

Reform and Civil Concord Framework Agreement

Paris, February 7, 2000

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of Djibouti and the and the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (Front Nationale pour la Restauration de l'Unité et de la Démocratie, FRUD), parties to the present Agreement;

Recognising that liberty, equality and peace in the Republic of Djibouti are fundamentally based on the dignity of the national Djiboutian community and the inalienable nature of their rights;

Bearing in mind the importance of constitutional law, respect for the rights of man and for the plurality of opinions, convictions and ideas;

Convinced that following an armed confrontation, which opposed members of the national Djiboutian community, it is essential to arrive at global and definitive solutions for the restoration of civil peace by means of dialogue, tolerance and respect for others, which is the only way to maintain the cohesion of the Djiboutian nation, in a stable Republic of Djibouti, where civil peace and harmony prevail, these being essential conditions for human development, the foundation of social and economic progress;

Conscious of the need to open a new perspective for the Djiboutian nation and to give meaning to the sacrifices made by the Djiboutian people for twenty two years;

Bearing in mind the government programme submitted to and adopted by the Djiboutian people on April 9, 1999, by the election of His Excellency Mr Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, which recommends rapid democratic reform, so that management of public affairs shall be just and transparent, it is necessary:

- To find solutions for the causes of the civil conflict;
- To avoid renewing, restarting or repeating them;

Recognising that civil peace is the outcome of this process, the bond of brotherhood of all the children of the Republic of Djibouti;

Have agreed the following:

Article 1: Reparations and compensation

Rehabilitation of the zones affected by the civil conflict shall be carried out to enable the refugee civilian populations, displaced or affected by the conflict, to return to their homes and places of work and production, in the best conditions possible.

To this end, all necessary steps to rehabilitate, restore or compensate fairly all civilian and military victims, for the loss of their homes, businesses, movable or immovable goods, professional equipment and production tools, and plantations, shall be taken. Reparation benefits must be awarded equally to all victims of the conflict.

ARTICLE 2: REFORMS

- The reform shall consist of genuine decentralisation, granting extensive autonomy to the regions concerned. The decentralisation law under preparation shall be studied in more detail by the FRUD signatory of the present Framework Agreement, before being discussed in the near future by Parliament.

ARTICLE 3: DEMOCRACY

No Republic is viable without democracy, and no democracy is viable without plurality of opinion, and a balance of powers together with freedom to implement them and act to have them recognised.

- Freedoms of association, opinion, expression, to meet, and of the press, which are integral aspects of the great democratic powers, shall be reconfigured by legal dispositions and hence result in a better multiparty system.
- In a Republic power, may only be exercised within the framework of functioning democratic republican institutions. These must in turn reflect a national consensus which has been freely and democratically developed by means of fair representation, and implemented by administrative organisations within which the diverse national communities are fairly represented.

ARTICLE 4: GOOD MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

A Court of Accounts shall be established immediately and begin its investigations with a view to making the management of public funds more transparent.

ARTICLE 5: CIVIL PEACE AND SECURITY

Peace and injustice are as inseparable as breathing is to life. The achievement of civil peace will firstly restore the damage done, and will ensure justice.

- Laws and regulations shall also be reformed in order to ensure national cohesion and good and transparent management of the nation's common heritage.
- Military personnel whose primary mission shall be to protect the national territory from any external threats, shall be reinserted in the posts they held before the civil conflict. Their presence will not hinder in any way the movement of goods and people. The two parties shall undertake mine clearance of the land and roads which were mined.
- The two parties shall suspend hostilities.

- Civilian and military personnel of the two parties detained by either side shall be released immediately.
- In addition, members of FRUD, including leaders, rank and file members, soldiers, whether civilians or fighters, who were professionally employed before the conflict, shall be reintegrated in their administrations, institutions, services or businesses. Other members of FRUD shall be assigned to appropriate civilian or military functions. Effective procedures for their disarmament will be established at that time. Those who suffered material damage shall be compensated. All accusations or charges relating to the armed struggle shall be dropped or cleared in an amnesty.

ARTICLE 6: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The two signatory parties to the present Agreement shall work jointly to implement it comprehensively in its entirety, and any other measures within its framework or relating to its objectives.

ARTICLE 7: FINAL PROVISIONS

Two copies in French of the present “Reform and Civil Concord Framework Agreement” shall be prepared, signed by each of the two parties. An original copy shall be held by each party. It shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Djibouti.

Done at Paris, February 7, 2000

For Armed FRUD

The President

Ahmed Dini Ahmed

Aboubaker

For the Government

The Head of Cabinet of the

President of the Republic

Ali Guelleh

Source: Official Journal of the Republic of Djibouti