

**CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE
POUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS**

**PREMIERE REUNION DU COMITE REGIONAL PREPARATOIRE
DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA REGION DES
GRANDS LACS**

Bujumbura, Burundi 6-10 septembre 2004

**REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI
CABINET DU VICE-PRESIDENT**

**DISCOURS PRONONCE PAR SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR
ALPHONSE-MARIE KADEGE, VICE-PRESIDENT DE LA
REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI, A L'OCCASION DE LA CEREMONIE
D'OUVERTURE DE LA PREMIERE REUNION DU COMITE
REGIONAL PREPARATOIRE DE LA CONFERENCE
INTERNATIONAL SUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS.**

Honorables Parlementaires,
Excellences Messieurs les Ambassadeurs,
Mesdames, Messieurs, les Ministres,
Madame et Monsieur les Représentants Spéciaux du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies,
Monsieur le Représentant Spécial du Président de la Commission de l'Union Africaine,
Mesdames, Messieurs, les Représentants des Organisations Internationales,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégations,
Distingués Invités,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Participants,

1. A l'occasion de la tenue à Bujumbura de la Première Réunion du Comité Préparatoire Régional de la Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs, permettez-nous d'abord de souhaiter à vous tous une très chaleureuse bienvenue et un agréable séjour dans notre pays.
2. Votre présence ici témoigne de l'intérêt que vos pays et organisations respectives attachent aux questions de paix, de sécurité, de démocratie et de développement dans la région des Grands Lacs. Nous nous réjouissons en conséquence d'accueillir la première réunion du Comité Préparatoire Régional chargé de lancer le débat sur ces thèmes.
3. Cette réunion se tient après la folie meurtrière du 23 août 2004 qui s'est abattue sur le camp de réfugiés de Gatumba où plus de 160 Tutsi Congolais ont été sauvagement massacrés par des groupes terroristes œuvrant dans la région. Je vous prie de vous lever et de garder une minute de silence en mémoire des victimes de cette tragédie inqualifiable. (.....).

Je vous remercie !

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

4. Le Gouvernement de la République du Burundi a eu l'occasion de s'exprimer sur ce triste événement et a fermement condamné et condamne une fois de plus cet acte de génocide.
5. En collaboration avec les pays de la région et avec la communauté internationale, nous réitérons notre engagement à tout faire pour que les coupables soient connus et traduits en justice. Ce drame a été une preuve de plus, que les tenants de l'idéologie du génocide se coalisent dans la Région. Par conséquent, il devient impératif de conjuguer nos efforts pour lutter contre l'expansion de cette idéologie de mort.
6. Après l'analyse de la crise qui secoue la Région des Grands Lacs au cours de ces dernières années, le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies a conclu que cette dernière constituait une menace contre la paix et la sécurité internationale. A travers deux résolutions adoptées en février et en juin 2000, le Conseil a affirmé l'importance d'organiser au moment opportun une conférence internationale sur la paix, la sécurité, la démocratie et le développement dans la Région des Grands Lacs.
7. Cette conférence internationale sera une bonne opportunité pour les Chefs d'Etat de la Région de se concerter pour dégager un accord sur un certain nombre de principes, de formuler et de lancer des programmes visant à mettre fin au retour cyclique des crises et des violences. L'objectif primordial est de parvenir à garantir la paix, la sécurité, la démocratie et le développement durable pour nos peuples respectifs de la région, qui n'ont que trop souffert de la complexité des conflits qui s'y déroulent sur un mode d'extermination de groupes humains entiers.
8. En dépit de conditions climatiques favorables et d'immenses ressources forestières, hydrauliques, minières et autres dans la région des Grands Lacs, beaucoup de ses habitants vivent à l'heure actuelle dans le traumatisme, la mendicité et la misère la plus abjecte du fait de la guerre. Il nous faut donc susciter un sursaut national et régional pour dire non aux maux qui minent nos pays et nos sociétés. Nous avons le devoir de dire non au génocide, à la corruption, aux détournements des deniers publics, à l'injustice, à l'impunité, à la mauvaise gouvernance et à l'intolérance ethnique et politique.
9. Nous devons nous organiser pour créer progressivement chez nous et autour de nous des espaces de paix, de sécurité et de démocratie favorables à la stabilité et au développement durable. C'est une impérieuse nécessité si nous voulons léguer à nos enfants, aux générations futures, un environnement globalement viable, des pays et une région où règnent la paix et la concorde.

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

10. Comme vous le savez tous, le Burundi vit en guerre depuis octobre 1993. L'Accord d'Arusha pour la Paix et la Réconciliation Nationale signé le 28 août 2000 a été suivi par des Accords de cessez-le-feu avec les mouvements rebelles, à l'exception du FNL-Palipehutu qui refuse de s'asseoir à la table de négociation. Suite à cette intransigeance et surtout au drame de Gatumba qu'il a lui-même revendiqué, ce mouvement vient d'être qualifié de « terroriste » par le dernier Sommet de l'Initiative régionale sur le Burundi, tenu à Dar-es-Salam le 18 août 2004. Ce mouvement est de ce fait politiquement disqualifié. Nous demandons instamment à la Communauté Internationale toute entière d'en tirer toutes les conséquences sans tergiverser. Le FNL et ses alliés dans la coalition régionale pour l'extermination de certains groupes humains – les Batutsi en particulier - doivent être neutralisés définitivement. Toute autre attitude à leur égard est une chance qu'on vole à la paix dans la région des Grands Lacs.
11. Trop de tragédies ont été perpétrées dans cette sous-région. Gatumba, dans toute son horreur, n'est qu'un épisode dans un long et douloureux cycle d'horreurs qui ont frappé l'humanité au cœur sans que celle-ci se lève collectivement pour casser les ressorts de la barbarie.
12. Devant pareille barbarie, tout le monde est concerné : les Gouvernements de la région, les peuples de la région mais aussi la Communauté Internationale.
13. Lors de la dernière guerre mondiale, le monde entier s'est mobilisé contre l'idéologie et les forces nazies. Aujourd'hui, comment comprendre la patience affichée, la tolérance constante, voire la complicité devant la prolifération des enseignements du racisme, de la haine ethnique, de l'idéologie du génocide, devant la pratique éhontée du génocide, devant l'impunité généralisée de ce crime dans cette sous-région, devant le négationisme ambiant ! Comment comprendre cette tolérance ? Peut-on raisonnablement penser que la démocratie, le développement et la promotion des droits de l'homme pourront cohabiter avec l'idéologie et la pratique du génocide ? Nous pensons qu'il faudra choisir. La Conférence s'honorera en faisant le bon choix. La réunion du Comité régional doit préparer ce choix en évitant de tergiverser, de composer avec ce mal, en évitant de convoyer. C'est le pris du succès attendu.
14. Au cours de cette première réunion du Comité régional préparatoire, chacun des pays membres de la région aura l'occasion de présenter le rapport d'activités basé sur la vision de chaque pays quant aux priorités régionales sur les thèmes de la conférence.
15. Les participants auront ensuite l'occasion de mener en profondeur des discussions ouvertes sur chacun des thèmes ainsi présentés, aussi bien en plénière que dans les ateliers prévus. Le résumé des discussions menées sera également suivi de commentaires et de propositions pertinentes de nature à permettre de dégager des pistes de consensus.
16. Nous souhaitons de tout cœur que cette importante réunion, la première du genre, puisse se dérouler dans un climat de franchise, de sérénité et de respect mutuel et aboutir à des

résultats fructueux dans l'intérêt et pour le bonheur de nos pays et de nos peuples respectifs.

17. C'est sur ces mots que nous déclarons ouverts les travaux de la première réunion du Comité Régional Préparatoire de la Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs et vous souhaitons plein succès.

Je vous remercie !

ALLOCUTION DE M. IBRAHIMA FALL, REPRESENTANT SPECIAL DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS

Excellence, Monsieur le Vice-président de la République,
Honorables Parlementaires,
Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres,
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants du Corps Diplomatique,
Mesdames, Messieurs les Coordinateurs nationaux et délégués des pays membres de la
Conférence,
Représentants des pays cooptés de la Conférence,
Monsieur l'Envoyé spécial de l'Union Africaine pour la Région des Grands Lacs,
Collègues de l'Union Africaine et des Organisations sous-régionales africaines,
Partenaires du Groupe des Amis de la Région des Grands Lacs et de l'Union européenne,
Madame la Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire Général au Burundi,
Monsieur le Représentant spécial adjoint du Secrétaire Général en RDC,
Collègues de la famille des Nations Unies,
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des femmes, des jeunes et des ONG régionales,
Mesdames, Messieurs,

Nous voici réunis pour la 1^{ère} fois, à Bujumbura, capitale de cette terre burundaise de miel et de lait, qui, malgré tous les obstacles, démontre chaque jour encore plus sa volonté inébranlable de vaincre la guerre et l'adversité comme de vivre en paix avec elle-même et en coexistence harmonieuse avec ses voisins. Nous nous apprêtons aujourd'hui à franchir une étape décisive dans le processus préparatoire qui doit nous mener au 1^{er} Sommet de la Conférence Internationale sur les Grands Lacs, Sommet prévu les 19 et 20 novembre à Dar-es-Salaam. Cette nouvelle phase, celle des Réunions du Comité Régional Préparatoire, qui débute aujourd'hui, doit, en effet, nous permettre de partager et de concilier les visions nationales des pays membres sur les défis qui interpellent la région des Grands Lacs ainsi que de dégager une vision régionale commune à travers les 4 thèmes retenus, à savoir : Paix et Sécurité ; Démocratie et Bonne Gouvernance ; Développement Economique et Intégration régionale ; Questions humanitaires et sociales.

Il y a un peu plus d'un an, lorsque le processus de la Conférence Internationale a été lancé, avec la tenue, en juin 2003 à Nairobi, de la 1^{ère} réunion des Coordinateurs nationaux, nombreux étaient ceux qui étaient pessimistes ou, à tout le moins sceptiques, quant aux chances de voir le processus préparatoire se poursuivre. Toutefois, malgré la volatilité de la situation politique et militaire de la région et les turbulences qui ont secoué la transition, notamment en RDC et au Burundi, sans mentionner d'importantes questions en suspens, rien n'a entamé la volonté de tous et de chacun des pays de la région de travailler à jeter les bases politiques, substantielles et organisationnelles indispensables.

Depuis juin 2003, 5 réunions des Coordinateurs nationaux ont eu lieu. Elles ont permis de définir les contours de la Conférence, son calendrier, d'identifier les différentes catégories d'acteurs et de structures, ainsi que de s'accorder sur leurs statuts et rôles respectifs.

Au plan national, un comité préparatoire représentatif du gouvernement et de la société civile, et dont la structuration et le mode opératoire ont été arrêtés d'un commun accord, a été mis en

place dans chaque pays. Chaque comité national préparatoire a, depuis plusieurs mois, mené des activités d'information, de sensibilisation, de mobilisation et de réflexion autour des thèmes de la Conférence aux fins de dégager des cahiers de charge autour d'une vision nationale.

Au plan international, les rôles respectifs des pays de la région, de l'Union africaine, du système des Nations Unies et de la Communauté internationale en général ont été soigneusement définis dans une perspective de complémentarité, sur la base des principes d'appropriation et de partenariat.

Quant aux organisations sous-régionales opérant dans la région des Grands Lacs, elles se sont réunies par deux fois, sous l'égide de l'Union africaine, avec le Secrétariat de la Conférence et celui du NEPAD, afin d'étudier leur contribution au processus préparatoire de la Conférence.

Des réunions spécialisées, à l'initiative, notamment, des organisations religieuses, par des syndicats et des parlementaires de la région des Grands Lacs, ont eu lieu avec succès ; l'Académie Internationale de la Paix a également organisé deux séminaires sur les problèmes de la région des Grands Lacs ; un atelier spécial sur les dimensions des Droits de l'Homme de la Conférence a été organisé par le Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme. De même, l'UNESCO a tenu une réunion internationale sur le dialogue interculturel et la culture en Afrique Centrale et dans la région des Grands Lacs. Enfin, Amani Forum a initié une consultation régionale des parlementaires sur la Conférence. Les contributions de ces différentes assises, parmi d'autres, seront versées dans les dossiers de cette semaine.

D'autres réunions spécialisées d'acteurs de la région des Grands Lacs sont prévues dans les tous prochains jours : un forum des jeunes à Kampala du 12 au 17 septembre, une réunion des femmes à Kigali du 23 au 25 septembre, un symposium des ONG régionales à Arusha du 20 au 24 septembre. Autant de cadres de discussion de et par des acteurs essentiels de la région sur les défis des Grands Lacs, et qui contribueront à enrichir les débats des deux prochaines réunions du Comité Régional Préparatoire, en prélude au Sommet de novembre.

En outre, depuis décembre 2003, un Groupe des Amis de la Région des Grands Lacs s'est constitué, co-présidé par le Canada et les Pays-Bas. Ce Groupe des Amis, qui est composé de 26 pays et de 10 institutions internationales, qui sont des partenaires du développement, animés par une volonté ferme d'aider la région des Grands Lacs à émerger du marasme, a apporté un soutien financier, politique et technique considérable, déterminant. Que les animateurs inlassables de ces partenaires du Groupe des Amis de la région des Grands Lacs et ceux des membres dudit groupe qui ont apporté une contribution aux activités préparatoires soient ici remerciés une nouvelle fois. Je saisis la présente occasion pour rendre un hommage singulier à l'Ambassadeur Marc-André BRAULT, Envoyé spécial du Canada pour la RDC et la RGL, co-président du GDA/RGL et qui doit nous quitter. Son engagement personnel, sa compétence et sa détermination ont joué un rôle cathodique dans la création, le fonctionnement et l'effectivité du groupe des Amis. A sa remplaçante future, l'Ambassadeur Ann Leahy, nous souhaitons la bienvenue.

