

KOMANDA CONVENTION FOR PEACE AND PEACEFUL COHABITATION BETWEEN NATIVE COMMUNITIES IN IRUMU TERRITORY

August 2020

0. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Territory of Irumu is one of five Territories which make up Ituri Province. Its surface area is 8183km² and its population is around 3,053,481 inhabitants; that is, 373 inhabitants per square kilometer.

To the east, it borders the Republic of Uganda; it shares its western border with the Territory of Mambasa, its northern border with the Territory of Djugu and its southern border with North Kivu Province.

The Territory of Irumu is made up of 12 decentralised entities, of which 11 are chefferies and 1 sector, which are, in turn, subdivided into 51 groups and 683 villages, where 6 organised ethnic groups are found, namely: the Lendu Bindu, Bira, Hema, Lese, Nyali and Pygmies.

Since 2014, following insecurity observed in the neighbouring Territory of Beni (North Kivu Province) an influx of displaced persons has been observed in Irumu Territory, particularly into the following chefferies: Walese Vonkutu, Basili and the city of Bunia. Prior to that, massive numbers of Rwandan Hutus, known as “Banyabwisha” arrived in Banyali Tchabi, Baema Mitego, Bahema Boga, Walese Vonkutu, Basili, Baboa Bokoe and the city of Bunia. Additionally, Irumu Territory did not escape unscathed from armed conflict in Djugu Territory, with its negative effects on the chefferies of Baboa Bokoe, Babelebe and the city of Bunia.

Therefore, since Irumu Territory is located on the highway between Beni and Djugu Territories, in a precarious security situation, subversive movements unfortunately developed within the territory, jeopardizing its social order and peaceful cohabitation among the local population.

The provincial government of Ituri and lively political and social forces in Irumu Territory are not blind to the negative effects of all these extreme atrocities in the area.

Consequently, several initiatives (intracommunity dialogues, consultations with traditional leaders and notable figures by Irumu elected officials) have been launched by the Provincial Government in Irumu Territory, under the patronage of the Governor of Ituri Province, His Excellency The Honorable Jean Bamanisa Saidi, in order to bring about an inclusive Round Table on the security and humanitarian situation in Irumu Territory, bringing together its sons and daughters, between the 10th and 12th August 2020, in Komanda.

0.1 OBJECTIVES

0.1.1 Global objective

Assess the worsening security and humanitarian in the chefferies and sector of Irumu Territory and engage communities in participative research on solutions for long-lasting peace.

0.1.2 Specific objectives

- Raise awareness and involve all community forces active in Irumu Territory in the participative research process into possible long-lasting solutions to security issues;
- Identify security issues and/or threats present in the chefferies and sector of Irumu Territory;
- Mobilise and raise awareness among the communities of peace and peaceful cohabitation in Irumu Territory;
- Serve as a positive role model in terms of the peace process for other entities at both provincial and national level;
- Reinforce the authority of the State;
- Sign an agreement for lasting peace and peaceful cohabitation between the communities of Irumu Territory.

0.2 EXPECTED RESULTS

- All active forces are engaged in the peace process in Irumu Territory;
- Inventories of the security and humanitarian situation in each chefferie and sector presented and understood by the communities and security services;
- Internal and external security issues and threats are identified;
- Possible lasting solutions to security and humanitarian issues are proposed;
- Actors at all levels are committed to implementing recommendations;
- An agreement for lasting peace and peaceful cohabitation between communities is signed.

0.3 METHODOLOGY

Active and participative methods were used to ensure the success of the round table discussions, mediated by the Honorable Jackson Ausse Afingoto and supported by the national and provincial representatives in attendance: **document review, presentations, workshops and plenary debate.**

1. BASIC AGREEMENTS

Having understood the gravity of the security issues and the consequences of the same, the risk of the situation worsening and the need for lasting peace, which is essential for development and harmonious growth in Irumu Territory, the sons and daughters of that Territory are committed to:

1. Non-violence between communities;
2. Resolving internal conflicts with ongoing, honest communication;
3. Encouraging the disarmament of community militias;
4. Support for security services in the process of restoring the authority of the State;
5. Strict respect for so-called land law, in the handling of land estates.

