



La République Unie de Tanzanie pour le poste de Kufuor

Yves Niyiragira

La Tanzanie a été élu à la présidence de l'Union Africaine. C'est donc le président Jakaya Kikwete qui a succédé le président John Kufuor.

C'est seul aujourd'hui que la candidature de la République Unie de la Tanzanie pour le poste de président de l'Union Africaine (UA), position actuellement occupée par le président ghanéen, John Agyekum Kufuor, a été confirmée. La présidence de l'UA est également été convoitée par l'Egypte, qui a jouit du soutien des pays de l'Afrique du Nord.

En effet, trois pays du Maghreb, la Libye, l'Algérie et l'Egypte contribuent plus de la moitié du budget de l'UA et certaines sources disaient que ces pays ont voulu ce poste afin de maintenir leur influence au sein des pays africains. Par contre, la Tanzanie a été soutenue par les pays de l'Afrique de l'Est auxquels le tour de la présidence arrive. « Il y a beaucoup de pays, mais je ne sais pas exactement le nombre, de l'Afrique de l'Est et du Sud qui soutiennent la Tanzanie », a dit l'analyste de la politique tanzanienne le Dr Yitiha avant l'élection. Le gouvernement soudanais, quant à lui, a retiré sa candidature avant l'élection peut être à cause des accusations répétées concernant son rôle dans la crise du Darfour. Les négociations des chefs d'état et de gouvernement pour remplacer M. John Kufuor n'étaient pas du tout faciles, car il a fallu prendre en considération les six régions géographiques de l'Afrique, les candidatures aux postes de président de la Commission de l'UA et d'autres commissaires pour que toute l'Afrique soit représentée dans ses hautes institutions. Le nouveau président de l'UA déterminera le futur et l'avancement de certains dossiers très délicats, notamment le processus vers le gouvernement d'union, la position de l'Assemblée Générale sur le rapport de l'audit des peuples, les droits des femmes et d'autres.

Africa's industrial development dominate opening ceremony talk



African Union chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare addressing African presidents at the United Nations conference hall yesterday. PIC YAZEED KAMALDIEN

Hatina Shambamuto

The theme of "industrial development" for Africa resonated through the opening speeches of the Summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa. The outgoing chairman of the African Union, John Kufuor, stressed that the industrial development of the continent is and should remain the cardinal objective of the African Union. He urged the assembly to take seriously the recommendations of the African Union audit in working towards the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and integrating it into the structures of the African Union.

The audit report was praised by the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Alpha Konare, who will be handing over the chairpersonship to at this summit. Alpha Konare said that if the proposals made by the report were implemented, it would give the African Union the "keys" it needed in order to set and move the agenda of industrial development forward.

Konare said that while the African Union faces and continues to grapple with the challenges of conflict and climatic change among other things, it should not allow itself to be drowned in these issues only. He stressed an urgent need for the AU to work towards evolving Africa into a continent that not only exports raw materials. Konare reiterated the need for Africa's oil reserves not to be exploited to the point where Africa was left with a structural deficit. (Continued on P7)

About the AU Monitor Daily

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Dialogue vital for Kenyan stability, advise leaders

Rehema Kahurananga

Peace, stability and progress were common themes in the speeches given at the opening session of the African Union's 10th Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Hard to ignore was the attention given to the situation in Kenya as mentioned in each of the addresses by the African Union (AU) Commission's President, Alpha Konaré; Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Amr Moussa; former Japanese Premier, Yoshiro Mori; UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and AU Chair, President John Kufuor.

Usually lauded as an example of stability and development to other African nations, the references made to Kenya during the opening of the Assembly reflected a deep urgency for the crisis to be resolved primarily through dialogue, and hope that peace will once again return to the East African country.

During his address, Konaré referred to the crisis as one of the continent's "burning issues" citing implications, including potential ethnic cleansing and even genocide. But he was ardent that dialogue was the first line of mediation and applauded the steps made by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and his delegation, as did President Kufuor.

