

**RESOLUTION ON BURUNDI**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

**Having considered** the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi, Document CM/1942 (LXIV),

**Having heard** the statement of the Minister of External Relations and Cooperation of Burundi on the developments in the situation in his country,

**Having considered and take not also** of the supplementary information provided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Tanzania on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes and East African Regions namely Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Zaire, and Ethiopia as Current Chairman of the OAU,

**Considering** the increasingly deteriorating political and security situation in Burundi,

**Noting** the continuing efforts by the Outgoing Chairman and Secretary-General of the OAU to contribute to the return of peace and security and to promote stability and national reconciliation in Burundi,

**Aware** of the concerns expressed by the United Nations Security Council and the UN Secretary-General over the precarious situation in Burundi and the possibility for humanitarian catastrophe in that country,

**Appreciating** the efforts deployed by the countries of the Region, former Presidents Julius Nyerere, Jimmy Carter which are aimed at bringing about a peaceful and political resolution of the conflict in Burundi,

**Recalling** the decision of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held at Ambassadorial level on 15 April 1996, to extend the mandate of OMIB for a period of three months:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Secretary-General's Report;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN** on the unstable, tense and politically polarized situation and insecurity that continues to prevail in Burundi;
3. **STRESSES** that a durable settlement in Burundi must be based on democracy and security for all;
4. **DEPLORES AND STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the brutal and dastardly murder of innocent people as well as humanitarian and aid-workers and **ONCE MORE CALLS UPON** the Burundian authorities to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of all the people of Burundi and the personnel of international organizations, IGOs, NGOs, who currently risk their lives to render humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable sections of the society in Burundi;
5. **ENTRUSTS** the Central Organ to continue to pursue its efforts to prevent a further deterioration of the situation in Burundi;
6. **STRONGLY URGES** the Government, the political leadership of Burundi, the Armed Forces, as well as all the people of that country, to demonstrate a greater

political will for a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the conflict that currently rages in their country;

7. **RECOGNIZES AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the important initiative of former President Julius Nyerere to promote dialogue among all Burundians who enjoy the full cooperation of the OAU, the United Nations, the European Union and the wider international community;
8. **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** for the conclusions of the Cairo and Tunis Summits convened by former President Jimmy Carter and **UNDERScores** the need to respect the commitments made during the said summits to reduce tension and promote peace and stability in the region;
9. **REINTERATES ITS APPEAL** for the continued cooperation of countries of the Region in their search for a durable solution to the problem of refugees and insecurity in the Region;
10. **SUPPORTS** to the outcome of the Eastern Africa Regional Summit held in Arusha on 25 June, 1996 and **URGES** its implementation aimed at cessation of the killings, political, assassinations, massacres and violence of all kinds;
11. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Great Lakes region and the Outgoing Chairman of the Assembly to set up a technical committee to look into the modalities of extending security assistance requested by the Government of Burundi;
12. **APPEALS** to the international community to continue to closely coordinate all initiatives on Burundi and the region and to deploy more efforts towards the provision of urgent increased humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees from Burundi in the neighbouring countries, within the framework of the implementation of the Bujumbura Programme of Action of February, 1995;

13. **REAFFIRMS** their commitment to a political and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Burundi through the national debate which should involve all Burundians;
14. **FULLY SUPPORTS** the convening of a well prepared Regional Conference on Peace, Security and Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region at opportune time and after appropriate consultations;
15. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to those countries that have extended assistance to the OAU Mission;
16. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to coordinate with the UN Secretary-General to secure the necessary support of the international community to ensure the implementation of the outcome of the Arusha Regional Summit of June 25, 1996;
17. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to persevere in his efforts in order to find a lasting solution to the conflicts in Burundi and to report to 65<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.