



International Conference for Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region

First Summit of Heads of State and Governments

DRAFT 2

DAR ES-SALAAM DECLARATION ON PEACE, SECURITY, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

1. PREAMBLE

1. **We**, Heads of State and Government of Member countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, meeting in Dar Es-Salaam, on the 19 and 20 of November 2004, under the auspices of the African Union and the United Nations;

2. **Deeply** concerned about the endemic conflicts and persistent insecurity caused or aggravated by, *inter alia*, illegal traffic of small arms and light weapons, proliferation of armed groups, organized crime, impunity of war crimes, genocides and other crimes against humanity, massive violations of human rights and other policies of exclusion and marginalisation, use of violence for conquering and conserving power, mistrust and suspicion between governments, illegal exploitation of natural resources, economic stagnation and poverty aggravation; recognising the efforts made at national, regional and international level to resolve these endemic problems;

3. **Aware** that the causes of conflict and insecurity in the region can also be found in our history;

4. **Aware** of the need to respect democracy and good governance, the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the Constitutive Act of the AU such as, territorial integrity, sovereignty, non-interference and non-aggression, prohibition of any Member State from allowing the use of its territory as a base for aggression and subversion against another Member State, as well as the need for effective and sustained political will to jointly seek peaceful solutions and especially to honour our commitments in a spirit of mutual trust;

5. **Conscious** that the crises and conflicts affecting one country can rapidly spread to another, and even to the entire region, owing to the close links existing between our peoples;

6. **Deeply** concerned about the humanitarian and social consequences of crises and armed conflicts especially violations of the human rights of women, children and youth, the recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed conflicts, the sexual violence and exploitation of girls and women and their use as sexual slaves, the forced displacement of populations, the destruction of basic services, especially the health and education infrastructure, the food insecurity and subsequent malnutrition of populations, the degradation of the eco-system and human settlements and the strain on the allocation of national resources between the security and social sectors;

7. **Deeply** concerned over the lack of full application of essential legal instruments contained in the International Humanitarian Law and some basic principles, notably those concerning the refugees and displaced persons, leading to serious breaches in the protection of, and delivery of assistance to, affected populations;

8. **Concerned** over the HIV/AIDS scourge, the spread of Malaria, Tuberculosis and other contagious diseases, the high illiteracy rate and their consequences on human development;

9. **Aware** of the lag in economic development and regional integration linked to, among other factors, unsound policy choices, mixed results of structural adjustment programmes, the mismanagement of public resources, the unsustainable debt burden and the destructive effects of war;

10. **Considering** that the discrimination against women, particularly at decision making levels, in the areas of peace and security, democracy and political, economic and social governance calls for a deliberate, immediate and sustainable redress;

11. **Aware** of the fact that political leaders need to work individually and collectively towards reconstruction and development of the region and to promote a future of peace, stability and prosperity;

12. **Convinced** that the best way to build a viable future for all is through reestablishment of interstate and intrastate relations based on trust, revitalisation cooperation and integration, within the framework of a regional and inclusive approach for the promotion of sustainable peace, security, democracy and development;

11. VISION

13. **Declare** our collective determination to transform the Great Lakes Region into a space of sustainable peace, security for States and peoples, political and social stability, shared growth and development, a space of cooperation based on the strategies and policies of convergence within the framework of a common destiny which we are determined to build, in line with the aspirations of our peoples, in conformity also with the AU Vision and Mission, with the full participation of all our peoples, and in partnership with the African Union, the United Nations and the International Community as a whole;

14. **Reaffirm** our commitment to achieving this common destiny with strict compliance to the UN Charter, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Universal Declaration of Human rights, of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as all relevant international and regional legal instruments;

15. **We** commit ourselves to build a Great Lakes Region that is open to other regions of the continent, by building our cooperation on priority areas: Peace and Security, Governance and Democracy, Economic Development and Regional Integration, Humanitarian and Social Issues, and to lay down, within the framework of the following priority policy options, guiding principles and mechanisms;

