

## POLITICAL MATTERS

### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN AFRICA: (DOC.CM/2004 (LXVI))

The Council of Ministers decides as follows:

*CM/Dec.353 (LXVI)*

#### THE SITUATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION: (DOC. CM/2004 (LXVI)-A-

The Democratic Republic of The Congo- (Doc. CM/2004 (LXVI))

- (a) WELCOMES the announcement made by the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo to hold free and fair democratic elections and URGES the Government of this country to associate all political forces in the process leading to the organization of these elections;
  - (b) APPEALS to Member States and the International Community to provide the Government with all the necessary assistance during the transitional period in order to enable it prepare the organization and holding of democratic, free and fair elections;
  - (c) CALLS ON the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and l the political forces of that country to show the spirit of openness, compromise and reconciliation in order to ensure a smooth transition to democratic and constitutional rule;
  - (d) EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN about the fate of the Rwandan and other r gees still remaining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and CALLS ON the new Government to ensure their safety and to cooperate with the UNHCR and their countries of origin to facilitate their repatriation;
5. CALLS UPON the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and countries of asylum as well as the UNHCR to facilitate the conditions for the return of the citizens of that country who for reasons of war took refuge in the Congo and other countries;
  6. REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT r the convening of an international conference on peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region, under the auspices of the OAU and the UN.