Referring to the developments in Kenya as "alarming", Ban Ki Moon, who is scheduled to travel to Kenya this week, strongly reiterated the necessity of President Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga coming to an agreement because of the rising humanitarian crisis, and he urged Africans to fully support Kofi Annan's efforts. In response to the humanitarian problems, Japan offered its support of \$4.1 million through UNICEF and the World Food Programme.

In line with this year's Summit theme of Industrialisation in Africa, it was noted that peace and security affect the continent's ability to develop. Crisis in any country in Africa will ultimately have implications on the rest.

In attendance was President Kibaki, who flew in yesterday morning to join his delegation, including Foreign Minister Moses Wetang'ula. Asked about a probable way forward for Kenya, peace mediator and retired Ambassador, Bethuel Kiplagat, said: "We have paid enough. The only prescription is dialogue; put issues on the table to enable us to move forward. Let them come out with a solution that is a win-win, not a lose-win situation for the sake of Kenya, for the sake of finding a solution that could lead to healing, forgiveness and restitution to secure the future for the younger generation."

Africa faces energy, environment threats

Yazeed Kamaldien

Africa's natural resources will run dry and global warming will have devastating effects on the continent, warned African Union chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare and United Nations (UN) secretary-general Ban Ki Moon respectively at a summit of African presidents yesterday.

Among the audience at the UN conference hall in Addis Ababa were respected and controversial leaders alike. South African President Thabo Mbeki sat a chair away from Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. Sitting between these two leaders, who have been strengthening their relations, was South Africa's foreign affairs minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

Algeria's President Abdel Aziz Bouteflika sat two chairs apart from Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe. And Libya's President Muammar Gaddafi stayed only for Konare's opening speech, exiting when League of Arab States secretary-general Amr Moussa took to the podium.

The meeting was the tenth annual assembly of African heads of state forming the African Union. The latter is a body which aims to strengthen ties on the continent as well as resolve conflicts.

Konare said that African states must industrialise alongside sustainable development strategies to not "exhaust" its natural resources.

"Everybody is saying Africa has a lot of oil and gas. No. Africa has less than ten percent of oil and gas resources of the world. If we don't have a strategy we will exhaust our reserves. We need to realise our continent has energy problems to face. If Africa had the same level of consumption as others we'd be importing (resources)... oil and gas would be exhausted," said Konare.

He also told the African leaders that they should start working on the creation of new energy sources.

"Many countries are working on nuclear energy. Why don't we establish an African atomic energy agency? Why don't we have an African space programme? These are not dreams but ambitions," said Konare.

Ki Moon said he arrived at the summit fresh from Rwanda "where the international community learnt a painful lesson". He said that "global warming is creating emergencies around the world. We need to tackle these changes". (Continued on P7)

Konaré prêt pour sa succession

Gérard Guedegebe

Partira, partira pas les rumeurs sur la volonté de l'actuel président de la commission de l'union africaine ont été des plus virulentes ces derniers jours. Ces rumeurs évoquaient un scénario acrobatique qui permettra à Alpha Oumar Konaré de rester encore à son poste pour les six prochains mois. Mais lors de son discours, à l'ouverture du dixième sommet des chefs d'Etats de l'Union Africaine (UA), le président de la commission de l'UA a balayé du revers de la main toutes ces rumeurs et à affirmer sa détermination de partir et de promouvoir l'alternance au sommet de l'institution panafricaine.

Selon lui la complexité de la situation actuelle qui aurait pu être gérée autrement mérite d'être traitée sans délai afin que l'union ne s'installe pas dans une crise. S'adressant aux chefs d'Etats à ce propos, il dit : « Il me paraît souhaitable que votre Assemblée élise ici même un nouveau président de la commission ».

