



BAMAKO DECLARATION

Deploping the proliferation of armed conflicts in Africa,

Convinced that only a lasting peace can help the continent to meet the many challenges facing it today,

Particularly concerned by the situation in the Great Lakes region, where fratricidal conflicts continue to create thousands of innocent victims,

Noting that the proliferation of arms, and in particular light weapons, is a threat to peace and stability in several subregions of the continent, and continues to feed the sources of insecurity,

Noting with satisfaction the success of the national peace accord in Mali, a model of endogenous armed conflict resolution,

Gratified to see that the Flame of Peace in Timbuktu, lit on 27 March 1996, has reduced thousands of weapons to ashes and is now a symbol of peace,

The participants in Peace Week, held in Bamako from 24 to 28 March 1997, in the presence of President Henri Konan Bédié of Côte d'Ivoire and President Alpha Oumar Konaré of Mali and the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Federico Mayor, launch an appeal to African leaders to put an end to the suffering of their peoples by opting for good governance, which gives precedence to participation rather than exclusion and to dialogue rather than confrontation — governance which respects democratic principles and human rights,

Reaffirm that without peace there can be no democracy, and that without democracy there can be no development;

Launch an appeal to the various actors in society: women, young people, elected representatives, members of the armed forces, communicators and educators, to work for the building of peace and democracy, and for development in a spirit of solidarity and tolerance;

Remain convinced that without peace it is impossible to guarantee respect for human rights;

Declare that the human right to peace is a fundamental right without which respect for human rights is illusory.

This information is provided by

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