

**DECLARATION OF THE SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION ON THE BURUNDI PEACE PROCESS: 4
DECEMBER 2008**

The Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region met in Bujumbura, Burundi on Thursday, 4 December 2008, at the invitation of His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, Chairperson of the Regional Initiative for the Burundi Peace Process. The objective of the meeting was to unblock the deadlock that had been stalling the Peace Process in Burundi with the intention of finding a sustainable solution.

The meeting was attended by the following:

His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, Chairperson of the Regional Initiative;

His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi;

His Excellency Rupiah Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia;

His Excellency Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice-President and Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Kenya;

His Excellency Mizengo Pinda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tanzania;

His Excellency Bernard Makuza, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda;

His Excellency Mohamoud Dirir, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Representing the Facilitation, His Excellency Minister Jeff Radebe, Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa

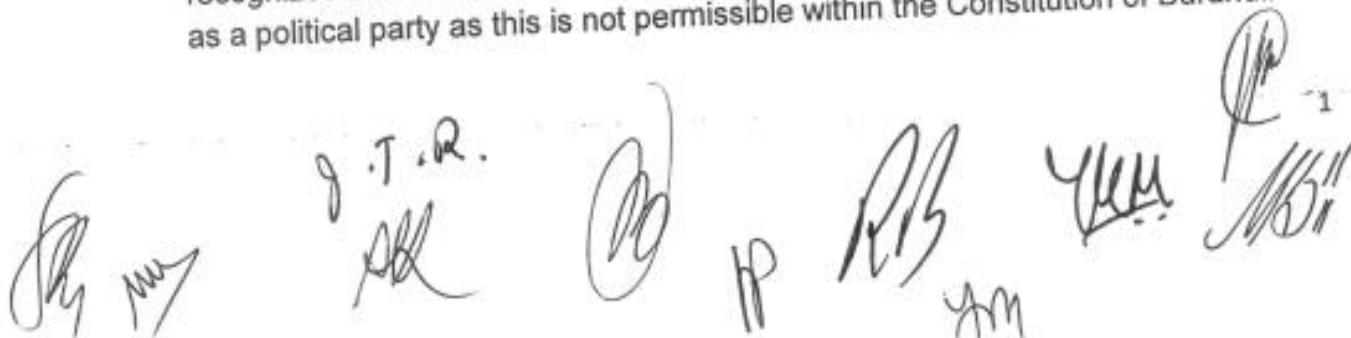
Mr Agathon Rwasa, Chairperson of the Palipehutu-FNL

His Excellency Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Mr Youssef Mahmoud, Executive Representative of the UN Secretary General

The meeting agreed as follows:

1. That the Palipehutu-FNL represented by its Chairperson, Mr Agathon Rwasa, recognizes that the name of the party as it currently stands cannot be registered as a political party as this is not permissible within the Constitution of Burundi.

A series of handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged horizontally at the bottom of the page. From left to right, the signatures include: a stylized signature, a signature with 'J.T.R.' written above it, a circular signature, a signature with 'PB' written below it, a signature with 'RIB' written above it, a signature with 'Y.M.' written below it, and a signature with 'MB' written below it. There is also a small number '1' written near the last signature.

2. That the Palipehutu-FNL, in view of par 1 above, undertakes to explain the Constitutional requirements as they relate to the registering of the party to their members and to consult on finding a new name which is not offensive and is registrable in terms of the Constitution.
3. That this process of explanation and consultation would be completed before the deadline of 31 December 2008.
4. That both parties agree that the DDR process is to begin without delay with Palipehutu-FNL combatants moving into the Assembly Areas as soon as possible. It is further agreed that this process shall be the responsibility of the competent authorities dealing with the JVMM processes and shall not be subject to undue interference which could lead to delays. It is further agreed that the process shall not be subject to conditionalities.
5. The President of Burundi, His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, committed his Government to a process of political integration of leaders of the Palipehutu-FNL to begin, in which 33 positions will be awarded to senior members of the Palipehutu-FNL.
6. The President of Burundi has reconfirmed his decision in terms of previous decisions to release all political and war prisoners. The released prisoners who are combatants will go straight to assembly areas and those who are civilians will go to their homes.

The meeting concluded with the leaders thanking President Nkurunziza for the hospitality accorded to all delegations.

Done in Bujumbura on 4 December 2008.

For the Government of Burundi

H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza

[Signature]
4.12.2008

For the Palipehutu-FNL

Mr Agathon Rwasa

[Signature]

Witnesses

[Signature]

His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, Chairperson of the Regional Initiative;

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

His Excellency Rupiah Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia;



Representing the Facilitation, His Excellency Minister Jeff Radebe, Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa



His Excellency Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice-President and Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Kenya;



His Excellency Mizengo Pinda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tanzania;



His Excellency Bernard Makuza, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda;



His Excellency Mohamoud Dirir, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



His Excellency Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission;



Mr Yussef Mahmoud, Executive Representative of the Secretary General of the
United Nations