Cette déclaration n'est que la substance de ce que pensent tout bas la plupart des participants : que la non élection d'un nouveau patron de la commission constituera un précédent grave pour l'édification d'une institution panafricaine remarquable. Pour le Président de l'UA, sa succession s'inscrit dans la

logique de la transition amorcée par les chefs d'Etat africains au sein de l'Union et dont les bases ont été jetées à Accra en juillet 2007.

Ainsi ajoutera Président Konaré, le nouveau président de la commission pourra participer activement à la nouvelle réforme qui devra se focaliser sur l'achèvement des transformations institutionnelles et une gouvernance renforcée. Tout ceci pour faire de la commission, un véritable exécutif. Ainsi, pourrait on dire, le débat pour la succession de Konaré tire à sa fin avec le processus d'élection d'un nouveau président qui est pôle position des débats des chefs d'Etat.

'AU and UN must strengthen partnerships'

Nebiyu Yonas

On the occasion of the opening of the tenth African Union summit, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) said, "Close partnerships are crucial for addressing the continent's peace and security challenges. The UN and the AU have a long standing and fruitful collaboration in this field."

The collaboration between the UN and the African Union (AU) entered a historic new phase with the transfer of the authority from the African Union Mission in Sudan to the UN-AU Hybrid Mission in Darfur, or UNAMID. Mr. Ban Ki

Moon also said, "This is unprecedented joint operation and it reflects our shared determination to end the tragedy in Darfur once and for all." He further stated that the AU and the UN are working closely together to bring a negotiated settlement to the Darfur crisis, and to support the long-term economic development of the region.

The UN, together with the AU and other partners, is working hard to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the broader peace process in Sudan. Continued collaboration between these two inter-

governmental bodies has also been attempted in the resolution of other conflicts on the continent, such as in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Northern Uganda and in Somalia.

The Ten Year Capacity-building Program for the African Union became an important umbrella for AU-UN cooperation across a wide range of sectors. Under this capacity-building framework, coordinated support is being developed for African peace and security. Efforts have also been made in mediation and conflict prevention.

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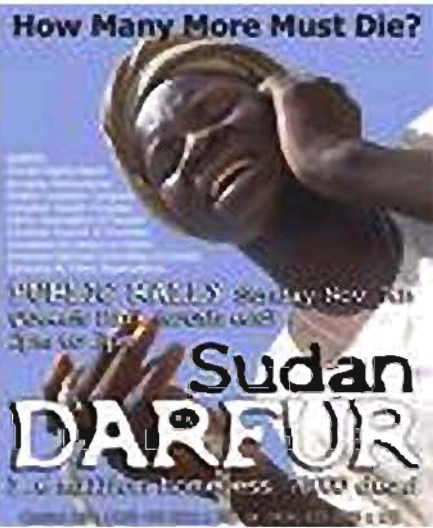
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የዳርፋር ግጭት ከጀመረ በኋላ ባለ በአንድ ወቅት የአረብ ሚሊሻዎች እንደልማዳቸው አንዲት የዳርፋር መገደር አቃጠሉ። አቅሙ የፈቀደለት ሁሉ ነፍሱን ለማዳን እግሩ ወደመራው ሲሮጥ አንዲት በዛች ቅጽበት ልጅ የተገለገለች ሴት ግን ከድካሚ አንጻር ቶሎ ማምለጥ ስለተሳናት ሚሊሻዎቹ ደርሰው ይተኩሱታል። ተኩሱ ለምት ስላልጻ ረጋት እንደምንም ከነቁሳ ሮጣ ታመልጣለች። ነገር ግን ሕጻኑን ይዞ መሮጥ ስላልቻለች በሳጅው ወስጥ ያገኙት እነዚህ ታጣቂዎች ሕጻኑን ውሃ ሲፈላበት ከነበረው ድስት ውስጥ ከነገፍሱ ይጨምሩና የሚያጠፉትን አጥፍተው! የሚገድሉትን ገድለው ይሄዳሉ። የልጁን ሆኔታ ለመመልከት ሮጣ የተመለሰችው እናት ባየችው አስቃቂ ነገር እስከመጨረሻው አይምሮዋን ስታለች።