Excellences, collègues et partenaires,

Malgré les crises récurrentes qui continuent de secouer la région, nous avons réussi, ensemble, à maintenir le cap, à faire du cadre préparatoire de cette Conférence un espace de dialogue où vindictes et rancœurs sont mises de côté pour céder la place à une détermination commune de

construire un chemin libéré des embûches du passé, un axe central de sortie de crise pour la région, pour apaiser les meurtrissures qui continuent de la ronger et préparer un futur prospère de vie commune. Certes, des défis restent à relever et d'autres vont apparaître. Je saisis donc cette opportunité pour lancer un nouvel appel à la solidarité, à la flexibilité et au sens du compromis, afin de donner à cette Conférence la dimension politique inclusive et le caractère pratique opératoire qui sont nécessaires à son véritable succès à long terme, comme le souhaitait la Communauté Internationale, les Nations Unies et l'Union africaine notamment.

Cette 1^{ère} réunion du Comité Régional Préparatoire sera également marquée par un passage de témoin du Secrétariat conjoint UA-ONU aux pays du champ, la direction des travaux étant désormais assumée par les pays membres de la Conférence. En effet, il est normal qu'au moment où s'ouvrent les discussions substantielles sur les grands enjeux et sujets de la Conférence, ce soit vous qui preniez entièrement en charge la direction des débats. Enfin, l'importance de cette réunion est soulignée aussi par sa structuration chronologique au cours des 5 prochains jours : les 1^{ère} et 2^{ème} journées seront essentiellement consacrées aux présentations des rapports substantiels des pays membres, ainsi qu'aux débats généraux en plénières sur les 4 thèmes de la Conférence. Puis suivront deux journées d'ateliers thématiques. La dernière journée servant enfin à restituer l'essence des discussions en ateliers et à tirer les conclusions.

Des facilitateurs, issus des agences spécialisées des Nations Unies, ainsi que des membres du Secrétariat conjoint des Nations Unies et de l'Union africaine accompagneront les participants tout au long des débats. Ils se chargeront également de préparer des notes de synthèse des débats tant en plénières que lors des ateliers, afin de faciliter l'élaboration du rapport final.

Excellence,

Permettez-moi de conclure cette adresse en terminant par là où je devrais commencer. C'est d'exprimer, au nom de la famille des Nations Unies, notre très sincère gratitude aux autorités burundaises, à vous M. le Vice-président de la République et, à travers vous, à tout le gouvernement burundais, et au Coordinateur National du Burundi, l'Ambassadeur Balthazar Habonimana, ainsi qu'à son équipe, pour l'accueil si chaleureux qui nous a été réservé, pour l'organisation remarquable de cette importante réunion, et pour l'engagement résolu du Burundi dans ce processus dès sa première heure. J'ai bon espoir qu'à la clôture de nos délibérations, vendredi prochain, nous aurons fait un grand pas vers la définition de ce qui constituera le fond des débats de la Conférence Internationale. C'est dans ce contexte que je voudrais me réjouir de la décision formelle du Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine de nommer l'Ambassadeur Mamadou BAH en qualité d'Envoyé spécial ad interim pour la Région des Grands Lacs.

En effet, il s'agit d'une formalisation car l'Ambassadeur BAH a été un acteur déterminant dans le processus de la Conférence depuis le début. La décision le concernant nous permettra de continuer à bénéficier de sa sagesse, de son savoir faire et de son engagement au service de l'Afrique au cours de nos débats. Ces débats nous conduiront à l'ossature sur laquelle, à terme, se construira le Pacte de Sécurité, de Stabilité et de Développement qui est l'objectif souhaité de ce processus, un pacte qui offrira de nouvelles perspectives de paix, de stabilité et de prospérité à cette région des Grands Lacs qui a tant souffert. Démonstrons à tous, à la Communauté Internationale qui nous observe, à nous-mêmes, notre volonté commune, notre

capacité conjointe à œuvrer pour un avenir prometteur, pour cette région des Grands Lacs qui est aussi le cœur de l'Afrique mère.

Je vous remercie !

**UNION AFRICAINE
UNIAO AFRICANA**

COMMUNICATION DE SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR MAMADOU BAH, ENVOYE SPECIAL A.I. POUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS DU PRESIDENT DE LA COMMISSION DE L'UNION AFRICAINE

S.E. Monsieur le Vice-Président de la République du Burundi

S.E Monsieur le Représentant Spécial du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies pour la région des Grands Lacs,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je vais tout d'abord souhaiter à vous tous, la bienvenue à Bujumbura et considérer votre présence ici comme l'expression de votre solidarité, de votre appui fervent en faveur de la restauration de la paix et de la stabilité pour l'ensemble des peuples de cette région, en général, et pour les populations burundaises, en particulier.

Dans le long processus de la préparation de la Conférence internationale sur la paix et la sécurité, la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance, le développement économique et l'intégration régionale dans la région des Grands Lacs, j'avais souvent eu à accompagner mon ami Berhanu DINKA et, ensuite, mon frère Ibrahim FALL. Mais c'est la première fois, aujourd'hui, que je vais prendre part aux travaux préparatoire en tant qu'Envoyé Spécial nommé, même ad intérim, du Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine. Le Président de l'Union africaine vient en effet d'ajouter ce titre à mes galons ou plutôt à mes charges. Vous devinez aisément que ce n'est pas moi qui vais applaudir. Je vais plutôt foudroyer du regard celui que je soupçonne à la base de cette machination ; merci quand même.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est toujours un bonheur pour moi de me trouver parmi les coordinateurs nationaux que j'ai déjà rencontrés à Nairobi ; un honneur de me trouver devant un aréopage aussi prestigieux comprenant autant d'expertises et de compétences invétérées.

Cette première réunion préparatoire à Bujumbura se situe dans un contexte, dans une conjoncture toute particulière. Nous nous trouvons ici à 15 km de Gatumba où il y a précisément 25 jours, par une nuit sans lune et sans étoiles, des miliciens armés envahirent le camp de réfugiés Banyamulenge pour en exterminer 160, par le fer et par le feu. 160 victimes innocentes qui avaient fuit l'horreur de la guerre de l'autre côté la frontière pour chercher refuge au Burundi et qui n'étaient coupables que de ce qu'ils étaient : des Banyamulenge.

Les enfants aux seins des mères n'ont pas eu le temps de se réveiller ; les mères n'ont pas pu se redresser pour réaliser ce qui leur arrivait. Voilà qui dessille les yeux et rouvre le registre que l'on croyait clos du génocide dans la région des Grands Lacs. Voilà qui nous replace au cœur du débat avant le débat sur les questions à l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence et justifie, une fois de plus, la tenue de la Conférence sur la paix et la sécurité, la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance, le développement économique et l'intégration régionale et le lancinant problème des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées dans cette région.

Gatumba recentre ainsi cette Conférence dans le feu de l'actualité brûlante et nous interpelle, en nous invitant à une réflexion orientée devant déboucher sur des actions concrètes.

N'est-ce pas cet objectif que s'était fixé la Conférence sur les réfugiés organisée ici même, en 1995, par l'OUA et le HCR, servie par le Tunisien Morijane et moi-même, à l'ombre de nos patrons Salim Ahmed Salim et Madame Ogata ? Malheureusement cette Conférence ne fit pas long feu, tout au moins dans le suivi. Elle visait pourtant à l'analyse des causes profondes des flux des réfugiés dans la région, à leurs conséquences et aux solutions que l'on devrait envisager pour y remédier.

Au cours de nos débats, ici et aujourd'hui, nous ne devons pas perdre de vue que la région des Grands Lacs constitue une aire géo-économique, un habitacle pour des peuples de même culture, quelque différents qu'ils puissent paraître, où les mêmes causes produisent les mêmes effets et les échanges de bons procédés ne véhiculent que les mauvais effets.

Si la Conférence sur les réfugiés en 1995 n'avait pas été un succès dans le suivi, faisons en sorte que celle sur la région des Grands Lacs que nous préparons aujourd'hui et les jours à venir soit un succès. En cela, je reste optimiste, si du moins il est permis de juger des fruits à la promesse des fleurs. En effet, le processus préparatoire de cette Conférence a finalement pu être placé, on dira sur les rails ou plutôt sur la bonne trajectoire, grâce au travail méthodique et la persévérance de M. Ibrahima Fall, Représentant Spécial du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies. Permettez-moi de faire violence à sa grande modestie et de le féliciter, grandement.

Je voudrais saluer aussi la présence des AMIS de la région et leur exprimer notre profonde gratitude pour leur constance, leur disponibilité et leur générosité.

A nos amis du Burundi, je voudrais adresser nos sincères félicitations et nos remerciements pour les facilités qu'ils ont réussi à mettre à notre disposition, malgré un contexte économique particulièrement difficile. Ils auront entre temps noté que, grâce à leurs efforts collectifs et à leur volonté commune, quelque chose a changé dans ce pays qui justifie largement que les gens répondent sans hésiter à l'invitation de venir à Bujumbura. La paix est là.

Enfin, Monsieur le Vice-président, merci, grand merci de rehausser de votre présence l'ouverture de cette réunion régionale préparatoire. Cette présence témoigne à suffisance de la disponibilité et de l'appui du gouvernement que vous représentez.

Agissons ensemble, classe politique, Exécutif, Assemblée nationale, Sénat et amis du peuple burundais. Agissons ensemble dans le coude à coude serré des cœurs et des consciences pour n'engager que la seule bataille qui vaille : celle de l'Alphabet et du pain, pour un meilleur devenir du peuple.

Je vous remercie!

REPORT OF THE ZAMBIA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION PRESENTED TO THE FIRST REGIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING, BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI FROM 6TH TO 10TH SEPTEMBER 2004.

INTRODUCTION

This report is an update of the progress that has been made by Zambia's National Preparatory Committee (NPC) towards the country's participation at the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region. The report focuses on the consultations that have been made by the NPAC on the four themes of the Conference.

The thematic sub-committees tasked to carry out consultations on the IC/GLR themes were formed in May 2004 and have been, meeting consistently since then in order to consolidate their findings.

The NPC is also in the process of carrying out Nation-wide consultations through workshops with the relevant stakeholders on Zambia's involvement in the Great Lakes Region initiative. Some workshops that have been conducted and those that are earmarked to be held soon include:

1. WOMEN'S WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER

This workshop was conducted in July 2004 as Zambia's preparatory process for the women's meeting to be held in September 2004 in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop covered all the four themes of the IC/GLR with emphasis on the effects of violence and instability on the women and children in the Great Lakes Region. The Guidelines for Gender Mainstreaming (IC/GLR) provided useful guidance to this Workshop. This Workshop in part reflected Zambia's general concern over Internally Displaced Persons and recommended these together with other refugees should be psychologically prepared before reintegration into their countries of origin.

2. YOUTH WORKSHOP

This workshop was conducted in August 2004 as Zambia's preparatory process for the youth specialized meeting to be held in Kampala, Uganda in September 2004. The workshop also covered all the four themes of the IC/GLR with emphasis on the effects of instability on the youth in the Great Lakes Region and the role of youths in peace building and development. Here again, the Workshop benefited from the IC/GLR Youth Specialised Proposal.

3. PARLIAMENTARY, CIVIL SOCIETY AND NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

These workshops are tentatively scheduled to be conducted before the second Regional Preparatory Committee meeting to be held in Kinshasa, DRC in October 2004.

THEMATIC SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. PEACE AND SECURITY

This sub-committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Defence and has representation from a variety of stakeholders involved in peace and security issues such as NGOs, Police, Immigration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc. The sub-committee's workplan includes undertaking provincial consultations in order to appreciate the refugees' situation in the country as well as bilateral consultations on peace and security issues with other members of the Great Lakes Region.

The sub-committee has in the course of its consultations found out that due to instability in the Great Lakes Region, Zambia is host to forty nine thousand, seven hundred and fifty (49,750) refugees largely from the DRC in Luapula Province under the auspices of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) while over ten thousand (10,000) immigrants have blended with the civil population in Northern Province.

This displacement of people from their homeland can only be curbed through the existence of peace and stability in the region which can only be achieved through the concerted efforts of all the stakeholders in the Great Lakes Region Initiative.

2. DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

This sub-committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and has the relevant representation from the stakeholders involved in Democracy and Good Governance issues. The sub-committee is in the process of compiling a report on its national consultations. However, the on-going Constitutional Review Commission together with the just ended Electoral Commission Report are indications of how Zambians are serious on the issues of peace through democracy and good governance.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

This sub-committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning and has representation from all relevant stakeholders. Among them are Women in Business, the Zambia Association of Chambers of Commerce and Trade (ZACCI) and the Cross Border Association of Zambia.

The sub-committee has held various meetings and continues holding consultations with the stakeholders. It is currently in the process of finalising its report, which among other things highlights that:

- The existence of the shared water bodies should be greatly harnessed by Countries of the great lakes region, as these are crucial for food security in terms of agriculture and aquaculture activities.
- The existence of an advanced mineral industry could greatly benefit the great lakes region. Some minerals like tantalite have a regional pattern of occurrence and thus should be greatly exploited by countries of the great lakes region.

- Zambia welcomes investors and has designed a package of incentives aimed at specifically creating a sound investment climate for enhanced regional economic growth.
- In terms of trade, it is suggested that the member countries undertake market research and trade missions. Consideration should also be given to establish markets at border points where the informal traders and farmers can openly trade.

Furthermore, a special fund should be created to assist women in business.

4. HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL ISSUES

This sub-committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. It equally has representation from the relevant stakeholders involved in Humanitarian and social activities.

