



This is not an official translation of the peace agreement. The translation has been carried out by an independent translator on behalf of the UCDP

DECLARATION FROM THE SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR A NEGOTIATED PEACE IN BURUNDI

4 DECEMBER, 2008

The heads of states and governments in the Great Lakes Region met in Bujumbura (Burundi) on Thursday, 4 December, 2008, invited by His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, Chairman of the Regional Initiative for a negotiated Peace in Burundi. The aim of this summit was to break the stalemate which has struck the Peace Process in Burundi with the objective of finding a lasting solution.

Participants at the summit were:

His Excellency the President Yoweri Museveni, Chairman 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 Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice President and Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Kenya

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

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

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

Representing the Facilitation, His Excellency Jeff Radebe, Minister of Transports of the South African Republic

His Excellency Jean Ping, African Union Commission Chairman

Mr. Agathon Rwasa, Leader of the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People – The National Forces of Liberation (PALIPEHUTU-FNL)

Mr. Yusef Mahmoud, Executive Envoy of the UN Secretary General

Agreement was reached on the following points:

1. The PALIPEHUTU-FNL, represented by its Leader, Mr. Agathon Rwasa, acknowledges that with the present name of the party, it cannot be registered as a political party, as the Constitution of Burundi does not allow it.
2. From what precedes (1), the PALIPEHUTU-FNL undertakes to explain the constitutional obligations in relation to the accreditation of a political party to its members and to start consultations in order to find a new name which is not offensive and which is likely to be recognized in accordance with the Constitution.
3. The explaining and the consultations should be finished before the deadline of 31 December, 2008.
4. The two parties agree that the DDR process must start as soon as possible with the immediate transfer of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL combatants to the reassembling zones. It is equally agreed that the process will take place under the responsibility of competent authorities treating the processes of joint follow-up and monitoring and that it must not be subjected to interferences which might cause delays. Furthermore it was agreed that the process must not be subordinated to conditionalities.
5. The President of Burundi, His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza has committed the Government to the upcoming process of political integration of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL leaders, according to which 33 posts will be attributed to the principal members of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL.
6. The President of Burundi reiterated his earlier decision to free all political prisoners and all prisoners of war. The freed prisoners with the standing of combatants will proceed directly to the reassembling zones whereas the civilians will return to their homes.

The summit closed in an atmosphere of thankfulness experienced by the leaders towards the President Nkurunziza for the hospitality bestowed upon the different delegations.

Bujumbura, 4 December, 2008.

For the Government of Burundi

H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza

/signature/

For the PALIPEHUTU-FNL

Mr. Agathon Rwasa

/signature/

Witnesses

His Excellency the President Yoweri Museveni, Chairman of the Regional Initiative

/signature/

His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi

/signature/

His Excellency Rupiah Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia

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