ይህ ዳርፋር ውስጥ ከተፈጸመና እየተ ፈጸመ ካሉት ቁጥር ስፍር የሌላቸው ግጭቶች መካከል አንዱ እንደሆነ ከዳርፋር ከመጡት የሴቶች መብት ተከራካሪዎች መካከል አንዷ የሆነችው ናዋል ሀሰን ትናገራለች። የናዋል ቡድን ከሌሎች መሰል መብት ተከራካሪዎች ጋር በመሆን በአሁኑ ሰአት በመካሄድ ላይ ባለው የአፍሪካ ህብረት ስብሰባ አስከሬ የሆነው የዳርፋር ጉዳይ እንደአጀንዳ ባለመነሳቱ የህብረቱ አባል አገሮች አትኩሮት እንዲሰጡአቸው እዚህ አዲስ አበባ ድረስ መጥተዋል።

ለዚህ አላማ ኪንግስ ሆቴል ውስጥ በተሰጠ መግለጫ ላይ ናዋል በይበልጥ በዚህ ችግር ምክንያት ለመከራ እየተጋለጠ ያሉት ሴቶች መሆናቸውን ገልጸለች ። "ሴቶች ባሉቻቸውንና

ልጆቻቸውን ከማጣት ባሻገር እየተገደሉና አስከሬ የሆኑ ወሲባዊ ጥቃቶች እየደ ረሱባቸው ነው" ብላለች። ወሲባዊ ጥቃቱ የስምንትና የዘጠኝ አመት እድሜ ካላቸው ህጻናትና ሴቶች አንስቶ ከስልሳ አመት በላይ እስከሚሆኑ አዛውንት ሴቶች ድረስ እንደሚፈጸም ከገለጸች በኋላ በተለይም ደግሞ ሚሊሻዎቹ ከመቅጽበት አንድን መገደር በሚያጠቁበት ወቅት በእድሜ የጸኑት ርጠው ማምለጥ ስለማይችሉ ለአስገደዶ መደፈር እንደሚጋለጡ ከዛም አልፎ ባሉበት ኅጃአቸውን አቃጥለው እንደሚገድሏቸው የተ መለከተችውን ተናግራለች። "አንዲትን የስልሳ አመት ሴት ማህጸን እስኪወጣ ድረስ ሃያ ሆነው ይደፍራሉ ።ገምቱ እንዲህ ያለውን ሰቆቃ ።" ብላለች። እነዚህን መሰል



መከራዎች ሽሽት አብዛኛዎቹ ከጥቃቱ የተ ረፉት የዳርፋር ነዎሪዎች በአሁኑ ሰአት በመጠለያ ካምፕ ውስጥ ይኛሉ። ነገር ግን ከቀድሞው አኗኗር አንጻር ካምፖቹ እንደአስር ቤት እንደሆኑባቸው ትናገራች። በየመንደሮቻቸው የሚኖሩት ለጥቃቱ በጣም ተጋላጭ ሲሆኑ በካምፕ

ያሉትም እንጨት ወይም ውሃ ለማምጣት ጥቂት ኪሎ ሜትሮች እንኳን ቢሄዱ ጥቃት እንደሚደርስባቸው ገልጸለች። የዳርፋር ሴቶች አብዛኛዎቹ የራሳቸው እርሻ ያላቸው! እሱን በማረስ ያፈሩትን ገበያ ወስደው በመሻጥ አራሳቸውን በኢኮኖሚ የቻሉ እንደሆኑና አሁን ያለው ሁኔታ ግን ከዚህ ሁሉ እንዳገዳቸው ገልጸለች።

