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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

**97<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**25 OCTOBER 2007**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**PSC/PR/Comm(XCVII)**

**COMMUNIQUE**

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 97<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PEACE  
AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 97<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25 October 2007, adopted the following communiqué on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

**Council,**

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo [PSC/PR/2(XCVII)], as well as the statement by His Excellency Mr. Joseph Pango, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
2. **Commends** the establishment of the institutions as provided for in the Constitution of the Third Republic in DRC and **encourages** them to fully play their role in order to consolidate the democratic process;
3. **Welcomes**, in this respect, the firm commitments made by the President of the Republic on the occasion of his swearing-in on 6 December 2006, and **invites** all political actors, as well as civil society organizations, to support and strengthen the momentum with a view to making irreversible the peace and national reconciliation process and to creating conducive conditions for post-conflict reconstruction;
4. **Reiterates** its gratitude to the United Nations and to the other AU Partners involved in the peace process in DRC for their contribution to the efforts which led to the successful conclusion of the transition in DRC;
5. **Expresses** its deep concern over the persistence of insecurity in the south and north Kivu and **condemns** the actions of the dissident General Laurent Nkunda and demands him and his forces of the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) to join the assembly points, without delay, for integration into the process of the formation of the Congolese national army;
6. **Expresses** its deep concern over the continued presence of ex-FAR/Interahamwé, the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) and other armed groups in the East of the DRC, strongly **condemns** their destabilizing activities in the region, as well as the terrible acts they commit against the civilian population. Council **requests** the countries of the Region to continue working together to address effectively the problem of the armed groups in eastern DRC, including their disarmament, their neutralization and their return to their country;
7. **Supports fully** the efforts deployed by the Government of the DRC with the support of the MONUC, aiming at restoring order and tranquility on the entire national territory of the DRC, particularly in South and North Kivu provinces;
8. **Encourages** the neighbouring countries of the DRC to continue playing a positive role in the definitive pacification of that country;

9. **Recognizes** the role being played by the regional organizations, namely, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), in supporting the post-conflict reconstruction process in the DRC;
10. **Appeals** to the international community to provide necessary humanitarian assistance to more than six hundred thousand refugees in South and North Kivu provinces;
11. **Commends** the positive developments in the region as informed by the process of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the Tripartite + and **urges** the member States involved in these mechanisms to redouble their efforts with a view to implementing them and consolidating peace and national reconciliation, as well as the restoration of confidence in the region, particularly through the reestablishment and strengthening of diplomatic and political relations;
12. **Requests** the Commission to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the DRC, to examine together with all the concerned actors, problems of security along the borders with CAR and the Sudan, linked, among other aspects, to the movements of population and make recommendations;
13. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.