III. PRIORITY POLICY OPTIONS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PEACE and SECURITY

We commit ourselves to:

16. **Strengthen** bilateral and regional cooperation, through the adoption and/or effective implementation of non-aggression and common defence pacts;

17. **Establish** an effective regional security framework for the peaceful prevention, management and settlement of conflicts and, to this end, evaluate regularly relevant sub regional initiatives and mechanisms and adapt them while encouraging appropriate traditional structures;

18. **Strengthen** cooperation in the area of defence and security and promote confidence building by establishing policies, measures and mechanisms aimed at enhancing good neighbourliness and multi-sectoral cooperation;

19. **Promote** common policies to curb the illegal proliferation, circulation and use of small arms and light weapons, as well as anti-personnel mines and, in that regard, harmonize and facilitate the implementation of existing agreements and mechanisms;

20. **Ensure** security at common borders within the context of transborder proximity management strategies, in consultation with the populations of these areas;

21. **Prevent** any direct or indirect support, delivery of arms or any other form of assistance to armed groups operating in the region, as well as deny use of any territory by armed groups to carry out acts of aggression or subversion against other Member States;

22. **Implement**, in an effective and sustainable way, the regional Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) programmes, including those that benefit former child soldiers and female ex-combatants;

23. **Intensify** the fight against transborder crime and terrorism and, to this end, implement measures against impunity through regional mechanisms set up to monitor the enforcement of relevant international Conventions;

24. **Protect** vulnerable groups, women, children, the elderly, the disabled and the sick, refugees and displaced persons, involving them in our peace efforts, addressing issues of sexual violence, implementing a Regional Strategy against the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a peace and security issue, in conformity with the relevant regional and international political and legal mechanisms, including Resolution 1308 of the Security Council of the United Nations, creating conditions for sparing the youth from all sorts of manipulation, particularly during armed conflicts;

25. **Fully** support the national peace processes in the region and refraining from any acts, statements or attitudes likely to negatively impact them, including through the media;

DEMOCRACY and GOOD GOVERNANCE

We commit ourselves to:

26. **Promote**, in our States and in the region, policies and strategies based on actual respect, values, principles and norms of democracy and good governance;

27. **Combat** all discriminatory ideologies, policies and practices and any acts of genocide, massacres, terrorism, racism, ethnicism, exclusion as well as any forms of violence or crime, and accordingly developing common policies and programmes in civic education, free movement of persons, freedom of expression and free circulation of ideas, policies of national unity based on multiculturalism, tolerance and the culture of peace, including building our common destiny on shared African cultural values;

28. **Put** in place national and regional policies based on democracy and good governance and aimed at consolidating the rule of law, building capacity in leadership, ensuring the transparency of electoral processes, strengthening the efficiency of legal and security services, promoting new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);

29. **Promote** effective participation of different social players, specifically the civil society, women and youth, particularly through the promotion of local governance and a private, independent and responsible press;

30. **Establish** regional self-evaluation and monitoring mechanisms and bodies on practices of good governance and democracy such as the NEPAD Peer Review Mechanism, on adherence to international conventions on human rights and on criminal practices such as illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons and on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes Region;

31. **Adopt** deliberate policies and mechanisms for promoting gender equality at all levels and in all sectors, at the national and regional levels, in accordance with the Millennium Declaration, Resolution 1325 (2000) on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, additional protocols on the rights of Women in Africa, the Beijing Plan of Action and the African Union's Declaration on Gender Equality;

32. **Establish** a regional legal mechanism to address crimes, particularly crimes of war, crimes against humanity, crimes of genocide and terrorism;

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and REGIONAL INTEGRATION

We commit ourselves to:

33. **Promote** a shared vision of economic development and regional integration that supports holistic and sustainable development;

34. **Attain** regional integration through working towards the harmonization of economic and monetary cooperation instruments and adopt strategies for macroeconomic convergence, and the implementation of regional policies for the free movement of people, goods and services;

