Saïd Djinnit

United Nations: Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (September 2014 to 31 March 2019)

In this capacity, he led and coordinated the United Nations efforts in support of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region ("Framework Agreement"), signed in February 2013 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. Working in co-operation with the other Guarantors of the Framework Agreement, namely the AU, ICGLR and SADC, Said Djinnit supported and promoted regional efforts to curb the activities of the illegal armed groups and initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of conflicts in eastern DRC and the region, including addressing the illicit exploitation and trade of natural resources, fighting impunity, promoting the role of women and strengthening the contribution of the private sector in peace efforts. Further to the decision of the leaders of the region in 2017, he facilitated, together with the AU Special Representative and in cooperation with the other Guarantors, the launch and work of the Follow-up Mechanism on the repatriation of disarmed combatants in eastern DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.

He also supported dialogue processes in the region, including in Burundi and the DRC to create conditions for peaceful, democratic and credible elections. He promoted aligned regional and international approaches in support of peaceful solutions in these two countries. In Burundi, he initiated and facilitated the Inter-Burundi dialogue from April to June 2015.

Ambassador Djinnit initiated and supported the reform of the governing mechanisms of the Framework Agreement, following which the annual Summits bringing together the leaders of the region were hosted by one of the signatory countries, resulting in greater regional ownership and commitment to implement the Framework Agreement.

Working in cooperation with the ICGLR, he further spearheaded United Nations efforts to address the illicit exploitation and trade of natural resources; enhance judicial cooperation; promote the role of the *forces vives*, notably women, youth and civil society, and address the displacement crisis in the region as key causes and drivers of conflict in the Great Lakes. He led efforts, including resource mobilization, to organize the first ever Private Sector Investment Conference in the Great Lakes held in February 2016 in Kinshasa, the DRC.

United Nations: Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (April 2008 to September 2014)

Following the coup d'état in 2008, Ambassador Djinnit played a key role in the mediation and good offices efforts in Guinea that prevented the eruption of a looming conflict and enabled the holding of the first ever democratic Presidential election in the country in June and November 2010. He served as the International Facilitator of the Guinean dialogue which was concluded by the 3 July 2013 Political Agreement, paving the way for the holding of legislative elections in September 2013. Working together with the AU and ECOWAS, he also contributed to initiatives aimed at seeking peaceful and democratic solutions to post coup d'état crises in Mauritania, Niger and Mali, as well as election-related crises in

Togo, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire. In Nigeria, in his capacity as the High Representative of the Secretary-General, he supported efforts to address the Boko Haram crisis, including the kidnapping of the Cibok girls in 2014, and worked in support of a peaceful transition of power during the electoral crisis in 2015.

Ambassador Djinnit was actively engaged in forging partnerships for peace in West Africa between the UN and key regional actors and in promoting strategies to address cross-border challenges (i) in the Sahel region in the aftermath of the Libyan crisis; (ii) on the Mano River Union; (iii) on maritime piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea; and (iv) in regard to transnational organized crime, including illicit drug trafficking, through the promotion of the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) and support to the ECOWAS regional plan.

He also served as chair of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC), established to oversee the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria, and Chair of the Follow-up Committee on the Greentree Agreement on the withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula. Under his leadership, the demarcation process of the border between Nigeria and Cameroon was initiated and significant progress achieved. Under his auspices, a joint Declaration was signed on 22 October 2013 by Nigeria, Cameroon and the UN, formally recognizing the full rights of sovereignty of Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula.

African Union (AU) and Organization of African Unity (OAU):

- **AU Commissioner for Peace and Security (2003-2008);**
- **OAU Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (1999-2003);**
- **Chef de Cabinet of the OAU Secretary-General (1989-1999)**

In his 18 years and a half at leadership positions at the OAU and the AU, Ambassador Djinnit contributed to the development of the African peace and security agenda, including the establishment of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in 1993 and the adoption of the Protocol establishing the AU Peace and Security Council in 2002 as well as the subsequent policy documents putting in place the new African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) namely: the development of the African Standby Force (ASF); the Post Conflict and Reconstruction Strategic Framework; the Framework for the operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System; the Solemn Declaration on the African Common Defense and Security; and the Protocol on the Relations between the African Union and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Resolution. He also promoted the 2003 AU Protocol on Women's rights, the "Maputo Protocol".

During the transition from the OAU to the AU, Ambassador Djinnit led the process which resulted in the adoption of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and promoted the principle of non-indifference as a core value of the AU.

He spearheaded efforts by the OAU and the AU in supporting peace processes on the continent, including in Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Rwanda, Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, (Darfur) Sudan, Comoros, Madagascar, Ethiopia-Eritrea and Somalia.

He was the Mediator in the Post-Mercenary led coup d'état in the Comoros (1995/1996), which resulted in the first power sharing agreement directly brokered by the OAU; in the Anjouanese separatist crisis (1999-2000); in the launching of the first talks that led to the Lusaka Peace Agreement (selection of

President Masiré as the Mediator of the DRC dialogue and the launching of the Inter-Congolese dialogue in 1999-2000); and in the first Madagascar electoral crisis in 2001, which emerged from a stand-off between the then incumbent President Didier Ratsiraka and Marc Ravalomanana.

He was part of the African Mediation Teams including in the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea (1998-2000).

He initiated and supervised the deployment of AU Peace Missions in Burundi (AMIB), the Sudan (AMIS) and Somalia (AMISOM).

Ambassador Djinnit spearheaded the development of partnership with the UN and the EU, including setting up the African Peace Facility. He further organized the first ever conferences on the role of civil society in 2000 and 2001, which led to the establishment of the AU civil society programme.

Algeria (1977 to 1989)

Said Djinnit was appointed as Ambassador of Algeria in 1998. From 1977-1989, he served in the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Head of Political Affairs and Liberation Movements Bureau and in the diplomatic missions for Algeria in Havana as First Secretary; Addis Ababa as Counselor and Brussels as Deputy Head of Mission.

He graduated in Diplomacy from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Algiers, in 1977. He is married with three children.