

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 26 July 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to draw to your attention the decision adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 40th meeting, held on 6 October at Addis Ababa. I also wish to refer to Security Council resolution 1633 (2005) of 21 October 2005, pursuant to which an international working group was established to assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in implementing its road map and to consolidate and strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms.

I append hereto the text of the communiqué issued by the International Working Group at the conclusion of its 9th ministerial meeting, held at Abidjan on 20 July 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communiqué to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Kofi A. **Annan**



**Annex**

[Original: English and French]

**Final communiqué of the 9th ministerial meeting of the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire****Abidjan, 20 July 2006**

1. The 9th ministerial meeting of the International Working Group was held in Abidjan on 20 July 2006 under the joint chairmanship of H. E. Mr. Rodolphe Adada, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and la Francophonie of the Congo, and Mr. Pierre Schori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Côte d'Ivoire. In attendance were the Ministers of Benin, France, Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa, as well as the High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, and the representatives of Ghana, Guinea, Niger, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the World Bank.
2. The Group was briefed by the Prime Minister on the progress achieved in the implementation of the road map, in particular the implementation of the decisions of the high-level meeting on Côte d'Ivoire held at Yamoussoukro on 5 July 2006 on the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Since that meeting, the Prime Minister has resolutely undertaken the implementation of the measures for which he is responsible in spite of unacceptable obstructions to his initiatives.
3. The Group reiterated its full support for the Prime Minister and requested that the mobile court hearings whose procedural modalities were determined in consultation with the Head of State, should no longer be impeded; they should proceed under the best possible conditions of security and transparency. The Group stresses that the nationwide organization of mobile court hearings is a crucial step for the identification of the population and the establishment of reliable voters' lists, both of which are indispensable for the holding of free, regular, open and transparent elections. The Group observes that the Presidential decision empowering the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to amend the electoral code was not taken within the agreed time frames. It notes the information provided by the Prime Minister that this decision would be taken in the next few days by the Head of State in accordance with the decisions of the Yamoussoukro meeting of 5 July 2006.
4. The Group notes with satisfaction the Prime Minister's announcement of the completion of the pre-cantonment of the Defence and Security forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FDSCI) and of the Armed forces of the forces Nouvelles (FAFN); it welcomes the establishment of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration Monitoring Group and invites the latter to take all necessary measures to verify the pre-cantonment of armed groups and the pursuit of the military dialogue whose success requires the intervention of the political authorities. Furthermore, the International Working Group notes that the Prime Minister will take urgent steps to dismantle and disarm militias by 31 July, as decided at the Yamoussoukro high-level meeting.

5. The Group underscores the importance of conducting the identification and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes concomitantly.
  6. The Group condemns the serious disturbances of 17, 18 and 19 July 2006 that were provoked by organized groups impeding the smooth conduct of mobile court hearings further to the calls made by certain political leaders. It stresses the need for the national authorities to take urgent steps to put an end to interference with the free movement of the population and of impartial forces. The Group also condemns the incidents that took place on 15 July at Radio Télévision Ivoirienne (RTI) and hopes that security will be strengthened at RTI so as to preserve its independence.
  7. The Group wishes to submit these elements to the consideration of the sanctions Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1572 (2004) so that it may take appropriate measures against the perpetrators of these incidents and those behind them, pursuant to the Council's presidential statement of 19 July 2006.
  8. The Group will hold its next meeting on 1 September 2006 in Côte d'Ivoire.
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