

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

HON. AHMED H. DIRIA

AT THE OPENING OF POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA AND THE RPF,

ARUSHA, AUGUST 11, 1992

YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. SALIM A. SALIM

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OAU

HON. BONIFACE NGULINZIRA

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS & COOPERATION

OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA;

MR. ALEX KANYARENGWE CHAIRMAN OF THE RPF

REPRESENTATIVES OF OBSERVER COUNTRIES,

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS EXACTLY ONE MONTH NOW SINCE WE LAST MET HERE IN ARUSHA AND IN THIS SAME ROOM TO DELIBERATE ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA. I WOULD THEREFORE WANT TO PREFACE MY REMARKS THIS MORNING, BY ONCE AGAIN, ON THE BEHALF OF THE FACILITATOR OF THE RWANDESE PEACE PROCESS HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT ALI HASSAN MWINYI, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, WELCOMING YOU ALL MOST WARMLY, TO ARUSHA AND TO TANZANIA. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE

PEOPLE OF TANZANIA ARE EVER GRATEFUL FOR THE HONOUR AND CONFIDENCE BESTOWED UPON THEM, TO CONTINUE HOSTING THESE VERY IMPORTANT TALKS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LASTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE SISTER REPUBLIC OF RWANDA.

THIS TIME WE HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY BEEN HONOURED BY THE PERSONAL PRESENCE OF OUR DISTINGUISHED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU, HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM. HIS PRESENCE IN ARUSHA AND AT THIS OPENING CEREMONY IS YET ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF HIS DEEP PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND DEVOTION TO THE COURSE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN RWANDA. THIS IS NOT UNCHARACTERISTIC OF HIM. FOR MOST OF US KNOW HOW DEEPLY HE HAS DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE POLITICAL CARRIER IN THE COURSE FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN EQUALITY, IN HIS NATIVE COUNTRY, TANZANIA, IN AFRICA AND FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD IN GENERAL. EVER SINCE HE ASSUMED THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR CONTINENTAL BODY, IN 1989, DR. SALIM HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY IN GETTING THE OAU AND THE MEMBER STATES PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PREVENTING, MANAGING AND RESOLVING THE MANY CONFLICTS EXISTING IN THE CONTINENT THROUGH AFRICAN GROWN SOLUTIONS, AMONG HIS MANY CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES. TODAY, WITHIN THE OAU CIRCLES, THIS PARTICULAR INITIATIVE IS HIGH ON OUR AGENDA. IN THAT REGARD, AS WE WELCOME DR. SALIM TO THIS CEREMONY, I ALSO WISH TO EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA AND INDEED ON MY OWN BEHALF, OUR PROFOUND AND SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION THAT HE CONTINUES TO RENDER TO PEACE, STABILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CONTINENT DURING THIS VERY CHALLENGING PHASE IN THE GLOBAL SETTINGS.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

THE PERSONAL PRESENCE IN ARUSHA OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA HONOURABLE BONIFACE NGULINZIRA AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT MR. ALEX KANYARENGWE ALSO NEED TO BE APPROPRIATELY

RECOGNISED. AT THE VERY LEAST, IS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF DEEP COMMITMENT AND POSITIVE DISPOSITION BY BOTH PARTIES, TO LOOK FOR AN EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN RWANDA. LET ME, THEREFORE ONCE AGAIN, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE SO FAR DEMONSTRATED BY THE RWANDESE GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF. INSPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE MILITARY MONITORS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY DEPLOYED IN RWANDA, ALL SIGNALS RECEIVED SO FAR INDICATE THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING AND HAS GREATER POTENTIAL TO HOLD PERMANENTLY, FOR AS LONG AS BOTH PARTIES CONTINUE TO EVOLVE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE, REQUISITE POLITICAL WILL AND DEMONSTRATE ON THE GROUND DEEP COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THEIR OWN SOCIETY AND FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE. I THEREFORE APPEAL TO ALL THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE CONTRIBUTING TO NMOG AS WELL AS THE OAU WHICH HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COORDINATING AND SUPERVISING NMOG, TO FULFIL THEIR RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE MOST EXPEDIOUS WAY POSSIBLE. YET, THIS APPEAL DOES NOT REMOVE THE FACT THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR A WORKABLE CEASEFIRE RESTS AND DEPENDS UPON THE RWANDESE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, PARTICULARLY THE TWO PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, BY REFUSING TO CONTINUE KILLING EACH OTHER. THERE SHALL NEVER BE A BETTER MONITOR THAN THAT COMMITMENT AND THAT DETERMINATION.

