



PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITIES

PRESS STATEMENT
AFRICAN UNION PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITIES –
KENYA NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION

Nairobi, 18 May 2010 – The Dialogue Team of the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR) held its fifth review meeting today on the status of implementation of the KNDR agreements for the period January through March 2010.

The meeting discussed the findings of a report prepared by South Consulting – the research firm designated by the Panel of Eminent African Personalities to undertake independent monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process, with funding provided by the Open Society Institute (OSI).

On Agenda Item One (*Immediate action to stop the violence and restore fundamental rights and liberties*), the South report noted that there had been a general lull in the activities of illegal armed groups and that calm had returned even to areas where such groups had previously been visibly active. The report also found that the public did not support these groups, but turned to them for protection out of necessity, suggesting the need to fast track police reforms.

On Agenda Item Two (*Immediate measures to address the humanitarian crisis, promote reconciliation and healing*), the South report noted the finalization by the Government of the draft IDP policy, aimed at delivering a lasting solution to the IDP problem and also provide strategies for resettlement. The report underlined the importance to ensure that a rights-based approach is used to address the issue. Also under this Agenda Item, the report highlighted the need to identify systematic approaches to healing and reconciliation.

On Agenda Item Three (*How to overcome the political crisis*), the South report concluded that government operations and the implementation of important reforms had been negatively affected by a lack of unity within the Coalition Government. The report noted that structured mechanisms for consultations and a framework to guide parties' operations within the Cabinet have not been used effectively.

Turning to Agenda Item Four (*Long-term issues and solutions*), the South report noted that the constitutional review process had continued to successfully move forward. In this connection, the report noted that the credibility of the outcome of the referendum was dependent on the number of registered voters and the integrity of the voting system. On the issue of impunity, the South report concluded that the public continued to support the prosecution of the perpetrators of post-election violence.

At today's meeting, the Dialogue Team expressed its satisfaction with the progress noted in the report and called on all parties to remain seized of the reform agenda. Reaffirming the importance of the review meetings, the Dialogue Team agreed that the next meeting would be held in mid-July 2010.