ከሁሉም የሚያሳዝነው ደግሞ መንግሥታቸው እነዚህን ግፍ ፈጽሟዎች በማውገዝ ፋንታ መደገፋቸው እንደሆነ ትናገራለች። "ጭፍጨፋው ውስጥ በሰፊው የተሳተፈ አንድ የጳጳሳዊ አመራር ውስጥ ያለ ሰው በቅርቡ የሱዳን ፕሬዝዳንት አማካሪ ሆኖ ተሾሟል። ላይ ረገው ግፍ ሽልማት እንደሆነ አላውቅም" ብላለች።

በተመሳሳይ ሁኔታ የአለም አቀፍ ፍርድ ቤት (international court of justice) የተወሰኑትን ለፍርድ ሊያቀረብ ቢሞክርም በመንግሥት የተሰጠ ያለመከሰስ መብት (immunity) ስላላቸው አስከፊም በነጻነት ይንቀሳቀሳሉ። ስለ ነገሩ ተቃውሞም ሆነ ጥያቄ የሚያነሳ ማገኛውም የውጪ ሰውም (ጋዜጠኛ፣ የመብት ተከራካሪ፣ ወዘተ) ሆነ የአገሪቱ ዜጋ በደል እንደሚፈጸምበት ትናገራለች። "ወይ ትደበደባለህ፣ ወይ ትታሰራለህ፣ አሊያም ደግሞ የመንግሥት ስራተኛ ከሆንክ ከስራ ትወገዳለህ' በማለት ያለውን ሁኔታ ገልጸለች። አለም ችግሩን ለማርገብ እየሞከረ ቢሆንም በቂ እንዳልሆነ

(ወደ ገፅ ፮ ዙሪያ)

ኔፓድ የበጀት አፈፃፀምና አደረጃጀቱን ማቀላጠፍ የሚችልበት ሁኔታ ላይ ተወያየ

ቤተዳን

አዲስ አበባ፡- በአፍሪካ ህብረት በተካሄደው ስብሰባ ላይ የኔፓድን የስድስት ወራት በጀት አፈፃፀምና አደረጃጀት ሁኔታ ለማቀላጠፍ የሚያስችል ውይይት መደረጉን በኢትዮጵያ የውጭ ጉዳይ ሚኒስቴር የአፍሪካ ጉዳዮች ዳይሬክተር አምባሳደር ሃህለወርቅ ዘውዴ ገልጸዋል።

የተቋሙን ያለፉት ስድስት ወራት እንቅስቃሴ የዳሰሰውና አፈፃፀሙ ስኬታማ እንደሆነ የተረዳው ስብሰባው ድርጅቱ በአፍሪካ ህብረት መዋቅር ውስጥ የተካተቱ ጉዳዮች እንዲፋጠኑ ስምምነት ላይ መድረሱን ባለፈው ረቡዕ ለጋዜጠኞች በስጡት አጭር መግለጫ አምባሳደር ሃህለወርቅ ዘውዴ ገልጸዋል።

በርካታ አባል መንግስታት የገንዘቡን መዋጮ ለመክፈል ፍላጎታቸውንና ፈቃደኝነታቸውን ሲያሳዩ ሌሎቹ ደግሞ ክፍያዎችን ለመፈፀም መስማማታቸውን ገለፀዋል።

በተመሳሳይ ዜና በአፍሪካ ህብረት የተጀመረውን የኔፓድ ስብሰባ ጠቅላይ ሚኒስቴር መለስ ዜናዊ በንግግር ሲከፍቱ የኔፓድ የግምገማ መድረክ ፕሮግራም በዋነኝነት ለአህጉሪቱ እድገትና ልማት ለማምጣት በሚያስችሉ ጉዳዮች ላይ ማተኮር እንደሚገባው ገልፀዋል።

አባል ሀገሮች የተቋሙን እቅም ለመገንባት የገንዘብ መዋጮ እስካሁን አለማዋጣታቸው ተቋሙን ለማደራጀት እንቅፋት እንደሚሆን በመገንዘብ ተቋሙን ለማደራጀት የበኩላቸውን ሊወጡ እንደሚገባ አስገንዝበዋል። በኔፓድ ሴክሬታሪያት አመራር ለውጥ መካሄዱን የጠቆሙት ጠቅላይ ሚኒስቴር መለስ አዲስ አመራሮች ለአፍሪካዊያን ህዝቦች ኑሮ መሻሻል የበኩላቸውን ድርሻ ሊወጡ እንደሚገባው አስታውቀዋል።



