

DECLARATION

of the Political Directorate of the Burundi Peace Process on the implementation process for the joint decisions made in Pretoria,

April 8, 2009

Following his visit on April 1, 2009, to Burundi, the Facilitator, Minister Charles Nqakula of South Africa, convened a meeting in Pretoria on April 8 in order to make a final evaluation of the peace process between the Government of Burundi and the FNL and to agree the definitive steps needed to bring this about.

The Political Directorate participated under the direction of its new president, Ambassador Dumisani Khumalo, as well as the tripartite high-level working group set up by the Facilitator last month (consisting of Division General Evarist Ndayishimiye, representing the Government of the Republic of Burundi, Mr Jonas Nshimirimana, Secretary-General of the FNL, and Lieutenant-General Derick Mgwebi of S. Africa, its president); Mr Agathon Rwaswa, President of the FNL, was also present.

The participants worked with due recognition of the urgency of the situation. They were keenly aware that, in the context of the painful economic crisis and other international priorities, any further delay in implementing the Global Ceasefire Agreement of September 7, 2006 would be both irresponsible and unjustifiable.

In light of the above, and in order to facilitate approval of the FNL as a political party, decisions were taken as to how best to remove the obstacles which still confront the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration process (Désarmement, Démobilisation et de Réintégration, DDR), while respecting the principle of equity which has underpinned the treatment of former armed political movements, since the Arusha Agreements of 2000.

The decisions taken in Pretoria have been specified in terms of the following specific actions which the Burundian parties must implement immediately:

- **The FNL** having separated their adult and child members must (a) within 3 days gather together all of their members whose names appear on the certified list and who are still in the pre-assembly zones, disarm them and hand over all their arms to the African Union Special Force, (b) proceed to separate the various elements and allocate them to the following four categories:

(1) 3,500 who shall be integrated in the defence and security forces of the Government of Burundi;

(2) 5,000 who shall be demobilised;

(3) Up to a maximum of 10,000, outwith those in (1) and (2), but who may be considered to be "Associated adults" of the Movement;

(4) Up to a maximum of 1,000 women whose names cannot appear on the certified list but who, in accordance with the year 2000 Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, may be considered to be FNL “associated women”.

Categories (3) and (4) will be eligible for subsidies, an important proportion of which will be aimed at their socio-economic reintegration in the community.

- ***The Government shall:***

- (1) Supervise, using its Technical Coordination Team at the Gitega Mobilisation Centre, the process for children who have separated from the FNL;
- (2) Ensure, using its Technical Coordination Team, the urgent transformation of the Rubira zone of assembly and the Randa site into Demobilisation Centres. This will help to accelerate the demobilisation process, the Gitega Demobilisation Centre being reserved for children.
- (3) Accept the FNL as a political party, as soon as the Facilitation Team has confirmed its disarmament;
- (4) Proceed immediately to the integration of the 3,500 FNL combatants in the defence and security forces, of which 390 FNL members will be trained in the Mixed Protection Unit;
- (5) Assist in the demobilisation of 5000 members in a process assisted by the international community, and monitored in situ by international observers;
- (6) Accelerate and within 15 days complete the liberation of any remaining FNL prisoners;
- (7) Expedite nominations to the 33 posts designated for FNL civilians, a process currently led by a high-level joint committee established by President Nkurunziza and Mr Rwasa.
- (8) Guarantee security in the pre-assembly zones, and the safe storage of arms; under the control of international observers and FNL leaders;
- (9) Identify 390 Government nominees to be trained for the Mixed Protection Unit.

The Government of Burundi and the FNL are invited to launch an intense communication campaign to inform members of the FNL and the general public. The Tripartite Working Group and the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (Mécanisme Conjoint de Vérification se de Suivi, MCVS), must, with the assistance of the international community, provide visible assistance and support to this campaign.

Both the Government of Burundi and the FNL shall immediately nominate two representatives who will work closely with the United Nations and other involved parties on all aspects of the situation.

Ongoing financial support is requested from the international community for implementation of the above measures as well as a flexible approach to the budgetary costs of integrating a further 500 FNL combatants.

The Facilitation Team, the Political Directorate and the entire international community undertake to support the Burundian parties throughout the timeline described above.

The Political Directorate calls upon the Burundian parties to muster the determination and engagement necessary to bring about, in good faith and as soon as possible, a satisfactory outcome of this final phase of the peace process for the Burundian people.

Done in Bujumbura, April 16, 2009

Participants in the Pretoria meeting of April 8, 2009

Participants:

Ont pris part à la réunion du 8 avril 2009 à Prétoria:

S. E. M. Charles Nqakula, Ministre Sud-africain de la Défense, Facilitateur du processus de paix au Burundi; S.E.M. l'ambassadeur Dumisani Kumalo, Envoyé spécial de la République sud-africaine dans la Région des Grands Lacs, Président du Directoire Politique; Général de Division Evariste Ndayishimiye, représentant le Gouvernement du Burundi; MM. Agathon Rwasa, Président des FNL et Jonas Nshimirimana, Secrétaire-général, représentant les FNL, S.E.M. l'Ambassadeur Mamadou Bah, Représentant spécial de l'Union Africaine en République du Burundi et Chef de la Mission Africaine au Burundi; S.E.M Mdu Lembede, Ambassadeur de la République Sud-africaine en République du Burundi; S.E.M. Francis Mndolwas, Ambassadeur de la République Unie de Tanzanie en République du Burundi; S.E.M. Ambassadeur de la République française en République du Burundi et représentant de l'Union Européenne au Burundi; Youssef Mahmoud Représentant exécutif du Secrétaire-général des Nations Unies au Burundi; M. Julius Magembe, Représentant de l'Ambassade de la République Ougandaise en République du Burundi ; Lieutenant-Général Derrick Mgwebi, Chef du Groupe de Travail Tripartite de Haut Niveau et Représentant de la Facilitation.