The sub-committee has completed compiling its draft report on the effects of conflicts and instability in the GLR with emphasis on refugees and Internally Displaced people (IDPS) and interventions needed at national and regional level to address their plight. The work of this sub-committee has also brought to the fore the long-term impact of refugee hosting in the peri-urban and urban communities where it was observed that the tolerance threshold seemed to be rather low. Programmes of sensitization of the local population involving public debate on national refugee laws, the rationale behind the hosting of refugees etc have been recommended as a way of curtailing what could become xenophobic tendencies.

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSION

From the outset, the Great Lakes Region should consolidate its pursuit towards peace, unity and development which will only be achieved through regional integration. Regional integration has already become the GL Regions own strategic imperative, where there should be a pooling of the human and natural resources integrating states which would be able to achieve an acceleration of development and the eventual establishment of security and peace.

Should this not materialize, the entire subregion risks to be marginalized and even being bottomed out of the global village.

In the area of Economic Development and Regional Integration, Zambia is hoping to reach the HIPC Completion Point at the end of this year. In the meantime, however, Zambia has continued to honour arrangements in its Joint Permanent Commissions of Cooperation with most if not all the core members of the Great Lakes Region. Some of these Commissions have become a basis for transnational cooperation agreements such as Growth Triangles, common enterprise zones and / or cross / border microregional basis and special development initiatives and corridors of development. In this respect, the Zambia/Malawi/Mozambique stands out as a monumental example of this transnational arrangement.

Zambia recommends that the regional dimension outlined above should continue to be all inclusive in terms of participation of stakeholders, such as NGOs, civil society, the private sector, the media and parliament. And having already acknowledged the important roles of SADC and COMESA and other regional institutions as partners, the Great Lakes Region

should be encouraged to establish or maintain a more meaningful relationship with these agencies already so crucial to the Regional dynamics of peace and development.

As part of this efforts to find effective methods towards peace, Zambia strongly advises the Great Lakes Region to pursue the use and institutionalization of African Traditional Methods of resolving or managing conflicts which already exist throughout the Region, such as GACACA in Rwanda, UBUSHINGANTAHE in Burundi, etc. In a similar manner, Zambia has continued to resort to national dialogue through national conventions such as the Zambia INDABA of last year and other ongoing efforts to hold inter political party discussions, etc. as practical and pragmatic means towards conflict prevention and management.

In other crosscutting, issues not adequately addressed elsewhere in this Report, such as the areas of Democracy and Good Governance, Poverty with its offshoots of Disease as in HIV/AIDS, Corruption, Crime, Ignorance, etc there are deliberate concerted efforts to deal with them through Workshop already planned at national level and in all the nine provinces of Zambia. Currently, though, the entire country of Zambia is preoccupied with the ongoing Constitutional Review Commission, with indications of its first Draft being made available early next year. Meanwhile, a Report has already been produced on the Electoral Commissions Review.

As a result of failed governance and democracy in the Great Lakes Region, the refugee situation has continued to overwhelm a number of core countries, such as Zambia, that have been hosts to large numbers of refugees and displaced persons. Zambia has been host, at one time or another, to more than 272,000 refugees, mainly from Angola and the DRC. Quite a number of the refugees, mostly from Angola, are now in the progress of repatriation to their country. It is important to note that the Zambia Government, working in conjunction with the UNHCR, has set up the Zambia Initiative to improve the situation. Briefly, the Zambia Initiative is an innovative measure to support the areas where refugees live, particularly in order to integrate the interests of the refugees into longterm national development plans. These measures target the local communities in refugee hosting areas in order to improve the living conditions of both the refugees and the locals.

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION

FINAL VERSION**First Regional Preparatory Committee Meeting
Bujumbura, Burundi
September 6th –11th, 2004****REPUBLIC OF RWANDA****NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION****RWANDA'S PRELIMINARY VISIONS AND PRIORITIES**

- I. Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Rwandan delegation, I would like to thank the sister Republic of Burundi for the gracious welcome accorded my delegation since our arrival. Permit me also to thank the co-chairs of this conference process, H.E. Ibrahima Fall, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, and H.E. Mamadou Bah, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, for their tireless efforts to ensure that the conference is held on schedule. My respects go to my fellow National Coordinators of the core Countries, who have invested so much of their time, and talents in leading National Preparatory processes and laying the ground for this Preparatory Committee meeting. I dare to believe that the tact and rapport developed thus far will enable us to bring the process to fruition. I also want to recognize and thank all those, neighbors, partners and friends, who have invested their time, resources and expertise in order to search for peace and stability in the region. The proposed International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region comes ten years after the genocide in Rwanda. During the Second World War, a crime was committed against the Jews that had no name then. The World named it genocide and vowed to eradicate it. Before the end of the Century was over, this crime – this time with a name – was committed against the Tutsi of Rwanda and all other Rwandans who opposed this ideology. After this singularly gruesome event in the collective history of our Region, and the continuing spread of the ideology that underlay it, it cannot be business as usual. We should use this moment to determinedly work for a better future

for our people. I therefore request you all to stand for a minute of silence in memory of those innocents in Rwanda and the region —including in particular the victims of the recent massacre at Gatumba – who have died ; victims of the most heinous ideology man has ever devised : the ideology of genocide. The victims of the genocide in Rwanda and the victims of the horrors of Gatumba are not estimates in an academic study. They have names, faces, families, and kin. Thank you for remembering them.

II. The Rwanda Preparatory process is ongoing. We have started a process that involves all stakeholders, in reflecting on issues of peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes Region. Government takes these issues seriously, and this is reflected in the composition of the delegation I am privileged to lead today, which includes Secretary Generals of key Ministries in Rwanda. These Officials chair the different sub thematic groups of the Rwanda National Preparatory Committee, or have been specifically mandated by their Chairs to represent their Committees. The different sectors of Rwandan Society are part and parcel of the Rwandan reflection on the important themes that are the object of this Conference. Civil Society umbrella groups are part of the National Preparatory Committee, and bring into the process important Non Governmental insights. Nationwide consultations have been held with Rwandan women, who are a key component of Rwandan decision-making. The results of these consultations inform, and are part of Rwanda’s position during the regional preparatory process. Rwandan Youth NGOs have made an important contribution, and even as we meet here this week, Rwandan youth will be holding nationwide consultations on the themes of the Conference, beginning on 10 September. Furthermore, we intend to hold nation wide consultations with the Rwandan disabled who, having personal experiences of conflict not only have an acute stake in lasting stability, but also need to be assisted to survive the peace. We shall also involve religious leaders in discussions of the themes of the conference, given the important role they play in society. Rwanda is serious about the search for regional peace, security, economic integration, and shared development. Consider us serious partners in this endeavor. During our preparatory process, we have chosen to look into the future. We believe that while the past should inform our decisions today, we should not allow it to be an albatross around our collective necks. We should instead imaginatively and boldly chart out a new course for the future in light of our past. Rwanda has learnt that lesson through her most recent history, I am sure it would serve us well as a region. Let me now turn to an indicative and preliminary list of conference priorities as Rwanda sees them.

III. **Peace and Security :**

The current main issues in the conflicts in the Great Lakes Region are a result of two interrelated historical events, the Colonial Policy of divide and rule that set the region on a negative course, and a post independence indigenous leadership that fuelled the divisionism instead of addressing it. In the thematic workshops, we shall present the analysis that informs this conclusion. Suffice it to say here, that in light of our history, the region is faced with a strategic challenge to do the following four things:

- Promote :
 - a. Democracy
 - b. Good Governance
 - c. Respect for human rights

d. Respect for the rule of law

- Involve Civil Society in the fight against negative ideologies including the ideology of genocide
- Consolidate Regional Mechanisms in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict
- Increase the avenues for peaceful integration of the people in the region through shared and mutually beneficial economic, cultural, educational, integration.

We therefore need to design mechanisms that enable us to address threats to national, as well as collective security.

A. Rwanda believes that the promotion of democracy and good governance requires us to urgently design mechanisms to :

- Fight the ideology of genocide and all its manifestations,
- Eradicate ethnic, regional, and other divisions, and promote national and regional unity,
- Promote equitable sharing of power,
- Promote Gender equality and parity, especially in decision making organs,
- Encourage the constant quest for solutions through dialogue and consensus, as well as the sharing of best practices, self evaluations, and peer evaluations.

B. Inclusion of Civil Society in the search for peace and security calls on us to design mechanisms to help them :

- Set up a mechanism for early warning to prevent conflicts and reinforce peace and stability in the region ;
- Have regular exchange and dialogue with the public sector as those in Rwanda have done since July 1994 ;
- Recognize and support the contribution of women's associations to peace and development, for example, the Forum of Women's Associations in the Great Lakes Region COCAFEM/GL ;
- Develop a vibrant, independent, organized, efficient, and accountable civil society and space.

C. In order to consolidate Regional Mechanisms in the Prevention, Management, and Resolution of Conflicts, we should :

- Solemnly commit ourselves to the adherence of AU mechanisms including the Peace and Security Council, and the Panel of the Wise; operationalise the Continental Early Warning System at a regional level; contribute to and develop the African Standby Force.
- Negotiate and sign non aggression pacts, and work toward a Common defense and Security Policy in the region.

D. Integration for peace and stability in the Region requires us to consider a Common or integrated regional security arrangement to :

- Facilitate the sharing of information and resources among security organs.
- Contribute to early warning of security threats.
- Come up with joint solutions to common problems.
- Design and implement confidence building measures.
- Enact security agreements among our countries and peace and security accords in war ravaged countries.
- Resolve inter-State conflicts through peaceful means.
- Set up a common research center for the promotion of security, and regional peace and management Institutions.

The following objectives are key to a return to peace, security, and stability of the Region:

- The eradication of the genocide ideology in the Great Lakes Region.
- Enhancement of Regional Cooperation and Preventive diplomacy in order to avert Regional conflicts.
- Creation of a shared deterrence and / or prevention capability.
- Elimination of the possibility of internal military threats by reinforcing constitutional order and good governance internally.
- Creation of Regional umbrella Organizations for both the security and judicial organs that serve as meeting points to harmonize security and stability issues.
- Reinforcement of crime prevention strategies through increased and structured Police cooperation.
- Enhancement of regional cooperation in the fight against illegal proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

IV. **Development and Economic Integration :**

Rwanda believes that Development and Economic Integration is the most viable, stable, and lasting solution to conflict in the Great Lakes Region. Lack of regional integration, economic growth, and sustainable development perpetuates conflict, breeds instability, and sustains undemocratic governance. A major aim of the Conference therefore should be to help the Region move from generalized instability to shared prosperity. This shared prosperity demands that we identify and address the major issues in Regional Trade, macro economic convergence, infrastructure, industry, agriculture and institutions. Regional Leadership, broadly defined, needs to have a progressive vision of economic integration as a pillar of development. We think this Conference should lead to, or reinforce the emergence of such a vision. Rwanda also believes that women, who represent about 50% of the population in the GLR, must be allowed to participate as full partners in our economies as well as in economic integration. Integration will allow us to transform economies in the region, unleash industry and business, allow us participate meaningfully in the World economy, promote the goals of the African Union, and allow us address common political problems. The challenge is the form this integration should take. We believe our integration strategy should have trade as its emphasis and make the private sector its driving force. African Integration indicators and African Integration indexes constructed from them, although relatively new, provide a useful assemblage of sectoral clusters which we might want to examine as the GLR.

These are :

- Trade and market integration
- Monetary, fiscal and financial integration
- Transport
- Communications
- Industry
- Energy
- Food and agriculture
- Human development and labor markets

Since we belong to different and varied Regional Economic Communities, we may have to tap into their strengths to advance a GLR integration and development agenda. In any case, it should be a cause for concern that intra-REC trade in manufactured goods remains infinitesimal (2-7%), or has in some cases, actually declined as a proportion of total trade. We therefore propose that this Conference :

- Identify and carry out joint programmes at regional level in infrastructure development, especially in the energy, transport and communications sectors
- Challenge funders to fund greater impact projects in the region spanning more than one country
- Commit to such high impact projects ;
- Ensure revival of previous or dormant such projects ;

- Design mechanisms to promote cooperation in health, education, and the protection of the environment ;
- Establish protocols that allow for the free movement of goods, services, people, and investment in the Region ;
- Create an environment that favors the integration of business including legal and institutional reforms ;
- Establish and or promote efficient banking and payment systems and institutions that promote regional trade ;
- Design mechanisms that promote, allow, and facilitate the free movement of goods, services, labor, capital and people ;
- Establish cooperation in areas of trade, investment, science and technology, justice, peace, and security ;
- Work towards macro-economic convergence and harmonization of fiscal policy ;
- Set up special financial arrangements and institutions that promote access to capital by women.

V. **Democracy and good governance :**

As we have already pointed out, bad leadership has been a key cause of continued instability in the region. Rwanda therefore believes it is important that together we should define what practises constitute good governance and democracy. Beyond rhetoric, however, we need to agree on key, understandable, and measurable indicators of good governance and commit to them. We need to agree on mechanisms for self evaluation, and peer review. In this field, we do not have to reinvent the wheel, because the African Peer Review Mechanism process of NEPAD may serve as a basis for the above. We may have to consider putting emphasis on the following, given the specificity of our region:

- Measurable indicators of the eradication of ethnic, regional and other forms of discrimination within our states.
- Indicators of combating the ideology of exclusion and genocide.
- Indicators for the equitable sharing of power
- The establishment of an inter-State mechanism for the monitoring of human rights violations.
- Affirmation of citizenship, especially for cross border communities.
- Creation of regional initiatives aimed at building capacity, training, and sharing experiences for ensuring accountability and transparency.