አምባሳደር ሃህለወርቅ ዘውዴ

ፕሮፌሰር ፋርሚዬ መካቤኒ የኔፓድ ሴክረታሪያት ስራ አስፈፃሚ ሆነው መታጨታቸውንና ሁለት ምክትል ስራ አስፈፃሚዎች መመረጣቸውንም አያይዘው ገልጸዋል።

የኔፓድ ዋና ተልእኮ አፍሪካን በሚፈታተኑና ድህነትን በሚያባቡ የአህጉሪቱ ወቅታዊ ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማተኮር መሆኑ ይታወቃል።

የዳርፋር ሴቶች ጩኸት ...

(ከገፅ ፭ የዞረ)

ገልጸለች። ስለዚህ እንደ አገሪቱ ዜግነታቸው ሴቶች ጉዳዩ ብለው በመነሳት የሰላም ሂደቱ እንዲጀምርም ሆነ ይህ ስቆቃ እንዲያበቃ፤ መስማት ላለበት እካል ሁሉ ለማስማትና ወደተግባርም ለመግፋት የሚንቀሳቀሱበት ጊዜ አሁን እንደሆነ ገልጻ እንቅስቃሴያቸውም እጅግ ተበታተነው ቁጥራቸው የበዛውን የዳርፋር ተቃዋሚዎች እንደ ለማድረግ አስከመጣር ድረስ እንደሚሆን ገልጸለች።

"እነሱ አንድ ቢሆኑ ስለሚጠነክሩ መንግሥት ወደ ተግባር እንዲገባ ጫና ማሳደር ይችላሉ።" የዳርፋር ሕዝብ ዋነኛ ችግር በአሁኑ ሰዓት የደህንነት ችግር ስለሆነ የሰላም ሂደት እንዲጀመር ከሚያደርጉት ጥረት ጎን ለጎን ሕዝቡ የሚተማመንበት የሰላም አስከባሪ ሃይል እንዲመጣ እንደሚሞክር ትናግራለች።

"ሲሆን ልንጠበቅ የሚገባን በራሳችን የጦር ሃይል ነበር፤ እነርሱ ግን ጎራቸው ከማን እንደሆነ ስለታወቀና ህዝቡም እምነቱን ሙሉ ለሙሉ ስላልጣለባቸው የውጭ ኃይል አስፈልጓል" ትላለች። ናዋል እንደተናገረችው ወደ ካምፑ ለሚመጡ የውጭ ሰዎች ሁሉ ህዝቡ ፍላጎቱን የሚገልፀው የተባበሩት መንግሥታት ሃይሎች እንዲመጡ ነው። ምንም እንኳን የአፍሪካ ህብረት ሃይሎች ቢኖሩም ጠንክር ያለ ተግባርን ለማከናወን ሥልጣን ያላቸው ስላልሆኑ በነዚህም ሰላም አስከባሪዎች ላይ እምነቱን ያጣ መሆኑን ገልጸለች። ጦሮቹን የሚልኩት የአፍሪካ ሀገራት ክሱዳን ጋር በጥቅም የተያያዙ ሊሆኑ ስለሚችሉ በቂውን ያህል የጠነክሩ እርምጃ ዎችን አይወስዱም። በዚህም ምክንያት ከውጭ የመጣ፤ በበቂው የታጠቀና ገለልተኛ የሆነ የጃንጃውድ ሚሊሻዎች የሰሩትን ተግባር እንዳይደግሙ ሊያስፈራራቸው የሚችል የውጭ ሀይል ብቻ እንደሆነና ይህም ብቸኛ መፍትሄ ይሆናል ብለው እንደሚያምኑ ገልጸዋል። ነገር ግን በአሁኑ ሁኔታ የሱዳን መንግሥት ከአፍሪካ ህብረት ጦር በስተቀር የውጭ ሀይል አገሪቷ ውስጥ እንደማይገባ አስረግጦ ተናግሯል። "ሊገባኝ የማይችለው መንግሥት ይሄን የሚለው ችግር እንዲቀጥል ስለሚፈልግ ብቻ ነው።" ትላለች ናዋል። የአፍሪካ ህብረት አባል ሀገራት መንግሥታትም እንደዚሁ በቂውን ያህል ተጽዕኖ ለማሳደር በአሁኑ ሰዓት ፈቀደኛ የሆኑ ባይመስሉም "እንግዲህ ቢሰሙን ብለን እዚህ ድረስ መጥተናል።" ብላለች።