IN THE SAME SPIRIT I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE EQUALLY DEEP COMMITMENT, CLOSE COOPERATION, CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AND VARIOUS ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY ALL OBSERVER GROUP COUNTRIES, THAT IS ZAIRE, BURUNDI, UGANDA, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES. WITHOUT THIS COOPERATION, UNDERSTANDING AND ASSISTANCE OUR ROLE AS HOSTS AND FACILITATORS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HERE TODAY TO PERSUE AND OBSERVE THESE DELIBERATIONS. TO ALL OF YOU WE SAY THANK YOU SO MUCH.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

AT THE END OF THE FIRST ROUND OF THE ARUSHA NEGOTIATIONS ON 12TH JULY, 1992 WE CAME UP WITH COMPREHENSIVE AMMENDMENTS TO THE NS'BLE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AS AMENDED AT GBADOLITE, IN SEPTEMBER, 1991. THAT HISTORIC AGREEMENT PAVED THE WAY FOR THE CURRENT CEASEFIRE AND YET ANOTHER IMPORTANT MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, FROM 26TH JULY, 1992. THIS WAS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMISSION (JPMC) WHICH AS AGREED, WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET BEFORE THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRAL MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (NMOG). AND ACCORDING TO THE CALENDER OF EVENTS AGREED UPON BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA AND THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF), WE ARE MEETING TODAY TO BEGIN DELIBERATIONS ON PERHAPS THE MOST STRATEGIC PHASE IN THE RWANDESE PEACE PROCESS AND THAT IS, THE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS.

AS YOU ARE VERY MUCH AWARE, THE SIGNATORIES TO THE ARUSHA ACCORD ACCEPTED CERTAIN POLITICAL PRINCIPLES WHOSE INTERPRETATION AND MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE SPECIFIED AT THIS PARTICULAR MEETING. THOSE PRINCIPLES ARE: "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND FAIR STATE BASED ON NATIONAL UNITY, DEMOCRACY, PLURALISM AND RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS; THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL ARMY BASED ON THE INTEGRATION OF THE TWO FORCES AND THE SHARING OF POLITICAL POWER". THESE PRINCIPLES ARE IMPORTANT AS THEY ARE COMPLEX. YET, AS WE ALL KNOW, WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OUT. I HAVE VERY STRONG REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ALL GATHERED HERE TONIGHT TO BEGIN THAT CHALLENGING TASK OF FINDING A WAY OUT, FOR THE RWANDESE PEOPLE TO REGAIN THEIR LONG DENIED PEACE AND STABILITY IN THEIR COUNTRY.