VI. Social and Humanitarian Affairs :

Over the last 40 years, the GLR has been characterized at different times, by a political culture based on ethnicity and / or overt racism, political totalitarianism, and the normalization of a culture of violence. Repeated episodes of violence have led the destruction of the educational sector in some countries, worsened all health indicators, especially for the more vulnerable members of society, and led to the disintegration of the family. Furthermore ethnic extremism and xenophobia risk becoming acceptable political tools for accession to, or the maintenance of political power. Environmental degradation has become a worrying feature. The region has known massive population displacements, both external and internal, as well as over 6.2 million refugees. The conflicts have been characterized by violations of basic principles of International humanitarian Law including, the protection of non combatants, forced recruitment into armies or armed groups, recruitment of children and minors, extrajudicial executions, murders and assassinations committed by government and opposition forces, Genocide and other crimes against humanity, use of banned arms like anti personnel mines, inhuman and barbaric treatment of captured combatants, or perceived « fifth columns ». Fundamental rights and freedoms, including in particular, the right to life and property have been seriously violated. Despite the fact that all the Countries in the region are signatories to International declarations and Protocols on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, this Conference should consider the adoption of a Charter to include:

- The principle of non-aggression and non interference in the Internal Affairs of the States.
- The engagement of States to dismantle terrorist groups and genocidal groups operation on their territories.
- Respect for fundamental Rights and freedoms.
- Engagement to fight discrimination, ethnic and religious exclusion and xenophobia.
- A common overall understanding of nationality and citizenship issues.
- Determination to cooperate in fighting crime, including modalities for extradition.
- Cooperation in the management of natural catastrophes.

VII. These are key areas we believe we should concentrate on if this Conference is not to be just one more event, but a turning point for the region. It is important that we do this right, or we shall have missed an important opportunity to ensure a better future for our people. The preparatory process should be designed in such a way that substantive discussions on the four themes are held, in a forward looking manner.

PRESENTATION DE LA RDC A LA PREMIERE RENCONTRE DU COMITE REGIONAL DE PREPARATION DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DE LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS

Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Notre délégation remercie le gouvernement du Burundi pour l'accueil en terre burundaise. Nous rappelons que, dans l'esprit de la CEPGL que nos pays respectifs essaient de relancer, historiquement et culturellement, nous nous sentons vraiment « chez nous ».

Nous félicitons Son Excellence Monsieur Ibrahima Fall, envoyé Spécial du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies pour la région des Grands Lacs pour la détermination et la ténacité avec lesquelles il conduit ce processus.

Avant de commencer notre présentation, nous nous inclinons devant la mémoire de centaines de familles congolaises qui viennent de perdre leurs vies il y a quelques jours à Katumba, localité située à quelques kilomètres de cet hôtel.

C'est aussi l'occasion de vous demander de bien vouloir garder fraîchement en mémoire le souvenir de 3 millions d'hommes et de femmes qui sont morts depuis une dizaine d'années au Congo. Faut-il rappeler que c'est justement pour analyser, et adopter des actions pour rompre le cercle vicieux de la violence et de la mort qui détruit nos pays et paralyse l'ensemble de la Région que nous sommes ici. Permettez-moi ici d'exprimer la détermination du Président Joseph Kabila et de tout le gouvernement congolais à participer directement dans le processus et à jouer son rôle dans la mise en œuvre des actions que nous adopterons, selon ses capacités.

Nous tenons à dire que tout au long de ces débats, la RDC souhaite que nous parlions un langage de franchise et de responsabilité. Franchise parce que nous devons présenter clairement tous les faits et analyses afin d'adopter ensemble de bonnes perspectives pour la paix durable. Responsabilité, parce qu'il s'agit du destin et des intérêts des hommes et des femmes de la région que nous avons la lourde charge de représenter ici.

1. PREPARATION DANS LE PAYS

La RDC tient de prime abord à préciser que le processus préparatoire national de cette Conférence internationale n'est pas encore terminé. Donc les éléments que nous allons vous présenter ne sont que des éléments préliminaires. A la rencontre prochaine de Kinshasa, au mois d'octobre 2004, vous aurez entre vos mains des éléments plus ou moins complets du cahier de Charge Nationale de la RDC.

Car depuis notre réunion de juillet 2004, nous avons espéré que les moyens financiers réunis par le Groupe des Amis seront rapidement mis à notre disposition pour travailler selon le calendrier prévu. Mais, bien que nous avons sollicité la rapidité et la flexibilité, ce mécanisme s'est avérée lourde. Pour sauver ce processus, pour qu'il motive l'opinion des populations, il faut de toute urgence débloquer ce mécanisme financier afin qu'il fonctionne suivant notre rythme de travail.

Nous venons d'en discuter il y a quelques jours avec les représentants du Groupe des Amis de la Région des Grands Lacs, Ambassadeur Brault et Mme Aeley, ainsi qu'avec le représentant de l'Union européenne, M. Aldo Ayello à Kinshasa qui ont pu palper directement nos difficultés.

Nous avons recherché d'autres moyens localement pour avancer et rendre le processus actif et participatif. Nous avons réussi à :

- ***Lancer et accompagner la dynamique autonome de la société civile*** et nous avons pu recueillir les cahiers de charges des organisations de la société civile de nos 11 provinces. La société civile congolaise prépare son symposium à Kinshasa pour faire la synthèse nationale.
- ***Encourager la dynamique des consultations provinciales des mouvements des femmes***. Les femmes n'ont pas eu accès aux moyens financiers prévus. Voyant l'imminence de la rencontre de Kigali, elles ont pu trouver une alternative. Les ateliers de consultation provinciales des femmes se tiennent actuellement. Certaines provinces ont terminé la semaine dernière. Elles prépareront la rencontre nationale pour finaliser leur cahier de charge afin de préparer la rencontre régionale de Kigali. Mais nous avons consulté quelques rapports des travaux préliminaires des femmes.
- ***Nous avons pu recueillir quelques travaux préparatoires des jeunes*** des provinces de l'est du pays, mais en quittant Kinshasa, le Conseil national de la jeunesse attendait encore les moyens financiers pour préparer la rencontre de Kampala.
- ***Les membres du Bureau du Comité préparatoire national (ils sont 9 au total) ont réalisé une tournée*** à travers le pays du 18 au 28 août dernier. Les membres ont eu des échanges avec tous les gouverneurs de provinces, les coordinations de la société civile (femmes et jeunes) et les médias. Dans leur rencontre du 30 août, ils ont pu dresser une synthèse.
- ***Le Comité préparatoire national qui est composé de 97 experts nationaux nous a aidé à préparer la présente rencontre dans une session plénière*** de 2 jours tenu du 1^{er} au 2 septembre 2004. Ses 4 commissions thématiques qui travaillent depuis juillet 2004 ont présenté des éléments préliminaires que nous ferons le plaisir de vous présenter au cours de cette session.

2. LA QUESTION DE MEMBRES

Mais avant d'aborder la question de contenu, permettez-moi, Excellences, de poser la question de savoir si nous avons vidé définitivement la question de participants effectifs. En effet, comme nous avons eu à le dire à plusieurs reprises, c'est bien une question fondamentale pour la délégation congolaise et même un préalable majeur.

Le Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies, l'Union africaine et l'Union européenne ont fait comprendre au gouvernement congolais à plusieurs reprises que l'instabilité de la RDC est source de l'instabilité de toute l'Afrique centrale et que cela entraîne une grave préoccupation de sécurité internationale. Nous avons eu à démontrer à plusieurs reprises au cours de l'année

de préparation du format de ce processus, que nous ne pouvons pas nous enfermer dans une définition géographique de la Région des Grands Lacs puisqu'il s'agit justement de résoudre une crise régionale et garantir une stabilité générale.

La RDC partage plus de 2000 kms de frontière avec l'Angola, plus de 1000 kms avec le Congo Brazzaville. La stabilité de ces deux pays frères est intimement liée à la notre. Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de parler de dispositif de la sécurité régionale sans leur participation active. Par ailleurs, comme les représentants de ces deux pays ont eu à nous le dire à Addis Abbeba, ils ont subi les impacts négatifs du génocide rwandais de 1994 et des guerres de la RDC de 1998 jusqu'en 2002.

Les coordonnateurs nationaux de l'Uganda et du Rwanda ont promis de se joindre au consensus atteint par tous les autres pays participants concernant la pleine implication de l'Angola et du Congo Brazzaville dans ce processus avant la fin du mois de juillet 2004. Jusqu'à présent, nous n'avons pas reçu leur position finale. Nous espérons qu'ils vont exprimer leur position à ces assises car elle sera un signe de la volonté d'aider sérieusement à la stabilité régionale.

Tout en faisant de ce point un préalable pour un aboutissement heureux du processus, nous avons voulu démontrer une fois de plus notre bonne volonté et notre disponibilité à construire ensemble en venant participer à cette importante rencontre avant d'avoir la confirmation du Rwanda et de l'Uganda. Nous espérons que cette question sera définitivement clôturée avant la rencontre de Kinshasa.

3. VISION ET PRINCIPES POUR LA STABILITE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DE LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS

a. CONTINGENCES STRUCTURELLES

Pour bien aborder l'analyse des problèmes de la région, il nous faut aller au-delà des phénomènes conjoncturels pour atteindre les éléments structurels qui, dans l'environnement général de la région, permettent d'expliquer aussi, partiellement, les problèmes auxquels nous sommes collectivement acculés. Nous en avons dégagé les suivants :

1. La pression de l'économie marchande mondiale à partir de la côte de l'océan indien sans capacité d'ajustement structurel équilibré dans une région à faible capacité et infrastructures, et particulièrement l'est de la RDC qui regorge pourtant des ressources stratégiques recherchées sur le marché mondial (diamant, coltan, or, cobalt, germanium,...). Les rapports du panel des experts des Nations Unies sur l'exploitation illégale des ressources de la RDC expliquent bien ce phénomène.
2. L'accroissement démographique général dans la région dans un contexte de faible développement économique, et faible maîtrise de la gouvernance, entraînant une lutte pour la survie qui dégénère à travers les conflits que nous observons centralisés surtout dans les zones de forte densité de peuplement. Dans ce contexte, l'avenir n'est pas clair pour la jeunesse qui devient alors manipulable par une certaine catégorie de politiciens à la conquête du pouvoir pour vivre. Les revendications d'espace vital reviennent en permanence dans les conflits observés.

3. La négligence de la participation citoyenne des réfugiés qui ont géré cette région depuis l'époque coloniale jusqu'à présent, et les dérapages des processus de démocratisation de la fin de la guerre froide entraînant la marginalisation de plusieurs communautés, ce qui crée la frustration dans laquelle les mouvements armés puisent.

b. CONTEXTE REGIONAL : QUELQUES PRINCIPES POUR DEFINIR UNE VISION

1. ***La question du respect de l'intégrité territoriale de nos pays, et sur l'intangibilité de nos frontières respectives est le premier principe pour garantir la paix et la stabilité dans la région.*** Il est temps d'arrêter toute velléité de violation des frontières d'un autre Etat, à quelque motif que ce soit. Pour ce qui concerne la RDC, il est surprenant d'entendre de hauts responsables de certains pays voisins menacer la RDC d'une agression alors que nous sommes en train de développer ensemble les mécanismes institutionnels de dialogue et coopération commune, et au moment où nous sommes dans le processus de la Conférence internationale de la région de Grands Lacs.
2. ***Le principe qu'il faut arrêter d'armer les groupes et les milices sur le territoire d'autres pays, et de manipuler des groupes ethniques contre les intérêts supérieurs de leur nation :*** Nous réitérons notre demande aux gouvernements des pays voisins d'adopter des mesures qui nous aident à pacifier l'est de la RDC. Il faut arrêter l'introduction des armes de guerre dans l'Ituri et au Kivu. Ces faits que nous observons à l'est de notre pays freinent le processus paix et de cohésion nationale, et perpétuent la méfiance entre nos pays alors que nous cheminons ensemble pour recréer un ordre politique nouveau dans la région des Grands Lacs. Quant à nous, dans le cadre de l'Accord de Lusaka, de Pretoria et de Luanda, nous avons engagé des opérations de Désarmement, Démobilisation, Rapatriement, Réinsertion, Réinstallation avec l'appui de la communauté internationale, en dépit des moyens très limités et des difficultés de tout ordre que nous connaissons.
3. ***Principe d'engagement de nos pays dans la construction de la démocratie pluraliste et la bonne gouvernance :*** Après plusieurs années de lutte pour la démocratie, de guerres imposées de l'extérieur, de négociations de paix au niveau interne et externe, le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo est décidé à consolider un Etat de droit fondé sur une Constitution stable et des institutions durables. La transition en cours doit donc aboutir à la mise en place d'un ordre politique nouveau de démocratie et de bonne gouvernance, selon le calendrier établi dans l'Accord Global et Inclusif à l'organisation des élections libres et transparentes ... La démocratie doit être consolidée comme une condition et un moyen par lesquels l'Etat de droit va assurer la reconstruction économique, la sécurité et le développement, ainsi que son plein engagement dans la construction régionale.
4. ***Principe de décentralisation pour étendre les espaces de participation citoyenne dans la région :*** La RDC entend organiser la bonne gouvernance, sur la base des principes de la décentralisation qui rapproche le gouvernant du gouverné ; de la participation populaire par la liberté d'action et d'expression de la société civile, par la promotion du partenariat entre le secteur privé et le secteur public. Bref, la RDC s'efforce pour établir un ordre politique nouveau qui se démarque des

difficiles années des régimes politiques antérieurs. Devant le déficit démocratique qui caractérise la région des Grands Lacs, il est impérieux de travailler ensemble pour étendre ces espaces de participation démocratique par la multiplication des expériences positives.