Peace, security and the African Union

Rehema Kahurananga

Dr. Monica Kathina Juma from Kenya is a candidate for the Commissioner of the Peace and Security Council to the AU. With an extensive background in matters of peace and security in Africa, Dr. Juma is currently the Executive Director of the Africa Policy Institute.



Monica Juma
(left)
PIC REHEMA
KAHURANANGA

What were your thoughts when you found out you had been nominated for election as the AU Commissioner in charge of Peace and Security?

I was honoured and also surprised about my nomination. I've been involved in the Peace and Security Council architecture during the transition from the OAU to the AU. There has been a push in Africa for women to be involved in leadership. In Kenya, where I am from, it has been a bit of a slow process to have many women in leadership, which is why it was a good surprise to find out about my nomination. Getting the nomination was an affirmation of something new. Peace and security are really prerequisites for all other things.

You have a background in issues of peace and security especially within the Greater Horn of Africa region. What is your opinion about the current situation in Kenya?

It is very, very hurtful to be honest and there is a feeling of desperation. The crisis has demonstrated the urgency of ensuring the optimal of an operation of the Peace and Security Council organs; for example, setting up a fully functional early warning system. There is a sense of frustration from the people on the ground in Kenya that not

enough is happening at the decision-making level to resolve the crisis. There is also a need for track two and three level diplomacy.

What changes would you like to implement if you were elected as the Commissioner?

The last seven years have seen a considerable level of progress regarding the development of a normative framework, and there is still more to be done. However, if elected, my tenure would focus on landing these policies. It would be a term of reflection on progress made and lessons learnt.

It would also be a time to focus towards the future in terms, of say, the continent's resources and the nexus between security and resources. I will also focus on providing space for African people to get fully involved in the provision of their security. As I stated earlier, track one diplomacy doesn't deliver peace on its own. In the case of Burundi, for instance, there was a big difference between the initial Peace Accord draft document and the document at the time of signing after input from women. I also believe that in Africa we are sitting on the sharp end of a spear the youth. We urgently need ways to encourage them to take part in the process of peace and development.

I would also like to have a robust capacity at the Commission in order to successfully implement the objectives of the African Union because we have a large agenda as it relates to peace and security.

In what ways do you feel ordinary African citizens can "feel" the impact of the Peace and Security Council (PSC)?

The AU is not conceived of as an operational agency. The idea is for it to have the architecture that contributes to the right environment. As I said before, peace and security is linked to other affairs including political, economic and social. It is true that there are those who don't understand what the AU is about, but that does not render it useless.

Which of your accomplishments do you feel are most significant?

My contribution in terms of crafting the base documents in the creation of the PSC including the Policy in Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and I am especially interested in the process of guiding countries coming out of conflict. It is a process of recovery and not simply stabilisation. More importantly, it speaks to the role of engaging the African Union in the reconstruction and development of countries emerging from conflict.

At the moment I am excited about the efforts in mainstreaming gender in the defence sector, say, in South Africa, and it's something other African countries are getting involved with, for example Senegal and Kenya.

