



ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE AFRICAINE

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**Eighty-Second Ordinary Session
of the Central Organ of the OAU
Mechanism for Conflict Prevention,
Management and Resolution at
Ambassadorial Level**

**26 April 2002
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE EIGHTY SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF
THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE OAU MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT
PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION HELD AT
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26 April 2002

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 82nd Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level, on Friday 26 April 2002, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The session was chaired by Ambassador S. Akapelwa, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the OAU.

The Central Organ considered the situation in Angola and the situation in the Comoros, in light of the reports submitted by the Secretary General.

The Central Organ was also briefed on the decision of the Ethiopia/Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC), the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and the situation in Madagascar.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ decided as follows:

A/ On the situation in Angola:

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the signing, on 4 April 2002, by the respective military leaders of the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA forces, of a ceasefire agreement as enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding Supplementary to the Lusaka Protocol for the Cessation of Hostilities and Resolution of Pending Military Issues Under the Terms of the Lusaka Protocol and **URGES** the parties to fully comply with the Memorandum of Understanding;
2. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the commitment of the Government of Angola to the achievement of lasting peace and reconciliation in the country, in conformity with the Lusaka Protocol. In this respect, the Central Organ **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the statement issued by the Angolan Government on 13 March 2002, in which it outlined the steps it intends to take with respect to the peace process, including the transformation of UNITA into a political party, the issue of amnesty for all crimes committed in the context of the armed conflict, the extension of state administration, as well as humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction;
3. **COMMENDS** the Government of Angola and the leadership of UNITA for the establishment of a Joint Commission, to be supported by complementary structures in the country's 12 provinces, with a mandate to oversee the

resolution of pending military issues as provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding;

4. **STRESSES** the need to maintain the sanctions regime against UNITA until there is an irreversible progress in the peace process. In this respect, the Central Organ **WELCOMES** the decision of the Security Council of 18 April 2002 to extend the mandate of the UN Monitoring Mechanism for a further period of six months, and **EXPRESSES** its support to the work of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on the UN Security Council Sanctions against UNITA;
5. **EXPRESSES** support for the initiative of the Government to undertake a Public Investment Program, aimed at mobilizing and deploying resources into post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation, as well as socio-economic development;
6. **CALLS** upon the international community, including OAU Member States, to contribute generously to the post-war reconstruction efforts, as well as to the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis in Angola, including the integration of UNITA combatants into the National Army or return to normal life, mine clearance and resettlement of IDPs and repatriation of refugees. In this respect, the Central Organ **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the commitment of the Government of Angola to work closely with the international community;
7. **REITERATES** OAU's continued disposition to support the efforts of the Angolan people and leaders towards sustainable peace and development.

B/ Situation in the Comoros

The Central Organ:

1. **EXPRESSES** its grave concern at the situation prevailing in the Comoros as a result of differences over the outcome of elections recently conducted in the Archipelago;
2. **AFFIRMS** its support to the Communiqué of the Secretary General on the Comoros, which was issued on 23 April 2002, and **ENCOURAGES** the ongoing mission to the Comoros of his special Envoy aimed at assisting the Comorian parties to overcome the current difficulties and at bringing the reconciliation process to a successful end;
3. **REITERATES** its appeal to the Comorian parties to seek a solution to the outstanding problems through dialogue and mutual accommodation.

C/ On the decision of the Ethiopia/Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC)

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the decision of the Boundary Commission and **COMMENDS** its members for their thorough and professional work;
2. **WELCOMES** the acceptance by Ethiopia and Eritrea of the decision of the Boundary Commission as final and binding,;
3. **CALLS UPON** the two countries to extend full cooperation to the EEBC and UNMEE for the speedy implementation of the decision on the delimitation of the border, so as to expedite the demarcation process;
4. **REITERATES** OAU's determination to continue to support strongly the peace process and to work closely with UNMEE and the parties in order to bring about lasting peace;
5. **CALLS UPON** the international community to provide every assistance to support post-conflict reconstruction efforts in the two countries in accordance with the solemn call made by the Guarantors of the Algiers Agreements in Algiers, Algeria, during the signing ceremony of the comprehensive Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000. The Central Organ further **REQUESTS** the Secretary General, in close collaboration with the United Nations, to take all the steps required to facilitate the mobilization of resources for the resettlement of displaced persons, as well as rehabilitation and peace building in Ethiopia and Eritrea, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000.

D/ On the Inter-Congolese Dialogue

The Central Organ:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made during the negotiations that took place in Sun City, South Africa, from 25 February 2002 to 19 April 2002, within the framework of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and **ENCOURAGES** the parties to work towards an all inclusive and comprehensive agreement in conformity with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement;
2. **EXPRESSES** its profound appreciation to the Facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, for his commitment, as well as to President Thabo Mbeki for his active involvement in the Dialogue and for the generous contribution of South Africa, which facilitated the convening of the Dialogue and provided material support for its sustenance.

E/ On the situation in Madagascar

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMES** the Agreement signed in Dakar, Senegal, on 18 April 2002, by President Didier Ratsiraka and Mr. Marc Ravalomanana, in order to bring to an end the crisis in Madagascar;
2. **COMMENDS** the Secretary-General for his untiring and continuing efforts in promoting dialogue between President Ratsiraka and Mr. Ravalomanana and in assisting them to reach a negotiated and peaceful solution to the crisis in Madagascar;
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the group of Heads of State (namely, Presidents Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, Laurent Gbagbo of Côte d'Ivoire and Mathieu Kerekou of Benin), as well as the OAU Secretary-General and the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs for having facilitated the negotiations between the two parties in Dakar;
4. **URGES** President Ratsiraka and Mr. Ravalomanana to faithfully implement the Agreement they have signed, both in its letter and spirit;
5. **APPEALS** to the people of Madagascar as well as to all the stakeholders to firmly support the efforts aimed at finding a peaceful and negotiated solution to the crisis on the basis of the Dakar Agreement;
6. **WELCOMES** the steps the Secretary-General intends to take, including the appointment of a Special Representative, to assist the parties in Madagascar in finding a peaceful and negotiated solution on the basis of the Dakar Agreement.
7. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the decision to dispatch an OAU Ministerial delegation to the Comoros to encourage the parties to implement the Dakar Agreement.