



ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS
EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU MONDE ARABE

Press Briefing

Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution

1.0 The Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution was set up during the Association's Conference in Sana'a, Yemen from 7th to 9th May 2007.

2.0 Terms of Reference

The committee was assigned to meet periodically in a member country of the Association to study the reported conflicts in Africa and the Arab world in order to make appropriate recommendations to the conference of ASSECAA, to enable the Association to contribute effectively to the international efforts that will lead to the resolution of the conflicts.

3.0 2ND Meeting of the Committee

The second meeting of the Committee was held in Bujumbura, Burundi from 2nd to 3rd March 2009.

4.0 Present

The following member Councils/Senates were present at the meeting:

- The Council of the Nation of Algeria
- The Senate of Burundi
- The House of the Federation of Ethiopia
- The Al-Ayan Council of Jordan
- The Senate of Nigeria
- The Senate of Swaziland
- The Shoora Council of Yemen
- The Council of States of Sudan



4.1 Brother Organisations

The following brother organizations attended the meeting:

- a. The Parliament of Kenya
- b. The East African Legislative Assembly

4.2 Consultants

The following resource persons were consultants to the meeting:

- a. Dr. Ahmed Al-Asbahi
- b. Canon Clement Janda
- c. Professor Filip Reintjens
- d. H.E Sylvestre Ntibantunganya

5.0 Day One

On the first day of the meeting, 2nd March 2009, the Committee received presentations on:

- a. The Conflict in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. The papers were presented by His Excellency Sylvester Ntibantunganya, the former President of the Republic of Burundi and Professor Filip Reintjens, a world renowned scholar on the Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.
- b. The Conflict in Darfur, Sudan. The paper was presented by Hon. Canon Clement Janda, Chairman of Peace Committee, Council of States of Sudan.

5.1 Day Two

On the second day of the meeting, 3rd March 2009, the Committee received a presentation on the Conflict in Somalia. The paper was presented by Dr. Ahmed Al-Asbahi, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yemen, member of the Shoor Council of Yemen.

6.0 Deliberations

The Committee deliberated on these presentations exhaustively and critically.

7.0 Sub-Committees

The Committee resolved into three committees on the second day to sharpen the recommendation on the following conflict areas:

- a. The Great Lakes Region of Africa
- b. The Darfur Conflict

c. The Somali Conflict

8.0 Sub-Committee Reports

The Committee considered the report of the Committees and approved them mutatis mutandis.

9.0 Observations

The Committee observes that there is need:

- (i) to speed up the formation of a national security force and an army which represents all segments of society in Somalia;
- (ii) to increase the number of peacekeeping troops and provide them with the necessary support;
- (iii) to mobilize regional and international support to address the piracy in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden and reasserts the call by the Republic of Yemen for the establishment of a regional center to combat piracy to be located in the capital Sana'a.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- (i) confirms that the rebuilding of the Somali State is the main entry point for the restoration of peace to Somalia, and an end to all issues and problems caused by the collapse of the State;
- (ii) supports all efforts made to achieve the reconciliation that has led to the election of a new president, the formation of a new government and expresses support for the new government. At the same time, the Committee reconfirms the need to continue efforts aiming at achieving and supporting the new government in its efforts to reinstall security and stability, law and order;
- iii) recommends the adoption of a new political covenant to define a mechanism for engaging in the political process and outlines the new constitution for Somalia;
- (iv) recommends follow up of the situation of the Somali refugees in neighboring countries - Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya, to support the establishment of refugee shelters until arrangements are made for their repatriation to Somalia and urges the donor countries to

increase their funding of such projects.

