

IC/GLR
International Conference for Peace, Security, Democracy and Development
in the Great Lakes Region

First Summit of Heads of State and Government
(Dar-es-Salaam, November 19-20 2004)

« The hunter in pursuit of an elephant does not stop to throw stones at birds! »

A Ugandan Proverb

Introduction

1. The First Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region was held (at the Golden Tulip Hotel) in Dar-es-Salaam from 19th to 20th November 2004, under the chairmanship of President Benjamin Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania. Present, or represented, were Heads of State and Government from the core countries of Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville), Rwanda, Tanzania, Sudan and Uganda; co-opted countries Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe as well as special guests Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In attendance were the UN Secretary General and the AU Commissioner for Peace & Security, representing the Chairman of the AU Commission. Among participants were First Ladies from the core and co-opted countries, the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region, the Papal Nuncio, who delivered a message from the Pope, Foreign Ministers, National Coordinators and members of National Preparatory Committees (NPCs) from the core countries; representatives of Youth, NGOs and Women; as well as special guests, UN Agencies and other international and regional organizations.

Welcoming Address

2. In his welcoming address, President Mkapa termed the Conference as historic, coming three months after the UN Secretary General had reported positive moves towards peace and democracy in Africa. He however underlined the fragility of the peace and thus the need to anchor the IC/GLR process through the solemn adoption of the Declaration that provided a foundation for promoting and consolidating peace, for reconstruction, reconciliation, development and poverty eradication. He recalled the colonial legacy that had bequeathed the region divisive and retrogressive laws, institutions and territorial borders. He however emphasized that, 40 years since, it is the duty of African leaders to reverse this legacy with vision and innovations to address redundant principles such as non-intervention and those governing the treatment of refugees and IDPs, to engineer democratic governance and progressive partnerships, to articulate comprehensive processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and generally sustain the political will that has guided preparations for the IC/GLR.

Statements

3. Ambassador Said Djinnit, on behalf of Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, traced the genesis and legitimization process in preparation for the IC/GLR through the UN and AU machineries. He commended the Group of Friends, the UN/AU agencies, and all groups and experts who worked hard, to the point where some of the strained relations that threatened the preparatory process have evolved into conviviality and warmth that has steered the Conference to the First Summit.

4. UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, thanked President Mkapa, the Government and people of Tanzania for hosting the conference, and the Group of Friends for their political, diplomatic, technical and financial support. He observed that the GLR had the human and material potential to be the African powerhouse, that such potential had been thwarted by decades of misrule and politics of personal accumulation by the elite, with repercussions in the turmoil that had given rise to economic collapse, death – including genocide - and destruction, the collapse of health and social services even as the HIV/AIDS scourge took its toll. He commended the people and civil society groups in the region for effective mobilization to press for transparent, accountable governance, and the region's leaders for their strategic decision to pursue peace. To this end, the international community and United Nations had marshalled peacekeeping, humanitarian and developmental support, and the Conference had thus adopted an all-inclusive preparatory process. He concluded by congratulating the region's leaders for recognizing their responsibility to address all the hindrances to the region's development, thus rising to Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's challenge that *"No miracle is going to take place... Collective self-reliance is Africa's only future hope"*.

5. The Canadian Co-Chair of the Group of Friends, Senator Peter Stollery, commended the Special Representatives of the Secretaries General of the UN and AU, Mr. Ibrahim Fall, and Mr. Mamadou Bah, as well as the Tanzania Foreign Minister, Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, for having ably steered the preparatory process and the Foreign Ministers' meeting into agreement on a draft of the Declaration of the First Summit. He noted that the Group of Friends - representing 28 countries including the five Permanent Security Council members, Nigeria, South Africa, Gabon, Kuwait, most members of the OECD, the EU and the Holy See, as well as 10 international organizations and specialized agencies - shares the IC/GLR vision and goal of transforming the region into "a space of sustainable peace, security for States and peoples, political and social stability, shared growth and development, a space of cooperation based on the strategies and policies of convergence..." , and thus accepted the invitation extended in the Draft Declaration to maintain the partnership.

6. Group of Friends Co-Chair, Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, Ms. Agnes van Ardenne dedicated her statement to "the people, and especially the women and children, who face the consequences of war and violence on a daily basis". She proposed a two-track approach to the realization of the second phase of the IC/GLR preparatory process, that is:

- a) Immediate implementation of existing commitments and agreements (the Tripartite agreement, the Joint Verification Mechanism, the Lusaka, Arusha, Pretoria and other peace agreements), elections and DDR, with priority for child soldiers;
- b) Maintenance of the inclusive process in which the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Regional Preparatory Committees and thematic taskforces should formulate “lean and mean; ambitious and realistic” action plans and protocols that, together with the 1st Summit Declaration, will make up the Pact for Stability, Security and Development in the GLR.

She encouraged the GLR leaders to maintain the letter and spirit of regional ownership and international partnership, to which process she pledged Group of Friends continued support.

