

SEMINAR OF SPECIAL ENVOYS DEALING WITH BURUNDI.

22-23 February 2008

**Le Vendome Hotel
Seapoint, Cape Town**

PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO TAKE FURTHER THE BURUNDI PEACE PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Initiative for Peace in Burundi has extended to December 31, 2008, the mandate of the Facilitation of the Burundi Peace Process. In consultation with Burundi's regional and international partners, the following Programme of Action, has been developed to help ensure the full implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) between the Government of Burundi (GOB) and the Palipehutu-FNL (FNL).

The Programme of Action addresses in a comprehensive manner the political, security and socio-economic reintegration dimensions of the peace process in order to ensure the early resumption of the process as well as prevent its collapse in the future.

The Programme of Action comprises two phases that will define the safe return of all FNL leaders and combatants to Burundi and their political, economic and social integration in that country. The process of integration will be closely monitored to ensure that returning FNL members are assured security and that systems that will cater for their integration are properly defined and put in place.

The Government and the FNL bear primary responsibility for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and the conclusion of the peace process.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The programme is divided into two six-month timeframes, The first phase will involve simultaneous actions being taken within the framework of the Political Directorate and JVMM with a view to the completion of the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and agreement on the overall framework for the integration of FNL into the national institutions.

The second phase will involve the continued strict monitoring by the Political Directorate so that all aspects thereof, to the letter and spirit of the agreed arrangements, are adhered to.

Political Directorate:

The Political Directorate, which was established by the Facilitator last year, will be comprised of:

- A representative of the Facilitator;
- The Special Representative of the African Union in Burundi
- The Executive Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Burundi
- A representative of the Government of Burundi;
- A representative of the Palipehutu-FNL;
- The Ambassadors in Burundi of Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa;
- A representative of the European Union.

The Facilitator may expand the Directorate as he sees fit.

The Political Directorate, to be based in Bujumbura, will address political obstacles that may arise in the course of the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement. It will serve as a “listening forum” and promote trust between the parties. The Directorate will facilitate dialogue between the two parties, including on political arrangements aimed at the inclusion of FNL into the national institutions within the framework of the Constitution. It will monitor and assist the parties in implementing these arrangements. The Directorate will communicate and keep all partners informed of developments in the peace process.

The Directorate's interventions will always respect the laws of Burundi, as defined in the country's Constitution. It will not serve as a forum for the re-negotiation of the Agreements already concluded.

The Group of Special Envoys for Burundi (GSEB) will support the work of the Political Directorate, as required. The Group will meet every three months to review progress in the peace process.

Timelines:

First Phase:

- **January 2008:**
 - Talks resume at Dar-es-Salaam between the leadership of the Palipehutu-FNL and the Facilitation.

February/March 2008:

- Discussions between the Political Directorate and FNL leadership in Dar-es-Salaam on the following matters:
 - ✓ Concerns of the FNL regarding the process;
 - ✓ Programme of Action and immediate priorities;
 - ✓ Preparation for the return to the JVMM, including security arrangements.

• **April 2008:**

- Resumption of FNL participation in the JVMM;
- Establishment of all JVMM Liaison Teams;
- All Liaison Teams formulate their programmes;
- Liaison Team on the Release of War and Political Prisoners starts its work.
- Under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, a team of technical advisers in Burundi develop a strategy and practical modalities for facilitating socio-economic reintegration at the community level for the FNL and other demobilized combatants, for presentation to the GSEB.

• **May 2008:**

- The FNL leadership return to Burundi to be part of the Peace Process;
- Discussions start, under the auspices of the Political Directorate, to produce a political framework for the inclusion of the FNL into the national institutions, as well as the modalities for the transformation of FNL into a registered political party
- Discussions begin on the implementation of the principles adopted July 18, 2006 Dar-es-Salaam Agreement of Principals.
- Release of War and Political prisoners;
- Movement of Combatants to Assembly Areas and start of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration process.
- Meeting of the Group of Special Envoys for Burundi to review progress in the implementation of the peace process.

• **June 2008:**

- The FNL transforms into a political party; its members participate fully in the political, social and economic life of Burundi.
- The implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement is completed in all aspects;
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- Agreements reached within the context of the political framework to include the FNL in the institutions of power in Burundi are implemented;
- African Union Special Task Force prepares for and executes its withdrawal from Burundi.

Second Phase:

- **July-December 2008:**
 - Political Directorate monitors the reintegration of the FNL to ensure that it happens within the full scope of the agreements reached between the Government and the FNL;
 - The Political Directorate monitors and reports on the implementation of the socio-economic reintegration of FNL and other demobilized combatants.

End.