The Committees:

- (i) reasserts ASSECAA's condemnation of regional and international negative intervention in the Somali affairs;
- (ii) reasserts the need to continue ASSECAA's effort to follow up in the situation of Somalia in coordination with the African Union, the League of Arab States and international organizations concerned with peace in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

On Darfur, the Committee:

- (i) reconfirms the principle of dialogue as a means for understanding and the settlement of the dispute between all parties, without the use of force;
- (ii) reconfirms the principle of territorial integrity of the Sudan and its sovereignty over the Sudanese national soil;
- (iii) reconfirms the rejection of all foreign interventions in the Darfur issue which impede the peace efforts;
- (iv) reconfirms the need to address all humanitarian, social and economic issues which would assist the Darfurians to maintain their existence and to prevent their migration;
- (v) reconfirms the position of the League of Arab States and African Union in dealing with the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the indictment of the Sudanese President;
- (vi) reconfirms the role of ASSECAA in following up peace issues and conflicts resolutions through peaceful means, together with member states and other states, to highlight this role and to encourage the concerned parties to attain the desired peace;
- (vii) calls upon the Government of the Sudan to continue the follow-up on peace efforts and the implementation of signed agreements with all other factions in Sudan in the process of realization of an

agreement for a peaceful solution in Darfur;

- (viii) appeals to the armed movements which have not joined the peace accord to do so in order to speed up the peace process;
- (ix) supports the Qatar initiative for peace in Darfur and urges them to continue until peace is achieved.

On the Great Lakes, the Committee recommends that:

- (i) The Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils should:
 - 1 always acknowledge, encourage and support the peace process engaged in the Great Lakes Region;
 - 2 share and exchange reconciliation experience among member states. Experiences gained by Algeria and Burundi can serve as examples;
 - 3 put into place mechanisms of national reconciliation through laws enacted by parliaments;
 - 4 promote and encourage in our countries, a deep and inclusive dialogue between political actors;
 - 5 appeal to the international community to help the Great Lakes Region to come out of poverty;
 - 6 invite concerned countries to do their best to promote investment from abroad that may be suitable to the region such as tourism, agriculture and industrial sector;
 - 7 promote good governance and the equal share of wealth.

To the member countries of the international Conference for the Great Lakes Region, the Committee recommends:

- (i) the full implementation of the Dar Es Salaam declaration on peace, security, democracy and development signed on the 20th November 2004;

- (ii) the development of a multidimensional cooperation between the states, through mechanisms of common conflict resolution and the stabilization of the sub-region;
- (iii) the experience of Rwanda which has helped DRC fight negative forces in Eastern Congo can serve as an example.

The Committee calls on:

- (i) the members of Parliaments in the sub-region, to sensitize the population so as to avoid being dragged into operations that only serve the unspoken interests of their leaders and which are generally against the same population's interests;
- (ii) the political leaders, at all levels (from the grassroots to the top, i.e. the Head of State) to unfailingly commit themselves politically in order to face the problems in the region;
- (iii) the countries in the Arab world, to support further the Great Lakes Region in order to contribute to poverty reduction which is often a cause for conflicts;
- (iv) the international community to continue supporting the peace initiatives and to avoid contributing to factors that destabilize peace process;
- (v) Burundi and the countries in the region, to encourage their population to carry on the policy of disarmament in a free and voluntary manner and put into place the mechanism of equitable and functional justice to fight against impunity in the Great Lakes Region.

On the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, the Committee:

(i) affirms ASSECAA's position condemning atrocities wherever they are committed by way of attacks on innocent civilians, men, women and children;

(ii) affirms ASSECAA's position of calling for the end to all acts that create hardship, suffering and cause death to the innocent citizens in the conflict areas;

(iii) affirms ASSECAA's position in asserting the need for national reconciliation among the Palestinians and achieving regional peace in the Middle East in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

The Committee expresses sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic of Burundi, the Government, the Senate and the people of the Republic of Burundi for their most brotherly reception and most encouraging arrangements which were made and which resulted in the resounding success achieved by the meeting.

H.E Abdallah Ahmed Al-Hardalou

Chairman, Association of Senates, Shoora and
Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world

H.E Livinus I. Ostaji

Secretary-General (ASSECAA)

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