7. The Representative of the European Union, Mr. Bernard Bot, Minister for Foreign Affairs from the Netherlands, assured the gathering that the EU knows by its own experience how difficult it is to heal old wounds and reconcile animosities that had built up over time. He commended the IC/GLR for an inclusive process that gave all the right to be heard and also pledged the support of the European Union as the IC/GLR evolved.

Messages

8. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State at the Vatican, delivered a message of goodwill and encouragement from Pope John Paul, that the region may “*set aside all hate and rancour of the past, so that ... new paths of dialogue, consensus building and fruitful partnership may clearly emerge*”.

9. Messages were also delivered on behalf of various interest groups (the Youth, the NGOs and the Women), which recalled their participation in the preparatory process that had culminated in respective Regional Meetings. The outputs had been integrated into the Declaration of the 1st Summit, and the representatives commended the governments in the region, as well as the Group of Friends, for their preparedness to engage with their respective groups and reiterated their commitment to the ideals and goals of the IC/GLR.

10. Additional statements of solidarity were received from the Brazilian Observer to the IC/GLR and the Japanese Ambassador in charge of Conflict and Refugee related issues in Africa. The Brazilian Observer’s statement forwarded Brazil’s President Lula da Silva’s greetings and congratulations on the convening of the Summit and expressed Brazil’s aspirations for closer ties with Africa, to “...understand its reality in order to better be able to cooperate and work together towards achievement of common goals”. The Japanese Ambassador’s message emphasized Japan’s advocacy for “ownership” by African countries and “partnership” of the international community in the search for lasting peace and pledged Japan’s continued bilateral and multilateral support for democratization, security and trade and investment promotion.

Working Session

11. The Heads of State and Government, accompanied by their respective country delegations and special guests, went into a closed-door working session to discuss the Declaration of Principles, under the chairmanship of President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, assisted by Mr. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, and Mr. Djinnit, representing the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. This was amended, through negotiation and dialogue, to reflect a number of issues raised by respective Heads.

Adoption and Closing Ceremony

12. The First Lady of Zambia, Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa, presented a statement on behalf of the First Ladies who held a parallel forum, at the invitation of Tanzania First Lady, Mrs. Anna Mkapa. Commending African states that have ratified global and regional instruments on gender equality, the First Ladies called for support in the implementation of the Kigali Declaration of the Regional Women's Meeting, as well as the Youth and NGO declarations. As mothers of the nations, they committed themselves to the values of dialogue, inclusiveness, tolerance, reconciliation and crafting a common destiny of the peoples of the GLR, anchored on the wealth of their diversity and shared humanity, and they looked forward to participating in subsequent Summits under the auspices of the formalised First Ladies Forum.

13. President of the African Union, President Olusegun Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, congratulated GRL leaders for their determination to steer the region into a new era of peace and democracy for development. (...)

14. President Obasanjo's statement was followed by the solemn adoption and signing of the **Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region** by, or on behalf of the, Presidents of Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and witnessed by the Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Bingu wa Mutharika of Malawi, Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, the representatives of Presidents Omar Bongo Ondimba of Gabon and Sam Nujoma of Namibia, as well as President Obasanjo, Mr. Kofi Annan and Mr. Hassan Djinnit, representing Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konare. (Cf. Declaration at Annex 1)

15. In his closing remarks, President Benjamin Mkapa expressed the hope that the Conference had served as a positive force for change and for healing all the deep divisions within the GLR, bringing to a close a sad chapter in the region's history as exemplified by conflict, social disharmony and missed economic opportunities. He challenged the region's leaders to demonstrate commitment to the Declaration by effectively steering the course of change, and urged the Inter-Ministerial Committee to translate the Declaration into practical, actionable and verifiable strategies to be endorsed by the 2nd Summit that will be held in Nairobi in November 2005.

16. President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya extended a warm welcome to his colleagues and all gathered in Dar-es-Salaam for the *rendez-vous* in Nairobi in November 2005.

17. Moving a Vote of Thanks, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda recalled Tanzania's special place in the history of the liberation of Africa from colonialism and post-colonial despotic rule. By way of challenge to rethink the region's development options, he quoted several statistics and examples to show the retrogressive nature of African economies, caught up in export of raw agricultural and natural resources, and the artificial pressure on land thus created, which was behind some of the conflicts in the GLR. He thus emphasized the imperative for integration of the region's economies, based on industrialization, to process all the raw materials into finished products that would create voluminous amounts of jobs, even as additional gains from the multiplier effects in the service, tourism, and other sectors came on stream. The President further pointed out the need to rethink cross-border relations to address the injustice of statelessness, while also taking steps to expunge, once and for all time, the colonial legacies that had spawned ideologies of genocide and criminal sectarianism.

17. President Mkapa then declared the First Summit of the Great Lakes Region closed and wished all delegates safe journey to their respective homes.

DAR ES SALAAM

November 2004