

**REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO ON THE MAIN THEMES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-AFRICA SUMMIT:  
5 – 6 AUGUST 2014**

## **1. PEACE AND SECURITY**

Achievement and maintaining peace and security remain the challenges facing most African countries.

No economic and social development can be expected without peace and security neither can be reached any sustainable peace and security without development.

Most of conflicts in Africa are rooted in extreme poverty, related to various mistakes inherent to the learning of democratic and economic governance. Those factors generate social and political claims which have not been properly satisfied, and post election disputes which are damping down development efforts.

Peace and security are also jeopardized by some new phenomenons such as intolerance and religious fanaticism.

In addition to these causes are the issue of colonization inherited borders, which affect relations between neighbouring states.

The persistence of open or latent conflicts in the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Sudan, and South Sudan as well as the resurgence of terrorist acts perpetrated by "*Al Shabaab*" militia in the Horn of Africa and by "*Boko Haram*" sect in Nigeria, are various issues of concern that require a mobilization of the international community.

To maintain peace and security in its midst, Africa is acting within a framework anchored and oriented towards African solutions.

In that context, the Republic of Congo is advocating for a partnership between Africa, the United States of America and other partners aiming the strengthening of existing that African Union architecture for the prevention and the settlement of conflicts.

The issue of the United Nations Security Council reform is also a significant one for the African States. Indeed, more than 60% of peacekeeping operations decided by that organ are taking place in African.

Since its launch in 2009 in New York, the reform process has not registered any significant progress. Nothing indicates that by 2015, the United Nations will provide the world with a Security Council in accordance with the 2000 Millennium Summit Commitments.

The Republic of Congo, once again, is requesting the support of the United States of America and other partners to achieve the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Congo is calling on the solidarity of the American partner so that Africa can be represented in an enlarged Security Council with at least two permanent seats.

## **2. ECONOMIC GROWTH, TRADE AND INVESTMENTS**

Economic growth in most African countries remains dependent on raw materials available in those countries.

Therefore, the first challenges to address in terms of economic growth in Africa are the diversification and competitiveness of economies.

Diversification and competitiveness must rely on various and viable infrastructure and qualified human resources.

In order to strengthen cooperation between the United States of America and Africa, the Republic of Congo is advocating for the adoption of courageous measures in the areas of Economy, Investment and Trade.

These measures could be :

- 1) Supporting the building of strong economies, through American Direct Investment in all areas of African economies;
- 2) Making available to African countries credit-lines to private companies and joint-ventures including African and American firms ;
- 3) Accepting African students in American Universities and professional training schools;
- 4) Extending the ‘‘Africa Power’’ initiative to other Sub-Saharan countries in addition to the six ones targeted ;
- 5) Increasing the Development Public Aid in the context of the implementation of the 2063 Development Agenda ;
- 6) Increasing exchanges volume through existing mechanisms, such as the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Public Law 480 (PL 480), with more African products on the American market ;
- 7) Strengthening a decentralized cooperation with greater involvement of American economically oriented NGOs.

## **3. Democracy and Good Governance**

Over the last two decades, Africa has made many efforts to create mechanisms for the promotion of democracy and good governance.

However, because of its complexity, the democratic process requires to take in account certain sociocultural parameters that are not transposable from one continent to another or from one country to another.

Patterns borrowed or imposed from abroad have revealed their limitations on the continent. Current situations in Libya, South Sudan, DRC and elsewhere are evident cases.

In this context, it makes sense to adhere to the realistic remarks of President **Barack OBAMA** pronounced during a press conference at the White House on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 when he said :

*“Africans must forge sustainable solutions to their problems and build their own model of democracy”.*

Therefore, the United States of America should help African States in the implementation of programs aiming to :

- Strengthen democratic institutions ;
- Increase inter-parliamentary exchanges between both parties ;
- Coach and train young people to the democratic culture ;
- Support organizations devoted to fight against corruption, bribery and fraud ;
- Provide logistical support to bodies and institutions in charge of organizing elections.