

SEM/009/002A/10

ACP-EEC JOINT ASSEMBLY

ANNEX 8

ACP-EEC/601/92/fin.

RESOLUTION <sup>1)</sup>

*on the situation in Rwanda*

The ACP-EEC Joint Assembly,

*- meeting in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) from 17 to 21 February 1992,*

- A. *having noted the report of the delegation which travelled to Rwanda from 15 to 19 October 1991,*
- B. *having regard to the subsequent positive developments in Rwanda,*
- C. *having regard to the continuing state of war between the central authorities and the Rwandan Patriotic Front,*
- D. *deploring the fact that this situation is leading to atrocities against the innocent civilian population, causing them to flee in vast numbers,*
  1. *Condemns these acts of violence; affirms that any solution to this conflict, and to the problems it has caused, must involve the establishment of a cease-fire; calls, therefore, on the Rwandan Patriotic Front and the Rwandan authorities to undertake negotiations to this end; expresses uncertainty as to the way in which the French military forces that have been present in Rwanda since the beginning of the conflict might influence the prospects for a return to peace;*
  2. *Urges the institutions of the Lomé Convention, the European Community and the OAU to exert their combined political influence to encourage the conclusion of a cease-fire and ensure that it is observed;*
  3. *Appeals to the Rwandan authorities to reopen, under the sponsorship of the UNHCR, negotiations on the return of refugees and their participation, on a multi-party basis, in the democratic process now under way;*
  4. *Requests the withdrawal from Rwanda of all foreign forces that are not members of the observer group established by the OAU;*
  5. *Stresses that the implementation of a cease-fire agreement, the return of refugees and their participation in the democratic process under way are of crucial importance to the recovery of the Rwandan economy, which has been seriously undermined by the conflict and which will ultimately require specific international aid;*
  6. *Notes the efforts made by the Rwandan Government to encourage respect for human rights (amnesty laws, the release of political prisoners, etc.), efforts which should culminate, in particular, in the establishment of legal authorities independent of the executive and in the elimination of any discrimination;*

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1) *adopted by the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly on 20 February  
in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)*

7. Urgently requests the government of Rwanda to guarantee all citizens, irrespective of their geographical or ethnic origins, their full civic, political and legal rights. This guarantee must, in the first place, include the right to life so as to prevent a recurrence of ethnic massacres such as those of the Bagogwe and the Bahyamas;
8. Regards as paramount the role of radio in providing the whole population with access to information, a precondition for the establishment of genuine democracy; calls on the government, therefore, to open up the national radio service to the various political and civil groups active in Rwanda;
9. Insists on the Rwandan authorities' obligation to ensure the restoration of their professional and social rights to all former political prisoners;
10. Welcomes the statement by the Rwandan authorities that the 32 political prisoners met by the delegation at Kigali jail have been released;
11. Calls on the Rwandan Government to continue this process and release all the remaining political prisoners;
12. Urges that, in line with the undertaking given by the President of Rwanda, young offenders will receive special treatment once released from jail;
13. Urges Rwanda to complete the democratization process by creating the necessary conditions for holding genuinely free, democratic elections;
14. Urges the EC and its Member States to lend additional support to the democratisation process now under way so as to establish a fresh democratic consensus in Rwanda, foster human rights and new freedoms and ensure that outside observers can monitor the preparations for the holding of the elections;
15. Calls on the Rwandan Government to take practical measures to honour its various declarations and requests to be briefed regularly on the developments in the situation;
16. Calls on the Bureau of the Joint Assembly to accept urgently Uganda's invitation to visit that country to establish the truth of allegations levelled against them by the Rwanda Government and to meet the OAU Monitoring Team for an update on the situation;
17. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Rwandan Government, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the OAU, the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the ACP States in the sub-region, the Council and the Member States of the European Community.