



Third meeting of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC)

Bangui, 20- 22 February 2006

Draft Report

I. Introduction

1. The third meeting of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (IC/GLR), hosted by the Government of the Central African Republic, took place in Bangui from 20 to 22 February 2006. This meeting was preceded by that of the National Coordinators on 19 February 2006. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-Operation of the United Republic of Tanzania. His Excellency Francois BOZIZE, President of CAR, opened the meeting of the RIMC. Participants included ministers and delegates from the core countries, representatives of some of the co-opted countries, the co-chairs of the Group of Friends, the joint UN/AU Secretariat, the representative of the European Union, and representatives of some of the African regional and sub-regional organizations, some observers, lead UN agencies for the four themes of the Conference and other specialized UN agencies. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, representatives from the UN peacekeeping missions in Burundi as well as the peace-building mission in CAR also participated in the meeting.

2. The meeting considered the following agenda:

- Review and adoption of the draft Pact on Security, Stability and Development;
- Review and adoption of the draft Programmes of Action for all four clusters;
- Review and adoption of the draft Protocols for all four clusters;
- Review and adoption of the draft Regional Institutional Follow-up Mechanism;
- Briefing on the preparations leading to the second Summit of Heads of State and Government by The Republic of Kenya.

3. On each of the issues outlined above, the joint UN/AU Secretariat had prepared working papers and background documents.

4. After a summary presentation of the various documents followed by discussions, the RIMC made the following decisions:

II. Programmes of Action

- **Budgets**

5. The Ministers reiterated the need for projects in the framework of the IC/GLR to always take into consideration and be based on full utilization of existing facilities and programmes to avoid duplication of efforts and investments. This principle should clearly be reflected in the budgets;
6. The Ministers requested further refinement of these budgets to clearly reflect what the remaining funding requirements are, in particular with regards to the infrastructure development projects. To this effect, it has been decided that a meeting of financial experts of the core countries be convened in Kampala from 27 to 29 March 2006 to refine the budgets accordingly and to produce a synoptic document reflecting all information relative to the following three items:
 - 1) total estimated costs;
 - 2) resources already available including specific commitments agreed upon or pledges made by core countries;
 - 3) additional funding requirements.

Expenses related to participation to the Kampala meeting will be borne by the respective core countries and the report of the former will be considered by the National Coordinators during the meeting of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in April 2006;

7. It was suggested that the time span for the budgets of all programmes of action be harmonized to cover a period of five years;

- **Peace and Security programme of action:**

8. The title and content of project **1.1.2 “Disarmament and Repatriation of all armed groups in Accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire agreement”** should be modified to also accommodate the disarmament and repatriation of armed groups active in the eastern part of the DRC, which are not dealt with under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement;

III. Regional Follow up Mechanism

9. The regional nature of the follow-up mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region should be emphasised in the title and the name “**Conference Secretariat**” shall remain as it appears in the concept paper;
10. The principle of a rotation by alphabetical order for chairing of the Conference summit was abandoned for a pragmatic political approach;
11. The Inter-Ministerial Committee shall be chaired by the country that serves as the current chair of the Summit;
12. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission may participate to the sessions of the conference summit or may appoint special representatives or special envoys of their choice to represent them at those sessions. However, Kenya requested that its proposal that such AU and UN representatives or envoys be preferably nationals of the Great Lakes region, which was not adopted, be reflected in the report;
13. The contributions of Member States to the Fund and the operational costs of the conference secretariat shall be based on the scale of assessment of the African Union;
14. The Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development shall be lodged at the African Development Bank (AfDB);
15. The transitional period is the period between the signing of the Pact and the setting-up of the conference secretariat. It shall not exceed twelve months. The joint UN/AU Secretariat shall remain in place to initiate the implementation of the Pact and contribute to the setting-up of the Conference Secretariat;
16. All core countries should consult at the National level on possible locations for the regional secretariat as well as on modalities for its set-up. The outcomes of these consultations, should be conveyed to the meeting of National Coordinators on the margins of the RECs meeting scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in April 2006;

IV. Protocols

17. The following protocols were adopted by the RIMC with minor amendments:
18. The protocol on non aggression, mutual defence and peaceful resolution of conflicts among states in the Great Lakes region;

19. The protocol on Democracy and Good Governance;
20. The protocol on Judicial Cooperation subject to the fact that the Title should read: ***“Protocol on mutual legal Co-operation.”***;
21. The protocol on the Prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources;
22. The protocol for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and all forms of discrimination;
23. The protocol on the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone;
24. The protocol on the protection and assistance to Internally Displaced Persons;
25. The protocol on the prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children;
26. Two protocols were added to the list of priorities and were analysed by the RIMC. They were: the protocol on the property rights of returning populations and the protocol to set up the Regional Information and Communication Council.
27. With regards to the protocol on the property rights of returning populations:

It was amended and adopted taking into account comments made by Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Burundi as well as other delegations. The Joint secretariat was requested to follow-up with UNHCR for possible support in the drafting of model laws to implement the above-mentioned protocol as well as the protocol on sexual violence against women and children.

Article 9 on compliance and implementation should also apply to other protocols. It was further recommended that an additional article be introduced in the Pact to that effect.

28. Concerning the protocol to set up the Regional Information and Communication Council:

The Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee directed the joint secretariat to improve on the draft document, taking into account the following observations:

- a) The aim of this protocol should not only be to set up a new organ, but above all to reflect the principles and ideals set out in the Dar es Salaam Declaration, notably access to information, a diversified media, promotion of the use of Kiswahili, promotion of modern information technologies, suppression of media that propagate discriminatory ideologies, policies and practices or any act of genocide, massacres, terrorism, racism, ethnicism, exclusion, as well as any forms of violence or crime;

- b) Add a section on definition of concepts used in the protocol;
- c) Improve on the structure and language, and ensure consistency of the document with the other protocols.

V. Pact on Security, Stability and Development

29. The pact was adopted with minor amendments.

VI. Nairobi Summit

30. The following possible dates were proposed subject to approval by heads of state:

- Preparatory meeting of the RIMC: 2 September 2006;
- Arrival of the Heads of state: 3 September 2006;
- Summit of Heads of state: 4 and 5 September 2006.

31. The delegation of Kenya renewed the country's readiness to host the Summit and gave a briefing on the preparations of the same.

VII. Conclusion

32. The RIMC meeting was conducted in a frank and cordial atmosphere. It came up with a number of important decisions regarding the last leg of the International Conference process. All steps should now be taken to ensure the holding of the second summit of the IC/GLR. The RIMC thanked the government and people of the Central African Republic for the warm welcome extended to all delegations.

Bangui 22 February 2006.