No.	Security issues	Areas affected
1	FRPI	Chefferies of Andisoma, Mobala, Basili, Walesce Vonkutu, Walendu Bindi, Bahema Mitego, Bahema Boga and South Bahema.
2	CODECO	Chefferies of Babelebe and Boboa/Bokoe and Bahema South
3	ZAIRE	Chefferies of Baboa/Bokoe, Babelebe, Mobala, Basili and Andisoma
4	FPIC	Chefferies of Andisoma, Mobala, Babelebe, Basili, Bahema Irumu and Balesse Vonkutu
5	ADF – NALU	Chefferies of Walese Vonkutu, Banyali Chabi, Bahema Boga
6	MAI – MAI	Chefferies of Walesce Vonkutu and Bahema Mitego
7	Yira Cultural Association	Throughout Irumu Territory
8	Presence of BAKONZO/Ugandans	Bahema Boga
9	Partiality of the army in Civilian-Military relations	Throughout Irumu Territory
10	Rwandans Hutus, known as Banyakwisha	Wanyali Tchabi, Walesce Vonkutu, Bahema Boga, Bahema Mitego, Babelebe, Basili and Walendu Bindi
11	Administrative limit	Throughout Irumu territory
12	Issuance of concessions	Throughout Irumu territory
13	Poor peaceful cohabitation between the following communities: Hema – Bira; Bindi – Hema	All Bira, Hema and Bindi chefferies
14	Illegal occupation of land	Throughout Irumu territory
17	Wandering of animals	Throughout Irumu territory
18	Conflict between ICCN and the local community around Mount Hoto	Walese Vonkutu (Bandihangu and Bokuchu grouping)

Table 2: SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY

No.	Security issues	Possible solution	Implementing authority
01	FPIC	-Start dialogue with this armed group -Accelerate DDR process -Reinforce the presence of FARDC in problem areas -Warn young people not to join this movement.	- National and Provincial Assembly; - Central and Provincial government; - National Ministry of Defense - Head of armed forces - Military prosecutor. - STAREC - MONUSCO
02	FRPI	-Encourage the FRPI to respect the agreement signed with the Central government of the DRC -Accelerate DDR process	- National and Provincial Assembly; - Central and Provincial government; - National Ministry of Defense - Head of armed forces - Military prosecutor. - STAREC - MONUSCO
03	MAI-MAI	-Reinforcement, in terms of funds and logistics, of military positions already held; intensify operations in order to eradicate Mai-Mai in affected villages.	- Central and provincial government; - National Ministry of Defense; - Head of armed forces
04	ZAIRE	- Identification, location and tracking; - Reinforce FARDC presence in problem areas; - Warn young people not to	- National and Provincial Assembly; - Central and provincial government; - National Ministry of Defense;

		join this movement	- Head of armed forces; - MONUSCO
05	CODECO	Accelerate dialogue with this armed group Accelerate DDR process Move Ezekere site far away from Irumu territory entities Eradicate CODECO	- National and Provincial Assembly; - Central and provincial government; - National Ministry of Defense; - STAREC - Head of armed forces; - MONUSCO
06	Yira Cultural Association	- Prohibit this association from operating in Irumu Territory until its goals and identity of its members have been clarified; - Remove non-native colline chiefs, to restore traditional authority - Formal prohibition on importing workforce for rural activities from North Kivu	- National and Provincial Assembly; - Central and provincial government; - National Ministry of Defense; - STAREC - Head of armed forces; - MONUSCO
07	Partiality of army in civilian-military relations	- The army must be truly republican - Steady increase in all military officers, particularly Rwandan-speaking ones,	- National Ministry of Defense - Head of armed forces - Military prosecutor

		into positions which are considered traditional leadership roles	
08	ADF/NALU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Separation of military leadership between North Kivu (SOKOLA 1) and Ituri (Operational Sector) - Simultaneous military operation in Ituri and North Kivu to track ADF/NALU; - Deployment of military in strategic fields. - Reinforce civilian-military relations; - Warn the population to disassociate from these groups and report enemy positions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central government - National and provincial assembly - Local community
09	Presence of Bakonzo/Ugandans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify, disarm and repatriate them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central and provincial government - National and provincial assembly. - HCR
10	Rwandan Hutus, known as Banyabwisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify, disarm and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central and provincial government

		repatriate them.	- National and provincial assemblies.
11	Administrative limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of an ad hoc committee to define and analyse issues with administrative limits by referring to various authentic and legal documents to find a lasting solution; - Ongoing dialogue with entities struggling with administrative limits; - Accelerate delimitation process in Bunia; - Take into account all incorporated entities in Bunia, the leaders of which must be from the indigenous community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and provincial assemblies - Central and provincial government - Local authorities - Territorial administration
12	Management of concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a committee to verify the authenticity of documents held by concession holders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and Provincial Assemblies - Central and provincial government

