

**DECLARATION**  
**Of the Political Directorate of the Burundi Peace Process**

**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE JOINT DECISIONS  
MADE ON 8 APRIL 2009 IN PRETORIA**

Following his visit of 1 April 2009 to Burundi, the Facilitator, Minister Charles Nqakula of South Africa, convened a meeting on 8 April in Pretoria in order to make a final assessment of the peace process between the Government of Burundi and the FNL and take the necessary decisive actions to bring it to a close.

The Political Directorate<sup>i</sup> was in attendance led by its new Chair, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, as well as the High-Level Tripartite Task Force that the Facilitator had established last month (comprised of Major-General Evariste Ndayishimiye on the side of the Government of the Republic of Burundi, Mr Jonas Nshimirimana, Secretary-General of the FNL, and Lieutenant-General Derick Mgwebi of South Africa, Chairperson). FNL Chair Agathon Rwasa was also in attendance.

The participants met with a sense of urgency. They were keenly aware that in the context of the severe global economic crisis and competing international priorities, a further delay in the implementation of the 7 September 2006 Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement was both irresponsible and indefensible.

In light of the above and in order to facilitate the accreditation of the FNL as a political party, decisions were made on how best to resolve the remaining stumbling blocks in the DDR process with due regard to the principle of equity that had guided the processing of members of previous armed political movements, since the Arusha Accords of 2000.

The decisions made in Pretoria have now been translated into the following specific actions to be taken immediately by the Burundian parties:

- **The FNL:** Having separated associated children from its adult members, is (a) to simultaneously assemble within a period of 3 days all remaining members on its certified list who are still in pre-assembly areas, disarm and surrender all their weapons to the AU Special Task Force, (b) to separate and list under the following 4 categories:
  - (1) 3,500 to be integrated into the Government of Burundi security and defence forces;
  - (2) 5,000 to be demobilized;

- (3) Up to 10,000 who do not fit in either of the above categories but may be considered as "Adults Associated" with the movement;
- (4) Up to 1,000 women who may not be on the list but who, under Security Council Resolution 1325 of 2000 on Women, Peace and Security, may be considered "Women Associated" with the FNL.

Categories (3) and (4) would be eligible for a subsidy, a substantial part of which will be applied towards their socio-economic re-integration at the community level.

**- The Government:**

- (1) will take responsibility, through the Technical Coordination Team, for the continued processing at the Gitega Demobilisation Centre of the children that had been separated from the FNL;
- (2) will take responsibility, through the Technical Coordination Team, for the rapid conversion of the Rubira Assembly Area and of the Randa site into Demobilization Centres. This would accelerate the demobilization process and reserve Gitega for the processing of the children;
- (3) upon confirmation of the FNL's disarmament by the Facilitation, to immediately register the movement as a political party;
- (4) to immediately initiate the integration of the 3,500 FNL combatants into security and defence forces, which will include 390 FNL members slated to be trained as part of the Joint Protection Unit;
- (5) to assist in the demobilization of 5,000 FNL members, in a process that will be supported by the international community and will be monitored and documented by international observers;
- (6) to expedite and finalise within 15 days the release of the remaining FNL prisoners;
- (7) to expedite as well the filling of the 33 positions that had been earmarked for FNL civilian leadership, a process currently led by a joint high-level committee appointed by President Nkurunziza and Chair Rwasa;
- (8) to provide security at pre-assembly areas and assure the secure storage of weapons, in a process to be monitored by international observers and FNL leaders;
- (9) to identify 390 Government members for training as part of the Joint Protection Unit.

The Government of Burundi and the FNL are called upon to engage in an intensive communication campaign to inform the membership of FNL as well as the general public. The Tripartite Task Force and JVMM, with the support of

the international community, shall, in all transparency, provide assistance and support to this campaign.

The Government of Burundi and the FNL are expected to appoint as a matter of urgency two female representatives each, to work closely with the UN and other stakeholders on all gender dimensions.

The international community is urged to continue to provide financial support for the implementation of the above-mentioned decisions, and to show flexibility with regard to the budgetary costs that the integration of the additional 500 FNL combatants would incur.

The Facilitation, the Political Directorate and the international community at large remain committed to supporting the Burundian parties in accordance with the timeframe set out above.

The Political Directorate calls upon the Burundian parties to summon the necessary resolve and commitment to bring to a successful end this last phase of the peace process with a sense of urgency and in good faith for the sake of durable peace for the people of Burundi

Done in Bujumbura, this 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2009.

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<sup>i</sup>Present at the 8 April 2009 Meeting in Pretoria:

His Excellency, Minister Charles Nqakula, Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process, South African Minister of Defence; His Excellency, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, Chair of the Political Directorate, Special Envoy of the Republic of South Africa to the Great Lakes Region; For the Government of Burundi: Maj Gen. Evariste Ndayishimiye; For the FNL: Mr. Agathon Rwasa, Chair, Mr. Jonas Nshimirimana, Secretary-General; His Excellency, Ambassador Mamadou Bah, Special Representative of the African Union to the Republic of Burundi, Head of the African Mission in Burundi; His Excellency, Ambassador Mdu Lembede, Embassy of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of Burundi; His Excellency, Ambassador Francis Mndolwa, Embassy of the Republic of Tanzania to the Republic of Burundi; His Excellency, Ambassador Joël Louvet, Embassy of the Republic of France to the Republic of Burundi, Representative of the European Union in Burundi; Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi; Mr. Julius Magembe, Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda to the Republic of Burundi; Lt Gen. Derick Mgwebi, Head of the High-Level Tripartite Task Team, Representative of the Facilitation