comply with the Lusaka Protocol and to cooperate fully in the pursuit of the peace process. He stated that UNITA has always been an obstacle to the peace process. Informed the meeting that in the course of a combat yesterday, Mr. Jonas Savimbi was killed by the Government forces. He informed the meeting that the situation in the country remained calm. He called upon the OAU and the rest of the International Community to continue to support the Angolan people in their efforts aimed at restoring peace and security in Angola.