THE FACT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT NO COUNTRY CAN BE SAID TO ENJOY PEACE, TRANQUILITY OR STABILITY IF THERE IS NO RULE OF LAW, CLEAR OBSERVATION AND APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS MEETING THIS MATTER IS OF CRUCIAL SIGNIFICANCE, FOR WE CANNOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT OUR SISTER REPUBLIC OF RWANDA HAS GONE THROUGH AN UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE OF ETHNIC PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL TURMOIL WHICH HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY, CULMINATED INTO THE PRESENT CONFLICT. OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN RWANDA THEREFORE NEED REALISTIC POLITICAL ASSURANCES AND GUARANTEES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE STRONG UNDERPINS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY THAT THEY HAVE ALL BEEN VYING FOR, FOR MANY YEARS. ADDED TO THAT, THE ISSUES OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ARMY, EVOLVING FROM THE INTERGRATION OF THE TWO FORCES AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY ALSO REQUIRE SOBER AND OBJECTIVE DELIBERATION, FOR PEACE AND STABILITY TO BE RESTORED IN RWANDA.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THOSE DISPLACED RWANDESE, IN THEIR THOUSANDS, WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF RWANDA, ALSO NEED PEACE AND POLITICAL ASSURANCES. INDEED THEY DESERVE PEACE NOW, IN THEIR COUNTRY IN ORDER TO GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES AS FREE CITIZENS OF A FREE COUNTRY. THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA AS WELL AS THE COUNTRIES OF THE SUB-REGION ALSO CRAVE FOR A RETURN TO NORMALCY IN RWANDA SO THAT COLLECTIVELY THEY CAN DEVOTE THEIR TIME, ENERGIES AND RESOURCES ON ISSUES OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THESE COMPLEXITIES THAT THERE IS AN IMPERATIVE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AND PRAGMATISM WHEN THE TWO PARTIES DELIBERATE ON THESE ISSUES. I THEREFORE EARNESTLY APPEAL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA AND THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ADOPT THE ATTITUDE OF GIVE-AND-TAKE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THE TWO NEGOTIATING TEAMS NEED TO PUT THE

INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA, IN THEIR DIVERSITY AND ENTIRETY, AT THE CENTRE OF THE WHOLE PEACE PROCESS. POLITICAL DOGMA OR SELF INTEREST HAS NO ROOM IN THIS PROCESS. YOU MUST APPROACH YOUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH A DEEP SENSE OF MATURITY AND DETERMINATION TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA THE VICTORY THAT THEY VERY MUCH DESERVE. YOU MUST NEVER LOOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE ART OF NEGOTIATION INVOLVES COMPROMISES BY AND FROM BOTH SIDES. THERE IS NO OTHER WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THAT FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME.

YOU THEREFORE NEED TO SET CLEAR TARGETS FOR WHAT IS TO BE ACHIEVED AT EACH STAGE OF THE PEACE PROCESS, BEARING IN MIND THAT THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA NEED PEACE AND STABILITY SOONER THAN LATER. THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA HAVE BEEN CRAVING FOR AN EARLY RETURN TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THEIR COUNTRY AS THEY MOURN AND BURY THEIR DEAR ONES; AS THEY SUFFER WITH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED BY THIS WAR; AS THEY EXPERIENCE THE DISCOMFORTS OF DISPLACEMENTS AND DISINTEGRATIONS OF THEIR FAMILIES; AS THEY LOOSE THEIR LIFETIME PROPERTIES AND POSSESSIONS; AND ABOVE ALL AS THEY LOOSE HOPE AND CONFIDENCE IN THEIR FUTURE AS MEMBERS OF ONE NATION WHO NEED TO DEVOTE ALL THEIR RESOURCES AND ENERGIES FOR THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELLBEING.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE FIRST ROUND OF THE ARUSHA NEGOTIATIONS SET OUT CLEAR TIMEFRAMES FOR THE PEACE PROCESS LEADING TO A COMPLETE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE RWANDESE SOCIETY. YET THAT TIMEFRAME DOES NOT PREVENT US FROM MOVING FASTER THAN ENVISAGED. IT IS ON THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE ALL OF YOU OF MY GOVERNMENTS' COMMITMENT AND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE, TO ENSURE THAT ALL MATTERS SET BEFORE THIS MEETING ARE TACKLED REALISTICALLY AND WITH UTMOST URGENCY. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA WOULD DO ALL THAT IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT, THOSE OBJECTIVES ARE ATTAINED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. BACKED UP BY POSITIVE DISPOSITION OF BOTH PARTIES AND GOOD CLIMATIC CONDITION THAT ARUSHA OFFERS US, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT EVEN PERMANENT PEACE FOR RWANDA

CAN EASILY GROW OUT OF ARUSHA. AT THE END OF THE DAY WE SHALL LEAVE ARUSHA WITH OUR HEADS HIGH - PROUD OF THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE EMERGED VICTORS IN THIS PROCESS.

WITH THESE FEW REMARKS, I ONCE AGAIN WELCOME YOU TO ARUSHA AND WISH THIS MEETING THE BEST OF EVERYTHING.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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