5. ***Principe de mobilisation des acteurs et des ressources de la région pour affronter ensemble les défis communs*** : En cette période de la mondialisation, qui est un impératif mondial auquel aucun continent ne peut se dérober, la RDC est convaincue que les regroupements régionaux fondés sur la volonté réelle de résolution des problèmes de leurs peuples peuvent favoriser la mobilisation collective des acteurs internes et des ressources pour affronter les graves défis auxquels ils sont confrontés. Nous devons rendre cette région un espace d'échanges préférentiels, un espace attractif pour les investisseurs privés, et un espace de croissance économique durable accordant une place prédominante aux efforts propres à la région. Tel est l'enjeu de cette Conférence internationale de la Région des Grands Lacs, dans lequel nous sommes pleinement engagés à apporter notre contribution.

6. ***Le principe de lutte collective contre la criminalité transfrontalière, les massacres collectifs dont le Congo a été particulièrement une des victimes*** : Plus de 3 millions de morts, plus de 2 millions de déplacés internes, pillages de nos ressources naturelles telle est l'ampleur de notre drame. Pourtant nous sommes disposés toujours à nous joindre à l'appel de l'Union africaine et des Nations Unies, pour construire ensemble une autre région des pays des Grands Lacs, même les pays que nous considérons comme nos agresseurs de hier. Nous sommes conscient que nos destins sont liés. Nous considérons que ces drames que nous avons connus découlent essentiellement des difficultés de gouvernance interne, de la transposition des problèmes internes aux pays voisins. C'est pourquoi nous devons nous engager pour construire avec vous un ordre régional nouveau dont nous définirons les objectifs et les actions au cours de ce processus.

7. ***Principe de lutte contre la criminalisation des économies*** : Le pillage et l'exploitation illégale des ressources de la RDC, la criminalisation des économies des pays de la région doivent être arrêtés définitivement. La RDC considère que les prétextes d'ordre sécuritaires qui sont avancés pour justifier la présence sur son sol des forces armées des pays voisins, ouvertement ou de manière cachée, servent à couvrir l'exploitation illégale des ressources minières et autres. La RDC exige de tous les pays ici présents dans ce processus des sanctions à l'encontre des personnes physiques et morales impliquées dans les activités de pillage et de criminalisation de son économie.

8. ***Principe de la garantie de cohabitation pacifique entre les communautés ethniques de la région*** : Tous les pays du champ doivent reconnaître que les rivalités ethniques meurtrières pour le contrôle du pouvoir entraînent dans toute la région les conflits et les guerres, et engendrent les drames des réfugiés. L'accroissement démographique général nous impose à tous des politiques plus créatives de gestion des mouvements des personnes et de leur libre établissement en sorte que la cohabitation pacifique entre les populations soit sauvegardée.

9. Le principe de respect des droits de l'homme est une condition de base de construction de la paix et du développement dans la région : La RDC souscrit entièrement aux dispositions internationales en matière de promotion et de protection des droits individuels et collectifs. Nous considérerons comme tâche urgente la restructuration du système judiciaire dans chacun des pays de la région, l'harmonisation et la coopération des systèmes judiciaires, notamment en matière d'extradition, de façon à empêcher qu'un pays voisin devienne, pour l'autre voisin, le refuge des criminels, le renforcement de la collaboration judiciaire avec le Tribunal Pénal International, ainsi que la signature et la ratification des traités multilatéraux sur la protection des civils, parmi lesquels le Statut de Rome et la Convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants.

10. Principe de lutte contre l'impunité : Considérant par ailleurs que l'impunité concerne aussi les Etats, la RDC entend poursuivre les procédures internationales adéquates pour réclamer les dommages subis suite aux guerres menées sur son territoire par des forces armées étrangères.

4. SURVOL DES QUESTIONS THEMATIQUES DECOULANT DES CONSULTATIONS NATIONALES

Il ressort des consultations et des analyses thématiques des experts nationaux sur les problèmes de la région les éléments suivants sur lesquels cette Conférence internationale sur la région des Grands Lacs doit porter une attention particulière :

a. DOMAINE DE LA PAIX, LA SECURITE

Sur le plan géopolitique

- Rivalités des puissances et des entreprises extérieures pour le contrôle des ressources naturelles stratégiques de la région ;
- Exploitation des tensions entre Etats de la région par des forces extérieures ;
- Lutte inconsidérée de contrôle du leadership régional entre les dirigeants et des opérateurs politiques ;
- L'explosion démographique dans un contexte de faible accès aux ressources économiques, et faible qualité de la gouvernance.

Sur le plan politique régional

- Violation de l'intégrité territoriale de la RDC ;
- Perpétration des crimes de guerres et crimes contre l'humanité sur les territoires d'autres états (génocides, massacres des populations civiles, viols des femmes, violation massive des droits humains) ;

- Mouvements désordonnés des populations créant des tensions communautaires aux frontières ;
- Absence de démocratie et de bonne gouvernance dans les Etats ;
- Intolérance ethnique et conflits identitaires ;
- Présence des groupes armés aux frontières des Etats et alimentation des tensions militaires transfrontalières ;
- Intensification des trafics illicites d'armes et prolifération des réseaux mafieux.

b. DOMAINES DE DEMOCRATIE ET DE LA BONNE GOUVERNANCE

Concernant la démocratie

- L'absence de pluralisme politique ;
- Faiblesse dans la pratique démocratique participative (élection, alternance politique démocratique) ;
- Intolérance politique et refus d'amorcer le dialogue politique interne ;
- Prédominance du culte de personnalité des leaders politiques ;
- Monopolisation du pouvoir et des moyens d'Etat par le groupe au pouvoir ;
- Faible décentralisation et participation des populations ;
- Violation des droits humains et des libertés fondamentales ;
- Faible participation de la femme dans le processus de décision et des programmes de développement ;
- Faible participation de la société civile ;
- Restriction de la liberté d'expression et harcèlement de médias.

Concernant la gouvernance

- Manipulation des textes constitutionnels au profit du pouvoir ;
- Politisation de l'armée, de la police et de la fonction publique ;
- Déficit de communication avec la population ;
- Impunité et faiblesse de l'appareil judiciaire ;
- Mauvaise redistribution du revenu et des ressources.

c. DOMAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET INTEGRATION REGIONALE

Facteurs liés au contexte mondial

- Extraversion des économies de la région et dépendance vis-à-vis des anciennes métropoles ;
- Absence d'intégration dans le commerce mondial ;
- Inefficacité des politiques de coopération économique régionale ;
- Poids important du service de la dette extérieure ;
- Faible transfert de technologies.

Facteurs liés au contexte régional

- Faible complémentarité des économies de la région ;
- Environnement macro-économique instable ;
- Faiblesse du pouvoir d'achat de la population ;
- Mauvais état des infrastructures (communication,...) de base ;
- Insuffisance d'énergie électrique et faible distribution en milieu rural et urbain ;
- Fraude, corruption et détournement des recettes fiscales et douanières ;
- Destruction et mauvaise gestion de l'environnement ;
- Pratiques d'exploitation illégale et criminalité économique transfrontalière ;
- Inefficacité des structures d'encadrement et d'appui technique aux entreprises ;
- Insuffisance des capitaux destinés à l'investissement ;
- Manque de financement adéquat aux entreprises locales ;
- Faible coopération bancaire.

d. CONCERNANT LES QUESTIONS HUMANITAIRES ET SOCIALES

Domaine humanitaire

- Le drame des réfugiés dans la région ;
- Le problème des déplacés internes ;
- Les invalides de guerre, les veuves et les orphelins ;
- La prévalence du VIH/SIDA ;
- Le faible accès à l'assistance humanitaire par les groupes vulnérables.

Domaine social

- La malnutrition et carence alimentaire dans les milieux populaires urbains et les villages ;
- La destruction des infrastructures sociales et sanitaires ;
- La déscolarisation ;
- L'aggravation du chômage de la jeunesse ;
- Les violations massives des droits de l'homme ;
- Le développement des médias de haine ;
- L'aggravation de la haine ethnique et de la xénophobie
- La propagation de la culture de violence et d'assassinat comme moyen de règlement des conflits politiques.

Notre analyse de ces éléments vous sera présentée en détail dans les groupes de travail.

En conclusion, la RDC, forte de ses ressources humaines et naturelles, a une vision pour la création d'un espace sécuritaire et humanitaire assaini et garantissant la paix et la stabilité des Etats de la Région, pour la promotion d'un espace de participation démocratique afin d'améliorer la gestion de nos Etats, pour relance et la consolidation d'un espace économique allant de l'Océan Atlantique à l'Océan Indien.

Je vous remercie !

THE MWALIMU NYERERE FOUNDATION

SYMPOSIUM ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION

**REINFORCING THE REGION'S SOLIDARITY: SETTING AN AGENDA
FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE, UNITY AND PEOPLE-CENTRED
DEVELOPMENT**

**8th – 10th april 2002
Nile international conference centre
Kampla, Uganda**

FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This Régional Symposium on the Great Lakes Region has been convened to serve as a forum through which participants drawn from a wide spectrum of stakeholders primarily civil society organization, scholars, members of parliament, academician, Religious institutions, media, representatives of Judiciary, Government departments scholars, local and international non-governmental organizations, youth, women groups and organizations, Trade Unions Corporation and people with physical disabilities, can make a contribution, through dialogue, in setting an agenda for a culture of peace, unity and stability and a framework within which benefits of a people centred development strategy can be realized within each of the individual countries forming the core countries of the Great Lakes Region.

There seems now to be a general regional consensus arising out of the experience and suffering which many people have gone through over the last four decades, so much so that the search for peace is the responsibility of all of us, and; cannot be an exclusive undertaking of governments. All people, individually and collectively, must be involved at the local, national and regional level, in improving governance, peace and unity and the welfare of all the people. There is equally a general agreement that sustainable peace is inseparable from sustainable justice and people centred development. Because of our common historical and cultural bonds, peace and security in one country is interdwined and indeed guaranteed by peace and security in the neighbouring countries, thus underscoring the necessity of a regional framework in the process of peace building.

In setting the regional agenda, the symposium will thus aim at enhancing the principles of equality and justice for all, and processes of good governance through participatory democracy. The Symposium will try to identify and propose the building blocks upon which a culture of peace and tolerance, both within and between communities, and between individuals and groups, can be nurtured and consolidated so that through appropriate mechanisms it will become the hallmark of interstate relations with the region.

Inter-State tensions have cost the region heavily in terms of lost opportunities, violence, loss and destruction of resources. However, when these tensions eventually erupt into violence and wars, the cost in terms of human lives and welfare is unmeasurable. The symposium will reflect and deliberate on the causes of these conflicts, and propose appropriate interventions for early detection prevention management and resolution. What is expected to come out of the symposium is a call for an immediate cessation of the ongoing conflicts and a culture of wars within the region so as to give peace a chance, and enable the people of the region to lay a firm foundation for a life full of hope for enhancing empowerment and capacity of the people within the region to confidently and in freedom, face the challenges of the new millennium.

It is thus the expectation of the conveners and organizers of this symposium that the final outcome and recommendations will not only serve as inputs into the different immediate and future peace initiatives that are currently in process, but will also consolidate a basic ingredient in a long term advocacy programme in education and democratic governance for peace, unity and people centred development throughout the region.

I wish you fruitful deliberations in this symposium.

Let us all work for a peaceful, united and prosperous region for ourselves, our children and future generations.

Joseph W. Butiku
Executive Director – MNF and
Symposium Co-ordinator

BACKGROUND

We all agree that this is a very big and important challenge to the six countries of the region and indeed to the whole continent in Africa. We all agree that a three-day symposium cannot address this challenge fully. Nor was it ever conceived that this was possible. What was conceived and must be achieved is that a start must be made. We are therefore preparing to have an EFFECTIVE START ON THIS TASK. Three phases or stages are involved and must be fully understood by all involved in the preparations.

The first phase was to identify the concept, the problem, the challenge around which thinking and other practical efforts should be made. The Late Mwalimu Nyerere and President Y.K. Museveni were the initiators of the idea and for several years the idea has been growing. Sadly, Mwalimu did not live to see the translation of this idea into a form of reality. However, the idea of a conference / symposium was already concrete before he passed away. A number of themes were identified and papers were requested from many thinkers so as to initiate a debate from a well-founded base.

The second phase is what we have reached, the symposium itself which we must so organize that we produce the desired effect.

The third phase is the advocacy programme to translate the ideas processed in Kampala in and implementation programme, policies, action etc so that the region pursues a culture of peace, unity and people centred development. There is no doubt that this phase is wholly dependant on what comes out on the 10th of April. It is therefore important once again that we fully visualize what is to come out of the symposium.

The persons who were invited to the symposium were chosen purposely to be carriers of the message that the symposium is meant to produce. It is, therefore very important that the symposium maximizes the participation of the invitees, adding to or subtracting from what will have been processed so far. Therefore, the emphases cannot be on paper givers; their contribution is already in hand, but it just be on the cross-section of the invitees.

It is the outcome of the symposium that we must fully focus in order to avoid a disappointment by the many that will have come, including the Heads of State that have been invited. There is too much at stake to allow for producing less than the best.