The plague of conflict has two sides

Ephrem Melaku

The outgoing chairperson of the African Union Commission Alpha Oumar Konare, addressing the tenth ordinary session of the assembly of heads of states and government of the Africa Union which resumed yesterday in Addis Ababa, stated that the situation of conflict in Africa has two faces.

According to him, as much as there are signs of hope in some parts of Africa there are places of huge concern as well with regard to securing peace.

Progress has been made in countries like Burundi, Togo, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone in maintaining peace and security after a period of conflict. However, Konare noted with regret the crisis in Kenya and the ongoing conflict in Somalia. Referring to the situation in Somalia, Konare paid tribute to the Ugandan and Burundian troops who he says are, alongside Ethiopians, "trying to help our brothers in Somalia."

"I would like to thank all our brothers and leaders that they have done everything so that we can move the Darfur issue forward," says Konare talking of situation in the Sudan. He seemed confident that the United Nations will be able to work in close cooperation with Sudan on the Darfur issue.

Konare also talked of the contaminating nature of conflicts in Africa. He stated that if situations in Central African Republic and Chad are not stable, they could have a bearing on what can be achieved in the Sudan.

(Continued from P1) "African countries do not have a comprehensive public health system and as a result they can not cope whenever an epidemic or a disaster occurs. Currently there are acute shortages of health professionals, medicines, hospitals and infrastructure to get sick people to hospitals".

Within the past five years, eight million Africans have died every year due to five preventable diseases and health conditions: HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis (TB), maternal mortality and child mortality. This amounts to 40 million people dying unnecessarily over the last five years - a number equivalent to a medium-sized country. "What is even more heartrending is that with this rate, smaller countries like Lesotho and Swaziland could perish within five years."

Sankore says that this is the result of the lack of and failure of an efficient public health system on the continent. As a start to alleviating the problem, the African Union (AU) has adopted an African public health strategy.

"The health ministers of African countries adopted it in April last year in South Africa and the Heads of States were to have adopted it completely in June at the last summit but they did not pay enough attention to it because they were focusing on the African integration plan." Even though they adopted the strategy, States have not yet allotted the money to finance the health plans despite the pledge they made in 2001 to commit 15 percent of their national budgets to health.

So far only Botswana and the Seychelles have implemented the pledge. Sankore's worry is that the transfer of seats at the AU Commission might further delay implementation of State commitments and obligations. Yet the time, for Africa's people, is ticking.

(Continued from P2) "All our development will be underestimated if we do not consider the threats of climate change. Africa is particularly vulnerable. I'm determined to ensure that the UN delivers on its climate change mandate, particularly in Africa," said Ki Moon.

He also said that this year would be "crucial for AU-UN integration", since the two organisations already has been involved in joint peace-keeping efforts in conflict zones like Darfur in Sudan.

"I and the entire UN system are determined to work with you," said Ki Moon.

Konare meanwhile also called for reform of the UN.

"We want the historical injustices to be addressed. Our continent is the only one without a permanent seat on the (UN) Security Council. We are under-represented on UN governing boards. We have found a nose-diving of our power at the UN," said Konare.

He called on the recently-elected Ki Moon and leaders of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to address imbalances in "structural adjustment programmes which have stifled our wealth".

"These programmes have been dictated and we no longer need them," said Konare.

Where to eat and make merry in Addis Ababa...

Arcobaleno 011-371-32-57

Castelli 011-157-17-57

Pizza Deli Roma 011-551-12-04

Ristorante da Linda 011515-79-76

Bilo's Pastry 011-416-9667/68

Enrico's Pastry 011-557-14-90

La Parisienne 011552-8820

Moka Harer 011-111-27-83

Buffet de la Gare 011-551-7888

Deep 011-552-0588

Panda 011-661-45-04

World leaders meet at UN in Addis Ababa



UN secretary-general Ban Ki Moon (top left); inside the UN conference hall; Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi (bottom right); Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe (bottom left). PICS: YAZEED KAMALDIEN



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