

AFRICAN UNION

PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITIES

PRESS STATEMENT BY H.E. KOFI ANNAN

I was very pleased with the tone of our talks in the negotiating team on Friday. We touched on most of the major items in Agenda Item 4 (*Long Term Issues*), including comprehensive Constitutional review, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, the Independent Review Commission on elections, land reform and poverty.

It is clear that there is a fresh commitment to this process and I am convinced that these talks will now go smoothly and rapidly.

I therefore will be leaving Nairobi on Sunday for Kampala, where I have to chair an important board meeting of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. And after that, I will return to Geneva to attend to much unfinished business there.

But I will never be far away and can return on short notice if I'm needed. And, as I told you, I will be looking in on the talks from time to time. In my absence, the day to day work of the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation will be overseen by Chief Mediator Oluyemi Adeniji.

It has been such a pleasure for me to get to know not just the leadership of this country, but also so many members of its vibrant civil society and private sector. I have made many new friends.

I look forward to working with you towards the realization of the goals we have now agreed on, and in the process making Kenya stronger, more peaceful and prosperous.

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