

Annex C:

ACT OF ENGAGEMENT

We, representing the components of the Inter-Congolese political negotiations, namely the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congo Liberation Movement (Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo, MLC), the Congolese Rally for Democracy (Rassemblement pour la Démocratie, RCD), the political opposition organisations and groups, and the “life-blood” of the nation, in the presence of Sir Ketumile MASIRE, neutral facilitator in the Inter-Congolese political negotiations;

- referring to the **Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement** signed on 10 and 30 July, and 31 August, 1999, in Lusaka, to the **relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council** on the Inter-Congolese political negotiations, and to the **Declaration of Fundamental Principles signed in Lusaka** on 4 May 2001 by the signatory Parties to the above **Agreement**;
- aware that national reconciliation is above all the responsibility of the Congolese people and their leaders;
- reaffirming the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and untouchability of a single and undivided Democratic Republic of Congo;
- recalling our adherence to the international conventions on human rights ratified by the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- wishing to agree a **republican pact** and as a token of good faith so that the Inter-Congolese political negotiations may proceed peacefully, and to demonstrate to the Congolese people and the international community our unquenchable desire to establish the Rule of Law in which fundamental liberties and human rights are respected;
- **solemnly and unconditionally undertake to implement throughout the national territory, the following provisions:**
 1. To ensure the immediate, effective and complete liberalisation of political and community life, to refrain from any behaviour which may compromise this liberalisation, and to encourage tolerance in political and community activities;
 2. To guarantee the human rights and fundamental liberties of all citizens, in particular the right to life and physical safety, the freedom of the press and freedom of expression and opinion, and access for all to the public media;
 3. To release immediately and unconditionally, under the auspices of the CICR and Congolese human rights NGOs, all detained or imprisoned political prisoners, hostages and those who have been detained or imprisoned on the basis of their origin or their political and/or legal activities in the past;

4. To guarantee the free movement of civilians and legitimate goods, and freedom to enter and leave the national territory, and provide migration documents to any citizen requesting these;
5. To Authorise or re-establish air, rail, river, lake, road, telephone and postal communication channels;
6. To immediately and unconditionally return any goods seized and/or confiscated illegally for political reasons, including buildings occupied with neither rights nor title;
7. To ensure the protection of the population against raids, arbitrary arrest, appropriations, dispossessions, forced labour, massacres, indiscriminate bombing, torture, rape of women, child mutilation and deportations, and ensure that collaboration with genocidal forces shall cease definitively;
8. To protect the nation's heritage and resources and prevent any plundering of these resources;
9. To ensure that the provisions of the **Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement** are observed as well as the **relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council** in order to restore peace in DRC;
10. To abstain from any activity which may interfere with the process of national reconciliation;
11. To guarantee access for humanitarian organisations to population victim groups;
12. To ensure the return of displaced and refugee population groups to their normal places of residence;
13. To refrain from using refugees for political or military purposes, and to desist from any form of provocation during the Inter-Congolese political negotiations;
14. To suspend the use of Military Jurisdictions for matters relating to the civilian population.

To this end, in order to ensure the implementation and successful outcome of the present act of engagement, we agree to establish a Monitoring Committee in which the components are equally represented, under the authority of the Facilitator in the Inter-Congolese political negotiations.

Done at Gaborone, 24 August 2001

The members of the Inter-Congolese political negotiations