JOINT COMMUNIQUE FROM THE CONSULTATIVE SUMMIT BETWEEN THE HEADS OF STATE HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH KABILA OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND HIS EXCELLENCY YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF UGANDA

1. Their Excellencies Joseph KABILA of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Yoweri K. MUSEVENI of the Republic of Uganda met in Dar-es-Salaam on February 9 and 10 to assess the implementation of the Luanda Agreement signed in Luanda, Angola, on September 6, 2002. The Government of the Republic of Angola was represented by João MIRRANDA, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

2. The meeting noted with concern the deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation in Ituri in the north east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as evidenced by new hostilities between the armed factions. The Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Luanda Agreement. They agreed to facilitate the establishment of the Ituri Peace Commission;

3. They agreed that the preparatory Committee for the Ituri Peace Commission will consist of 2 representatives of the DRC Government, 2 representatives of the Ugandan Government, 2 representatives of MONUC and 4 representatives of other active forces in the Ituri region;

4. The meeting decided to refer the question of the political aspirations of the actors in Ituri to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue.

5. The Heads of State agreed that the Commission should be established and begin work on February 17, 2003, and finish on March 20, 2003, followed by the total withdrawal of Ugandan troops from Ituri;

6. The Heads of State agreed to set up a permanent consultation mechanism to enable them to monitor developments in Ituri and to take appropriate measures to maintain a climate of peace and security in the region;

7. The Heads of State agreed to convene a ministerial meeting on February 14, 2003 to develop the measures needed to set up the Ituri Peace Commission. This meeting will also examine the question of the political aspirations of the Ituri actors, in order to submit these to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue;

8. The meeting condemns all those who continue to supply weapons to the armed factions, thereby fuelling the increase in violence and human suffering in the Ituri region;

9. Finally, the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and President Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI of the Republic of Uganda, together with their respective delegations, thanked His Excellency Benjamin W. MKAPA, the government and the people of Tanzania for their warm welcome and hospitality.

Done at Dar-es Salaam, February 10, 2003