Prof. Tarsis B. Kabwegyere
Symposium Director

ROUNDTABLE AND SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

NILE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL – KAMPALA

3rd – 5th April, 2002

Tuesday	2nd April 2002	
		Arrival and registration of participants
Wednesday	3rd – April	Day one
8.30 – 9.30am		Registration Continues
9.30 – 10.30am		- First plenary Welcome remarks by the Executive Director, The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and Symposium Coordinator Mr Joseph Butiku
		- Roundtable Workshop Guidelines by the Symposium Director Hon. Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere
		- Organisation of Workshop Committees
10.30 – 11.00am		Tea break: Group photographs
11.00 – 1.00pm		Four committee workshops
		A. Regional Peace and Security B. Regional Stability and Democratic Governance C. Gender and People-centred, Economic, Development D. Regional Food Security and Healthcare
1.00 – 2.30pm		Lunch
2.30 – 4.30		Workshops continue
4.30 – 5.00m		Tea / Coffee Break
5.00 – 7.00pm		Second plenary session Presentation of Reports from Committee ans Discussion

Thursday	4th April 2002	Day two
8.30 – 10.30am	Fourth committee workshops	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Education and Human Resource Development B. Regional Integration and International Cooperation C. Roles of the Media and Kiswahili D. Globalization 	
10.30 – 11.00am	Tea / Coffee Break	
11.00 – 1.00pm	Committee workshops continue	
1.00 – 2.30pm	Lunch	
2.30 – 4.30pm	Committee workshops continue	
4.30 – 5.00pm	Tea / Coffee Break	
5.00 – 7.00pm	Third plenary session Presentation of Committee Reports and Discussion	
Friday	5th April 2002	Day three
9.00 – 12.30am	Preparation of consolidated report	
12.30 – 2.30pm	Lunch	
2.30 – 4.30pm	Fourth plenary session	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Presentation of the consolidated Report (b) Adoption of Report 	
4.30 – 5.00	Tea / Coffee Break	
5.00 – 5.30pm	Closing	

THE MWALIMU NYERERE FOUNDATION

SYMPOSIUM ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION

**REINFORCING THE REGION'S SOLIDARITY : SETTING AN AGENDA FOR A
CULTURE OF PEACE, UNITY AND PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT**

8TH – 10TH APRIL 2002

**NILE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
KAMPALA, UGANDA**

Date	Time	Activity
Sunday, 7th April		Arrival of delegates and participants, registration and accreditation at the 3 main Hotels : Africana, Equatorial and Grand Imperial
Day one : Monday, 8th April	8.00 – 9.00 am	<p>Registration continues delegates / participants to be seated in Hall by 9.00 am when doors will be closed.</p> <p>Opening session</p> <p>Chair : Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Chairman, The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by the Executive Director of The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, Mr. Joseph W. Butiku; then invites Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Chairman of The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation to request HIM. Benjamin William Mkapa, President of the United Republic of Tanzania to open the Symposium. - The Conference Director, Hon. Prof. Tarsis B. Kabwegyere (MP), invites the President of the Republic of Uganda, HE. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to give a Keynote Address.

	10.30 – 11.00 am	Conference rises for dignitaries to leave and also break for coffee/tea
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	1 st Plenary Session
Day one (cont.)		Conference business : Organisation, Structure and Procedures
	1.00 – 2.30 pm	Lunch
	2.30 – 4.30 pm	4 Workshops work concurrently
		Workshop A Peace and Security
		Workshop B Gender and People-centred Economic Development
		Workshop C Regional Integration and Cooperation
		Workshop D Education and Human Resource Development
	4.30 – 5.00 pm	Coffee Break
	5.00 – 7.00 pm	Workshops continue (A, B, C and D)
	7.00 – 9.00 pm	Reception

**REMARKS AND TALKING NOTES BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MWALIMU
NYERERE FOUNDATION AT DAY TWO GENERAL DISCUSSION IN FIRST PLENARY
SESSION : 7TH SEPTEMBER 2004**

1. I thank you Mr. Chairperson for allowing me to make a few remarks this morning. I also congratulate you and through you the people and Government of Burundi for your achievement generally and for hosting this conference.
2. Allow me also to join all those who have spoken before me in congratulating HE Ibrahima Fall, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for organizing this meeting very well and so ably and to thank him for the decision he made, together with all the National Coordinators, to allow, and facilitate the participation of The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation in these deliberations, and perhaps others to come. Let me also thank and congratulate HE Ambassador Mba for this acceptance of the added burden to his already very heavy load of responsibilities in the Great Lakes Region and Africa generally as special Representative of the Chair of the African Union Commission.
3. I have a few general observations to make on some key issues as a member of the Civil Society and citizen of a country in the Region :

(a) Our work in Kampala – 2002

The Symposium on the Great Lakes Region organized by The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation with the support of Government of Uganda – at a cost of 500,000 US\$ was a great achievement for Civil Society and NGOs in the Region. Attended by 4 Heads of State, One Foreign Minister and over 230 participants drawn from all the countries of the region, it demonstrated the regions, determination, at both Government and Non-government levels, to deal with the many problems of the region on the basis of self-reliance. 7 themes were identified and discussed in two stages: The Roundtable of about 50 Experts and Paper Presenters who identified the key issues in all papers presented, and submitted them to a fully fledged conference. A whole day was set aside for the Heads of State to interface with the rest of the participants in a special session.

The objective was two fold: **First** to help the region forge Regional Solidarity, and **secondly**: prepare a regional agenda for the 21st century. That agenda is there; this meeting is yet another stage in its implementation by organizing a focus of the issues under 4 major clusters, and determining under each cluster, those key, priority issues that must be implemented in a regional programme in the context of a broad regional agenda for the 21st century.

After November 2004, our hope in Civil Society and NGOs world is that the region will have a clear agenda, a programme for Implementation and a Plan of Action, with a Funding Plan for a successful implementation. If this is attained, then the 7 or 9 **core countries** of the region, like the G8 and other such group of countries of like mind,

will have a vision, principles, an Agenda, Programme of work, an Implementation Plan and a Funding Mechanism, as well as a periodic review and monitoring mechanisms.

(b) History of the region :

History has always taught us that **humanity is one**; Humanity shares a common destiny. In the 19th Century, we were together – our ancestors the then development partners and the traditional African rulers. In 20th Century, we were together; in this 21st Century we are together – we are here together in this room. We have done many good and bad things together. We are reaping the results of our joint endeavors in this region. **We have not succeeded, or in other words, we have so far failed to create a peaceful and secure region.** We have many unresolved key issues under each of our 4 agenda items or themes.

So issue number one – a cross cutting issues: Let us not fail again in the coming 100 years. **Let us learn from the mistakes of the past** and vow, as President Mandela said in 1994 « *never, never, never again* » should we wish to live in the past. The arrogance of power, be it of wealth, military or political, as well as the obstinacy of weakness have to be given up. Let us consolidate our partnership based on our achievements – and history is one of our achievements. Let us give up now habits of blaming colonialists, imperialists, ou our fore fathers – that is history. [...]

(c) Attitudes of Regional Governments Towards Civil Society :

It is unfortunate rather negative in almost all our countries in the region. Civilians in their diverse organized forms are generally suspects in the eyes of their governments. This suspicion implies :

- They are used by foreigners and some development partners to subvert their own governments.
- They behave like opposition parties and cause trouble to or destabilize their governments.
- They are divided in their loyalty to individual leaders, internally or externally.

This is an issue: Let us discuss it and do away with it, and remove from our minds the perception of a Region where governments give the impression that they are either afraid of their citizens or simply resent their participation in improving the governance of their countries. Otherwise we will continue with a situation of double standards – talk in praise of Civil Society, but act against them.

(d) The Vision and Objectives of this Meeting

Good results in the 4 thematic Areas in terms of visions and principles well articulated, issues identified for inclusion in a Regional Programme and a Framework set for a fundable Action Plan to be implemented by all of us in stages. I believe we are trying for the first time in the region to prepare for ourselves a Regional Agenda that will be

implemented at National and Regional levels, within the broader NEPAD framework and the AU mandate. The issue here is how we are going to relate the agenda we are trying to produce here with the current ad hoc mechanisms of preparing National agendas, under the auspices of the World Bank, IMF and other multilateral and bilateral institutions and donor countries.

(e) The Leadership Issues

Leadership is an institutional issue. Individuals or groups can become leaders but for the benefit of the people. Leadership is not a private property. Evidence abounds in the region, and almost all meetings have acknowledged this phenomena, of – leadership being treated as private affair and not institutional for the people. This is an issue – for research and further discussion. For whatever we do here, success will depend upon individuals who will offer and be elected by the people to lead not to rule.

(f) The Region’s Unity Programme

All of us must give total and maximum support to this programme. We do not talk much about it – yet it is an important issue for, and in the region. There are too many divisive elements, some in our midst. Let us agree that this too needs our attention.

(g) The Issue of Conditionalities and Partner Interests

This is an old issue – it is not unusual for those giving aid to the region to want to be sure that their aid will be put to proper use as agreed. But when aid is used as a weapon of intimidation, force, or ultimate domination and control, it ceases to be useful in helping the region achieve its objectives in the 4 Thematic Areas. Development Partner interests in the region are known – indeed they lie in the ultimate achievements of the objectives of the 4 themes of this conference. These interests naturally attract development partner concerns, especially where they think they are not being listened to, or given a fair treatment by either the governments or people of the region. Time has come to acknowledge the issue of the interests of the Development Partners, **and discuss their concerns**, which they should also now bring up as a list of development partner concerns.

Civils Society in the Region talk about this issue mostly in private and whispers – but government also talks about these issues, like Hon. Amb. Siteke G. Mwale did say yesterday where he made reference to decisions of the big people who sometimes push governments beyond acceptable limits. Let us take this issue seriously.

4. Lastly, let me thank SRSR/GLR and AU for engaging the services of The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation in coordinating the Civil Society Input into the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. This has been an honor to us which we acknowledge and accept with humility and pleasure and promise to work hand in hand with all NGOs in the region to make sure the representation at the Regional Meeting of Regional NGOs scheduled for Arusha 20 to 24 September is as inclusive as possible. We appeal to all National Coordinators to assist in having free focused deliberations at

National Meetings of National NGOs in all core countries in order to improve their inputs at the regional level, especially as regards the cross cutting issues.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KENYA'S NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION

1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Kenya took a lead in sponsoring the first National one-day brainstorming workshop on the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The offer was based on the principles of partnership and ownership in the preparations for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to be held in Dar-eslaam Tanzania in November 16th – 20th 2004. The participants of the workshops were drawn from all members of the four thematic groups of the identified topics of peace and security, Democracy and Good Governance, Economic Development and Regional Integration, and Humanitarian and social issues.

During the consultations, hope was expressed that with these efforts by the UN, AU and leaders from the Region would contribute to peace, security and development to the region. It was observed that the situation in the region has been caused by internal and external influences, hence the need for a multifaceted approach to solve the crises and end the endemic instability in the region.

2. DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The workshop cited the root causes of conflicts as ineffective governance, selective application of the law, weak civil society organizations, authoritarian leadership and deliberate policies, which create imbalances in the society. The liberal democratic frameworks that are being promoted, especially by the political activists and external forces, were cited as major causes of conflict in the region. These kinds of frameworks encourage the concept of « winner takes it all » which ultimately leads to exclusion and tensions. Exclusion of women from participation in the governance of the country was identified as a major factor which breeds a ground for conflicts in Africa and the Region. Lack of proper focus on the allocation of resources, both at national and regional levels, creates conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is the view of this delegation that the principles enshrined in NEPAD framework represent the best starting point towards sorting out most of the problems that confront us in this region.
- Reaffirm the commitment of States of the region to the ideals and principles of NEPAD. Now that the NEPAD has been adopted as the [...]
- Having identified weak democracies and poor governance as causes of conflict in the region, states in the region should be committed to peer review mechanisms as enshrined in the NEPAD plan.
- There is need of carrying out a review of past conflicts in order to unravel the mysteries behind them, and bring to the fore the impacts of negative ethnicity on governance, institutionalized and state funded conflicts, conflicts arising from

foreign instigated policies, and resource based conflicts, in order to define the vision of the region.

- States to create capacity that will help citizens to build synergies and develop a culture of dialogue and peaceful co-existence.

3. PEACE AND SECURITY

Peace and security issues can be tackled on two fronts; economic and social fronts. It was noted that peace is more than the absence of war and conflict, implying that related issues should be looked at in a holistic manner. The effects of conflict and their spill over in the region are daunting reality. This leads to economic stress and social-political fragmentation that include generation and disposal of refugees in the entire region that ultimately transfers the refugee problems to countries not engulfed in the real conflicts.

During the consultative meetings, it was pointed out that the regional peace and security issues could be easily tackled when respective governments were committed to the process.

Further, it was pointed out that there was a need to critically analyze the relationship between democracy, peace and security, while at the same time making a clear distinction between advocacy and conceptualization of issues at hand, in order to add value to the theme and approach to the planned international conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It was noted that there is multiplicity of institutions addressing conflict issues in the region, which are working independently of each other, and with little coordination and consultation. There is a need to address the conflict issues from a holistic point of view and we recommend that states in the region come up with regional policy benchmarks on conflict management, peace building and early warning systems and response. In this regard, we note and welcome the role of the Public Service Committee of the AU. Its creation has filled the void.
- Numerous studies have been carried out on causes of conflicts in the region. There is need to consolidate these studies and identify any gaps that require further research and follow-up. Recommendations from the studies should be assessed and an action plan drawn for implementation of the recommendations where necessary.
- The role of regional economic communities such as COMESA, EAC, IGAD, and NEPAD should be identified and defined in relation to peace and security in the region. These will enhance timely response to early warning in conflicts situation.
- An inter state security committee/early warning committee should be created to monitor security situation and alert governments on the situations on conflict trends.
- States through parliament should encourage states to initiate a process of self evaluation to determine the extent to which peace and security is provided to citizens.

- Recognizing that conflicts tend to have an epicenter, it is important to address internal conflicts within states before they escalate and become regional.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The consultations on this theme identified declining food production in the region in the face of increasing population as one of the main causes of insecurity. It was further pointed out that the region was faced with economic challenges in this sector including : - pressure on land due to overpopulation, ineffective land reforms, lack of funding / credit for the sector and limited markets for the agricultural produce. It was noted that Kenya was well endowed in this sector if only it could exploit areas of comparative advantage with a view to contributing to alleviation of food insecurity in the region.