35. **Cooperate** in enhancing economic growth through economic integration and addressing the major challenges faced by the countries particularly through the total cancellation of debt and by incorporating an integrated strategy to ensure regional reconstruction of productive sectors and infrastructure;

36. **Establish** or strengthen regional, legal, administrative and institutional frameworks and developing capacity for regional integration;

37. **Build** a unified economic space for enhanced economic efficiency and for the eradication of poverty, and achieving sustainable economic development;
38. **Promote** growth and development through revitalisation and harmonization of existing regional integration organisations and establishment of transborder poles/zones;
39. **Adopt** regional policies for the promotion of a vibrant, socially responsible private sector within an environment that is conducive to investments through, *inter alia*, a mechanism for the integration of the informal sector into the mainstream economy;
40. **Promote** regional policies and strategies for income diversification and enhancement, competitiveness of productive sectors, rational management of land resources, sustained and sound management of vital regional natural and environmental resources such as the ecosystem of lakes, mineral deposits and forests, as well as sustainable human settlements;
41. **Promote** regional cooperation in trade, energy, transport, tourism, culture, environment, Information and Communication Technologies, as well as in telecommunications, with emphasis on railways, oil pipelines, submarine cables and optic fibre network interconnections;
42. **Formulate** a regional strategy for the development of agriculture, fisheries, livestock breeding and agro-industry, as well as irrigation policies aimed at reducing dependence on rainfall patterns and climatic changes;
43. **Promote** cooperation in scientific research and in the social sector, particularly in the fields of education and health, with a view to' harmonizing programmes or policies, promoting exchange, fostering rational management of human resources, curbing brain drain and improving living conditions;
44. **Formulate** national and regional policies that promote the employment of women and youth and develop appropriate regional financing mechanisms so as to give them more access to micro-finance institutions, investment opportunities in trade and control of factors of production such as land, property and capital;

45. **Harmonise** regional policies and mechanisms for the management of the environment, especially of national parks and protected eco-systems, in respect of international conventions and norms on the matter;

46. **Adopt**, promote and support the formulation balanced rural and urban development strategies and policies at national and regional levels;

47. **Engage** the International Community, especially the UN and all its agencies, the AU and Development Partners, to support the countries of the region in declaring the Great Lakes Region a "Specific Reconstruction and Development Area" to be endowed with a Special Fund for Reconstruction and, within this framework, pledge to mobilise resources available in the region;

48. **Cooperate** with partners towards total debt cancellation given the special post conflict situation in the region;

HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL ISSUES

We commit ourselves to:

49. **Strictly** comply with obligations and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and ratify, implement at the national level and operationalise all relevant and related international and regional instruments;

50. **Adopt** and implement the UN Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons, harmonise all the relevant legislations and define a national and regional framework for the monitoring and follow-up of the standards contained therein and which relate to the access, protection of disaster victims, internally displaced persons, refugees, women and children who are victims of conflicts;

51. **Strictly** adhere to the norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law and related conventions, *inter-alia* the Geneva Conventions of 1949, on the protection of civilians in times of conflict and the provision of humanitarian assistance, including full and free access to all persons requiring assistance in accordance

with, *inter-alia*, articles 3, 23, 59 and 70 of the Geneva Conventions;

52. **Guarantee** the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, with the understanding that international humanitarian organizations respect the national laws of the countries where they intervene, in accordance with the 1994 Convention on the Safety and Security of United Nations and associated personnel, and Resolution 1502 of the United Nations Security Council;

53. **Find** lasting solutions to the protracted problems of displaced populations and refugees, notably with regard to their peaceful co-existence with resident populations, in the host countries, their voluntary repatriation or local intergration, the burden sharing between the host countries and the International community, the voluntary repatriation of refugees or their intergration in the host countries and the voluntary return of displaced persons.with the full involvement of the local authorities and host populations, and within the framework of tripartite agreements where applicable;

54. **Establish** a regional mechanism and national systems enabling the identification, disarmament of refugees and displaced persons, separate them from combatants and confine them to distinct facilities to prevent them from being manipulated for political or military purposes;

