



**Report of the Meeting of ASSECAA Committee on Peace and Conflict
Resolution held at Abuja, Nigeria, 11th - 13th December 2007**

Executive Summary

1.0 The Association at its Annual Conference held in Sana'a, Yemen from 7th to 9th May 2007 set up a Committee called the Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee.

2.0 Terms of Reference

The Conference assigned the Committee to study the origins, trends and present position of the Conflicts in Africa and the Arab world and to make appropriate recommendations to the Conference so as to enable ASSECAA to play a more effective role in the efforts to find lasting solutions to these conflicts.

3.0 Membership

The following countries opted to be members of the Committee and the Conference approved:

- a) South Africa
- b) Sudan
- c) Morocco
- d) Algeria
- e) Yemen
- f) Saudi Arabia
- g) Nigeria
- h) Ethiopia
- i) Bahrain
- j) Jordan
- k) Gabon
- l) Mauritania
- m) The Secretary-General

3.1 The Conference resolved that:

- (i) A Committee to be called the Political Committee for Peace and Conflict Resolution be set up by the Association

- (ii) The Committee shall comprise 13 member countries and the Secretary-General.
- (iii) The General Secretariat shall prepare papers specifying the Rules of Procedure for the Committee, funding arrangements, venue and period of meetings as well as modalities for the work of the Committee.

4.0 The Committee met at Abuja, Nigeria from 11th to 13th December 2007

5.0 Present

Delegates from the following countries attended the meeting:

- a) Algeria
- b) Nigeria
- c) Yemen
- d) Saudi Arabia
- e) Burundi
- f) Sudan
- g) Mauritania
- h) Egypt
- i) Ethiopia
- j) Morocco

6.0 Addresses

Addresses were read to the Committee by the following:

- a. Senator Victor Ndoma Egba (SAN) (Nigeria), Chairman Local Organizing Committee
- b. Mr. Livinus I. Osuji, Secretary-General of ASSECAA (Welcome Address)
- c. H.E. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Speaker, Shoor Council of Yemen, Chairman of ASSECAA
- d. H.E. Senator David Mark, President, Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Inauguration Speech)

7.0 Appointment of Sub-Committees

The Committee set up two Sub-Committees. One to propose the Mechanism for the Work of the Committee and the other to prepare the Committee's Press Briefing.

7.1 The reports were received by the Committee and considered.



7.2 In view of the delay in the commencement of Proceedings, the Committee resolved that deliberations at the meeting should be confined to the Conflicts in Somalia and Sudan.

8.0 Presentation of Papers

The following papers were presented at the Committee:

- i) A paper titled "Conflict in Somalia: Causes, Effects and Futile Attempts at Resolution". It was presented by Professor Ayo Dunmoye from Nigeria
- ii) A paper titled "Conflict in Sudan". It was presented by Major-General C.R.U Ihekire (rtd) from Nigeria
- iii) A paper titled "Conflict Resolution in Sudan". It was presented by John Dor Majok from Sudan
- iv) A paper titled "Exploring the Causes and Dynamics of Armed Conflicts in Africa". It was presented by Dr. Ochinya O. Ojiji from Nigeria

9.0 Deliberations

The Committee deliberated on the presentations. The contributions of the delegates from Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Burundi, Mauritania and Algeria were very instructive and formed a major part of the Committee's report.

10.0 Observations

After the consideration of the presentations by the resource persons and the comments by the delegates, the committee observed that:

- a. the conflicts in the republics of Sudan and Somalia have been so protracted that the need for the restoration of lasting peace in those countries have become urgent.
- b. in Somalia, the conflict has resulted in a devastated and fragmented country which has remained for decades without a legitimate government in place.
- c. the conflicts have resulted in daily loss of lives and property, massive damage to infrastructure, widespread poverty, disease, social and economic dislocations in the two countries.

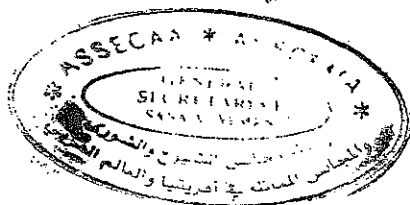


- d. the conflicts have led to continued proliferation of arms in the sub-region to the detriment of the citizens and the neighboring countries.
- e. the resolution of the conflicts has remained a desperate challenge despite the efforts made by the United Nations, the African Union, the IGAD, the Republic of Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Federal Republic of Nigeria to mention a few.
- f. the Arab and African countries engaged in conflicts deserve peace and stability in order to divert scarce resources being wasted to incur ravages of war to productive sectors of their economy and provision of amenities to their citizens.
- g. the restoration of peace in Darfur and Somalia will demand large material support to rebuild the regions and kick start the development and productive sectors that would ensure socio-economic stability for the inhabitants and the return of refugees and displaced people.
- h. there is absolute need, in Africa and the arab countries for democratic transformation – fundamental rights and freedoms for the individual, peaceful transfer of power through the ballot box and institutionalization of freely given consent process.
- decentralization power and wealth sharing among various levels of government
 - stable relations with neighbouring countries
 - equitable social and economic development, poverty eradication and fight against corruption.