The role of trade investment was underscored as a major factor in creating peace and security in the region. However, it was pointed out that trade and investment was highly dependent on peace and security, good governance and the rule of law. It was noted that whereas Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is important in filling gaps in an economy, its effectiveness is dependent on large markets that create economies of scale and require efficient systems for effective operation.

It was stressed that heavy investments in the infrastructure sector, for the region will go a long way in linking the people of region and increase trade flows among the countries of the Great Lakes Region.

The role of private sector in the economic development in the region was underscored. It was noted that the private sector plays a major role in wealth creation that is motivated by potentials for profit and trade/investment incentives. It was pointed out that although Kenya had low FDI inflows it was a major foreign investor in the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Swahili should be promoted as a regional language
- Regional banks should be created to enhance economic development among citizens of the region. Micro-financing should be an important element of the bank.
- In response to zero tolerance against corruption in the region, a regional anti corruption and economic crime body should be established with powers to prosecute.
- Regional economic integration process should be enhanced and conclusion should be reached on matters of states that have expressed interest on joining the East Africa Community and other regional bodies.
 - Emphasis should be placed on globalizing regional resources rather than external resources as a way of cushioning developing countries against the vagaries of globalization.
 - A more investment friendly climate should be created through the reduction of taxes and high services charges such as electricity tariffs and charges.

- A regional exchange programme should be encouraged in the Great Lakes Region to enhance regional competitiveness vis-à-vis the rest of the world.
- Projects on infrastructure such as roads, telecommunications, oil pipeline, water transport and railways are to be carried out jointly by the Great Lakes Region.
In this respect, NEPAD comes in handy.
- Opportunities for dialogue should be created for exploitation and utilizing cross-border resources in the interest of all.

5. HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL ISSUES

The current crisis in the Great Lakes Region is a consequence of a complex and interconnected set of problems. These include bad governance, lack of democracy, monopolization of political power by minority groups, policies of exclusion, widespread poverty, violation of basic human rights and ever deepening poverty.

The prolonged and on-going conflict in the Great Lakes Region has generated hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons. Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have borne the great humanitarian burden as the region's premier refugees hosting countries. However, the general border porosity of the Great Lakes territories has meant that combatants have sought asylum in neighbouring countries along with genuine asylum seekers. This has posed a grave security risk to civilians who are fleeing conflict situations and to the host countries within they seek refuge. This has also caused strained relations among the states in the region as they blame each other for hosting the rebels against their respective countries.

Despite the heavy refugee burden borne by the Great Lakes Region, support from the international community continues to decline. This has further hindered the implementation of activities for humanitarian support. Furthermore Western countries have recently began to push for a non-arrival policy in refugee management, where asylum seekers will be required to undergo refugee status determination in regions of conflict before being allowed entry as refugees. All these factors have deeply eroded the international principle of burden sharing.

It was noted that refugee management in the region remains ad hoc. As a result, there are no clear regional benchmarks to govern the Great Lakes Region refugee crisis.

HIV/AIDS

It is estimated that 70% of the people living with HIV/AIDS reside in Sub-Saharan Africa where most of the world's conflicts are concentrated. It has also been estimated that by the end of this decade, ten times more Sub-Saharan Africans will die of AIDS than they can be killed in conflict. Therefore, even if war is a primary concern in a conflict situation, the added effects of HIV/AIDS must not be overlooked. Conflict and HIV/AIDS have a symbiotic relationship. Conflict is a catalyst for the spread of HIV/AIDS. For instance, in food insecure conflict zones, girl children are forced to barter sex for food. Forced migration and military movements are also contributing to the rapid transmission of the disease.

In the Great Lakes Region, evidence suggests that many agencies are concentrating on providing basic needs with exclusion of HIV/AIDS emergency programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establishment of a regional policy and standards in refugees and internally displaced persons management.
- Address the protracted refugee situation and eliminate the culture of dependency through economic empowerment of refugees. Explore micro finance possibility in refugee sustainability in line with approaches adopted by some countries in the region.
- Address the issue of brain drain in the region through strategies that encourage refugees to voluntarily return home when peace is realized.
- Use existing humanitarian activities to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes for populations affected by armed conflict.
- Conduct a gaps analysis in the Great Lakes Region to outline the constraints of humanitarian organizations responding to HIV/AIDS in conflict situation.
- Declare HIV/AIDS a regional disaster / pandemic in all countries of the Great Lakes Region. Provision / production of generic anti-retrovirals is a must for the region if the issues of those affected are to be saved.

WOMEN

The Brainstorming session for women's organizations held on 29 July 2004, noted that for almost a decade, the Great Lakes Region had been plagued by conflict and displacement of its peoples, leading to many crises touching on women related to the four themes of the Conference.

It was noted that women are crucial to the peace-building process and should therefore be involved in key policy-making processes. They can play a vital role in the resolution of conflicts. It was further observed that the refugee crisis had led to women being disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. We especially welcome the decision of the last AU Summit whereby representation of women will be on 50/50 basis in government and private sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Peace and Security

1. Gender should be mainstreamed in peace processes. Specifically, women should be officially incorporated into conflict and post conflict management and resolution processes. In this case, women should be viewed as a resource rather than victims.
2. In recognition that domestic violence is abuse against women, a regional centre for counseling and rehabilitations should be created.
3. Traditional conflict settlement mechanisms should be incorporated into modern conflict resolution mechanisms.

B. Humanitarian and Social issues

1. States should ensure that they implement policies that consider affirmative action for the Aging, especially for aging women, in addressing historical injustices against women.
2. States need to come up with practical ways of addressing the needs of refugee women, Internally Displaced Persons, HIV/AIDS pandemic and other epidemics.
3. We encourage states to provide free basic medical and reproductive services that make women and other disadvantaged people be in control of their reproductive health and safety in caring for the people living with HIV/AIDS. For example, provision of gloves, condoms, and other family planning services.

C. Economic Development and Regional Integration

1. Create safe and conducive environment for women to campaign for elective posts without fear and intimidation.
2. Create regional development Banks to improve the lot of women through micro-finance.
3. There is need to create awareness amongst regional women through networking to compare and contrast existing structures on mainstreaming gender issues into national develop plans.

D. Democracy and Good Governance

1. Develop policies and approaches that are gender sensitive.
2. Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in all its aspects by the countries of the Region.
3. Civic education in school curriculum and non-civic education should be promoted to eradicate stereo types against women.

4. Women should be fully empowered to take charge of their reproductive health.

YOUTH

The Brainstorming Workshop for Youth Organisations on the Great Lakes Region held on 30th and 31st August 2004, observed that youth who are aged between 15 and 30 years comprise about 60% of most countries' populations and that issues affecting them need to be given utmost attention.

A. Peace and Security

The workshop identified conflicts that have affected the countries of the Great Lakes Region in varying magnitude. These include cross border conflicts, civil wars, genocides, military coups, and tribal clashes. The Meeting identified some of the root causes of conflicts, which include authoritarian and ineffective governance, inequality in sharing of political, economic and cultural opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Deliberate action must be taken at all levels by all stakeholders to address the root causes of conflict in the region.
2. The Youth should be empowered and encouraged to assert their influence.

B. Economic Development and Regional Integration

The Meeting identified three basic approaches to regional integration that include functionalist approach that emphasizes pulling together factors of production and production processes in harmonization of economic units and policies. Also identified was the federalist approach that emphasizes the unification of political systems. Lastly, the Neo-functionalist approach that takes along the harmonization of economic and political systems and units was identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Great Lakes governments should come up with strategies for youth employment as a way of involving them in economic and productive activities, such as establishing small and medium size enterprises.
2. Encourage the youth to think regionally and nationally as opposed to thinking and acting ethnically.
3. Establish mechanisms of dealing with proliferation of arms in the region.

C. Democracy and Good Governance

The Meeting observed that some of the important attributes of democracy and good governance include stabilizing and making the state relevant in meeting people's needs, removing corrupt, unproductive dominant class, alleviating the conditions of poverty, ignorance, disease, marginalization, exploitation and repression of the poor, and checking the dominant role of foreign capital.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create Legislation to enhance participation of youth in democracy and governance activities.
2. Empower the youth to own material and intellectual resources to enable them effectively participate in democracy and governance processes.
3. Promote networking among the youth in the Great Lakes Region.
4. Mainstream elected youth leaders in the political, economic and social sectors.

D. Humanitarian and Social Issues

As observed earlier in this paper, Refugee management in the region is on ad hoc basis. Some countries have enacted refugee laws, while others rely completely on UNHRC for refugee protection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Governments should commit themselves to address internal and cross-border conflicts that cause internal displacement and refugees.
2. Women and gender concerns, HIV/AIDS, poverty alleviation, among others, should be addressed taking youth into consideration.

PRESENTATION AT THE 1ST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES

By Magaga Alot, Information and Public Relations Officer, East African Community

I thank you, Mr Chairperson for allowing me to make a few remarks on behalf of the East African Community during this important meeting.

I also join those who have spoken before me in congratulating H.E. Ibrahima Fall, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on the successful organisation of this meeting and thank him for inviting us.

The EAC Partner States, among other Members of the Preparatory Committee have already made their presentations. I will, therefore only address some of the salient themes broadly if only to record EAC's commitment to the issues before this meeting.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The East African regional integration process has taken a new dynamism following the historic Nairobi Summit on 27-29 August 2004 at which the East African Heads of States « resolved to expedite the process of integration so that the ultimate goal of a Political Federation is achieved through a fast track mechanism ». The Nairobi declaration was the culmination of recent pressures and demands for rapid realisation of integration objectives.

During their first session held in Kampala in January 2002, Members of the East African Legislative Assembly made a strong call for speedy movement towards the Political Federation of East Africa. The same theme also dominated the deliberations and declarations of the Second Extra-Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State of the East African Community in Kampala in April 2002.

These calls reflecting the popular will are bringing new pressures to bear on the redefinition of the regional agenda. There is mounting call for a shift in the regional programme to lay emphasis on the political as well as the economic aspects of regional integration.

The EAC Treaty provides a step-by-step approach to regional integration through the stages of a Customs Union, Common Market, subsequently a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation. However, this is subject to interpretation and there may be need for re-ordering of the priorities in the interest of timely and effective realization of the Treaty objectives.

Indeed, the Treaty establishes the Political Federation as both a means and an end in the realization of the aspirations of the people in the East African Community. It provides that the Political Federation would « strengthen and regulate the industrial, commercial, infrastructure, cultural, social, political and other relations of the Partner States to the end that there shall be

accelerated, harmonious and balanced development and sustained expansion of economic activities... »

The prevailing view therefore is that the determination of regional issues and the pace of the integration process, including the negotiations of the various protocols on the specific programmes of the Community, would be more expeditious if they were conducted within an established and enabling political framework.

An effective approach in the regional integration process in East Africa should therefore involve an emphatic political dimension with respect, in particular, to promotion of a common East African identity and deepening of the people's awareness of, and involvement in the regional projects and programmes. EAC is already implementing programmes or has established institutions such as the East African Legislative Assembly, East African Court of Justice, Defence Liaison Unit, co-ordination of monetary and fiscal policies which relate to the higher stage of integration, i.e. Political Federation.

On the whole, there is need to approach regional integration in East Africa with courage and vision. In the process East Africans should develop their own paradigms establish own priorities, including sequencing of the various milestones in the regional integration process according to the unique experience, circumstances and conditions in East Africa.

This commitment to the regional objectives should be strictly matched with systematic strengthening of the regional integration institutions as well as placing clear emphasis and priority on the tough as opposed to the softer integration initiatives, soft that is those initiatives / issues in which the Partner States are less reluctant to cede sovereignty and tough, those in which they are least inclined to cede sovereignty.

A great effort should be made to avoid the trap of dependence on external loans or grants to underwrite the regional integration and development process. Regardless their terms or conditionalities, loans and grants end up only in highjacking the regional integration effort and re-directing it towards the external advantage as opposed to the advantage of the region itself. We should therefore always aim to entertain only meaningful investments which support and reinforce internal capacity for development of a strong and viable single market and investment area for East Africa.

REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

One of the most fundamental and great benefits of regional integration, but which is often taken for granted, is the maintenance and preservation of regional peace and security. It is also one of the aspects of regional co-operation in which the East African Community has been most successful and exemplary so far, save for the glaring lack of express mechanism or process to intervene in the internal conflicts within the Partner States themselves.

Regional co-operation in East Africa was resumed in 1993 following the collapse of the East African Community (defunct) in 1977. The resumption of regional co-operation in East Africa was premised on the assumptions and realizations that unity and co-operation among the East African countries were inevitable, necessary and indispensable to sustainable development of the region; and that peace and security were a precondition to, indeed the starting point of regional integration and development.

On account of this, both the 1993 Agreement for the Establishment of the Permanent Tripartite Commission for East African Co-operation and the East African Co-operation / Community Development Strategies (1997-2000) and (2001-2005) emphasize peace and security among the agreed areas of regional co-operation.

The quest of regional peace and security in East Africa is safeguarded under article 5 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (1999), which provides that peace and security and good neighbourliness in the region shall be among the fundamental objectives of the Community.

Article 124 of the Treaty elaborates on the Co-operation in Regional Peace and Security; and the Partner States have a Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation in Defence Matters (signed in 1998 and revised in 2000). Under this Memorandum of Understanding an EAC Defence Liaison Unit was established at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha in 1998, manned by senior military officers, one each from the three Partner States.

The East African Community Partner States are taking measures to address the issues of peace and security through, among others, the following : ensuring maintenance of peace and stability in the region ; avoidance and prevention of conflict within the region ; observance of the principles of good neighbourliness and peaceful resolution of conflicts ; addressing the root causes of conflict through observance of good governance, respect for human rights, including issues of food security and poverty eradication ; and co-operation in defence matters as well as preparedness for peacekeeping, conflict resolution and disaster management.

