

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 88<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, (BELGIUM) FROM 15 TO 18 DECEMBER 2008**

<b>POLITICAL SITUATION IN CERTAIN ACP STATES</b>
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**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels (Belgium) from 15 – 18 December 2008,

**HAVING EXAMINED** the Committee of Ambassadors' report to the 88<sup>th</sup> session of the ACP Council of Ministers;

**WHEREAS** the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Observer Missions carried out by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors during 2008 to Fiji [**ACP/26/052/08**], Djibouti, Chad and Sudan [**ACP/26/073/08 Rev.1**], and Mauritania [**ACP/26/008/08**];

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** about the conflict that has broken out in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and its repercussions not only on the social and economic situation in the country, but also on the security and stability of the entire Central African region;

**REAFFIRMING** the ACP Group's commitment to promoting intra-ACP political dialogue as a means of bringing about a peaceful settlement to political conflicts and crises within and between ACP States;

1. **Commends** the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Sudan and Chad, and urges the two ACP States to pursue the processes of consensual political dialogue currently underway in their two countries respectively, in order to accelerate the resolution of internal crises, and at the same time, contribute to strengthening good neighbourly relations between the two countries;
2. **Is heartened** by the determination manifested by the interim government of Fiji to pursue the implementation of commitments made in the framework of Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement in view of restoring normal constitutional order, and urges the Fijian authorities to speed up the electoral reform process in view of holding free, democratic and non-racial elections as soon as possible;
3. **Urges** the governments of Djibouti and Eritrea to favour dialogue to settle their border dispute and, if necessary, seek international mediation to that effect;
4. **Calls on** the new forces in power in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to accelerate the process of restoring constitutional order, and propose an acceptable timeframe to that effect as soon as possible;

5. **Condemns** the war that has broken out in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in particular the violence perpetrated against the civilian populations; calls on all parties involved to cease hostilities for a peaceful settlement of the conflict; and urges the international community to take the necessary emergency measures to address the economic and humanitarian consequences of the war;
6. **Requests** the Committee of Ambassadors to examine, in the framework of the financial instruments of the Cotonou Agreement and in accordance with the recommendations contained in document ACP/26/073/08 Rev.1 mentioned above, the possibility of mobilising financial assistance to help Djibouti deal with the financial losses resulting from the border conflict, and help Chad to amortise the financial cost resulting from the attacks that occurred in February and June 2008.

**Brussels, 18 December 2008**