

31.10.2007  
Final

## **Africa Declaration on Armed Violence and Development**

We, Representatives of 28 African States gathered in Nairobi on 30 and 31 October 2007, affirm our support and commitment to the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development* adopted on 7 June 2006, and resolve to work to prevent and reduce armed violence taking into account an integrated and comprehensive perspective to social and economic issues in the countries of the region.

Recognizing the strong linkage and mutual reinforcement between development, peace, security and human rights, that the reduction of socio-economic inequalities is essential to reducing levels of armed violence and that the promotion of national and international development policies to generate employment, education and social inclusion constitute important tools for violence prevention.

Affirm that Governments are responsible for guaranteeing the security of their citizens, thereby strengthening effective sustainable development and poverty reduction policies.

Acknowledge the armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives that have already been launched and implemented at the local, national and regional level.

Commit ourselves to exchange successful experiences and lessons learned, in order to develop and disseminate effective armed violence prevention and reduction programmes sensitive to local and regional conditions, in particular those related to the prevention of violent conflict, post-conflict peace-building and the prevention and reduction of criminal violence.

Reaffirm our support for the efforts by the United Nations to promote armed violence reduction and peace-building strategies, such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Peace-Building Commission.

We agree also to increase our efforts to integrate policies and programs for the prevention and reduction of armed violence into institutional frameworks, public policies, and national, regional and international development plans and strategies, in order to reduce incidence of violent conflict on the African continent.

We further agree to work individually and collectively at the national, regional and international levels, on practical measures for socio-economic development that aim at reducing armed violence, by:

- Promoting sustained socio-economic development and pro-poor policies, which foster a culture of peace, respect for human rights and cultural diversity, religion and beliefs.
- Promoting best practices and interventions that highlight the linkage between armed violence and development and that facilitate the measurement of armed violence and its impact on socio-economic development.
- Ensuring that armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives focus on vulnerable groups such as marginalized youth, young adult males, women and children, and these measures are linked to programmes providing non-violent alternative livelihoods for individuals and communities.
- Promoting the active participation of women in the design and implementation and evaluation of armed violence prevention and reduction programmes.
- Developing and/or strengthening educational policies and programmes that are targeted to prevent and reduce armed violence among the youth and foster a culture of empathy, tolerance and reconciliation.
- Developing effective cooperation mechanisms with bilateral and multilateral partners for the prevention and reduction of armed violence, in order to effectively address the challenges of post-conflict peace-building and promote sustainable socio-economic development.
- Advancing the implementation of existing sub regional initiatives in the field of armed violence reduction.

We also agree on practical measures to promote security and prevent and reduce armed violence that enhance the prospects for sustainable development by:

- Preventing the uncontrolled circulation, illicit trade and illegal supply and use of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition through initiatives to regulate the production, transfer, acquisition, and possession of small arms and light weapons.
- Promoting conflict prevention and effective conflict management nationally and in coordination with international peace-support operations, including peace-keeping missions.
- Promoting effective post-conflict peace-building through the effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and women and children associated with armed forces and groups.
- Promoting the rebuilding of a transparent and accountable security sector in countries recovering from conflict through the training and equipping of the national army and police and the strengthening of civilian oversight of the security sector
- Promoting measures that manage and resolve armed conflicts arising from environmental factors and competition over resources, such as cattle, land, timber, fish and minerals.
- Promoting measures that prevent, control and reduce criminal armed violence through national and municipal structures.
- Promoting community security by supporting and strengthening partnerships between government and civil society.
- Developing effective and accountable public security institutions, as well as addressing a climate of impunity by strengthening capacities of the national statistics departments and the criminal justice system.

- Supporting initiatives to establish legally-binding international instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty and instruments aimed at combating terrorism in all its manifestations and aspects.

We recognize the important role that civil society has to play in reducing armed violence and will work to promote active partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations, and regional and international agencies to prevent and reduce armed violence.

We further agree to work in multi-disciplinary partnership with the development, peace and security-building, public health, humanitarian, human rights and criminal justice communities to advance the implementation of the Africa Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

Nairobi, 31 October 2007

**Angola**  
**Benin**  
**Burundi**  
**Cameroon**  
**Côte d'Ivoire**  
**Democratic Republic of Congo**  
**Ethiopia**  
**Ghana**  
**Kenya**  
**Lesotho**  
**Liberia**  
**Libya**  
**Madagascar**  
**Malawi**  
**Mali**  
**Mauritius**  
**Morocco**  
**Mozambique**  
**Niger**  
**Nigeria**  
**Rwanda**  
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**Sierra Leone**  
**South Africa**  
**Sudan**  
**Uganda**  
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