On the whole, the EAC region has enjoyed relative peace and stability compared to other parts / regions of Africa. However, the region is affected by the conflicts which have occurred or prevailed in the countries surrounding it, e.g. Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, the DRC, etc.

These conflicts have impacts, particularly on two major factors, namely, trade and investments in the region, including access of East African goods and services, including tourism, to markets ; and on the socio-economic situation, including security in the region on account, for instance, of the refugee influxes into the region, proliferation of small arms and illicit drugs trafficking.

To this extent, the EAC countries have made concerted efforts involving mainly diplomatic interventions to solve the conflicts in the countries surrounding the region, e.g. the Burundi and IGAD peace processes.

The EAC model is well focused on the peace and security needs and interests, i.e. ensuring the maintenance of peace and stability within the region and peaceful (diplomatic) interventions to solve the conflicts in the surrounding States.

Indeed, in its broader vision, whereby it embraces the eventual establishment of a Political Federation of the East Africa States (Article 123), the EAC Treaty looks at the eventual establishment of a common defence pact (article 125). Thus, a formula has been found and the prospects of any of the Partner States going to war against another eliminated.

The challenge is to solidify / strengthen the EAC model for regional peace and security and activate it within the broader, continental context, i.e. of the establishment of the envisaged

African Economic and Political Union and the AU approach or mechanism for maintenance of peace and security in the continent.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The political factor has always underpinned the regional integration process in East Africa as indeed other regional integration processes elsewhere. During the colonial era (late 1890's – early 1960's) the series of regional integration arrangements that existed, including the East African High Commission (1948 – 1961) and the East African Common Services Organization (1961 – 1967) were mainly inspired or driven by the colonial motive.

As the East African countries approached their independence, Tanzania (1961), Uganda (1962) and Kenya (1963), a more homegrown regional integration arrangement, the East African Community (1967-1977) was formed. Reflecting the will and desire of the people and leadership of East Africa at the time, the East African Community was a strong and powerful union. It operated common services of over thirty institutions, including the major corporations – East African Railways, East African Harbours, East African Posts and Telecommunications, East African Airways and East African Development Bank besides an array of joint research institutions.

Despite the concentration of its vital decision-making process in the hands of the Heads of State (the Authority), the former Community, to a large extent, enable the participation of the people through production and employment, from the lowest cadres to the top management, and the provision of essential services. The East African Legislative Assembly, though not directly elected by the people, nevertheless generally articulated their views.

The collapse of the former Community in 1977 was due to many factors, among them the perceptions of inequitable sharing of the benefits of integration. Most important, however, was the political factor – the so-called ideological divides of East/West among the Community's Member States during a Cold War era.

The re-establishment of regional co-operation in 1999 therefore came with the starl lessons of the past. Foremost in the concerns of the Partner States is the issue of the sustainability of regional co-operation. The need is recognized to anchor the regional integration process on a firm foundation of peace, stability and prosperity, based on good governance, rule of law, respect for democratic and human rights ; and the participation of the people in a market-led regional integration process.

This realization has brought good governance to the fore in the East African regional integration and development. Good governance is enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community as among the fundamental principles of the EAC. Article 6 of the Treaty stipulates that the fundamental principles that shall govern the achievement of the objectives of the Community by the Partner States shall include « good governance..... adherence to the principles of democracy, rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality, as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human and peoples rights ».

The Treaty further stipulates that the Partner States undertake « to abide by the principles of good governance, including adherence to democracy, the rule of law, social justice and the maintenance of universally accepted standards of human rights ». Also under the Treaty, it is

provided that matters to be taken into account in considering the application by a foreign country to become a member of, be associated with, or participate in any of the activities of the Community shall include that foreign country's « adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice ».

The EAC Treaty is thus very emphatic on the issue of good governance. And to concretize this commitment, the East African Court of Justice is established as « a judicial body which shall ensure the adherence to law » in the activities of the Community. Indeed, the concern with good governance and human rights runs through the entire programme of the Community where activities relating to rights to education, decent shelter, health, food security, cultural expression, gender, labour rights and the environment are among the identified areas of cooperation.

Among the major programmes of the Community at the moment, after the signing of the Customs Union Protocol, is the development of free movement of persons, harmonization of the labor laws and employment policies as well as harmonization of social security systems in East Africa. EAC thus aims at creating a productive work environment in which the rights of the workers are protected; adequate income is generated plus adequate social protection through increased domestic production and intra-regional as well as international trade.

Furthermore, the Community emphasizes a participatory approach to development and in this respect aims at establishing close collaboration with civil society in the programmes of the Community as a force for change and development. It is in this context that in 1998-1999, civil society played a key role in generating public opinion and input into the negotiations of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

This positive contribution to the formulation of the Treaty provides the basis on which to build effective participation of civil society in the activities of the Community, right from decision making to the implementation of the Community's projects and programmes.

The emphasis which the East African Community places on the participation of the people is to ensure that the rights and roles of the people are clearly established through all the stages of the regional integration and development process. Put in the broader context, good governance is concerned with prudent, ethical and effective management of resources, including human and financial resources, to lead to efficiency and sustainable maximization of benefits.

For the East African countries, good governance is a critical factor in lowering the costs of doing business in the region which would attract investments; promote industrialization, trade and overall development of the region, leading to poverty eradication and protection of the environment.

The challenge for good governance is being addressed in a holistic approach at both the national and regional levels. At the national levels, the Partner States have put in place their respective poverty eradication programmes and they all have anti-corruption and related programmes or agencies to establish good corporate governance policies and practice.

Commercial Courts have been established in the Partner States to deal specifically with business disputes. This is intended to handle such issues with speed and efficiency in order to

enhance justice and rule of law. In turn, it will promote investor confidence in the judicial system. Efforts are underway to enhance the role of the East African Court of Justice to handle commercial and trade disputes and be used as a reliable and less expensive Court of Arbitration compared to arbitrations currently being held in London and The Hague.

At the regional level, the measures are further supported through the projects and programmes of the Community, and in particular in the activities of the East African Fiscal Affairs Committee to allocate resources in addressing the critical issues, through coordinated national budgets. Ministers compare notes in pre-budget consultations and read their budgets at the same day and time.

The Committee also provides a forum for review of the national programmes and facilitates exchange of views, experience and learning from one another in the process of mutual reinforcement towards a regional level multidisciplinary approach to the identified issues.

In this regard, the issues of good governance have also been addressed in the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Customs Union, which was signed on 2nd March 2004. Negotiations are ongoing on the various policy harmonization, among others, of the investment codes and competition policies and laws of the Partner States in the context of the implementation of the Customs Union Protocol.

The regional level interventions target or involve a comprehensive range of the key actors, including government ministries, parliaments, the Judiciary, Police, non-governmental organizations and civil society, the private sector and the media.

Under Chapter 25 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, far reaching provisions are contained for the conduct of the partnership between the EAC Partner States and the private sector towards the creation of « an improved business environment ». Also in the exercise of its functions, among others, to « discuss and make recommendations on matters pertaining to the Community », the East African Legislative Assembly is playing an important role in the development of good governance policy.

The **East African Co-operation Development Strategy**, which is the major policy guideline document for EAC, recognizes that the reactivation of regional co-operation is taking place in tandem with the processes of liberalization and globalization. These processes place the private sector in a leading role in the development process. The Strategy has therefore put an emphasis on the strengthening of the private sector in enabling it to play this leading role in the regional integration and development process.

To this extent, the East African Business Council (EABC), comprising of apex bodies of private sector organizations in the three Partner States, was formed in 1996. Together with the East African Trade Union Council (EATUC), the East Africa Law Society and other civil society organizations, the EABC has observer status in the organs of the East African Community. With the collaboration of these bodies, the EAC has over the past five years intensified contacts and consultations with the representatives of the informal (Jua Kali / Nguvu Kazi) sector, the trade unions, employers associations, chambers of commerce and industry and manufacturers associations in the process of developing a vision for enhanced public and private sector participation in the regional integration.

The EAC Private Sector Development Strategy whose study has been completed further addresses the issues, and help to formulate appropriate policy, on good corporate governance for the East African region based on a strong partnership of the public and private sectors and civil society.

In practical terms, Tanzania has advanced in the area of democratic, free and fair elections. Kenya recently held elections that were universally hailed as not only fair but also free of intimidation and violence. Uganda, which had been for a long time traumatized, is making progress in areas of governance and human rights observance. On the whole the region enjoys a vastly improving policy environment. The region is politically stable. East Africa is fast changing and modernizing. There is a clear and definite commitment to a new direction in the management of the affairs of the region along the path of peace, stability, progress and respect for the sanctity of the person and private property.

**EAC SECRETARIAT
ARUSHA
SEPTEMBER 2004**

ALLOCUTION DU COPRESIDENT DU GROUPE DES AMIS DE LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS, M. MARC-ANDRE BRAULT, ENVOYE SPECIAL DU CANADA POUR LA RDC ET LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS, A L'OCCASION DE L'OUVERTURE DE LA PREMIERE REUNION DU COMITE REGIONAL PREPARATOIRE DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS

Monsieur le Président,
Chers Coordinateurs nationaux,
Chers amis,

Tout d'abord je tiens, en mon nom personnel et en celui de mes collègues canadiens, à remercier chaleureusement notre hôte, le gouvernement burundais, pour son accueil chaleureux et pour s'être offert d'accueillir cette première réunion régionale préparatoire de la Conférence internationale sur la région des Grands Lacs. Le gouvernement burundais a pris un risque en étant le premier hôte des réunions régionales et, avec l'implication de son coordinateur national, notre ami Balthazar Habonimana, il a su relever le défi.

I must note here the work and efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, H.E. Dr. Ibrahima Fall, who spearheaded the renewal of the process that led in June 2003 to the first meeting of National Coordinators. The role also played by the African Union must also be underlined and we are sincerely delighted that Ambassador Bah will continue to be involved in the Conference proceedings.

Je suis honoré de m'adresser à vous ce matin pour vous convier les vues d'un de vos partenaires, le Groupe des Amis de la Région des Grands Lacs. L'occasion en est encore plus propice que vous êtes tous réunis ici en ce jour pour la première fois pour entamer des discussions régionales qui sont importantes pour l'avenir non seulement de la Conférence mais aussi pour celui de la région dans son ensemble.

At the June 2003 meeting, the National coordinators enshrined the principle of African and regional ownership of the process while recognizing the value of special partnership with the international community. Canada then established the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region in December 2003. We did this because we, as well as our Friends, believe in the Conference.

The whole region is so interrelated that an economic, a political problem in one of your countries has an immediate impact in the neighboring states. There has to be a mechanism to foresee these problems, to prevent them, to find and apply solutions to the crisis, to the conflicts where they arise, to help the people of the region, in particular those who have suffered most, the women and children. The Conference can easily provide the umbrella under which mechanisms to spearhead real and sincere cooperation can be established. We believe that you can do it. We believe in you.

This Conference however must come up with tangible, concrete steps; not just pious wishes. We all know the causes of most regional problems. They have been discussed at length through hundreds of conferences and seminars. Now is the time to come up with concrete and effective action to deal with the challenges that you all face. You must come up with an agreed common vision of where the region must go and, later on, come up with concrete and effective action plan to deal with the challenges that you all face.

Nous devons démontrer à l'issue de nos travaux cette semaine que vous les membres de cette grande Conférence vous êtes sérieux, que vous voulez sincèrement rencontrer tous les objectifs de cette conférence d'abord en vous assurant du succès des deux sommets des Chefs d'Etat et enfin que la Conférence développera et consacra ce pacte sur la Paix, la Sécurité et le Développement dans votre région de façon concrète et efficace. En arriver cette semaine à un document agréé par tous sur les priorités régionales sur les 4 thèmes, est très important et primordial, critique pour vous mais aussi pour nous le Groupe des Amis. Si on veut conserver l'enthousiasme de nos membres pour la Conférence, si on veut qu'ils continuent d'apporter tout leur soutien.

We, the Group of Friends, have developed our financial mechanism to help you consult one another, to help you prepare initial national positions and now to come here today to discuss and agree on priorities in a regional setting. In addition to financial assistance, we have provided and will continue to provide technical assistance when requested. We are also prepared to provide you with political support and you should not hesitate to call on us if you feel there is a need for it.

Like the development of the Group of Friends and its financial mechanism, the Conference has known organizational and political delays. However, our joint shared determination to see this process go forward has paid dividends. All of you have held initial national preparatory meetings to develop your national positions for this meeting and to pave the way for a national buy-in of the Conference and its long-term process and objectives.

C'est précisément cette même bonne volonté et ce désir de tous et chacun de trouver des solutions pratiques aux préoccupations nationales, ayant un impact régional, qui nous permettront à tous de faire un grand succès de ce long processus qu'est la Conférence. Nous ne devons pas nous le cacher : tout comme dans les processus nationaux, il y aura sur le plan régional des écueils et difficultés qui surgiront. Notre rôle à tous sera de mettre la main à la pâte et faire progresser néanmoins les discussions et objectifs de la Conférence.

En effet, bien que certaines organisations sous-régionales tendent à des objectifs similaires, seule la Conférence représente pour le moment un forum inclusif visant au développement de telles solutions pratiques pour toutes les populations et tous les pays de la région. De fait, aucun autre forum ne représente en ce moment ce vaste territoire et ses diverses populations, ni offre une tribune pour permettre des échanges qui servent à réduire les tensions et chercher des moyens pour prévenir l'éruption de nouveaux conflits. Nous nous devons donc de persévérer coûte que coûte pour faire avancer les travaux de la Conférence.

In concluding, the membership of the Group of Friends, 29 member-states and 10 international organizations and agencies, is convinced that your discussions this week will launch a new phase in the regional search for harmony, peace and security. The Group of Friends will support you in this endeavour and meet its obligations as your « Partners ».

Thank you.