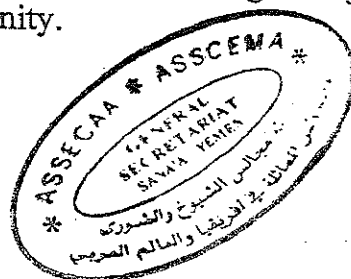
11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Consequent upon the observations made from the Committee's study of the Conflicts in Sudan and Somalia, the Committee recommends that:

- (1) the Association should call upon the Trans-Federal Government and other parties in the conflict in Somalia to seek redress of their grievances peacefully by engaging in dialogue with all sections of the country.
- (2) the Association should urge the international community viz: the United Nations, the African union, the IGAD, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference and the United States of America to show greater commitment to the resolution of the conflict in Somalia;



- (3) the Association should call upon the governments of African and Arab countries to contribute more financial, material and human resources for the consolidation of an effective peace-keeping force in Somalia.
- (4) the Association and the countries of Africa and the Arab world should show obvious determination and commitment to support every effort to restore peace and stability in the Republics of Sudan and Somalia
- (5) the Association should call on all parties involved in the conflicts to their arms (especially in Somalia) and embrace dialogue as the surest way of resolving the conflicts as borne out by the experience of Burundi, Liberia and other countries that were formerly embroiled in civil wars and strife.
- (6) in future negotiations for the resolution of the conflicts, all sections of the countries, parties, armed groups and recognizable interest groups and stake holders in the countries should be given equal opportunities to participate in the determination of the future of the countries.
- (7) the Association should seek to participate actively in all international efforts to promote peace and stability or to resolve conflicts in the affected countries of Africa and the Arab world.
- (8) the Association should show appreciation to the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Yemen, the federal republic of Nigeria, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Uganda for their efforts in contributing to the resolution of the conflicts in Sudan and Somalia.
- (9) the Association should urge the leadership of countries in conflict to discourage tribal and social disintegration by avoiding tribal sentiments and prejudices in political appointments and nominations to parliamentary and executive positions.
- (10) the Association should express support to the government of Sudan to enable it to achieve comprehensive peace with the armed groups in Darfur in order for peace to reign in the region
- (11) the Association should condemn in very strong terms, the kidnap of some Sudanese and Chadian children by a French organization and consider the act a violation of the rights and dignity of the children and call for investigation of the incident with a view to preserving the rights of the victims ensuring payment of compensation to their families for being subjected to psychological and physical trauma and indignity.



- (12)the Association should support the people of Sudan in the efforts that would promote the country's independence and rid the country of all forms of external aggression and impositions.
- (13)the Association should call on armed groups in the conflict areas to participate in all negotiations aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflicts, as required by the international community.
- (14)the Association should express support for the position of the Sudanese government in the deployment of peace keeping troops for security of the region under the command of the African security leadership.
- (15)the Association should coordinate visiting programmes to the parties concerned in the conflicts with a view to obtaining first hand information to contribute to the resolution of the conflicts and ascertain the difficulties that will hinder the resolution of the conflicts.
- (16)the Association should seek to present initiatives which include opinions and proposals that will lead to the resolution of the conflict at regional and international fora convened to deliberate on ways and means of resolving conflicts in African and Arab nations.
- (17)the Association should utilize modern means of communication especially the internet and create a website for publicizing its activities especially on peace and conflict resolution.
- (18)the Association should enhance its budgetary provision especially for the peace and conflict resolution programme whose successful implementation will result in the realization of a fundamental objective of the Association.
- (19)the Association should urge member councils/senates to make significant contributions especially to the peace and conflict resolution activities of the association in view of the crippling effect of conflicts and wars on socio-economic and political development of African and Arab countries.
- (20)the Association should encourage a unity of purpose between the African Union and the Arab League to jointly employ diplomatic channels to bring the warring factions to a negotiating table.
- (21)the Association should explore the means of urging the international community through the United Nations to enforce the embargo on arms and ammunitions sales to Somalia and ensure effective implementation mechanism.



(22)with the emergence of two main groups i.e. the Union of Islamic Court and the Trans-Federal Government, a less complex structure of representation should be arranged in a new attempt to reach negotiated settlement in Somalia

(23) the Association should preach good governance, transparency, accountability, representative participation, rule of law, justice and equality to Arab and African governments to resolve conflicts and remove their root causes.

12.0 Appreciation

12.1 The Committee expressed appreciation to His Excellency, Umar Musa Yar'Adua, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Senator David Mark, President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the inaugural meeting of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee of the Association.

12.2 Secondly, the Committee expressed appreciation to His Excellency Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, the Speaker of the Shoor Council of Yemen and Chairman of the Association for his support of the meeting of the Committee.

12.3 Thirdly, the Committee expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General and the General Secretariat of the Association for their tireless contributions to the organization and success of the committee meeting.

12.4 In the next place, the committee expressed appreciation to the resource persons, facilitators and paper presenters at the meeting for their excellent and most enlightening and objective presentations on the conflicts in Somalia and Sudan.

12.5 Above all, the Committee wishes to express gratitude to the Council and Conference of the Association for giving the members the opportunity to study and serve the Association and conversely Africa and Arab regions through the ASSECAA committee on Peace and conflict resolution

*General Secretariat
Sana'a Yemen
15th December 2007*

