



United Nations
Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
(OSAA)



Government
of the Democratic Republic of Congo
(DRC)

Second International Conference on DDR and Stability in Africa
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
12-14 June 2007¹

Statement of
Mrs. Rose Kayumba
Member of the Rwandan Delegation to
The Second International Conference
on DDR and Stability in Africa
On behalf of the Participants

Kinshasa, RDC

12-14 June 2007

¹ This Conference is organized with the generous support of the Governments of Belgium and Sweden

Closing remarks on behalf of participants on the 2nd international Conference on DDR and sustainability in Africa

Excellency the Minister of State in-charge of Internal Affairs and Security;

Excellency Mr. William Swing, the special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations,

Excellencies members of the diplomatic coup here present,

Ministers and all dignitaries all protocol observed;

Dear participants, African brothers and sisters.

Allow me to express my gratitude for the trust you have put in me to give a word on your behalf at the closing of this very important international conference on DDR and Sustainability in Africa. Allow me also to extend many thanks on behalf of the participants, to the United Nations and others stakeholders for organizing this very important conference here in the DR Congo. This is an honor not only given to me in person, but to my country and the African woman in recognition of her role in all aspects development of our continent.

The African Continent has experienced conflict in three dimensions; that of genocide as we experienced in Rwanda in 1994 and lately in Darfur region, protracted conflict in the Sudan, Angola, Somalia and Ivory Coast; and a refugee problem that is rampant in all our African countries.

The United Nations and other stakeholders working hand in hand with the African Politicians, scholars and academicians have found it imperative to search for a lasting solution through disarmament, demobilization Reintegration and Reinsertion aiming at a sustainable peace for African countries. Allow me Excellency the Representative of the Secretary General on this note, to extend my gratitude on behalf of my fellow African participants to the United Nations as a whole for the continued support you have always accorded to this endeavor.

In this context the first a conference on DDR and sustainability in Africa in the Manu river 2005, recommendations have gone a long way in solving

conflict in the western part of Africa, results are eminent. The second conference that we are closing now have come up with recommendations that we hope will go along way in resolving the conflict in the Great Lakes Region.

The understanding of DDR require that Africans on the national and regional levels set up practical on the ground policies that will deal strongly with the issues of Soldiers on foreign soil, women and children ex-combatants, transitional Justice and most important to mention here, the Scrouge of HIV/AIDS and poverty that is eating up the socio-economic fiber of our continent. On this note, we hope that the recommendations from this conference will be accorded the appropriate follow-up and on the ground implementation in our respective countries.

Allow me to highlight here, Excellencies, and dear participants, that we Africans should spearhead and endeavor to work on our own African cultural ways of resolving conflict as good example with Uganda, Liberia and my home country Rwanda, as this will go a long way in the Unity and Reconciliation that is a every important tool in the resolution of conflict. Allow me also to emphasize on the ownership for these program by our respective nations, Regional commitment, and the enhancement and rebirth of African brotherhood.

Your Excellency the Minister of State of Internal Affairs and Security, Mr. Denis Kalume Numbi, Excellency Mr. William Swing, Excellencies, Ministers fellow participants all protocol observed, Allow me on behalf of my fellow participants to thank all the organizers of this very important conference, and last but very important, I wish to extend my gratitude on behalf of my fellow participants to the Democratic Republic of Congo for the first democratic elections that have recently been concluded 'Dear DRC Brothers and sisters, "you have made Africa proud". We also wish to thank you for the warm welcome accorded to us by our brothers and sisters in the DRC.

Natondi bino Botondi.