

COMITÉ DE COORDINATION

Conférence Nationale
pour
La Paix et la Réconciliation
en ETHIOPIE

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE

National Conference
for
Peace and Reconciliation
in ETHIOPIA

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN ETHIOPIA DECIDES TO HOLD A NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABEBA FROM OCTOBER 15 TO 19, 1993. IT CALLS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT SUCH A CONFERENCE TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESS.

As it may be recalled some of the important Ethiopian political organizations - the Afar Revolutionary Democratic Union (ARDU), Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic Forces (COEDF), the Ethiopian Medhin Democratic Party (MEDHIN), the Multinational Congress Party of Ethiopia (MNCPE), the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC), the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Tigray-Tigriny Ethiopia (TTE) met in Paris between March 11-13, 1993 and issued a Paris Declaration which would pave the way for National Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Ethiopia.

The Co-ordinating Committee of the Paris Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Ethiopia which consists of representatives from the participating organizations at the Paris meeting has been meeting in Paris and London to draw up plans and strategies which will bring about a lasting peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia.

In light of its mandate, the Co-ordinating Committee let it be known to the Governments of the World, the national and international media as well as the international community that it has :

1. Decided to hold the peace and reconciliation conference in Addis Abeba between october 15-19, 1993 ;
2. Sent an official letter ot Mr Meles Zenawi, the President of the Transitional Government, the Legislative Branch of Government and the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), to open talks concerning participation in such a conference. The Co-ordinating Committee strongly believes that resolving the Ethiopian political crisis

through a peaceful and democratic means and through round table conference is a necessary precondition to bring about a lasting peace and to avert a Bosnian type human tragedy from repeating itself in Africa.

3. Appealed to the Ethiopian Government to provide room for a democratic dialogue between itself and the opposition rather than engaging in sham exercise of drafting a constitution without the participation of the major political groups and the Ethiopian people.
4. Further appealed to all democratic and patriotic Ethiopians within and outside Ethiopia to support such a peace conference.
5. Called upon all serious and relevant Ethiopian political groups and organizations supporting or opposing the transitional government as well as mass organizations with credible track record and struggling to promote democracy, respect for human rights, pluralism and freedom of expression, civic societies and professional, vocational and occupational associations to support such a conference and to express their readiness to send their representatives to the conference.

The Co-ordinating Committee further calls upon the international community to invest in peace and reconciliation before it is too late. The Co-ordinating Committee :

6. Appeals to all governments of the world, particularly the European, American and African governments, to unreservedly support and sponsor such a noble objective of bringing about a lasting peace and national reconciliation and hence avoid another bloodshed in Ethiopia. Support of our efforts by the international community is decisive to the success of such a peace conference.

The only way to stop a repetition of the Bosnian human tragedy from repeating itself in Ethiopia and saving the lives of millions is to support the National Peace and Reconciliation Conference which will be held in October before the situation gets out of control.

Show your support for the October Peace conference and prove to the rest of the world that you are serious to help in peace making process.

Thank you for helping us to bring about peace in Ethiopia closer than ever !!

