

Communique by the summit of the Nairobi II Committee on the crisis in the Great Lakes Region

1. At the invitation of H.E. President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya, Heads of State and Government forming the Committee of Four as mandated by the Nairobi II Summit of 16th December, 1996 namely Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa representing President Nelson Mandela, Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge representing President Paul Biya, current Chairman of the OAU, met in Nairobi on 19th March, 1997 to pursue the peace initiative of Eastern Zaire. President Pascal Lissouba of Congo and Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo of Zaire attended by special invitation.
2. Also participating in the Summit was the Secretary General of the OAU, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun Joint Special Representative of the Secretaries General of the UN and the OAU.
3. The Summit examined developments in the region since Nairobi II and expressed grave concern at the rapidly deteriorating situation in Eastern Zaire, in particular the continued loss of lives, suffering of refugees, displaced persons and other victims of the conflict as well as destruction of property and infrastructure.
4. The Summit urged all parties to do their utmost to facilitate access for humanitarian assistance and invited all UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations to provide this assistance.
5. The Summit re-affirmed its commitment for the respect of the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Zaire as provided for in the OAU and UN Charters.
6. The Summit welcomed participation of Zaire and reaffirmed its commitment to the search for peace in an effort to achieve a lasting solution to the crisis.
7. The Summit reaffirmed the urgent need for the implementation of the OAU/UN Peace Plan as provided for in the UN Security Council Resolution 1097 of 18th February, 1997. It welcomed the acceptance of the Plan by the Government of Zaire and also took note of the acceptance in principle by the other party. The Summit urged all parties to the conflict to unconditionally accept and implement the peace plan.
8. The Summit urged the parties to the conflict to immediately cease hostilities, and create the necessary environment to facilitate a negotiated settlement.
9. The Summit resolved that diplomatic efforts should be intensified in the search for a lasting solution to the Zairean crisis and urged that, in doing so, all initiatives be co-ordinated and in this context welcomed the forthcoming extra-ordinary summit of the central organ of the OAU in Lome, Togo on 26th March, 1997.

10. The Summit underscored the importance of establishing a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the OAU/UN peace plan. In this context, the summit stressed the importance of Africa making its own significant contribution to the mechanism. The Summit invites the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution meeting in Lome, Togo on 26th March 1997 to address this issue.

11. The Summit expressed its appreciation to President Daniel T. arap Moi, the Government and the people of Kenya for hosting the meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the delegations.

Done at Nairobi on 19th March, 1997

Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.

Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.