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**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF  
THE UNION ON THE CONSIDERATION AND  
RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS IN AFRICA**

**TRIPOLI, GREAT SOCIALIST  
PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA  
31 AUGUST 2009**

**SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/DECL.(I)**

**TRIPOLI DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF CONFLICTS  
IN AFRICA AND THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

**TRIPOLI DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF CONFLICTS  
IN AFRICA AND THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting in Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009, on the occasion of the Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, as agreed in Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252 (XIII), have reviewed the state of peace and security on our continent and the steps we need to take to hasten the attainment of our common objective of a conflict-free Africa.

2. The decision to convene this Special Session reflects our growing concern at the persistence of conflict and crisis situations on the continent, despite the many efforts deployed thus far to resolve them. It also bears testimony to our renewed determination to give further impetus to the implementation of relevant AU decisions and promote lasting peace, security and stability on the continent, for without such an environment our vision of the political and economic integration and development of Africa will not materialize.

3. Our meeting is taking place at a time when significant efforts are being made to end conflict and promote peace and security on the continent. We have come a long way since we launched the AU in Durban, in July 2002, and inaugurated the Peace and Security Council (PSC), in Addis Ababa, in May 2004. Today, we have the necessary institutional and normative framework to address the scourge of conflicts, and the AU has demonstrated a renewed dynamism in dealing with issues of peace and security on the continent.

4. We note that the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as articulated in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, is well on course, as shown by the effective functioning of the PSC, the launching of the Panel of the Wise and the establishment of key components of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS).

5. We also note that, consistent with the spirit and letter of the AU Constitutive Act, we have, over the years, adopted a number of instruments on human rights, governance, democracy, disarmament, terrorism, and good neighbourliness, which represent a consolidated framework of norms and principles, whose observance would reduce considerably the risk of conflict and violence on the continent and consolidate peace where it has been achieved.

6. Finally, significant strides have been made in the resolution of conflicts in Africa, as evidenced by the remarkable achievements in countries such as Burundi, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and the Sudan (South Sudan), as well as the advances recorded in the search for peace in a number of other countries and regions. These developments have brought hope and enhanced the prospects for development and renewal, which now need to be enhanced through sustained efforts at peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction.

7. While we take pride in these achievements, we remain, nevertheless, deeply concerned at the continued prevalence of conflict, insecurity and instability in large parts of the continent, with its attendant humanitarian consequences and socio-economic impact. Indeed, armed conflicts in Africa kill thousands of people every year; create humanitarian disasters; wipe out livelihoods and wealth that ordinary people have worked hard to accumulate over their lifetimes; and make sustainable economic development impossible. There is also a more profound loss: the destruction of hope for a better future.

8. In addition, we note with concern the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of Government, which constitutes a serious setback to the democratization process, as well as the emerging trend of election-related violence and conflicts; the threats posed by terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, piracy, and illicit exploitation of natural resources to fuel conflicts; and the persistence of the border disputes and conflicts. We reiterate our commitment, in conformity with the decision adopted in Sirte, in July 2009, to cut off the sources of funding for terrorism, in particular those originating from the payment of ransom in situations of hostage taking. Of equal concern are the implications of climate change and its resulting consequences (food insecurity, scarce water resources, damage to coastal infrastructure and cities, reduced agricultural yields and environmentally-induced migration) for our quest for peace and the efforts being made in this respect.

9. Against this background, we are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans.

10. To this end, we recommit ourselves to accelerate the full operationalization of the APSA, including the further refinement of existing provisions, where necessary, to facilitate their implementation. In this respect, we agree to increase our contributions, both financial and technical, in support of the APSA. We request the Chairperson of the Commission to take all steps necessary to strengthen the Commission's capacity to better address the challenges of peace, security and stability on the continent, including through the speedy recruitment of necessary additional staff, bearing in mind that additional resources are needed.

11. We undertake to make renewed efforts to address the root causes of conflicts in a holistic and systematic manner, including through implementing existing instruments in the areas of human rights, the rule of law, democracy, elections, good governance, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation and good neighborliness. This requires that all Member States that have not yet done so speedily sign and/or ratify those instruments and that the Commission actively monitor their implementation. We request the Commission to take all necessary steps to sensitize the Member States concerned and to undertake a thorough and systematic review of the status of implementation of these instruments and to submit to the Assembly concrete proposals on how to improve compliance.

