

PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

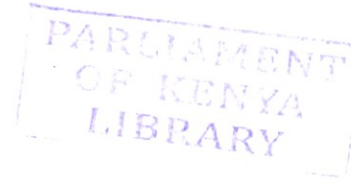


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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION, INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN
AFRICA**

**JOHANNESBURG, MIDRAND
OCTOBER 2010**

INTRODUCTION

1. The decision to proclaim 2010 as Year of Peace and Security (YoPS) was taken by the Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa held in Tripoli, Libya, on 31st August 2009. This declaration was made against the backdrop of the continued prevalence of armed conflicts in the continent, despite the significant progress made towards the promotion of peace, security and stability. Notably, in paragraph 9 of the Tripoli Declaration, the Heads of State and Govt made the following undertaking: "We are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans".

SITUATION AT REGIONAL LEVEL

2. Notwithstanding the remarkable strides that have been made in democratic governance, challenges with respect to peace and security at some flashpoints all over the continent continue to stifle movement toward progress in democratic development. These flashpoints are of grave concern that must continue to seize our resolve for speedy and lasting peaceful resolutions.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Congo

3. Peace has come to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nevertheless, the Congo DR needs stronger institutions. We are concerned that there is still conflict in Eastern Congo and Kivu where reprisal attacks against civilian populations continue. We implore the parties to the conflict to come to terms, dialogue and find a peaceful solution to stabilise the country.

4. We congratulate the arrest of rebels who were involved in mass rape of women, men and children. It is pleasing to note positive developments by the organisation of a meeting on the situation of children, women, and men. This shows progress towards resolving the issue.

Central African Republic (CAR)

5. We note that there is a little peace in the Central African Republic. However, there is social instability due to the absence of elections despite the sitting President's term of office having come to an end. There is agitation among rebel groups opposing the government. We note that some progress is being made as the Independent Electoral Commission has set a date for elections.

6. We are however concerned about the continuous low level conflict, and would like to see peace and stability so that development takes place.

Chad

7. The Chadian problem is caused by internal political crisis whose origin dates back to a distant past on the one hand and to conflicts with neighbouring countries on the other. Since the last rebel attack on Ndjamenā which was repelled only thanks to the assistance of the French Military and which led to the arrest and disappearance of an opposition leader Ibni Oumar Mahamat Saleh, the situation at the moment seems to be striving for calm. In this regard, we must pay tribute to the holding of forthcoming elections in this country and the political rapprochement with neighbouring Sudan. Without any doubt, this situation could have positive impacts in the internal crisis of this country and in the sub-region.

EAST AFRICA

Somalia

8. Somalia has been ravaged by violence since warlords overthrew dictator Siad Barre in 1991, and have since turned on each other. International community organised reconciliation between former Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and moderate Islamist in which the current President Sheik Sharif was elected. The aim was that international community hoped that President Sharif could unite the country's factions, but the violence has continued.

9. Suicide bombings, unheard of in Somalia before 2007, have become increasingly frequent and the lawlessness have raised concerns that Al-Quida is trying to gain a foothold in the Horn of Africa.

10. African troops (from Uganda and Burundi) protecting the Somalia government wage daily battles with Islamic militants who hold much of Central and Southern Somalia. Bombings have become deadlier as Al-Shabab militia receive training from veteran insurgents from Afghanistan and Pakistan conflicts.

11. Among the thousands of killings that are occurring, in 2009 one of the deadliest attacks took place at Shamo Hotel where graduation ceremony was being held. In this incident four minister, graduating students, relatives, journalists, security personnel and others were killed. Six MPs and other government officials were attacked and killed at end of Ramadan 2010 in Muna Hotel.

12. Recently, another attack carried out by Al-Shabab took place in Uganda, Kampala where innocent civilians watching the final football match of the 2010 World Cup. In this attack, over 70 people were killed.



13. The last attack carried out by Al-Shabab took place at Mogadishu airport by suicide bombers in which two peacekeepers were amongst those killed.

14. The rule of law has completely broken down in Somalia. The anarchy has also allowed piracy to flourish off the country's coast. Corruption is another major problem affecting Somalia.

Eritrea, Djibouti and Ethiopia

15. We are concerned that the border dispute between Eritrea and Djibouti on one hand, and Eritrea and Ethiopia on the other have not been resolved. However, the Horn of Africa must promote peace and stability so development can take place.

16. It is pleasing to note that the Amir of Qatar has brought about an agreement between Eritrea and Djibouti to resolve the border dispute.

Sudan

17. Sudan is entering one of the most critical phases of its history. For the region and the African continent, the successful completion of the ongoing processes is of utmost importance. We are confident that, with genuine support from the international community, the Sudanese people have the capacity to seize this historic opportunity to overcome the challenges facing them.

