

Peace and National Reconciliation Agreement

Djibouti, December 26, 1994

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of Djibouti and the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (Front pour la Restauration de l'Unité et de la Démocratie, FRUD), known as the two parties within the framework of this agreement;

- having carried out in-depth analysis of all the questions, origins and causes which led to the armed conflict and crisis, and ascertained all the harmful consequences of the war;
- mindful of the need to protect our country from the tragedies which have befallen some countries in the region;
- wishing to preserve and keep safe what is essential, despite all the obstacles, and taking into account the particular geographic and economic situation of our country;
- confident in the good conduct of the president, Al Hadj Hassan Gouled Aptidon, who has been working to open up a democratic process, and put in place institutions which are suitable for the new demands of the international situation, and has underlined the importance of dialogue;
- convinced that resolving the points of dispute and national reconciliation can only be brought about by the good will of the two parties, and that only the protagonists are able to resolve these differences, in the absence of any intermediary or third person;
- wishing to achieve a negotiated, just and definitive solution to the crisis;
- taking into account the cultural and socio-economic diversity, and the regional and social inequalities, which characterise Djiboutian society;
- mindful that this solution should aim both to consolidate national unity and preserve the territorial integrity of the country;
- reaffirming their attachment to the universal democratic values defined in the constitution of the Republic of Djibouti;

have agreed the following during their peace negotiations in Djibouti:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

This agreement shall constitute the framework for restoring just and definitive peace and reconciliation between the people of Djibouti. Its contents represent a solemn undertaking by the two parties. The State shall guarantee its provisions and their implementation.

CHAPTER II

THE INSTITUTIONS

FRUD shall adopt the Constitution, laws and regulations in force in the Republic of Djibouti, and shall respect their provisions. The revision of certain provisions shall be considered at a later stage and done in accordance with the rules of the Constitution.

CHAPTER III

MANAGING THE RETURN TO PEACE

a) In the context of measures to restore confidence, get rid of the causes of insecurity and restore complete security, in order to improve the movement of people and goods, all barriers and irregular systems of control shall be lifted.

b) The Government shall continue its ongoing efforts to restore damaged public infrastructure (administrative buildings, health centres, water sources, etc.).

c) The Government shall provide aid and assistance to families affected mentally or physically by the war, by the loss of private goods and civilian persons. It shall put in place the resources and measures needed to do this.

d) FRUD shall encourage Djiboutian refugees and displaced persons, who have left the country as a result of the war, to return home.

To this end, FRUD shall provide the Government with a list of names of Djiboutians so affected, in order to provide them with aid and assistance.

CHAPTER IV

ELECTORAL LISTS AND IDENTITY CARDS

With regard to the renewal of electoral lists and provision of identity cards, the parties agree:

- a) on the need to renew the electoral lists before the next elections;
- b) to supply national identity cards to young persons of eligible age and to all those who fulfil the necessary requirements;
- c) to speed up the supply of replacement birth certificates within all districts.

CHAPTER V

DELAYED SCHOOLING

With regard to delayed schooling, exceptional provisions already made for children whose schooling has been delayed by the war shall continue throughout their school years.

CHAPTER VI

REBALANCING WITHIN STATE INSTITUTIONS

In order to address the concerns of the people, and within the overall aim of exploring together the path to peace, the Government shall ensure that FRUD combatants will be employed and integrated in political, military, administrative and socio-economic sectors, in accordance with the provisions and quotas set by mutual consent between the two parties and recorded in Annex to the present peace agreement.

The provisions on the integration of combatants in the military sector shall address the return of a quota of FRUD combatants together with their arms.

CHAPTER VII

THE GENERAL AMNESTY

Former FRUD combatants and soldiers shall be granted unconditional amnesty for offences carried out before June 12, 1994, and shall hence recover their civilian rights in entirety. Their safety shall be guaranteed by the State.

CHAPTER VIII

FRUD'S TRANSFORMATION TO A POLITICAL PARTY

1) After the present peace agreement is signed, FRUD shall become a legal political party. Hence, it shall abandon armed struggle and shall participate fully in the life of the nation, defending its ideas by peaceful means, and it shall be recognised by the Government.

2) FRUD shall participate in the management of national business, in alliance with the party in power, based on the present agreement, and a common political platform for the two groups.

CHAPTER IX

DECENTRALISATION

After the restoration of peace and national reconciliation, extensive decentralisation of competences and resources to territorial units shall begin in the Republic of Djibouti.

A national commission will be established gathering together all of the political groupings in the country, to develop a law project on decentralisation.

CHAPTER X

ON RECONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS

In order to stimulate economic activity in all of the districts in the Interior, the Development Bank of Djibouti shall be recommended to set up a fund for low interest loans, with the aim of creating small development businesses.

The Government shall make all necessary efforts to restart and relaunch development projects which have been stopped or suspended because of the conflict and to this end shall make contact with lenders. New projects will be developed in line with current needs.

The two parties shall solemnly request friendly brother countries to support and contribute to rehabilitation, and to strengthening and consolidating the present agreement.

CHAPTER XI

FINAL PROVISIONS

The measures for implementing certain provisions in this agreement, and the implementation timetable, are presented in Annex.

Two copies in French of the present “Peace and National Reconciliation Agreement” shall be prepared, signed by each of the two parties. An original copy shall be held by each party. It shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Djibouti.

Done at Djibouti, December 26, 1994

Signatures

Source: Official Journal of the Republic of Djibouti