

**HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT SUMMIT DECLARATION ON THE BURUNDI PEACE PROCESS
REGIONAL INITIATIVE**

December 4, 2008

The Heads of State and of Government of the Great Lakes Region met at Bujumbura (Burundi) on Thursday December 4, 2008, at the invitation of His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Burundi Peace Process Regional Initiative. The summit aimed to end the impasse which has blocked the Burundi Peace Process, with the objective of finding a lasting solution.

The participants in the summit were:

His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, President of the Regional Initiative

His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi

His Excellency Rupiah Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia

His Excellency Stephen Kalonso Musyoka, Vice-president and Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Kenya

His Excellency Mizengo Pinda, First Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania

His Excellency Bernard Makuza, First Minister of the Republic of Rwanda

His Excellency Mohamoud Dirir, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Representing the Facilitator, His Excellency Jeff Radebe, Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa

His Excellency Jean Ping, President of the Commission of the African Union

Mr Agathon Rwasa, President of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL

Mr Yussef Mahmoud, Executive Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General

It was agreed as follows:

1. The PALIPEHUTU-FNL represented by its President Mr Agathon Rwasa, accepts that under its current name, it cannot be registered as a political party, because this is not permitted under the Burundian Constitution.
2. In light of (1) the PALIPEHUTU-FNL undertakes to explain the constitutional obligations relating to the accreditation of political parties to its members, and to consult on a new name which is both inoffensive, and which conforms to the Constitution.

3. This explanation and consultation must be completed before the deadline of December 31, 2008.
4. The two parties agree that the DDR process should begin as soon as possible with the immediate transfer of PALIPEHUTU-FNL combatants to the zones of assembly. It is also agreed that the competent authorities dealing with the MCVS process will be responsible for this transfer, and that it should not be subject to any interference which may result in delays. It is also agreed that the process should not be bound by any conditions
5. The President of Burundi, His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, has engaged the Government in the process of political integration of the future PALIPEHUTU-FNL leaders, in which 33 posts will be allocated to the principal members of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL.
6. The President of Burundi has reiterated his earlier decision to free all political prisoners and prisoners of war. Liberated prisoners with the status of combatants will report directly to the zones of assembly, while civilians will return to their homes.

The summit ended with the leaders expressing their thanks to President Nkurunziza for the hospitality extended to the different delegations.

Done in Bujumbura, December 4, 2008

Signatures:

For the Government:

His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi

For the PALIPEHUTU-FNL

Mr Agathon Rwasa, President of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL

Witnesses:

His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, President of the Regional Initiative

- His Excellency Rupiah Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia

- His Excellency Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice-president and Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Kenya

- His Excellency Mizengo Pinda, First Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania

- His Excellency Bernard Makupa, First Minister of the Republic of Rwanda

- His Excellency Mohamoud Dirir, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

- Representing the Facilitator, His Excellency Jeff Radebe, Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa

- His Excellency Jean Ping, President of the Commission of the African Union

- Mr Yussef Mahmoud, Executive Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General