South Sudan

18. South Sudan will be holding a Referendum in 2011. We are concerned with the oil deposits around the border of north and south Sudan which could be a source of discontent. Therefore, we propose that a solution be reached with respect to equitable sharing of resources between the north and south Sudan. Furthermore, we hope that the Referendum process must be credible and free of violence.

The Darfur Region

19. We welcome the Darfur Peace Strategy that is concerned with continued dialogue with the rebels; the internal social peace; development and services programme; support the return of the displaced people and rehabilitation of villages; and compensating the affected people.

20. The continued dialogue with the rebels under the supervision of the Afro Arab International Initiative (AU, AL and UN) in Doha is a development worth taking note of.

21. We note that development of good relations between Sudan and Chad has had positive impacts in supporting the peace process and stability in Darfur. All security violations and support of rebel movements have decreased significantly.

22. The humanitarian situation in Darfur seems to be stable. The indication in this respect is the return of some refugees and displaced people to their home villages.

NORTH AFRICA

Saharawi

23. We reiterate Africa's commitment to continue supporting the efforts aimed at resolving the dispute on Western Sahara on the basis of international legality of relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions of the United Nations, as well as the Tripoli Plan of Action. We support the Saharawi people's wish and right to choose and determine their own destiny.

We call upon stakeholders, in particular Morocco to fulfil their commitments to the Tripoli Plan of Action.

24. The PAP is filled with consternation by the massive and repeated violations of human rights in the Western Sahara by Moroccan Authorities. It is calling on African Union and the United Nations Organization to become involved particularly in this matter by compelling Morocco to respect its obligations and to free political prisoners that it is holding in its prisons.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Madagascar

25. The situation in Madagascar constitutes a real challenge for Africa and the SADC Region in particular. SADC continues with efforts to arrive at an agreement on a consensual and inclusive transition in Madagascar. However, this initiative has continued to come up against the will of the Rajoelina Regime to proceed with the elections in disregard of the spirit and letter of the Maputo and Addis Ababa Agreements. We commend efforts by SADC, AU and UN to find a quick solution. No effort should be spared to achieve return to constitutional legality.

WEST AFRICA

Cote D'Ivoire

26. Following 8 years of bickering and posturing in holding elections as a way forward, the critically remaining hurdle of a voter register has been achieved, thereby clearing the way for elections to go ahead. We are optimistic the elections

will be held as scheduled at the end of October 2010. All stakeholders should endeavour to ensure smooth, free and fair elections.

Niger

27. Democratic civilian rule has not returned. However, it is pleasing to note that a one-year transition program has been adopted, calling for organisational of a constitutional referendum, municipal and legislative elections, and presidential elections on 26 December 2010. We hope that this timetable will be respected and upheld. All stakeholders should endeavour to ensure smooth, free and fair elections.

Guinea (Conakry)

28. A glimmer of hope now looms as the presidential run-off date has been set for 24th October 2010 between the 2 leading candidates of the first round of elections nearly four months ago.

29. We urge the ECOWAS, AU, the UN and other key players to remain seized and fully engaged to ensure a free, fair and transparent process that would respect the true wishes of the Guinean people, thereby lending legitimacy to the outcome of the polls.

Nigeria

30. The bombing on the Nigerian 50th independence anniversary celebrations has thrown a spanner in the works of the heretofore critically fledging path leading to elections in the first quarter of next year. There is tension brewing within the ruling party with political rivals of the sitting President for the party's nomination accusing him of intimidation and witch-hunting following the arrest and questioning of aides of one of the rivals in connection with the incident. The unfolding developments in this situation have to be closely monitored and managed so as to avoid untoward repercussions for the democratic gains so far made in the continent's most populous country. As a major player in Africa, we would not like to see an escalation of further tension in Nigeria.

CHALLENGES

31. Core challenges will have to be addressed by both Africans and international partners. The key challenges include:

1. Fostering institutional capacities.
2. Political commitment by the majority of Africa's states .
3. Improving the quality of international support.
4. Prevention and combating of terrorism .
5. Proliferation of small arms and light weapons .
6. Protection of civilians in peace keeping operations.
7. Maritime security and safety especially in the Indian Ocean off coast of Somalia and Gulf of Guinea.

8. Piracy off the coast of Somalia is but a symptom of the complex political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia, including the enduring climate of lawlessness, poverty, youth unemployment and collapse of state institutions. Illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste off the coast of Somalia were also key contributing factors to the emergence of this phenomenon.
9. Lack of a fully established and operational Early Warning System (EWS).