55. **Ensure** the clearing of anti-personnel mines, particularly from areas inhabited by refugees, returnees and displaced persons and locate camps at a reasonable distance from the borders, as stipulated in the OAU Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and relevant Executive Committee conclusions on the programmes of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees endorsed by the UN General Assembly;

56. **Establish** a regional early warning and rapid response mechanism for natural and man-made disasters;

57. **Prohibit** the recruitment of children into armed forces or their participation in all manner of hostilities, including support roles, and to this end accede to and implement, through domestic legislation in internal legal systems, the relevant provisions of the African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child and the optional

Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Take all necessary measures to ensure that former child-soldiers are exempted from compulsory military service, reintegrated into their communities, rehabilitated, counselled and resettled;

58. Set up regional mechanisms, including relevant traditional support mechanisms, aimed at providing psychological support and medical and legal assistance to women and girls who are victims of rape as well as other acts of sexual violence and exploitation;

59. **Adopt** a common regional approach for the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on statelessness, harmonize related national laws and standards, and provide refugees and displaced persons with identification documents enabling them to have access to basic services and exercise their rights;

60. **Ensure** that refugees and displaced persons, upon return to their areas of origin, recover their goods and property, and where applicable, that they receive compensation;

61. **Allocate** funds from debt cancellation with priority given to programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction of social and educational infrastructure, as well as rural development;

62. **Promote** preventive strategies to curb the spread and reduce the impact of endemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, and reduce the impact of the said diseases by strengthening regional initiatives, especially the Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA), the Initiative of the people living on the shores of Rivers Congo and Ubangui, to facilitate access to medical intervention and to reinforce the collaboration, coordination and sharing of information among the region's States;

63. **Make** the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a reference for the development of integrated policies aimed at eradicating poverty phenomena;

64. **Develop** and promote comprehensive curricula on the culture of Peace in the educational systems;

65. **Encourage** the use of Kiswahili as a working language in the Great Lakes region;

IV. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

We decide to:

66. **Give** contents to our shared vision for the Great Lakes Region, and to this end, hold more regular political consultations to consolidate and materialize our cooperation in the form of a Pact on Security, Stability and Development to be adopted at the Second Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region scheduled for 2005 in Nairobi;

67. **Set up** a Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee, supported by the Regional Preparatory Committee, enhanced with representatives of women and youth, members of the civil society and other reputable experts; Mandate the Inter-Ministerial Committee to prepare selected, concrete and achievable, draft protocols and programmes of action together with specific short, medium and long-term objectives; these draft protocols and programs of actions will be submitted to the Second Summit and with this Declaration, will form the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region;

68. **Request** the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee to spare no effort in taking into account the recommendations emanating from the meetings of Regional Preparatory Committee, other special regional meetings as well as meetings related to the preparation of the Conference;

69. **Direct** the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee to include in the draft protocols and programmes of action, practical modalities for implementation, regular monitoring and periodic evaluation of the different components of the Pact, at national and regional levels;

70. **Recommend** that the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee work in close collaboration with the UN, the AU, relevant regional organizations and development partners, and the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region;

71. **Warmly** express our thanks to the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region and invite them to continue their commendable diplomatic, political, technical and financial support in order to help create conditions favourable for the implementation of this Declaration and for the requisite preparation of decisions of the Second Summit;

72. **Warmly** congratulate the UN and the AU for the sustained efforts, diligent organisation and constant commitment in which the preparatory process of the Conference has been conducted and are requesting them to continue their efforts towards the preparation of the Second Summit of the Conference;

73. **Warmly** thank the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting this Summit;

V FINAL PROVISIONS

74. **Declare** that the present Declaration take effect immediately and that we are committed to diligently respecting its provisions;

75. **Call** upon the UN and the AU, in consultation with the host country of our First

Summit and with the support of the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region, to assist Member States of the Conference to actually implement the Declaration until the Second Summit of the Conference.

Done in Dar Es Salaam, On 20 November, 2004