13	Shared pastures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review shared pasturages located in Irumu territory based on demographic change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and provincial assemblies, - Central and Provincial government - Communities concerned.
14	Poor cohabitation between Hema-Bira, Bindi-Hema communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honest dialogue between these communities - Set up a truth and reconciliation commission between these communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and provincial assemblies, - Central and Provincial government - Communities concerned. - NGOs.
15	Illegal occupation of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competent authority to identify and return all land illegally and improperly occupied, without any conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central and provincial government
16	Wandering of animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect areas reserved for pastures; - Build kraals; - Modernise farming; - Make farmers aware of the issue and monitor the animals; - Apply legal penalties for wandering animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local administration, ACCOPELI and farmers
17	Conflict between ICCN and the local community around Mount Hoyo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly define the status of the ICCN and its delimitation in consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central government

		with the local community	
18	Mass presence of displaced persons and Congolese refugees in Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holistic support for displaced persons; - Prepare for the return of displaced persons; - Restore the authority of the State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and Provincial Assembly - Central and Provincial government - NGOs (humanitarian agents)
19	Destruction of basic social infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebuild destroyed infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and Provincial Assemblies - Central and provincial government - NGOs (humanitarian agents)
20	Flooding of Lake Albert and the Semiliki river, causing destruction of infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reconstruction of infrastructure; - Reforestation of the plain and movement of threatened items; - Humanitarian assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and Provincial Assemblies - Central and provincial government - NGOs (humanitarian agents)
21	Difficulty of returning displaced persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist displaced persons; Make safe their locations of origin to allow for their return; - Restimulation of main activities, such as: farming, fishing and animal rearing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central and Provincial government and NGOs

22	Illegal and unlawful exploitation of gold minerals by the Chinese and foreigners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove ZEA from cooperatives using Chinese and foreign individuals; - Identify all Chinese operating in the mining sector and the various areas they exploit; - Prohibition of using the military to protect persons who illegally and unlawfully exploit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and Provincial Assemblies - Central and Provincial government - Territorial administrators
23	Damage to the environment due to chaotic gold exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect the mining code and mining regulation - Assess environmental damage caused by illegal and unlawful exploitation and plan how to fix it - Backfilling of holes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and Provincial Assemblies - Central and Provincial government - Territorial administrators
23 (sic)	Illegal carrying of arms by individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant services making regular searches and arrests of offenders, without discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central and Provincial government - Provincial Assembly - Security service

II. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Documentary review helped identify and outline major internal and external security issues affecting Irumu Territory, in order to produce the final document formalising the resolutions made at the inclusive round table on the security and humanitarian situation in Irumu Territory.

This includes the following documents:

- Reports of intra-community discussions organised by the Provincial Government;
- Reference terms convening the round table;
- Reports on the status of the chefferies and sector;
- Results of group workshops.

I. OVERSIGHT AND ASSESSMENT MECHANISM

To ensure effective implementation of the conclusions which came out of the inclusive round table on the security and humanitarian situation in Irumu Territory, approved by signature of the Komanda convention for peace and peaceful cohabitation between communities in Irumu territory, an oversight and assessment body is hereby put in place, as follows:

a. Composition:

- i. At national level: national representatives, Senators and the Governor of the Province;
- ii. At provincial level: provincial representatives and the governor
- iii. At local level: 7 members of the local security service committee for Irumu Territory and 9 members per chefferie and sector (2 notable figures, 1 youth representative, 1 women's representative and 5 members of the security committee for the chefferies or sector);
- iv. Committee of sages

b. Operation

The bodies responsible for oversight and assessment of the Komanda convention for peace and peaceful cohabitation shall meet once per semester, or twice per year, to assess ongoing progress, and once per year a round table shall be called for a global assessment, with a likely change of issues.

c. Resources

The material and financial resources used for operating the bodies shall be provided by:

- o The 12 decentralised territorial entities in Irumu territory;
- o Political and social elite;
- o Provincial government.

d. RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Recommendation	Date	Party responsible
01	Officially present the Komanda convention for peace and peaceful cohabitation to the provincial security committee by facilitating a round table	Monday, 17/08/2020	Mediation
02	Submit Komanda convention to Central Government	From Tuesday 18 to 22 August 2020	Governor
03	Pass the Komanda convention to the Territory and ETDs	From Tuesday 18 to 22 August 2020	Governor
04	Hold first ongoing assessment meeting	From Monday 21 to Tuesday 22/12/2020	Mediation
05	Make land law more accessible	Ongoing	Mediation
06	Immediately cease hostilities throughout Irumu Territory	Immediate	Mediation

Done in Komanda, on 12/08/2020

(signatories)