12. In particular, we reiterate our total rejection of unconstitutional changes of Government and undertake to enhance both prevention of, and response to, this phenomenon. In this vein, we reiterate the need for Member States to promote good governance, to abide by the rule of law and to respect their own Constitutions, especially when it comes to introducing constitutional reforms, bearing in mind that failure to do so can lead to situations of tension, which could, in turn, precipitate political crisis. Equally, we shall take all necessary measures, including the condemnation of, and imposition of sanctions against any African country that would encourage, support or host armed groups whose objective is to destabilize another state. We commit ourselves to abide by the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-use of force, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of our external relations.

13. We reiterate our determination to ensure that, at all times, Africa moves first and in a timely manner to deal with the scourge of conflicts in our continent. We also reiterate our commitment to exercise utmost restraint, to systematically resort to peaceful means to settle all disputes, and to be responsive to mediation and other preventive diplomacy endeavors.

14. We are resolved to ensure that sufficient troops and observers are made available for rapid deployment when and where they are required.

15. Driven by our determination to transform the geo-political landscape of Africa for the benefit of all its peoples, by promoting the development and integration of the continent, we shall take a series of concrete and effective measures to accelerate the implementation of solutions already agreed to for the settlement of a number of conflicts, and the promotion of fair and equitable solutions to situations for which no agreement has yet been reached by the parties concerned, as well as for post-conflict reconstruction, to provide the peoples concerned with peace dividends.

16. We reiterate our full support to all ongoing peace efforts on the continent and urge all concerned parties to leave no stone unturned to end the conflicts they are party to, bring hope to their people and build sustainable peace. In line with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, as well as the PSC Protocol, we commit ourselves, where parties to a conflict stubbornly refuse to live up to their obligations and cooperate towards the promotion of peace, to impose sanctions and ensure their scrupulous implementation throughout the continent, while seeking the support of our partners within the international community, including the UN Security Council.

17. We commit ourselves, within the framework of the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), to show the required solidarity with the African countries emerging from conflicts, to assist them in consolidating their hard-won peace and avoiding relapse into violence.

18. We stress the need for all Member States to extend full cooperation and support to the PSC, bearing in mind that, in carrying out its duties under the Protocol, the PSC acts on behalf of the entire membership of the AU. Equally, we commit ourselves to increase substantially our contribution to the Peace Fund, for Africa to truly own the ongoing efforts to promote peace,

security and stability on the continent. In this respect, we request the Commission to take the necessary preparatory steps for the increase of the statutory transfer from the AU regular budget to the Peace Fund from 6 to 12%. We also encourage all Member States in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund. We request the Commission to submit to the Assembly, in June 2010, a comprehensive report on how best to mobilize increased resources from within the continent to support our peace efforts.

19. Making and sustaining peace and security is also an intellectual challenge. We therefore undertake to build the capacity of our universities and research institutes to explore the nature of African conflicts, to investigate what succeeds and what fails in conflict resolution efforts, and to arrive at African-centered solutions, drawing from our own distinctive and unique experience.

20. To achieve our objective of an African continent that is not only at peace with itself but is also at peace with the rest of the world, we need to continue to strengthen our relations with our major partners. We value the support provided by our bilateral and multilateral partners in the Americas, Asia, Europe and Middle East, and call on them to continue working closely with us in achieving our goals, understanding that peace and security are indivisible.

21. At the same time, we reiterate our determination to ensure that these partnerships are fully based on Africa's leadership, because without such leadership, there will be no ownership and sustainability; because we understand the problems far better than those who come from far away; because we know which solutions will work, and how we can get there; and because, fundamentally, these problems are ours, and we will live with their consequences.

22. We call on the African civil society to continue to play its role in promoting peace, security and stability as partners of Government, as we seek to ensure that the AU, as called for in its Constitutive Act, respect the principle of participation of the African peoples in the activities of the Union.

23. We declare the year 2010 as *Year of Peace and Security on the Continent*. In this regard, we request the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare a detailed programme which would identify concrete steps that could be taken to promote peace, security and stability on the continent, and to submit it to the next ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union.

24. We solemnly adopt the Tripoli Declaration, and pledge our full commitment to its effective implementation so as to open a new chapter in our collective action in favor of peace, security, stability and shared prosperity throughout Africa and the rest of the world.