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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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Egypt (on behalf of the African Group): draft resolution

S-8/... Situation of human rights in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 60/251 and 61/296

Reiterating Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, 5/2, and 7/20

Reiterating also the principles and objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

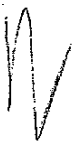
Recalling also the decision of the 10th AU Assembly on Peace and Security situation in Africa,

Recalling further the provisions of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region,

Recalling further African efforts to address the situation in the DRC, including:

- a) Actes d'engagement signed by the parties to the peace process in the region of Kivu within the framework of the Conference on Peace, Security and Development in the provinces of North and South Kivu, held in Goma from 6 to 23 January 2008,
 - b) Great Lakes Region Summit of 7 November 2008 on the situation in DRC,
 - c) Extra-Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government held on 9th November 2008,
 - d) Summit of heads of state members of the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea, held the 25th November 2008,
1. Expresses its serious concern at the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in North Kivu, since the resumption of hostilities on 28 August 2008 and calls upon all concerned parties to comply fully with their obligations under International law, including international ^{humanitarian} Law, human rights law and refugee law, to ensure the protection of the civilian population and to facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies;
 2. Calls for the immediate end to all human rights violations and unconditional respect for the rights of civilians;
 3. Expresses concern at the deteriorating situation of refugees and internally displaced persons due to the escalation of the conflict in Kivu;
 4. Urges all parties to allow and facilitate humanitarian assistance and to support the ongoing efforts to establish humanitarian corridors throughout the area so as to allow access and free movement of people and goods as well as to enable humanitarian agencies to provide the badly needed food, water, medication and shelter;
 5. Condemns the acts of violence, human rights violations and abuses committed in *Kivu*, in particular sexual violence and the recruitment by the militia of child soldiers, and stresses the importance of bringing all perpetrators to justice;





6. Underlines that the Government has the primary responsibility to make every effort to strengthen the protection of civilian population and to investigate and bring to justice perpetrators of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law and calls upon the international community to support the endeavours of the Government of the DRC in its effort to stabilize the situation in the country;
7. Expresses support to the efforts of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the conflict in the east of the DRC former president *Olusegun Obasanjo*, the African Union, the SADC, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the international community and the Government of the DRC in the search for a solution to restore long-term peace and stability to the region, in particular within the *Goma* process and the Nairobi process and urges all parties to cooperate with the special envoy of the Secretary General;
8. Emphasizes the importance of strengthening the mandate of MONUC with a view to increasing its capacity to protect civilians and to restore peace, security and stability in the region of *Kivu* of the DRC and calls upon all states to immediately provide assistance to MONUC, to increase its ability to address the dire security and humanitarian situation in the region.
9. Calls upon the international community to:
 - a) Seriously address the root causes of the conflict, including illicit exploitation of natural resources and the establishment of militia that are the basis of human rights violations and the humanitarian crisis in the region;
 - b) Continue to contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the DRC, and to assist the Government of the DRC in the rehabilitation and economic reconstruction of the country;
 - c) Provide the Government of the DRC with the various forms of assistance it requests, with the view to improving the humanitarian and human rights situation;
- 10 Welcomes the cooperation of the DRC with the thematic special procedures of the Council as well as the invitation it has extended to some individual special

procedures and encourages the Government of the DRC to strengthen its cooperation in this regard;

- 11 Invites all the thematic Special Procedures mentioned in its resolution 7/20 to also urgently examine the current situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the view to a comprehensive reporting to the 10th session on how best to assist technically the Democratic Republic of the Congo in addressing the situation of human rights, with a view to obtaining tangible improvements on the ground, taking also into account the needs formulated by the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- 12 Invites the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Council at its 10th session on the human rights situation in the east of the DRC and on the activities the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has undertaken in the region.
